



Orkney Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of the Community Justice Partnership Meeting held on 9 March 2023 from 09:00-10:45 online via Microsoft teams.

Present

Stephen Brown (SB)	Orkney Health and Care (Chair)
Sharon-Ann Paget (SP)	Orkney Health and Care – Service Manager PP
Matthew Webb (MMW)	Orkney Health and Care (Minutes)
Michael Marcus (MH)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Kirsten Law (KL)	Families Outside
Kerry Spence (KS)	CLD, Employability
Daniel Gall (AY)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Thomas Love (TL)	Victim Support Scotland
Zelda Bradley (ZB)	Orkney Rape & Sexual Assaults Service - ORSAS
Tamsin Bailey (TB)	Relationship Scotland – Orkney
James Sutherland (JS)	Police Scotland
Hannah Casey (HC)	NHS Orkney Public Health Manager

Apologies were received or assumed from:

Ann Clark (AC)	Right There (formerly Y People)
Diane Young	NHS Orkney Mental Health Team
Megan McWilliams (MM)	Social Security Scotland
David Hall (DH)	Inspector - Police Scotland
Michelle Ward (MW)	Women's Aid Orkney
Frances Troup (FT)	Head of Service - Housing - OIC
Claire Meakin (CM)	Education, Leisure and Housing – OIC
Jo Muir (JM)	Social Security Scotland
Elanor Fraser (EF)	Environmental Health
Kerri Liddle (KL)	Skills Develop Scotland

1. Welcome / Apologies (Stephen Brown)

The Chair, Stephen Brown (SB) welcomed members.

2. Accuracy of Minutes held 9 March 2023 (Stephen Brown)

The Minutes were accepted as accurate and approved.

3. Action Tracker (Matthew Webb)

Most items on the action tracker have now been closed. SB proposed closed items to be removed moving forward.

Lived experiences – everyone to keep in mind of any scenarios that can be looked at through the Community Partnership. Record, capture and share.

MW thanked those who attended workshops and one-to-one follow ups.

Terms of reference is still to be concluded, MW will try and do this on time for the next meeting. SB suggested to add a target date of June 2023 to act as a reminder.

4. Matters Arising not Covered on Agenda

None.

5. Inputs - None

Item created to invite speakers/ external organisations to provide updates to the OCJP on emerging issues. Due to the last-minute change of date and time of this meeting the speaker was unable to attend.

Grace Chocolates and Ban the Box were the organisations invited to speak, they will attend next OCJP meeting to provide their presentation.

Grace Chocolates have reopened up their free online mentoring programme, if we have any vulnerable females who have touched the justice system, Grace Chocolates are keen to offer this service to Orkney.

6. Service Updates from Partner Agencies

RS Orkney

Relationships Scotland Orkney continues to face significant increase in demand for services. Following the departure of Samantha Davies, our Substance Misuse Support Worker, in December this role will be filled by an existing member of staff, Jade Baxter, and can take new referrals. We are working with the GP with specialist interest for alcohol/drugs Dr Chimene Taylor to establish a pilot drug/alcohol drop-in at the Stromness Surgery and hope to get this in place April - September 2023. Details will be shared in terms of days/times.

The issue of Court Reporting in the local newspaper was raised, with concerns around how much detail is printed along with the way it is presented. This is felt to be impacting upon, survivors, their families, and perpetrators families alike. It was notable particularly for children who are reading such detail and how they are affected by it.

Discussion then ensued amongst the group where it was acknowledged that this was not in any way desired to impact on the freedom of the press. However, to encourage responsible reporting with the use of appropriate language, discouraging

sensational reporting and requesting that thought be given as to how the published article will impact upon families involved. Information from survivors and families indicate detrimental experiences as a consequence of some of the reporting which has taken place in the local Newspaper. This in some instances has led to re-traumatisation, on a par with the actual crime which they have been subjected to. Due to the close knit communities in Orkney, the impact can also spread to relatives of those subject of the media report, in some instances employer were unwilling to offer employment to individuals as they were related to someone reported upon in the media.

This is not a new issue and has been raised before. It is also not just a local issue with similar experiences throughout Scotland.

Action: All to provide evidence/examples of such reporting including the impact for survivors, their families, and families of perpetrators, the perceived impact that this has on the community including knock-on effects when the person or their family members is perceived in a negative way because of this.

Action: SB to have discussion with wider Community Planning Partners regarding stories in the media, concerns have been raised by this group and other groups. To see how we address this as a collective. Discussions with Chief Executives of respective organisations and agencies, with a view to a further discussion to be had with The Orcadian.

