

CJA Annual Report 2008/09

Evaluation

Lanarkshire CJA

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide a review of the CJA annual report 2008/09.

1. Who we are and our focus

The report should provide a brief strategic vision, aims and objectives of the CJA and how it supports the governments target of reducing re-offending by 2% by 2011.

- Clear, well presented and confident. There is clarity as to where this CJA see it's priorities sitting.
- The use of text boxes and simple graphics is appealing.
- Someone with no knowledge of CJAs should be able to grasp an overview of the set up, purpose and benefits.
- However, the CJA might wish to make reference to the SPS liaison officer in the introduction to show link between prison and community.

2. How we are making a difference

This part of the report should demonstrate the real value added by the CJA, outline progress against targets, outputs and outcomes, and provide examples of good practice.

- Whilst this section is interesting and well presented, it is more descriptive rather than a substantiated analysis of what is changing in Lanarkshire as a result of the operation of the CJA.
- Progress against the action plan is provided, though not linked specifically to the 14 national strategy outcomes.
- Positive message regarding preparation for community payback – reinforces impression of proactive role of CJA.
- However, added value of CJA is implicit – could be more explicit.

3. How we manage our resources

This part of the report should include a clear summary of how resources have been allocated in order to meet the local and national priorities. This should include s.27 funding and resources from partner agencies allocated as a result of the implementation of the area plan.

- This is purely descriptive and gives no analysis of funding pressures or how the CJA is planning to cope with a stringent financial climate for the foreseeable future.
- Financial implications of review of youth court noted but not clear what those implications are, the report makes this sound substantial without quantification.
- The report outlines clear link between local need, outcomes and resource decisions and an indication of how resources are allocated is provided, including section 27 monies and partner contributions.
- However, no links are made to delivery of the area plan. This may be implied but is not made explicit.
- Proactive approach to anticipated financial constraints through establishing best value initiative.

4. How we work with others

This part of the report should demonstrate how the leadership and direction provided by the CJA enables the CJA and its partners to best deliver actions as set out in the area plan.

- Clear and positive with examples of partnership working throughout the report. Good use of practical examples, MAPPA arrangements and HMP Addiewell particularly impressive. In the future, might wish to include a brief description of basic model of delivery.
- Strong evidence of how the CJAs leadership is delivering progress, though not specifically linked to area plan.
- Performance information is provided primarily via qualitative narrative with some quantitative information.
- Reconviction data for each court disposal is very informative

5. Where we need to improve

This part of the report should include details of what changes are required to make service improvements

- The report is silent about this and it should therefore be a matter which is addressed in the future as part of a process of performance improvement.
- It is good to see progress having been made against the action plan but it would have been valuable to have comment about what the impact has been of completing these actions.

Summary

Overall this document is of interest but is more of a publicity document than a planning and review tool. This report is fairly strong on aiding public appreciation of the work of CJAs and reporting to stakeholders but perhaps less robust and detailed on operational issues, more descriptive rather than analytical.