



Orkney Community Justice Partnership

Minutes of the Community Justice Partnership Meeting held on Friday 8 September 2023 from 11:00-13:00 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)
Scott McLellan (SM)	Scottish Prison Services
Tony McLaughlin (TM)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Thomas Love (TL)	Victim Support Scotland
Zelda Bradley (ZB)	Orkney Rape & Sexual Assaults Service - ORSAS
Connie Calvo (CCal)	Skills Development Scotland
Caroline Cooper (CCoo)	Families Outside
Callan Curtis (CCur)	Orkney Health and Care
Hannah Casey (HC)	NHS Orkney Public Health Manager

Apologies were received or assumed from:

Sue Foard	COPFS
Ann Clark (AC)	Right There (formerly Y People)
Diane Young	NHS Orkney Mental Health Team
Megan McWilliams (MM)	Social Security Scotland
Neil Gentleman	Care Inspectorate
Tamsin Bailey (TB)	Relationship Scotland – Orkney
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
Kerry Spence (KS)	CLD, Employability
James Sutherland (JS)	Police Scotland
Hannah Casey (HC)	NHS Orkney Public Health Manager

1. Welcome / Apologies (Stephen Brown)

The Chair, Stephen Brown (SB) welcomed members.

2. Accuracy of Minutes held 27-06-23 (Stephen Brown)

The Minutes were accepted as accurate and approved.

3. Action Tracker (Matthew Webb)

MMW shared the action tracker on screen. Actions still outstanding were discussed:

1. CJOIP which will hopefully be concluded by the end of the financial year, workshops will be held to allow partnership participation.
2. Terms of reference for OCJP, MMW will speak about this further on in the agenda.
3. Local Media Reporting Concerns, there is a number of actions across the Community Planning Network, Court User Group have this action and the Domestic Abuse Forum. This is to highlight that we are not alone having this action on our agenda. Chair advised that he and the then Chief Executive of the Council met up with the media last year following concerns that had been raised and shared Partners concerns with the editor of The Orcadian. Some progress has been made in the way that OHAC work with the local press in relation to campaigns etc. However, it is still clear that some reports remain to be problematic.

ZB – at the last Gender Based Violence Group meeting, Police raised that there was a concern how reporting was potentially impacting people seeking support or going to the police. ORSAS has written to The Orcadian a year ago, response still awaited. ORSAS requested a plea for compassionate community response from the media (see below). This has impacted on ORSAS in recent months who have had to clear a Wednesday afternoon to be able to provide support for people who have won their case and are ready to leave ORSAS service and in a good place, to find that what was reported in the Orcadian has set them back and caused significant distress to survivors. Particularly when they are reporting on Sexual Offences there is a lot of inaccuracies and it has had a knock-on effect in recent months for ORSAS. We have also had to do safety planning around people's mental health in relation to this, they don't want to live in Orkney anymore. After we sent out our statement, we got an immediate respond from Radio Orkney and others but no response from The Orcadian. We also sent this to the directors of the Orcadian. Local reporting is still providing information that many survivors have not shared with their families, and this is causing significant distress.

MMW – Asked if ZB could send the statement and there will be attached in the minutes. As below:

[230818 Compassionate Communities Statement FINAL.docx](#)

SP – Confirmed that they had received the ORSAS message that was sent out, building on what ZB we need to keep dialogue going around this. From a Justice perspective it is the perpetrators, we have to conduct more risk assessments for where perpetrators can conduct their unpaid work. Information provided continues to

have a significant impact on the families of the victim and the perpetrator also, so it is not just the one person it is many that are affected. This is also discussed at the court user group.

TM – in support of ZB, particularly when the location or wrong locations are identified, and this can cause mob action where innocent people can be affected by the incorrect reporting.

SB – It is disappointing that we have not seen any change in relation to this. The question now is what more do we do? I understand we need to keep the pressure on, does anyone have any suggestions as to where we go from here?

TM – If there was one point of contact that The Orcadian got their information from to make sure that it is accurate and not sharing to many details.