Action: KL to contact her family participation group within Families outside to gather examples of the above.

Tamsin wished to raise concerns about the lack of service provision locally for perpetrators of domestic abuse. RSO will work with perpetrators or anyone who in need of support, however they have no specialist skills, training, or interventions which RSO can offer. Chair supported the use of the SNSA to consider this gap in service. SP confirmed that it was not possible to deliver the accredited Caledonian Programme in Orkney due to staffing requirements which Orkney (and many other remote local authorities) simply cannot resource. SP also referred to work underway with Kirsten Adamson, where discussions were held with Rory Macrae (now retired) to offer the first section of the Caledonian Programme.

The implementation of Safe & Together for Orkney puts Orkney in a strong position to benefit from Scot Gov funding when it is made available. We can deliver the Respect programme locally. Tamsin is keen to hear about any short-term interventions that can be delivered and she could access funding to train and deliver this support, however recognising that any delivery would be voluntary and not mandated by the court. SP highlighted about the Learning and Training post holder for Public Protection, Gordon MacKay who could perhaps be used for this and invited Tamsin to an off-table discussion.

Action: SP and TB to have a catch up after this meeting regarding Gordon McKay, who is the Learning and Development Officer for Public Protection, might be something to explore with him. Gordon is very open to delivery all types of training and may have possibly done something of this nature in the past.

Victim Support

For the **Victim Service**, we've had 21 referrals in the current reporting period (01/04/22 - 08/03/23). Although we are still doing the bulk of our day-to-day support by telephone and email, we have also recommenced face-to-face support.

For the **Witness Service**, we've had 36 referrals in the current reporting period. We continue to have a presence at Court whenever there are civilian witnesses cited, whether they have been referred to us or not. As well as supporting in local cases, we have also supported in a number of High Court cases where witnesses have given their evidence by video-link from the local Court.

We have had some issues with referrals recently. Both Court and Police referrals are initially sent to the National Support Centre in Glasgow for processing, prior to being disseminated to local services – current backlog means that we are often only receiving witness referrals in the week before the Trial, which can limit the scope of our support.

We've had some issues with our landline in recent months, since we went over to a 'soft-phone' system with a new telecommunication provider. As of 08.03.23 the line is still dropping out from time to time and needs to be tested frequently.

ORSAS: supported 75 people since the beginning of April, this included family and friends and professionals as well as survivors of sexual violence. November -Feb have been our busiest months for referrals. 33 were new referrals to the service. 58 were survivors and 17 were family friends and professionals supporting survivors. 20 of the 58 survivors received support in connection with legal and court process. Over 2000 people have visited the ORSAS Equality Hub since April. Although there are no identifiable trends we have seen an increase in parents seeking advice/support for online extortion and image sharing iro their children. These instances had been reported to police.

Our prevention worker has worked with 658 young people since April. Sessions delivered included Consent, Sexualisation, Pornography and What is Sexual Violence. 378 evaluation feedback forms were completed. 372 young people strongly agreed or agreed that they knew where to get support if a friend was sexually assaulted. 358 young people strongly agreed or agreed that young people should have education on these topics.

COMET+ continues to provide individually tailored prevention sessions for looked after children and those with additional support needs (ASN). ORSAS has delivered 160+ hours of tailored prevention sessions to 12 young people.

2 groups of young people from Stromness Academy chose ORSAS as their charity for Youth Philanthropy Project. We'll be present at the KGS YPI event on the 24th. ORSAS held an open day yesterday for International Women's Day and provided free showings of three films in partnership with The Pickaquooy Centre between 7th – 13th March.

Right There

Wellbeing service has seen 45 referrals since mid-August 20 of these referrals are for drug and alcohol support and 25 for mental health support.

Recruitment one wellbeing worker started 17.08.22, another on 03.10.22 and 31.10.22. The wellbeing worker who started on 17.08.22 moved to the Senior post, which is split between the supported accommodation and wellbeing teams. We have a vacancy for one 35-hour per week wellbeing worker.

<https://rightthere.org/vacancies/wellbeing-worker/>

We are supporting 14 young people at present with the last vacant flat being occupied from today. Young adults stay in supported accommodation for an average of 18 months before being offered a permanent tenancy, this is due to pressures on housing stock in Orkney. Emergency rent costs remain a barrier to supporting young people into the world of work, this coupled with increasing electricity and grocery costs. We have received £3,000 from STV Children's Appeal to help support people in the supported accommodation with electricity top ups and food costs. Youth Counselling, we have 2 youth counsellors who work a combination of 27 hours per week. 24 of these hours are commissioned by ADP and 3 of these hours we have funded through fundraising and donations. ADP have extended commissioning until the end of September 2023. We have had 30 referrals until the end of February for Youth Counselling and carried over 37 clients from the previous year. We are currently operating a 4-month waiting list for youth counselling. One group from Stromness Academy have selected Right There for the YPI.

