

Participation Statement

The opportunity to create a better community





Participation Statement


The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires statutory partners involved in community justice to produce a participation statement detailing how they have involved third sector bodies and community bodies in community justice and the preparation of their Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP).

Community Justice Renfrewshire is committed to engaging with our communities, to empower them to contribute to our CJOIP and actions across all priority areas. In preparing the plan we carried out engagement activities which were attended by a number of our strategic partners and wider stakeholders, as outlined in the following table.

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 and third sector organisations. We will continue to engage with people in communities including victims and witnesses of crime, people with convictions and their families, in order to gather views on how we can reduce re-offending in Renfrewshire, so that these can be reflected in our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for forthcoming years.

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Stakeholder	Activities
Statutory Partners	<p>The Community Justice Renfrewshire (CJR) Steering Group was established in response to the Act and has responsibility for strategic oversight of the Renfrewshire CJOIP. Since its creation the group have held regular meetings, where they have worked in partnership to understand their role in the new model of community justice. The group have created branding and developed a clear message for community justice in Renfrewshire. Working together they have produced a communications strategy and have identified local issues and priorities for action contained within the CJOIP, based on a needs assessment from a range of data sources.</p> <p>CJR has representation on a number of strategic groups relating to community justice. This has raised awareness of community justice and its progress in Renfrewshire through reports and presentations, and has enabled the CJR Steering Group to keep updated on agendas, local issues and initiatives relating to Community Justice. Some of the groups include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group for the North Strathclyde area • Social Work Scotland and Scottish Prison Service Strategy Group • NHSGGC Community Justice Health Improvement Strategic Group • Low Moss PSP Governance Group • Community Justice National Coordinators Steering Group • Community Justice Coordinators Steering Group • Community Justice Scotland Learning Development and Innovation Working Group <p>Renfrewshire groups include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety and Public Protection Steering Group • Lead Officers Network • Child Protection Committee • Gender Based Violence Strategy Group • Alcohol and Drug Partnership Delivery Group. • Public and Community Protection Thematic Board • Adult Protection Committee • Homelessness Network • Children and Young People Thematic Board • Employability Innovation and Integration Fund Steering Group <p><i>Continued over</i></p>



Stakeholder	Activities
<p>Statutory Partners <i>continued</i></p>	<p>The CJR Lead Officer is situated within Children’s Services and is closely aligned with colleagues in Youth Justice and Child protection, this ensures that community justice is considered within their plans. CJR is firmly established within Renfrewshire’s robust Community Planning arrangements and is represented on many of the groups related to community justice. It reports to the Community Protection Chief Officers Group and the Housing and Planning Policy Board for oversight and governance by elected members.</p> <p>The CJR Steering Group have held an initial development session looking at the self-evaluation of community justice to identify strengths and inform any gaps, these have been worked into the action log which will be reviewed at Steering group meetings. These sessions will be ongoing.</p> <p>Briefing sessions have been provided to senior management and staff from a number of partner’s organisations to raise awareness of CJR and consult with staff to inform local priorities.</p> <p>CJR hosted two regional multi-agency events which focused on early intervention and diversion within the North Strathclyde Sheriffdom. The first of these half day sessions targeted services involved in early intervention and included Criminal Justice Social Work, Police Scotland, SCTS, COPFS, Fire and Rescue Service, Third Sector organizations, Youth Justice, Mental Health and Addiction Services. The aim of this session was to explore and create a better understanding of the community justice journey at the early intervention stage and gaining an understanding of “what works” at this stage.</p> <p>The second half day session was targeted at services that have a lead role in early intervention including: Criminal Justice Social Work, Police Scotland and Youth Justice. The purpose of this event was to gain a better understanding of the current diversion model (formal stage), and outline the potential scope for enhancing the more informal stage.</p> <p>The Lead Officer has attended a number of local and national events relating to community justice, reporting back to the CJR Steering Group and keeping them up to date through briefings and presentations.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation process, CJR attended all relevant Community Planning thematic boards and senior management meetings, including third sector meetings, in order to consult on the draft CJOIP and encourage and influence key stakeholders to get involved in the community justice agenda.</p>

Stakeholder	Activities
Voluntary Sector	<p>Partners from a number of voluntary sector agencies are represented on the Community Justice Renfrewshire Steering Group. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim Support Scotland • Apex Scotland • The Wise Group • Action for Children • Turning Point Scotland • Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum • Engage Renfrewshire are also represented on the group as our local voluntary sector interface.
Other Organisations	<p>CJR has worked with Recruit with Conviction in taking forward opportunities to address employability issues for people with convictions in Renfrewshire. An employability network has been established to train and inform employability staff and local businesses on recruiting people with convictions. The first of these sessions took place in February 2017 with more taking place throughout 2018 as part of the 'Just Learning – Skills for Employment' programme, which was funded through the Scottish Government Employability Innovation and Integration Fund.</p> <p>CJR has worked in partnership with Families Outside to provide training to a number of staff to highlight the issues facing children and families with a family member in prison. This training was provided to Criminal Justice staff, Families First Teams and Home Link workers with a tailored session for teachers taking place within HMP Low Moss which enabled them to gain better insight into the experiences of children attending visits. CJR also commissioned jointly branded posters and business cards to promote the work of Families Outside to Renfrewshire families.</p>