MMW – Do we make this an action point for COG, not to conclude this here but it can be actioned at the most senior level within Orkney with a view to try and reach some resolution.

ZB – Our remit is in respect of our survivors, but I think it is helpful if other agencies are making their representations with the people they are working with. Happy if it closes on this agenda but would encourage if this impacts any of their clients to keep speaking out.

SB – Think it would be beneficial to have a discussion at the Chief Officers group as a way forward. **Action:** to schedule in an agenda item at COG and tie in with ZB as ORSAS is impacted heavily by this. ZB agreed to attend for this item.

4. MW – Restorative Justice is on the Action Tracker, just a reminder so it does not fall off the radar. There is still deliberation of where this sits in terms of the delivery of it. MW was approached last week by an organisation trying to deliver this in Shetland and they are keen to engage. MW will meet with them but conscious of the fact that there may be services we can commission more locally in Orkney.
5. Post Custodial Pathway, again just a reminder of trying to do some work to pull that together, Meeting to be convened with stakeholders to take this forward. Chair keen to see engagement with partners over this.
6. Ban the Box is still a work in progress and remains on the action tracking table to ensure visibility.

4. Matters Arising not Covered on Agenda

None

5. Inputs – Trauma Informed Practice

CCur – provided an update on this national topic with a view to embedding across Organisations in Orkney, to be more aware of trauma and how trauma is experienced by people throughout their lives and how that can manifest. We are

currently looking to find a bit more information and from across the partnership to learn areas that people find most challenging with the people they are working with as well as the topics that they are interested in learning more about.

A survey is open to better understand the needs requirement to help inform that training need. Callan asked the group to share this questionnaire with staff who could contribute. Chair sought confirmation that this has been shared with the members of this group, which it has. The Suicide Prevention Task Force had a lengthy discussion regarding Trauma Informed Practice earlier this week, concerns about young people and adults who are presenting as being in distress, what response are they getting from our GP community, from emergency departments. We recognised that this is patchier than we would like and that is before you think of the wider workforce. This work will be highly beneficial.

Action: Check that this Questionnaire has been circulated to the Suicide Prevention Task Force Group. – **Confirmed this has taken place by Callan.**

6. Service Updates from Partner Agencies

Orkney Rape & Sexual Assault Service (ORSAS)

08/09/23 Report for OCJP from Orkney Rape & Sexual Assault Services – ORSAS

ORSAS have supported 33 people since the beginning of April, this included family and friends and professionals as well as survivors of sexual violence. We have received 18 new referrals to the service. 8 cases are active in the court and legal system.

Our prevention worker has timetabled sessions with pupils at KGS for November, Stronsay in December with Stromness Academy, Sanday & Westray due to receive sessions in the new year. She continues to work on an individual basis with referrals to COMET+.

ORSAS have launched their plea for Compassionate Communities engagement with Media in their newsletter and social media feeds. We have had some uptake from radio and online press to participate in awareness training and access to media resources. The impact of media reporting has had significant impact on ORSAS capacity in the last 8 weeks.

ORSAS are offering activism session in preparation for 16 Days 25th November – 10th December.

Banner, badge, and poster making will be covered in an open session at Orkney Library on 22nd Sept with and invited group coming to a Zine workshop on 23rd September. ORSAS staff will be trained to offer this workshop to feminist activists later in the year.

ORSAS will be at Employability Orkney this afternoon to receive a funding cheque, the Sheriff Court Open Day tomorrow with other partners, and at MIND ON's celebration of their dispersal of funds on Monday.

Relationship Scotland

RS Orkney continues to be busy across all services we offer and are currently working with 169 cases. There are waiting lists for individual counselling, but the wait time is coming down and all clients waiting are offered one-to-one sessions with a Support Worker meantime. There is no significant wait for most other services, except for Play Therapy where we are still dealing with a post-COVID backlog. However, we are training two Therapists so will have increased capacity for this service in the future.

