



# Orkney Community Justice Partnership

## Minutes of the Community Justice Partnership Meeting held on 27 June 2023 from 11:00-13:00 hybrid via Microsoft teams and The Hub.

### **Present**

Stephen Brown (SB)	Orkney Health and Care (Chair)
Matthew Webb (MMW)	Orkney Health and Care (Minutes)
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
Hannah Casey (HC)	NHS Orkney Public Health Manager
Kirsten Adamson (KA)	Circle Chief Executive & OHAC
Scott McLellan (SM)	Scottish Prison Service
David Hall (DH)	Inspector - Police Scotland
Michelle Ward (MW)	Women's Aid Orkney
Megan McWilliams (MM)	Social Security Scotland
Mary Stuart (MS)	NHS Orkney
Kerri Liddle (KL)	Skills Develop Scotland
Lindsey Hall (LH)	Councillor
Sandy Cowie (SC)	Councillor
Joyce Murray (JM)	Positive Changes maker of Grace Chocolates
Caroline Cooper (CC)	Families Outside

### **Apologies were received or assumed from:**

Morven Brooks (MB)	VAO Orkney
Ann Clark (AC)	Right There (formerly Y People)
Diane Young	NHS Orkney Mental Health Team
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
Neil Gentleman (NG)	Care Inspectorate
Kerry Spence (KS)	CLD, Employability
Callan Curtis (CC)	Public Protection - OHAC
Sharon-Ann Paget (SP)	Orkney Health and Care – Service Manager PP
Michael Marcus (MH)	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Kirsten Law (KL)	Families Outside

### **1. Welcome / Apologies (Stephen Brown)**

The Chair, Stephen Brown (SB) welcomed members to the first hybrid meeting of the Partnership since Covid, which allowed participants to attend virtually through online technology as well as allowing other participants to be present together in a meeting room in a single location.

A presentation then took place from Joyce Murray (JM) from Grace Chocolates. JM spoke about the support they provide to women who have 'touched' the justice system through the four different programmes run by Grace Chocolates. Namely Rise, a mentoring program. A Health and Wellbeing program, a work experience program and Making Positive changes which is a six-week program, two days a week, where the women will come along. One day a week they will be in the kitchen and the other day they will work on personal development. Two programmes that can be delivered remotely are Rise, our mentoring program and our Health and Wellbeing Program.

Councillor Hall asked JM if she had any statistic regarding their success rate. JM advised that GC keep checking in with the women. The percentage of people who reoffend having been release from prison, within one year, is around 35-45%. Of the women that we have supposed and been able to keep in contact with they are looking at 5% of reoffending that we are aware of.

MMW highlighted that use has been made already of the online support from GC to the benefit of Orkney and asked if JM was able to give a suitably anonymised update? To protect identities JM provided a more general update about what support they have provided to women in remote communities. GC can support women in more remote parts of the country where the in-person work would be impossible for them. MMW reminded the group that this is an option to anyone who meets the criteria and can be referred.

TB sought information about what topics did the Health and Wellbeing sessions cover? JM advised on the specifics of this.

## **2. Accuracy of Minutes held 09-03-2023 (Stephen Brown)**

Discussion had around the accuracy of the minutes which were agreed as accurate and approved.

## **3. Action Tracker Updates**

SB there is a lot of items on the Action Tracker that are now closed.

MMW – Actions that are still outstanding: CJOIP/SNSA work is an ongoing matter this will be discussed further on in the minutes. Lived experience examples are still sought for real case studies for this.

ToR is covered later in the Agenda

In term of the media discussion there is an action that SB was going to take this to the Chief Executive and other core groups that are also affected by this topic. MMW asked if this is now a closed matter or an ongoing one, update to be provided by SB.

Councillor Hall asked the question if there was a template for the media of things they can and cannot report on, are the media aware this is an issue? MMW – There are reporting guidelines for media organisations, primarily they relate to the status of a police enquiry or ongoing trial, however the main concern raised by partners is the impact on the accused, victims and their families who are affected by this style of reporting.

