

Participation Statement

The Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership (MCSJP) is committed to engage with people and empower them to contribute to our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and actions across all priority areas.

We want our plan to reflect the views of people most affected by community justice. One of the main challenges of the Community Justice Model is how to genuinely include the general public/communities in the community justice agenda and it is something that we will continue to work towards in the coming years. It has also been a challenge to involve agencies who might not have previously seen themselves as having a role in reducing reoffending and a continuing challenge in the coming year will be to encourage partners to see the relevance of their own service to the reducing reoffending agenda. Partnership working with Education is also crucial in relation to the prevention and the early intervention agenda.

A Communication and Engagement Strategy and Plan 2020-23 was published in autumn 2020 which outlines the activity planned to progress Community Justice Scotland actions SO1.2ⁱ and SO1.4ⁱⁱ. The plan details consultation activity which will take place over the course of the next three years.

Who was involved in the shaping of our plan?

This participation statement sets out who we have spoken to in the course of the last year, and what methods we have used to gain their views

Stakeholder	Activities
Statutory Partners	<p>The Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board has representation from all of the Community Justice statutory partners and a number of Third Sector organisations (see Third Sector section below).</p> <p>The remit of the Midlothian Community Justice Working Group includes the development of the CJOIP and reporting of progress to the Board towards achieving the Common Outcomes.</p> <p>The Working Group meets quarterly with a focus on partner updates, accountability of actions, and development of the CJOIP. During 2018/19 the Board met on three occasions and provided guidance and scrutiny on the draft CJOIP. The Midlothian CJOIP was published on 1 April 2020.</p> <p>A CJOIP Workshop was held on 19th February 2020. This was a half day event that brought together statutory partners, third sector organisations, service users with lived experience of the justice system, elected members and Board members. Consideration was given to the format of the day. The 2019 guide to 'Inclusive Justice Co-producing Change' by Weaver et al was used to ensure that voices were heard and encouraged. Initially a quiz was undertaken to allow relationships to be forged before smaller focus groups were established to look at the National Indicators. Guidance was drafted</p>

	<p>for each chair of the focus groups including the pertinent evidence from the SNSA. Rich data was then collected that formed the basis for the new action plan going forward.</p> <p>Fiona (CSJP Manager) attended three briefing sessions in 2019 with staff who were moving into a new recovery hub. Staff from substance misuse, health, justice social work and third sector agencies are now co-located in one building. Opportunities were taken to raise the profile of community justice and build on partnership working.</p> <p>Fiona (CSJP Manager) sits on both the Community Planning Partnership Working Group and the Violence Against Women and Girls Working group thus promoting integrated partnership working and raising the profile of Community Justice.</p> <p>Midlothian CSJP held a successful large scale event on 20 November 2019 and was attended by a number of third sector organisations, service users and key stakeholders. Speakers included Karyn McCluskey Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland, Naomi Breeze a one woman drama performance and James Docherty who has both professional and personal experience of navigating the care and criminal justice system. Approximately 80 attendees gathered for the event, the aim of which being to improve awareness of Community Justice and motivate and enthuse partners and communities to work with the MCJP in the delivery of community justice services. Feedback from the event was extremely positive with 78% of attendees rating the event 5/5 and feedback including "Inspiring and proof that change can happen".</p> <p>The Community Planning Development Day took place in November 2019, the purpose being for all statutory and non-statutory partners, members of the public and young people to set Midlothian's priorities for the next year. The Community Safety and Justice Partnership is one of the five thematic groups that feed into the Community Planning Partnership. Fiona (CSJP Manager) delivered a presentation on the successes and challenges of the partnership over the last year and co-facilitated an afternoon workshop. This workshop was run in conjunction with an individual who has lived experience of the justice system with the aim being to increase awareness of community justice and what it looks like in Midlothian</p> <p>Fiona (CSJP Manager) and Justice Social Work have arranged a quarterly input into the Justice Team Meeting to advise and up-date on local and national Community Justice activity.</p>
Reporting	<p>Regular reports have been provided to the Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership Board and the Midlothian Community Justice Working Group. A Progress Record template was approved in 2019 to allow the partners to record and update the other partners on activity, improvements, partnership working and data. This promotes accountability, information sharing, awareness raising and will facilitate future self-evaluation.</p> <p>We also report performance biannually in the Single Midlothian Plan which from 2020 incorporates one-year actions from the CJOIP (prior to 2020 only the Community Safety plan was included).</p>