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<p>Community Sector</p>	<p>The Lead Officer has attended a number of public engagement events in order to raise awareness and involve the community in community justice. A stand was set up in each location which consisted of branded pop up signs with strap line in order to catch people's attention and encourage them to ask questions. A collection of merchandise and leaflets were also offered and on display in order to begin discussions and promote our work. This provided CJR with the opportunity to carryout baseline assessment on the public knowledge of community justice and to gather ideas and opinions on local priorities.</p> <p>A community justice page was set up on the Renfrewshire Council website providing information and linking members of the public to partner sites. The Consultation Draft CJOIP has also been published for public consultation requesting feedback on the plan.</p> <p>Awareness raising sessions took place in the public areas of Renfrewshire Council buildings with a branded stand, delivering leaflets and information to staff members, visitors and the public and benchmarking awareness of community justice.</p> <p>An information leaflet promoting CJR was published in the PACE Youth theatre Summerfest brochure. These were distributed throughout the Renfrewshire area and an email copy was sent to all registered school parents through our links with Education.</p> <p>Information Packs containing leaflets, branded merchandise and the newsletter were distributed to all Renfrewshire schools to be displayed in their public areas and were distributed to council buildings, police offices, Paisley Sheriff Court and GP surgeries within Renfrewshire for display in waiting areas in order to create visibility and awareness of CJR.</p> <p>Questions regarding awareness of community justice were included in Renfrewshire Council's public services panel. Questions on perception of local crime in the area as well as capturing views on priorities for work undertaken by CPO's help to inform service delivery plans.</p> <p>CJR took part in several Community Planning consultation events. Attendees were a mix of members of the public, staff members from a number of partner agencies including third sector partners, many of whom had been victims of crime and families of people with convictions. This provided opportunity for awareness raising and benchmarking.</p> <p>CJR has worked closely with The Robertson Trust and Active Communities in developing and promoting their women's centre which is situated in the Johnstone area of Renfrewshire. KAIROS aims to be a safe, welcoming and respectful place offering a variety of opportunities and activities, which is person centred and will have good connections to other local services. Strong links have been made with the Community Payback Units woman's group who have been attending and getting involved in several activities including a fashion show which has had a positive impact on confidence levels and the social skills of the group.</p>

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Victims and witnesses	<p>Engagement with victims and witnesses is facilitated through Victim Support Scotland who is a CJR partner. They provide input and advice to the Steering Group on the key issues experienced by victims and witnesses, and the quality of support provided within Renfrewshire.</p> <p>The Consultation Draft CJOIP has been circulated to a wide range of partner agencies that represent victims and witnesses encouraging feedback from a victim's perspective.</p>
Service Users	<p>During the planning of the Renfrewshire CJOIP, consultation was carried out at different stages of the process. This included focus groups with people with convictions (many of whom were also victims) from Renfrewshire, in prison within HMP Low Moss and with people serving various Community Sentences. The approach to these sessions was informal, and provided the opportunity for service users to hear more about the new model of community justice, to give their views about services and encourage them to feel a part of CJR. The information provided at these sessions was programmed in to our needs assessment and helped inform local priorities for the Renfrewshire CJOIP.</p> <p>Clients undertaking unpaid work as part of their Community Payback Order and other rehabilitative programmes, routinely provide feedback on their experience of the service and impact it has made, these views will be considered in the ongoing improvement cycle of community justice.</p> <p>In July 2017 CJR were involved in the planning of the 'Untold Stories' premiere event held at Paisley Town Hall. This event showcased the work of women serving community payback orders who had participated in a film making course as part of their rehabilitation journey. The women participated in this program for a period of 8 weeks and were the key drivers in their learning experience, choosing which tasks suited their personal skillset to produce the films and worked with partners to organise the event. Over 50 persons attended including professionals, people with convictions and their families.</p>
General	<p>A CJR newsletter was produced; the first issue published in April 2017 introducing CJR to stakeholders, staff and members of the public. Subsequent Issues have included a focus on Gender Based Violence and Employability, reflecting local outcomes. This has provided the opportunity to highlight community justice issues and showcase services available in Renfrewshire, whilst encouraging practitioner's participation. These are circulated to partners for dissemination amongst wider networks, and published on the Community Justice Webpage.</p>



For more information please visit:
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communityjustice