

8th October 2020

Midlothian Community Justice Annual Report 2020

Item number: 5.4

Executive summary

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 places a duty on local community justice statutory partners to produce a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) which outlines key local needs and priorities and the plans and actions to address these. Beyond this, partners are also tasked with reporting on an annual basis to Community Justice Scotland.

This report is a summary of the 2020 Annual Report prepared for Community Justice Scotland by the Midlothian Community Justice Partnership. The report highlights key aspects of community justice activities, outcomes and improvements during 2019-20.

Board members are asked to:

Note the content of this report.

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the IJB on activity carried out by the Community Justice Partnership in Midlothian during 2019/20.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members asked to note the content of this report.

3 Background and main report

- 3.1 The introduction of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 triggered the formal implementation of the new model of Community Justice in Scotland.

The 2016 Act places a duty on local community justice statutory partners to produce a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) which outlines key local needs and priorities and the plans and actions to address these.

Beyond this, partners are also tasked with reporting, on an annual basis, the community justice outcomes and improvements in their area. The 2019/2020 Annual Report is attached as an appendix.

- 3.2 Several key aspects of the Annual Report are highlighted below:

Rewrite of the new three year plan 2020-2023- A half-day workshop held on 19/02/20 brought together statutory partners, third sector, service users with lived experience of the justice system, elected members and Board members. Our new action plan contains 40 partnership actions which focus on collaborative working across the agencies.

Recovery Hub (No.11), where all community Substance Misuse and Mental Health staff, both NHS and local authority are co-located with Justice social work and relevant voluntary sector organisations for people in recovery. An example of partnership working is highlighted by the Substance Misuse Service training a number of peer support workers and Justice Social Workers to administer Naloxone during a suspected opiate overdose. The recovery hub provides a joined up approach to care, recovery and justice.

The **'Women's supper'** is a true community partnership project. The service was introduced following identification of a gap in service for a women only space to feel safe and feel less isolated and access services. The Women's Social Supper was established in October 2019. Staff from Justice Social Work, Substance Misuse staff, Change Grow Live, Children's First, Horizon's Cafe and Mid and East Lothian

Drugs provide support, encouragement and signposting to the women and children as well as the various activities each week. From October 2019 to March 2020, over 300 women and 100 children have been supported.

No 11 Allocation Meeting. This visionary forum brings together Health, Substance Misuse Services, Social Work, Housing, and third sector agencies and gives consideration to bespoke packages of care/support/treatment to individuals who use No 11. Bespoke services are considered based on risk and need of an individual. Initial data shows that between December 2019 (when the forum began) and July 2020, 43 individuals who have been liberated from custody have been discussed. Of those, all had suitable accommodation identified for them.

4 Policy Implications

None.

5 Directions

- 5.1 In terms of direction, the main area(s) of focus of the Partnership's activity over the next year will be:
- Unemployment – particularly post COVID-19. It is projected that unemployment will rise by 10% in Midlothian as a result of COVID-19. This will cause even more challenge to individuals with experience in the justice system obtaining employment post prison sentence.
 - Mental health – again post COVID there will be a clear need for a collaborative approach to address this.
 - Deliver the Midlothian Community Justice Partnership's newly published communication plan 2020-23 to help raise the profile of Community Justice.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 Using robust, evidence-led research and analysis, the Community Justice Strategic Needs Assessment 2019 identified a number of inequalities in health, housing, finance, and employment within the Midlothian area. Priority areas identified are the focus of the recently published Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2020-23 which contains forty actions that the partnership will strive to achieve over the next three years.

6.2 IIA

7 Resource Implications

- 7.1 N/A

8 Risk

- 8.1 The main risk associated with the Community Safety and Justice Partnership Annual Report and CJOIP is poor performance against objectives and outcomes. A full risk register has been produced by the partnership and available upon request.

9 Involving people

- 9.1 A key pillar of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 and the Community Justice Scotland Strategy is empowering communities. Effective community justice relies on its partnerships both with the public and a wide range of partners who support the delivery of the shared objective to reduce offending and re-offending.

Actions will aim to raise the profile, understanding and participation of Community Justice across Midlothian among the public and partners from all sectors. The audience for this communication and engagement plan is all inclusive, from strategic and non-strategic partners, to third sector organisations, elected members, local neighbourhoods and communities, people affected by offending, families of people that have offended, victims of crime and Community Justice Scotland.

10 Background Papers

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DATE	9 September 2020

Appendix

Midlothian Annual Report 2019-20

Appendices upon request:

Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan and Framework 2020-2023

Communication and Engagement Strategy 2020-23