

LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 4 March 2011

Chair:

Councillor B McCaig, South Lanarkshire Council (Convener)

Councillors Present:

North Lanarkshire Council

B Chadha, T Lunny

South Lanarkshire Council

G Scott, B Thomson

Councillors' Apologies:

North Lanarkshire Council

H McGuigan

South Lanarkshire Council

J Anderson

Attending:

Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (LCJA)

T McNulty, Chief Officer; H Marshall, Clerical Assistant; R Reid, Planning and Development Officer

North Lanarkshire Council

L Cringles, Justice Services Manager; M Fegan, Head of Social Work Services

Scottish Prison Service

J Dustan, Community Justice Authority Liaison Manager

South Lanarkshire Council

H Stevenson, Executive Director (Social Work Resources); K Gowrie, Financial Adviser to the LCJA (Social Work Resources); S McLeod, Administration Officer (Corporate Resources); A Singh, Justice Services Manager (Social Work Resources)

Strathclyde Police

G Cairns, Divisional Commander

Victim Support Scotland

H Dickson, Business Delivery Manager; J Evans, Partnership Development Manager

Apologies:

A Ferguson, Procurator Fiscal, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service

G Pattinson, Co-ordinator, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

C Sloey, Director of North Lanarkshire Community Health Partnership

Convener's Opening Remarks

The Convener, on behalf of the members of the Authority, thanked Brenda Doyle, Head of Children and Justice Services, South Lanarkshire Council, for her contribution towards the work of the Authority and wished her a long and happy retirement.

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority held on 3 September 2010 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Authority decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Chief Officer Update

A report dated 23 February 2011 by the Chief Officer was submitted on the following national and local issues of relevance to the LCJA:-

- ◆ confirmation had been received that the Justice Secretary had formally approved the Area Plan for 2011 to 2014
- ◆ positive feedback had been received from 215 participants from North and South Lanarkshire Councils who had attended the revised National Outcomes and Standards Training
- ◆ notification received that the provisions of Community Payback Orders and the presumption against short prison sentences (less than 3 months) had commenced on 1 February 2011
- ◆ confirmation that the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), a working group comprising partners in Health, Police, Prisons and local authorities had been established in September 2010 to improve the health outcomes of offenders with substance misuse problems and thereby reduce offending. The draft Terms of Reference were attached as an appendix to the report
- ◆ conference reports
- ◆ the proposed dates/venues for meetings of the Authority for 2011 which were:-
 - ◆ 3 June 2011 at 10.00am – North Lanarkshire Council
 - ◆ 2 September 2011 at 10.00am – South Lanarkshire Council
 - ◆ 2 December 2011 at 10.00am – North Lanarkshire Council
- ◆ the response to the 'Consultation of Independent Monitoring of Prison' (Visiting Committees) document which had been sent to the Scottish Government by the due date of 25 February 2011, and was attached as an appendix to the report

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the arrangements for meetings of the Authority in 2011 be approved.

4 Planning and Development Adviser Update

A report dated 23 February 2011 by the Planning and Development Adviser was submitted on the:-

- ◆ Authority's response to the Scottish Government's request to submit its "Five Priorities for Government" which had been finalised in consultation with the Councils and the Scottish Prison Service and was attached as an appendix to the report
- ◆ Quarterly Performance Reports for the period covering Quarters 2 and 3 (July to September and October to December 2011)
- ◆ draft Local Performance Framework which gave key information on the progress of the Area Plan 2011 to 2014
- ◆ liaison arrangements with local Community Planning Partnerships
- ◆ draft Terms of Reference for the Stakeholders' Group set up to develop effective pathways from HMP Addiewell
- ◆ Annual Report for 2009/2010

The Quarterly Performance Reports were attached as Appendices 2 and 3 to the report and highlighted the following:-

- ◆ the Chief Officer had been invited to become a member of the Strategic Oversight Group for MAPPA
- ◆ North Lanarkshire Council had been short listed for The Herald Society Awards 2009
- ◆ communication, in terms of newsworthy items, was now a standing item at regular liaison meetings with local authorities and the Scottish Prison Service
- ◆ action taken to enhance working relationships with Community Planning Partnerships
- ◆ notification that the current Quarterly Performance Report would be replaced with a new Local Performance Framework which was being developed with input from statutory partners

The Local Performance Framework would provide information on the progress of the Area Plan for 2011 to 2014. Progress was evidenced in yearly Action Plans which now formed part of the Framework and would provide the basis of the Annual Report to the Authority and the Scottish Government. The Chief Officer would provide a bi-annual report to the Authority which would replace the existing Quarterly Performance Report.

