



REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 23 AUGUST 2023

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY JUSTICE IN ABERDEENSHIRE – 2022/23

1 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):

- 1.1 Notes and considers the Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire for 2022/23, highlighting the progress that has been made collectively by the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership during the period.

2 Directions

- 2.1 No direction requires to be issued to Aberdeenshire Council or NHS Grampian as a result of this report.

3 Risk

- 3.1 IJB Risk 2: Poor Health and Social Care Policy alignment – the Community Justice (Scotland) Act is national legislation regarding the redesign of community justice.
- 3.2 IJB Risk 5: Risk of not fully informing, involving and engaging with our clients, the public, staff and partners – the above legislation places duties on statutory community justice partners to engage in community justice planning at a local level.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Board has previously received inputs on Community Justice, including on 24th August 2022 when the fifth annual report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire was presented for consideration.
- 4.2 The revised National Strategy for Community Justice, published in June 2022 ([National Strategy for Community Justice \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)), explains that Community Justice is about organisations working together to ensure that people who have offended address the underlying causes of their behaviour, and pay back to the community where this is appropriate. Community Justice aims to encourage rehabilitation, reduce reoffending, and protect the public, which will lead to fewer victims of crime and safer communities. The Strategy reiterates that this requires strong partnership working at every stage of the justice system, from the point of arrest through to integration into the



community. A legal definition of Community Justice is also contained within Section 1 of the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#).

- 4.3 The model for Community Justice has been designed to deliver a community solution to achieving improved outcomes for community justice; to prevent and reduce further offending; and to support desistance. Underpinned by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/10/contents/enacted>), the model places planning at a local level, bringing a local perspective to community justice and enabling decisions to be made by the people who know their area best. A legal duty has been placed on a set of statutory community justice partners to engage in this local planning process.

5 Summary

- 5.1 This is the sixth Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire – the reports on activity during previous reporting periods are available to download from the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership web page (<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/>).
- 5.2 It is a legislative requirement for community justice statutory partners in each local area to report annually on outcome activity, and for Community Justice Scotland to publish a report setting out its assessment of performance across Scotland in relation to the achievement of the nationally determined outcomes. It is a requirement that the Annual Report takes account of the national indicators which are set out in the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement (OPI) Framework. Although a new Performance Framework for Community Justice has now been published ([Community Justice Performance Framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)), for this year's Annual Report, Community Justice Partners are still required to report against the Outcomes that were in place during 2022/23. These are:
- Outcome 1 - Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice.
 - Outcome 2 - Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way.
 - Outcome 3 - People have better access to the services that they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability.
 - Outcome 4 - Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending.
 - Outcome 5 - Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety, being addressed.
 - Outcome 6 - People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities.
 - Outcome 7 - Individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced.

- 5.3 As in previous years, a template for the Annual Report has been provided by Community Justice Scotland and all annual returns must adhere to this prescribed format. There is therefore no flexibility in terms of the layout or format of the report. However, the template this year has been amended and improved in response to feedback provided by local areas on earlier versions. As a result, this year's Annual Report is considerably shorter and more user friendly, and these changes are welcomed. The template still requires Community Justice Partners to report against each of the four structural Outcomes for Community Justice (1-4), with an additional section where partners are asked to provide supporting case studies as evidence of activity and impact related to the three person-centred Outcomes for Community Justice (5-7). The template also includes sections where Community Justice Partners can highlight challenges / negative impacts and opportunities / positive impacts that the Partnership faced as a result of changes to the planning and delivery landscape during the reporting period. The concluding section of the report also provides an opportunity to set out next steps for the Partnership in light of these significant developments.
- 5.4 The completed templates will form part of the wider data set from which the Community Justice Scotland Annual Report on outcome activity will be compiled and published in March 2024, and will thereafter be laid in the Scottish Parliament.
- 5.5 In terms of the priorities that have been identified for Aberdeenshire, these are set out within the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and remain as:
- Improving Community Understanding and Participation in Community Justice
 - Strategic Planning and Partnership Working
 - Effective Use of Evidence Based Interventions
 - o Early Intervention
 - o People with repeat criminal convictions, including perpetrators of domestic abuse
 - Equitable Access to Services
 - o Employment
 - o Housing
 - o Mental Health
 - o Welfare
 - o Transitions (support prior to, during and after points of transition)
- 5.6 Four additional local priority areas of Alcohol-related Offending, Women in the Justice System, Short Custodial Sentences and Unpaid Work have been in place since May 2017, following feedback from Community Justice Scotland on the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan that was received at this time.
- 5.7 Within the template, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative data and information has been used to describe the activities and progress that has been made during the reporting period by Community Justice Partners,



collectively, towards these priorities and the National Outcomes for Community Justice. The full Annual Report for 2022/23 can be found at Appendix 1.

- 5.8 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officers within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

6 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was produced in relation to the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2016/17 and can be viewed at on the Community Justice pages of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership website (<http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/>).

Jeff Shaw

**Health and Social Care Partnership Manager (North)
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership and
Chair of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership
31st July 2023**

Report prepared by Kathleen Mowat, Project Manager (Community Justice)
31st July 2023

**Appendix 1 - Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Aberdeenshire
Annual Return 2022-23**