Families Outside

We carried out a piece of research last year on the financial impact of Imprisonment for Families this has been put through to parliament for this to be put in motion. There is a parliament event in May 2023. The official launch of this research and government recommendations is the end of March 2023. KL can send out the briefing for this to OCJP, there is also a one page summary from the research. People living on the Scottish Islands will be more effected by the financial implications when someone goes to prison. All the findings have been put into averages but just to be aware that the islands will have a higher-than-average financial impact. KL can confirm the date for anyone who would like to attend the parliament event in May 2023.

Child impact assessment is a tool kit that has been created to help children and young people get their voices, thoughts, opinions, wants and needs heard when someone in their life is involved in the Criminal Justice system. This has been put forward by the Scottish Government as a recommendation to be used across Scotland as a tool to support children/young people. This is not out yet properly; this is something to be aware of and is on the horizon. KL also has information regarding this that she can send onto the OCJP.

7. National Care Service Engagement Updates

MMW highlighted to partners about a consultation taking place with workshops in the south, however Scot Gov were offering an option for online Consultation. MMW encouraged partners in rural areas to email the Scottish Government back with proposed interest.

8. Community Justice Scotland - Updates

OPIF is how we measure outcomes performance in a framework, this will be officially launched on the 1 April 2023. MMW has attached a guide for the draft, there is a soft launch in terms of discussions that have taken place between Justice Partners, which should have been published last Autumn (2022). Used as a key when writing the Community Justice Plans. It helps shape the direction that Community Justice would like to go in and the strategy, will not come into effect until the 1st of April 2023, however, will not be able to report on it until next year. MMW encouraged other partners to have a look at this and what responsibilities may come their way.

9. Strategic Need & Strengths Assessment – SNSA & CJOIP Update

This has been shared with the group, there has been two workshops which were very helpful. Included in the Agenda is the notes from the day. The concerns which were highlighted as those of greatest concern were:

- Pathways for Mentally Disorientated Offenders,
- Addiction Support,
- Diversion,
- Trauma Informed Practices
- Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes

These are felt to be gaps that need to be looked into to try and fill in are part of the strategic plan for the next three to five years.

It is still hoped to have this launched early in the next financial year. A lot of other Community Justice Partnerships are in similar positions.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank all partners who took the time to engage with the workshops.

TB apologies as she was unable to take part in the workshops, however her concern is around the fact that this is one of many planning process that are happening. Specifically in relation to Mental Health Services and Addictions. A plea for when this is taken forward it is in consultation and discussion with those other strategic areas. To avoid the risk this may not join up with other services and be missed. The Chair supported this position as we strive to join up ongoing work across a number of planning areas.

TB was unable to take part in SNSA workshops and wanted to raise this here, TB feels there is a gap in service provision locally for a specific program for perpetrators of domestic abuse. The current situation with Women's aid is that they are unable to work with perpetrators, this is something they are looking at. Relationship Scotland does work with perpetrators however they do not have any specialist skills or workshops to offer. (See above)

10. Restorative Justice Update

MMW has spoken at previous CJP meetings regarding this. Restorative Justice is Scottish Governments desire, MMW has provided a link in the agenda in terms of the

launch, they are looking to roll out across all 32 Local Authorities. There has been a pilot program been running in the Midlothian Area. Through an event last month there was a presentation in conjunction with one of the local establishments regarding Restorative Justice and the experience they have had in Midlothian. MMW has attached another document a study about restorative Justice and Sexual Harm.

MMW had discussion with Thriving Survivors who are working in conjunction with Woman's Aid and the Community Justice Partnership in Lothian. They are a national body and have encouraged all local authorities to get in touch with them, to discuss what support they could provide in training people to facilitate RJ.

Waiting to see where the responsibility will lie regarding the delivery of Restorative Justice. In Midlothian this was conducted by Community Justice Partners, although no additional funding was provided.

Action: MMW to contact Thriving Survivors to start a discussion and to look at options.