64% of client sessions are now attended face-to-face, with 15% online, 10% by phone and 11% in school. In the first quarter (April-June) we opened 96 new cases and a total of 745 client sessions were attended. We are currently working with 12 substance misuse cases and supporting one family member affected by a loved one's substance use. We have opened 8 new substance misuse counselling/support cases since April, including a number from Criminal Justice Social Work colleagues. The Drug & Alcohol Support Worker post has been vacant after recruitment issues, and we are about to advertise a 12-month Trainee post, with a view to training someone to carry out this work in future.

Victim Support Scotland

For the **Witness Service**, we've had 24 service engagements since the beginning of April. 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.

For the **Victim Service**, we've had 8 service engagements since the beginning of April. 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.

We have a new volunteer who has begun shadowing at Court over the summer, (although it's been a little quieter at Court over the past month or so). Much like me and my current volunteer, she'll be providing support to witnesses at Court, as well as providing emotional and practical support to people in the community who have experienced crime. Her appointment satisfies an important demand within the local service, as we have not had a female supporter on the islands in over four years. The Court are holding their 'doors open day' this Saturday (their first in around five years), we are hoping to attend.

Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland have just recently have entered a memorandum with the Scottish Prison Service. This is a three-year agreement which is a return to face-to-face services in Polmont, Stirling and Grampian Prisons. This is to re-introduce a service that was more established pre-covid. This will give a better handover for people when they are released to their local area. We have not yet had our information session as yet, but this will happen over the next month.

Scottish Prison Service

Numbers are high in the Prisons across the board. There is around 8000 people in custody with our maximum available cells as 8400 at present. There is going to be several moves of accommodation to try and maximise the use of this. This is record levels for the Prison Service.

MMW updated the current nature of persons in prison who are linked to Orkney. Seven persons serving a Long Term Prison Sentence, One person serving an undetermined sentence and one person on remand. This should be recognised as appropriate use of custody with a reduction in the number of prisoners serving Short Term Prison sentences. There has been an increased use of community sentences where appropriate.

7. ToR Update

MMW - There is couple of points that needs to be looked at, the first one is in relation to commissioning of services, there is a meeting next week which will hopefully ensure that the Terms of Reference details exactly how we want the Commissioning to be represented. There is also a need to review Chair and Vice Chair positions. Currently Chair's position is Stephen Brown and Vice Chair held by Insp David Hall from Police Scotland. We are looking to review this every couple of years and if in agreement for the next meeting in December we can get a formal agreement within the Partnership about either endorsing these positions or notes of interest of anyone who wants to take on any of the posts.

HC – NHS Orkney doesn't seem to be on the member list for this. MMW advised that it is listed under Orkney Health Board but will change this to NHS Orkney, so this is clear.

8. Learning Journey – Alternative Perpetrator Programme

MMW – Has shared with the Violence Against Women's Partnership which MMW is now a member of, there has been a struggle with applications of Alternative Perpetrator Programmes. The Caledonian Programme, which is not able to be applied in smaller areas. There was an action that MMW picked up from the Violence Against Women Partnership and there is some work ongoing with NHS Highland, it involves work within Inverness Prison. Where they are working with some of the prisoners through a programme. What we are looking to do is tap into the learning that is there, with a view of trying to offer something online in a community setting. This would be beneficial to all the smaller communities across Scotland. Waiting for the evaluation for the work that is being carried out in Inverness.

9. Community Justice Scotland – Update

MMW thanks those in the Partnership, some of whom are online, for their attendance at the three workshops which sought collective feedback from the partnership. The report is due in for Community Justice Scotland at the end of this month, MMW will circulate this before the end of next week for any final comments. There are a couple of people MMW would like to have a focused discussion with to clarify some information. Looking to get feedback from the partnership mid-September for finalisation before submitting.

10. Fast Forward – Gambling Addiction Sessions

Three Gambling workshops for free online inputs in the last year for people in the community in Orkney. We have had support from The RCA Trust which is a charity based in Renfrewshire however it does have responsibilities of delivering inputs throughout Scotland in terms of addiction support. They have identified that Gambling is just as harmful as drugs and alcohol addictions although this is harder to detect within the community but nonetheless does have similar damaging impacts it does result in people going to prison with the debt they have incurred resulting in criminality in trying to repay this.