	<p>Partnership activity including the three year Outcome and Improvements Plan along with the Annual Report and Communication Strategy are published on the Council website for community consideration.</p>
Third Sector	<p>There is a strong third sector involvement within the MCSJP with Midlothian Voluntary Action, Victim Support Scotland, Women's Aid East and Midlothian, Change, Grow, Live and Families Outside and having places on either the Board and/or Working Group.</p> <p>Our representative from Health in Mind, a third sector organisation, sits both on the Working Group and the Board and has lived experience of the justice system.</p>
Public Engagement	<p>In May 2019 we developed and distributed a community justice survey to individuals who live and work in Midlothian. The survey was available in an online format through Survey Monkey and paper copies were made available in all Midlothian Council offices, libraries, leisure centres and GP surgeries. Posters were designed and accompanied all paper surveys, publicising the web address to complete the survey online, and all leisure, library and GP group managers were emailed and asked for their support in promoting the consultation through staff and service users. A news article was placed on the Midlothian Council intranet encouraging staff to complete the survey. Consultation also took place among Midlothian based individuals held in prison custody at HMP Edinburgh and HMP Cornton Vale.</p> <p>The consultation period ran from 17th May to 17th June 2019 with questionnaires collecting both quantitative and qualitative findings which were used in the writing of the CJOIP. In total 450 responses were received, an increase (+14.2%) on the 2017 consultation period when 394 responses were received.</p> <p>The Community Justice Partnership Manager carried out two weeks of public consultations at a number of community centres throughout Midlothian. Geographic representation was considered to obtain a balance between rural and urban areas of the local authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nest- Rural Community Hub Pitcairn Centre- older people's facility Pink Ladies- Arts Centre support group Grassy Riggs- facility for older people Gorebridge Parish Church Food banks Leisure Centres x3 Libraries x3 Recovery Café MELD Mining Museum GP surgeries/libraries/leisure centres- material left and face-to-face consultation Orchard Centre Parent and child groups held across Midlothian. <p>There was also a social media campaign using the Council's website, Facebook and Twitter.</p>

	<p>The Winter 2019 Citizen's Panel is co-ordinated by the Community Planning Partnership. As a thematic partner, consideration was given to the format of the questions around Community Justice. Links were made to our own Spring Consultation and questions re-written to reflect the information gleaned during the public consultation and allow for more open ended, qualitative responses.</p> <p>A full thematic analysis was carried out on completed questionnaires which yielded interesting findings which were taken into account when writing the CJOIP.</p> <p>In October 2019 the Community Justice Manager attended a Community Council training day in a bid to increase awareness of Community Justice and how the partnership works together to promote the inclusion and reintegration of services users within the justice system, reduce (re)-offending and work towards safer communities.</p>
Victims and Witnesses	<p>The partnership acknowledges that better links are required with our partners representing victims and witnesses. There is a commitment from Victim Support Scotland and Mid and East Women's Aid who sit on both the Working Group and Board. It is hoped that going forward stronger partnership working can be forged so the views and hopes of victims and witnesses can be fully considered within service planning, design and delivery.</p>
Service Users	<p>The views of people on Community Payback Orders are gathered on a routine basis on completion of the Order. Exit questionnaires are in the process of being designed for all individuals on Community Payback Orders to gain feedback on the service delivery of the justice team and improve the service going forward.</p> <p>All Midlothian residents who were incarcerated in HMP Edinburgh and HMP Cornton Vale were consulted within the Spring Consultation. A demonstration of positive joint working with the Scottish Prison Service.</p> <p>The Women's Service 'Spring' undertakes an annual consultation with the women service users in order to understand how best to deliver on partnership working. The results are collated and analysed by the partnership analyst.</p> <p>Focus groups have been held with service users in the justice system in relation to proposed partnership activities such as the Justice information booklet.</p> <p>Our Community Justice funded peer support co-ordinator is undertaking some work with individuals within the Justice system around the planning for the service delivery of unpaid work.</p> <p>Community Payback Unpaid Work service users were invited to the workshop for the re-write of the Community Justice Outcomes and Improvement Plan. This proved very positive, with service users noting that they were pleased to have been invited and were left feeling "respected and listened to".</p> <p>Our successful event in November 2019 was attended by services users across a number of sectors including Justice, health, substance misuse and</p>

	third sector organisations. Inclusion and co-production will be developed further within the following new 2020-2023 plan.
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Looking Forward

Participation, engagement and consultation for the development of the Community Justice plan will be ongoing. We will ensure that there is continued liaison and communication between statutory partners, non-statutory partners, third sector organisations, people in communities, victims and witnesses of crime, people that have an offending history and families of people with an offending history to gather their views on how we can reduce offending and re-offending so that these can be reflected in our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for forthcoming years.

Self-Evaluation

In 2019 a number of workshops were arranged for partners to consider the indicators as identified by the Care Inspectorate. Partners on the Working Group were invited to specific workshops, each workshop having been assigned with an indicator namely 'Planning and Delivering Services in a Collaborative Way', 'Effective Use and Management of Resources' and 'Leadership of Strategy and Direction'. Evidence packs were compiled with guidance from the Care Inspectorate and recommendations noted from previous self-evaluations completed in other Local Authorities. Unfortunately only one workshop took place with two participants, the other two workshops were cancelled due to partner's non-attendance. Focus this coming year will be on the partner's accountability within the self-evaluation process.

ⁱ SO1.2 - "Use appropriate communication channels, including social media, to promote understanding of Community Justice and a raised awareness of Criminal Justice processes."

ⁱⁱ SO1.4 - "Improve the general public's understanding and recognition of community based sentences."