nscja
north strathclyde
community justice authority

To: **North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority**

On: **16 December 2016**

Report by: **Chief Officer**

Heading: **Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 – Progress Report**

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1. Summary

1.1 Since the last meeting of NSCJA there have been several significant developments at both a national and local level.

1.2 Three key documents have been completed in final draft form and have been posted on the Knowledge Hub by Scottish Government. The National Community Justice Strategy, the National Outcomes and Performance Framework and the National Community Justice Guidance are now all available to assist the local partnerships and begin the local planning progress. Local Strategic Plans have to be submitted to Community Justice Scotland by 31st March 2017. All three documents will be formally launched by the Justice Secretary at an event in Edinburgh on 24th November. CJAs including NSCJA along with a wide range of other partners have been involved in the preparation of all these pieces of work and the NSCJA Planning Officer was seconded part-time to work on the National Strategy.

1.3 Following completion of the National Strategy, The Scottish Government Officers requested from the NSCJA Chief Officer that this secondment arrangement continue and be extended to near full-time to enable the NSCJA Planning Officer to assist with the current review of Electronic Monitoring. After discussion and agreement with the Convener we have agreed to the request and will keep it under review.

1.4 Interviews have taken place to appoint a Convener and Chief Executive for Community Justice Scotland. At the time of writing the names of successful candidates have not been made public although Government officers assure us that the timetable to establish this new organisation are on target.

1.5 On the 27th June the Transitions Group held a third National Event for the new local partnership officers and over 40 from all the Local Authorities attended. An outcome form this event was that the partnership officers will meet regularly on a national basis to share ideas and good practice and that COSLA and Scottish Government Officers will provide support to the group.

1.6 At the beginning of July, NSCJA and the other CJAs received a CJA Disestablishment Guidance Document prepared jointly by CJAs, Scottish Government and COSLA. The document provides guidance on a broad range of issues relating to the closure of the CJAs except Finance / Accounting matters and HR matters which are being dealt with separately. NSCJA officers are currently setting up meetings with IT, Finance and Corporate Services Departments in Renfrewshire Council to ensure a smooth closure of NSCJA.

1.7 The Scottish Government has written to all Chief Officers requesting they make arrangements for Training and Development Officers (TDOs) to remain within their existing posts until 31st September as it is uncertain whether Community Justice Scotland will have the Knowledge Hub established until then. We are currently working with officers from Renfrewshire Council to ensure the NSCJA arrangement continues. The Government will provide full funding (£30,000) to the Lead Councils for this 6 month extension.

1.8 New arrangements will be introduced for funding the Turnaround Service from 1st April 2017. The funding (£1.1 million per annum) will move from Section 27 via NSCJA and Renfrewshire Council to Section 10 funding directly from the Scottish Government to Turning Point Scotland. Discussions with Scottish Government and other partners including Local Authorities are ongoing around what effects if any this change will make to existing services. There has been a suggestion that the service will have to provide National coverage which is way beyond its current coverage of 10 local authority areas within NSCJA and SWSCJA. Scottish Government Officers will take over Chairing the Turnaround Steering Group after the next meeting in November.

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2. Recommendations

2.1 The Authority is asked to note the content of this report.

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3. Background

3.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 will take forward the legislative change necessary to establish a new model for community justice. The new model seeks to deliver better outcomes for communities by promoting a collaborative approach to the planning and delivery of improved outcomes, putting decision-making in the hands of local communities and agencies that are best-placed to assess local needs. Arrangements will be made at a national level to provide strategic leadership; enhanced opportunities for innovation, learning and development; and assurance on the delivery of improved outcomes. The model also recognises stakeholder views that community justice services should be person-centred, evidence-based and make best use of resources.

In particular, the Act will:

- Place responsibility for the local planning and delivery of improved outcomes for community justice with a defined set of community justice partners (including local authorities, NHS boards, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Health & Social Care Integration joint boards, Skills Development Scotland, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service and Scottish Ministers in their role as the Scottish Prison Service);
- Place duties on these community justice partners to engage in local strategic planning and be accountable for this;
- Require the development of a national strategy and a performance framework in relation to community justice;
- Create a national body to provide leadership, promote innovation, learning and development; provide assurance to Scottish Ministers on the delivery of outcomes; and to provide improvement support where it is required;
- Promote a focus on collaboration – including the opportunity to commission, manage or deliver services nationally where appropriate.

Implications of the Report

Equality & Human Rights

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Authorities website.

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