On the back of the RSA inputs which were free online, not just on Orkney because the online option was available, we opened this up to other partnerships, we did reach into Aberdeenshire, Shetland, Western Isles and Highland. The main thing is we got this message across in Orkney we got all the Street Pastors who are out on a Friday and Saturday night through a training session and other key workers within the Support and Justice and Social Health Care partnerships.

This led an approach from Fast Forward to MMW because I had signed up to RSA activity. There has also been work done by CLD in Orkney by Cheryl and Kat who had also approached Fast Forward, there is now work at quite an established and advanced stage a lot of this has been advanced by CLD, it is important to recognise the work that they have done.

Between the 9th and 13th of October there will be inputs taking place in Orkney, these will be face-to-face and involve school kids, teachers, support workers, parents and other people within the community who have got an interest in learning more about gambling.

This training will be coming out, hopefully within the next couple of weeks CLD will put out dates for the training sessions. We are looking to engage with some of the sports organisations in Orkney as there is an interest there.

SM – sent on the invitation from MMW to some members of staff and reported back that it was a fantastic session. SM thanked MMW for sending the session as this was a huge success.

HC – We have had a lot of people in the department asking about vaping and we struggle to respond to that. What we are doing is looking at tobacco plans across Orkney and MMW is our representative on the work from Community Justice. People have access to Smoking prevention. We first looked at Cessation services we have relooked at who delivers, where. We have different levels of support. It depends on when the person wants to stop smoking and how much time they want to take doing so. This is to make all the services aware that this is in place and will hopefully get more information out within the next couple of months.

11. Lives Experience Case Studies for Future Reports

MMW – this is a reminder and appeal. From the workshops that have been taking place there has been a lot of chat with regards to Lived Experiences and it is to try

and tease out from a Community Justice lens are their opportunities where we can speak about good new stories etc. The challenges we have meaning in a small community is we don't want to identify someone, however it is important to encourage and involve people with lived experiences to help sense check what we are proposing. **Chair proposed that at the Dec session we encourage people to update the group in the chat function of what went well with you this week/month/year.** Standing item to ensure that the work we are doing is making a difference.

12. MAPPA/MARAC Statistics Update

SP – When it comes to the MAPPA for Orkney are numbers are always consistent, and almost always single figures. Everyone is currently all a level 1, which is the lowest level of risk for management. When it comes to the ViSOR, the electronic database, we do have a ViSOR terminal here, however there are national discussions ongoing with police around access and required levels for vetting.

MARAC, Save Lives used to produce a quarterly report to say what the numbers were across Highlands and Islands, including Orkney, however this has not been produced since last year. SP has extracted the data and it shows that for June to August 2022, we discussed **three** cases. This year (2023) for the same reporting period there were **eight** discussed, which is significantly higher. This may be as a consequence of growing confidence to report to the service providers.

In addition there is a challenge around Chair training for MARAC meetings. The police used to chair all the MARAC meetings, however they have since withdrawn from this position and it was shared out last year to all agencies to put people forward. However, this has never been resolved. There is an event on the 22nd Sept and it is all about Chair training, SP would encourage everyone to attend this. If anyone has not seen this invite this will be resent to them.

The Chair was keen that the Gender Based Violence group had access to this information. SP would speak to the group to share the figures.

13. Any Other Current Business

ZB – Victim Witness and Justice Reform Scotland Bill is at Stage 1 at the moment. This is quite a fundamental review specifically about sexual offence cases and a lot of the proposals that are up for review at the moment. Rape Crisis Scotland have submitted a number of comments around the draft that we are currently looking at and that is based on their Survival Participation Group that pulls-on survivors across Scotland and their experience of the Criminal Justice System. ZB would share information for inclusion in minutes.

[1693992678 RCS-Bill-evidence-final.pdf](https://www.gov.scot/publications/1693992678/RCS-Bill-evidence-final.pdf)

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hybrid on 8 Dec 2023, and mince pies will be provided. In person venue to be confirmed.