The Community Planning Partnership had made contact with both North and South Lanarkshire Councils' Community Safety Partnerships to confirm that liaison arrangements were up to date.

The development of a Stakeholders' Sub-Group had been proposed at the last LEAF group (Literacy, Employability, Accommodation and Finance) and would be chaired by the LCJA. The Sub-Group would focus on developing pathways from HMP Addiewell on:-

- ◆ welfare rights and money advice
- ◆ accommodation
- ◆ employability

The Planning and Development Officer gave a presentation on the LCJA Annual Report for 2009/2010 which covered the following:-

- ◆ the role of the LCJA
- ◆ progress made in relation to the Action Plan for 2009/2010
- ◆ reconviction rates
- ◆ examples of good practice in Lanarkshire
- ◆ managing resources
- ◆ communication
- ◆ the future focus of the LCJA

The Authority decided: that the report and presentation be noted.

5 Finance Update

A report dated 23 February 2011 by the Financial Adviser to the Authority was submitted on:-

- ◆ the quarterly performance of the Section 27 budget at Quarter 3 (31 December 2010)
- ◆ Quarter 3 spend against the administrative budget
- ◆ Criminal Justice Social Work Services allocation of grant for 2011/2012

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

6 Certified Annual Accounts for 2009/2010

A report dated 23 February 2011 by the Chief Officer was submitted advising that:-

- ◆ the Authority's accounts for 2009/2010 had received a clear audit certificate from the external auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- ◆ the auditor had submitted a report which was available to members on request

The Authority decided: that the certified accounts for 2009/2010 be adopted.

7 MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Annual Report 2009/2010

A report dated 23 February 2011 by the MAPPA Co-ordinator was submitted providing a summary of the Annual Report of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for 2009/2010 within the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority area.

The Scottish Government had published the Annual Report for the Lanarkshire area in November 2011. The template had been less prescriptive and shorter than in previous years and allowed greater focus on activity on a local basis. As a result, the Annual Report reflected the work carried out within the local area and identified developments and improvements made in 2009/2010.

The Justice Services Manager, North Lanarkshire Council, gave a presentation which covered the following:-

- ◆ MAPPA statistics including comparisons between CJAs for 2010
- ◆ restricted patients
- ◆ significant operational events
- ◆ areas:-
 - ◆ of strength
 - ◆ for development
 - ◆ for future focus
- ◆ future challenges and plans
- ◆ Lanarkshire MAPPA mission statement

The Head of Social Work Services advised that a hiatus had been created by the departure of the National Co-ordinator. The MAPPA Strategic Implementation Steering Group had invited representatives of the Public Protection Unit to attend a future meeting to discuss governance arrangements and an update on the situation would be provided at a future meeting.

The Authority decided: that the MAPPA Annual Report for 2009/2010 be noted.

8 Inspection of Shotts Prison Social Work Unit

The Justice Services Manager, North Lanarkshire Council, gave a presentation on the inspection of Shotts Prison Social Work Unit, carried out by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), which covered the following:-

- ◆ the purpose of the inspection
- ◆ details of the 6 questions asked by SWIA
- ◆ the methodology of the inspection
- ◆ SWIA's comments on Prison Based Social Work Services (PBSW) in Scotland
- ◆ fieldwork at HMP Shotts
- ◆ the thoughts of prisoners and other stakeholders

- ◆ how efficiently and effectively PBSW operated
- ◆ what systems were in place to monitor and improve PBSW
- ◆ how well supported PBSW staff were
- ◆ how good the leadership of PBSW was by senior management and elected members
- ◆ areas for improvement in Local Reports

The Chief Officer intimated that he had never seen such a positive inspection report.

The Authority decided: that the presentation be noted.

9 Item of Urgent Business – HMle Report on Child Protection Services

The Head of Social Work Services, North Lanarkshire Council informed the meeting that a positive Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMle) report on Child Protection Services had recently been received.

The Authority decided: that the position be noted.

Convener's Closing Remarks

The Convener advised that Hazel Marshall was returning to her substantive post following the return of Joanne Plunkett from maternity leave. On behalf of the members of the Authority, he thanked Hazel for her contribution towards the work of the Authority and wished her well in the future.