Tamsin Bailey added a desire for families to be alerted in advance to any reporting rather than learning of it first in the media. Zelda Bradley spoke of experiences from survivors who ORSAS supported, whose first question when seeking support was how will this be reported in the press locally, rather than questions about the police or court process. Experience has shown that local media reporting has impacted on some victims coming forward and reporting offences to police. Michelle Ward from Women's Aid Orkney supported the ORSAS position and had similar experiences of survivors who were seeking support from them were reluctant to report matters to police on account of how this may be reported locally in the press. She also cited examples of domestic abuse and unhelpful language describing assaults of domestic victims as a "fracas" or an "incident". Experience was across the board in local media report from sensationalization to minimisation, which in a small community is the biggest barrier to reporting matters to police. This is the crux of this concern. Caroline Cooper from Families Outside spoke about their campaign for "No address in the Press". Scot Gov approached however FO were not able to get a prevention on this. They have now undertaken some focussed work with court reporters in Inverness, and she has found them to be receptive.

The Chair summarised this and thanks contributors for their comments noting the telling nature of victim's concerns being first and foremost how would their experience be reported in the local media, which is magnified in smaller communities such as Orkney. Work is ongoing with the local media outlet and some positive discussions have taken place. Partners should continue to highlight examples to the Chair/Secretariat and these can be raised with the Editor in ongoing discussions.

Restorative Justice – we are looking as a group to see what can be done to try and implement this. 2023 was the target for implementation across Scotland but this has been delayed, still unclear as to who is responsible for delivering this and a decision is awaited from Scot Gov. Ongoing discussions regarding this. Meeting held with Thriving Survivors who support this service as part of the pilot project.

Offender release pathway. Legislation being considered to look a processes to manage and coordinate the release from custody with the aim to reduce reoffending. This takes place in Orkney already with different partners managing their own particular aspect of the process, however this would see it coordinated by a particular group.

Ban the box – ongoing discussions on this with HR in OIC and NHS. Plan to produce a briefing paper which the Chair, as Executive Lead, can take to relevant boards for consideration and implementation.

#### **4. Matters Arising not covered on Agenda.**

None

#### **5. Inputs – Grace Chocolates – see above**

#### **6. Financial Cost of Imprisonment**

Caroline Cooper – A report has been sent out to the group which Families Outside conducted regarding the financial impact of Imprisonment for Families. This is an issue for people particularly in rural locations especially the islands. CC highlight that a huge cost for people in the islands is travel costs when visiting family member in prison, which is disproportionately high for remote communities. CC is looking to raise this issue with the Company that deals with these types of payments and the SPS services to help families be able to visit their family member in prison more frequently.

CC gave an example of a person in an island community who spend £400 for one prison visit and because she doesn't claim any benefits, she had to pay for this trip herself. CC stressed the importance of Family contact and how this can reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

**CC appealed to the group if they know any families that are struggling to get down for prison visits because of the cost. Any cases to be shared with CC.**

Scott McLellan SPS spoke at the Conference in Parliament regarding this, around 95% of these costs impact on women, predominantly family members. There are three parts to the cost of Imprisonment, cost associated with people getting Home Leave, travel costs. Not enough people know what they can claim for and what the process is for doing this. SM would encourage everyone to read the report.

SB asked SM, during the Pandemic technology was used as a form of contacting prisoners, SB asked if this was still used post pandemic. SM during the pandemic we installed video conference for visits and gave every prisoner a mobile phone with 310 free minutes every month. This was given to every prisoner in Scotland, the virtual visits have continued, the mobile phones have been withdrawn. This is partly because of the situation with Huawei technology, this has been replaced with in cell hardwired phones. This is due to the abuse of the mobiles that some prisoners were doing, only 46% of prisoners used the full contract of their phones. There is a reduction in the number of people who are attending visits, most people are moving towards a hybrid approach, this is a combination of phone, virtual calls and in person visits.