11. Scottish Prison Service Corporate Plan

MMW Scottish Prison is looking to update their current strategic plan in terms of how they intend to do their business for the next 5 years or so. There is within that document some questions that they are looking to get some responses for. MMW encouraged anyone who has any strong views to share, email them to MMW and he will pass this onto SPS.

MMW there has been a push for each Community Justice Partnership to have a Post Custodial Partnership Plan. MMW attended a meeting around 4 months ago to try and view the structure that they already have in East Dunbartonshire, this is how they receive people who have been released from prison to try and ensure that there is a pathway for them, and they are supported. Some early work has been done on this so far. [The Bail and Release from Custody \(Scotland\) Bill](#) is going through the Scottish Government that will make this mandatory for local authorities to have this Plan in place. There is current work through Housing and Criminal Justice for clients who are on release from Prison and there transition back into the community. This plan will be in place to make sure this all joins up together and more formalised.

Action: MMW to look at how we take this forward and formalise current procedures.

12. Ban the Box Discussion

MMW has met with Craig Walker from HR within OIC and also has a meeting next week with Steven Phillips from the NHS. Looking to try and see option to introduce this to the bigger organisations in Orkney.

Orkney could potentially be the first Local Authority to sign up to Ban the Box because of the action that have been taken after reviewing the HR process. Should OIC take this on, the next step would be to look at other employers around Orkney to encourage them to go forward with this. Ban the Box, does not ignore previous convictions, but simply encourages employers to only ask about them at the necessary time in any recruitment process. Where it is asked for at the outset it puts

off prospective applicants who have a conviction(s), which may have no bearing on the role applied for. Evidence shows that people who have been through the justice system and are in employment are less likely to reoffend.

KS is happy to work with MMW on this project, extremely beneficial if OIC and NHS Orkney took this forward. This would be a real positive move, which the Chair supported.

MMW updated that the Hub at Skills Development Scotland has now opened a new space that can be used by other organisations and agencies to host meetings/discussions. There is also a larger meeting room that can be used for online interaction.

An Employment Engagement Event to encourage employers in Orkney to come through and see the space and also discuss options with various different groups and member of LEP. The event took place last Wednesday (1 March 2023) not a huge amount of attendees, however more online engagement, alongside strong social media messaging.

KS updated about the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and a service which has been procured out to Employability Orkney. This service will offer employer engagement service, which can focus any approaches being made to employers. This route is available to all partners including OCJP if it would assist with getting any messaging out to employers locally. The Chair acknowledged the value of this network.

13. Lived Experience Case Studies for Future Reports

MMW reminder that we are looking to try and see new stories from a Community Justice point of view, to get everyone thinking about this for the next reporting period.

14. MAPPA/MARAC Statistics Update

SP – MAPPA has not been shared often with the Community Justice Partnership often and is not in the public domain.

A snapshot of the MAPPA stats from a period of 1st of April 2022 to 31st March 2023. It was highlighted that Orkney had 20 category 1 offenders, this is people who have been subject to a sexual offence, not violence. They are all level 1 which is the lowest multi agency management, only Police and Criminal Justice Social Work, no other partners needed to be involved. Currently there is 3 individuals in Custody for sexual offending and 7 individuals in the community. This has been static over the last 2 to 3 years. No high-risk offenders, there has never been anyone who is a category 3 for violence. **Is this able to be released publicly?**

MARAC stats, this is for victims of domestic violence, SP used to get a report quarterly however since the member of staff has left post, she no longer receives this. SP did pull stats from this year and the previous year.

This year in January there was 3 cases, in February there was 4 cases and 1 case (which has not been held yet) in March this year. From the previous year in 2022, in

January there was only 1 case, February there was no cases and March there was 1 case.

A rise in cases over the last year which corresponds with discussions round the table regarding domestic violence increasing. An area that needs to be focused on. There has been increased training so this also encourages people to come forward, which may explain the rise in figures.

ZB – Michelle Ward would be the best contact for gaining stats regarding MARAC and Angela Green being the main contact at Women's Aid. **Is this able to be released publicly?**

15. Diversion from Prosecution

MMW advised the group about a proposal for a working group to look at the 34 recommendations in the recent Report. Some are specific for Police, Scottish Government, Community Justice Scotland, Crown Office and a number of them talking about Community Justice Partnership. This will be coming forward soon to this meeting. Most of the work is happening already but this falls back to previous decision of having this formally written down.

SP supports what MMW said, SP and MMW looked through all the recommendation and most are already in place and currently have a very successful Diversion process in place. SP works very closely with the Fiscal services in Orkney.

16. Any Other Current Business

None.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 27 June 2023 11:00 – 13:00