



Report

Report to:	Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority
Date of Meeting:	2 December 2011
Report by:	Chief Officer

Subject:	Chief Officer Update
----------	-----------------------------

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Update Members on national and local developments relevant to the CJA

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The CJA is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) That the report be noted; and
- (2) The provisional dates for LCJA meetings in 2012 as detailed in paragraph 6 be approved.

3. Audit Scotland

3.1. Audit Scotland published "An Overview of Scotland's Criminal Justice System" on 6 September 2011. This overview focused on the adult criminal justice system and the processes involved from when Police identify someone they consider has committed some criminal activity until that person leaves the criminal justice system.

3.2. The report delivered a number of key messages and in particular the following which is particularly relevant to the CJA and our Partners:

- That co-operation relies mainly on commitment from partners and good professional relationships;
- That partnership working needs to demonstrate strong leadership shared vision, collective agreement on objectives and priorities building mutual trust and a shared understanding of the system.

3.3. The report also states that funding arrangements for services to support offenders are complex and that reduced budgets pose a risk to some services particularly voluntary sector services.

4. Spending Review

4.1. The Scottish Spending Review 2011 and Draft Budget 2012-13 was published on 21 September 2011. There are three particular aspects of the review which are highlighted for Members.

4.2. First aspect - Community Justice Services – the budget has been fixed as follows:

	2011-12 Budget £m	2012 – 13 Draft Budget £m	2013 – 14 Plans £m	2014 – 15 Plans £m
Community Justice Services	30.3	30.5	30.2	29.9

4.3. This programme provides funding for:

- electronic monitoring of offenders (e.g.) through Restriction of Liberty Orders) across Scotland;
- non local Government spend on Drug and Youth Courts; supporting the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in relation to sex offenders and restricted patients;
- covering the running costs of Community Justice Authorities; section 10 funding of voluntary organisations operating in the criminal Justice social work field;
- implementation of measures that assist victims of crime, including funding for support of organisations such a Victim Support Scotland;
- improving support for vulnerable witnesses, including provision of equipment to visually record joint investigative interviews with child witnesses in serious cases.

These resources are in addition to resources for the support of Community Justice Services provided by Local Authorities.

4.4. Second aspect - Criminal Justice Social Work - the budget has been fixed as follows:

	2011-12 Budget £m	2012 – 13 Draft Budget £m	2013 – 14 Plans £m	2014 – 15 Plans £m
Criminal Justice Social work	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5

4.5. This funding goes to Local Authorities through Community Justice Authorities and is ring-fenced for spend on Criminal Justice Social Work. These amounts, along with the budgets for Community Justice Services, fund the criminal Justice Social work interventions and statutory monitoring undertaken by Local Authorities. The funding assists Local Authorities in reducing reoffending in their local areas and helps create a safer and stronger Scotland. This money helps fund community sentences including the community payback order.

4.6. Third Aspect – Reducing Re-offending Change Fund. This fund has been created to bolster those interventions that we know can reduce re-offending. This work will take account of the particular contribution that can be made by third sector service providers. The fund will expand the coverage and impact of those interventions with a proven track record in reducing re-offending, as well as supporting innovation. This will help shift the focus of services, to get the correct balance between proactive and reactive services, as part of the next phase of the reducing re-offending programme. The fund currently sits at £7.5 million over 3 years, although Government officials are exploring what options there may be to leverage in other amounts from philanthropic or other sources.

5. Reducing Re-offending Workshop 2

5.1. As part of their work to develop the next Reducing Reoffending Programme the Government are keen to ensure that everyone with an interest can provide their input into what the next programme should aim to provide. In order to facilitate this all CJAs in Scotland were asked to host regional workshops in order that key partner agencies could input into this process.

5.1.2 The Lanarkshire workshop was held on Friday 11 November and involved 30 participants from a range of agencies who heard a Scottish Government presentation which was followed by facilitated discussion groups then feedback from the groups and an open discussion. Feedback regarding the workshop was positive and many contributions were made by those who attended. The CJA will distribute papers to Members and Partners which summarises the workshop discussions.

6. 2012 Meeting Dates

6.1. Meetings of the CJA are convened on a quarterly basis, currently in March, June, September and December. This report proposes that the pattern of meetings be continued for 2012. Although there will be elections in May 2012 which could affect the membership of the Board it is considered advisable to provide the following provisional meeting dates:

- Friday 2 March 2012, 10am - SLC
- Friday 1 June 2012, 10am – NLC
- Friday 7 September 2012, 10am - SLC
- Friday 7 December 2012, 10am - NLC

7. Employee Implications

7.1. None known.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The spending review in particular will have financial implications for our Partners in Local Authorities and the Third Sector. The detail of these implications will depend on further developments such as the formula for distributing the funds available.

9. Other Implications

9.1. There are no significant implications in terms of risk or sustainability arising from the recommendations in this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. No significant consultation was undertaken as part of this report.

10.2. The report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy therefore no equality impact assessment was carried out

**Tony, McNulty, Chief Officer
Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority**

23 November 2011

List of Background Papers

Links to the Spending Review and The Audit Scotland Report are available on the CJA website

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Tony McNulty

Chief Officer

Ext: 4234 (Tel: 01698 454234)

E-mail: Tony.McNulty@southlanarkshire.gov.uk