CC experience with families is that they really appreciate the free minutes with the phones during lockdown, the virtual calls have given a lot more opportunities to families who live in rural areas. CC has had a few cases highlighted recently regarding the lack of opportunities for virtual calls. In some establishments some people are being denied or waiting weeks. Concerns for families living in these rural

areas who have been unable to access this. **CC shared examples with SM so he can follow this up.**

## **7. Service updates from Partner Agencies**

### **Social Security Scotland:**

Social Security Scotland in Orkney are leading a pilot to trial the in-person booking of appointments at information sessions. We will be based in the Carnegie Room, Kirkwall Library every Wednesday between 11:00 – 13:00. This time has been chosen to allow clients who may be working to attend on their lunch breaks and take advantage of increased inter-isles ferries on a Wednesday. Clients will be able to book an appointment with an advisor directly rather than calling our helpline number to arrange. **Request from Megan to Partners to please share amongst colleagues and encourage your service users to attend to help ensure the success of the trial.**

### **Victim Support:**

For the **Witness Service**, we've had 19 referrals in the current reporting period (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 4 referrals in the same period. 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 starting with us, she has begun shadowing with me at Court.

## **8. ToR Update**

MMW- We have taken the Terms of Reference which was last updated in 2016 and added in some comments from members of this group. First one to draw your attention to would be Quorate various opinions here in relation to not just Orkney but places elsewhere that have it, places that don't have it. Sometime this can be a barrier because if we don't have members in sufficient numbers the meeting doesn't take place. Some places will then have the meeting, but they don't come to any decisions until they then email back. Wanted to discuss this with the group as to if we still want to use Quorate and if we do what would we be looking for? Today there has been a good turn out and have had a good turn out the last few meetings.

Chair suggested that there is a number set for the meeting to go ahead, six would be minimum for the meeting to take place and from three or four organisations.

Comment to reflect the new Strategy, commissioning of services, Governance and reporting mechanisms which is the IJB. 5.1 in terms of membership, this is drawn from a previous membership list, which is from 2016, there is also some

organisations that no longer exist MMW and others which assistance was sought from the Partnership to confirm if they still exist?

Request for partners to consider the updated version which will be circulated again and final ratification sought at the next meeting in September 2023 of ToR

## **9. Care Inspectorate Updates – Self Evaluation for CJ Partnerships**

Neil has sent his apologies therefore skipping this item.

## **10. Community Justice Scotland – Updates**

### **10.1. Annual Report 2021/22 Published (CPO included)**

Every year we submit our annual report to Community Justice Scotland, and they then use this report to draw up a national report which has now been published. The two reports related to Community Payback Orders and Annual outcome report for Community Justice, this is the one that we contribute more to from this forum. Shared for awareness.

### **10.2. Annual Return 2022/23 workshops required.**

This report is now out for completion, the completion date is for the end of September. Most of us who took part in the workshops last year, MMW will propose to replicate this again through the summer to ensure Partners are provided with an opportunity to contribute. It is a slightly different template this year, part of this is due to the fact that this is the final year of reporting to the old strategy. A new strategy came into place on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, this reporting period is for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

### **10.3. Commissioned Throughcare Report – 01/06/2023 from Clair Gilsean**

There are three reports there, which have come from Community Justice Scotland. This idea behind this is that Community Justice Scotland will be taking on more responsibility for the throughcare, there are some recommendations in the report.

### **10.4. National Care Service – Regional Forums Summer 2023**

This forum has taken place, there is a proposal to have some online also. MMW did circulate an email a month ago regarding this.

SB – you may recognise that there is a forum scheduled for Skye and a forum scheduled for Shetland however, none for Orkney. That point has been made with Politicians and Civil Servants; they are likely to have other forums in Autumn. They are committed to have a forum in Orkney as well.

## **11. Strategic Need & Strength Assessment – SNSA & CJOIP Update**

The SNSA was written with a collaborative focus.

For the sections where data was used, we accessed the most credible national sources for measurement of data for example Crimes and Offences were evidenced through use of the Police Scotland Data Cube. The data cube is readily available online. The data within goes through the same stringent checks and assurances as all Scottish Government data does to ensure accuracy and reflection against local activities. Police Scotland were also consulted upon charts and information to ensure accuracy.

In addition to our own assurance checks, assistance from the Local Intelligence Support Team (ran by Public Health Scotland) assisted with breaking down the data and providing some assurance around the recommendations that were being drawn. Their expertise was invaluable with their assistance, support, and experience in other similar and larger documents such as the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the health and social care partnership locally.

Recommendations gave a broad consideration of how best to use the information within the document, with the partnership containing a wide array of experts in their fields who know the local context it would not have been right for us to draw together recommendations on priority areas when that context will come from members and their focus on the local community.

Some areas that may be worth highlighting is the increasing population in Orkney, we can see this locally with housing shortages, people struggling to move on island for work and increases in homeless in present times.

The impact of the cost of living is a detrimental factor and one which we do not know the long-term outcomes of.

Variance in some crimes may be due to changing factors, for example crimes for possession with intention to distribute have reduced however as we have seen from 2017 onwards there is growing awareness that distribution has become increasingly common using royal mail.

Instances of Sexual Assault have increased, as a standalone this does not mean that instances of sexual assault have increased but could mean an increasing number of victims are coming forward following proactive work done in our community by our third sector colleagues. These include campaigns such as Tak a Stand, the Comet plus project and a variety of awareness raising initiatives that have been undertaken in recent years.

### Limitations

Limitations are mentioned early within the SNSA, they cover the following:

- The collation of meaningful data sets can present a number of challenges. Not least, datasets can be recorded in such a way that extracting information is not possible, meaning that we can only gather data that relates to the wider

population as a whole. This means that we cannot understand the true picture of needs of those people with experience of the Justice System.

- The lack of current data is also an issue. (The last National Census was carried out on 2011) so 'most recent figures available' can range anywhere between 2011 and, over the past month.
- Unless specific measures are put in place we can only infer the impacts of people with experience of the justice from proxy data which relates to the wider community.
- The long-term impacts of the pandemic have yet to be determined.

MMW – there is work being done by the Public Protection Committee around about some of the outcomes that the SNSA have highlighted. They are using the SNSA as a base document which allows them to do some work. Alex Davidson (CHAIR PPC) was keen to use this document as an informative aid to develop improvement plans and policies that could be tailored to the needs of Orkney. To do so the document will need to be signed off and approved by the owning committee of the piece of work. Once the document is approved with will be shared with COG.

MMW – Proposed if everyone is content with content of the SNSA that we will put that onto the Community Justice site which is on Orkney Island Council website, so it becomes a public document but is also a document that can be uses from a reference point of view.

Discussion ensued and Chair encouraged Partners to digest the content and agreement reached to publish the SNSA on the Community Justice page of OIC website.

## **12. Lived Experiences 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.

## **13. MAPPA/MARAC Statistics Update**

SP sends in her apologies, no further update on this item.

## **14. Any Other Current Business**

LH – is in three Community Councils and each Community Council is being offered for someone to come along or virtually come along and explain the white ribbon movement. MMW is the chair for White Ribbon Orkney movement, the first presentation was given last night to Holm Community Council it should run no longer than 10 mins. This is not the full prestation and is to bring attention of White Ribbon Orkney to encourage Community Councils to spread the message and make the offer of delivering WRO presentations to any forum who would benefit from it. White Ribbon encourages men to speak out about domestic violence and to take the pledge to

***“Never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women in all its forms”.***

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 11.00 – 13.00

DRAFT