

LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 March 2010

Chair:

Councillor B McCaig, South Lanarkshire Council (Convener)

Councillors Present:

North Lanarkshire Council

B Chadha, T Lunny

South Lanarkshire Council

J Anderson, G Scott

Councillor's Apology:

North Lanarkshire Council

H McGuigan

Attending:

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service

A Ferguson, Procurator Fiscal

Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (LCJA)

T McNulty, Chief Officer; J Plunkett, Clerical Assistant; R Reid, Planning and Development Officer

North Lanarkshire Council

L Cringles, Justice Services Manager

Phoenix Futures

G Waddell, Co-ordinator

SACRO

J Johnston, Service Manager

Scottish Prison Service

J Dustan, Community Justice Authority Liaison Manager

South Lanarkshire Council

H Stevenson, Executive Director (Social Work Resources); G Bow, Administration Adviser; B Doyle, Head of Child and Family Services; K Gowrie, Finance Manager

Strathclyde Police

G Cairns, Divisional Commander; M Nicol, Inspector

Victim Support

M Watt, Area Co-ordinator

Apologies:

A Adamson, State Hospital, Carstairs

M Fegan, North Lanarkshire Council

C Sloey, NHS Lanarkshire

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 4 December 2009 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Youth Court Pilot Review

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Chief Officer was submitted on funding towards the Youth Court Pilot Review.

At its meeting held on 4 December 2009, the Authority had agreed that every effort be made to apply pressure on the Scottish Government to conclude the Youth Court Pilot review as soon as possible. On 14 December 2009, the Scottish Government had confirmed that there would be a 3 month extension of funding for Youth Courts until 30 June 2010.

The Convener had met with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 10 February 2010 and the outcome of the meeting was that funding had been confirmed up to 2012.

The Review could result in a reduction of Section 27 funding amounting to £1.5 million.

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the extension of Youth Court provision in Hamilton and Airdrie Sheriff Courts be highlighted in a press release to underline the efforts of the LCJA, both Councils and the local judiciary in working to maintain this important service; and
- (2) that some initial consideration be given to the development of an effective exit strategy should funding for Youth Courts be discontinued after 2012.

4 Annual Report 2008/2009 Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority - Evaluation

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Chief Officer was submitted summarising an evaluation report which had been prepared by the Scottish Government on the LCJA Annual Report 2008/2009.

The Scottish Government had forwarded the evaluation summaries to all 8 Community Justice Authorities in Scotland and a local and national summary had been supplied to each CJA. Both reports made many positive statements, however, the CJA Conveners' Group had requested further discussion with the Scottish Government in order to:-

- ◆ clarify the process used by the National Advisory Board on Offender Management (NABOM) in evaluating the CJA annual reports
- ◆ explore whether the annual reports might usefully be considered as an opportunity to publicise work including the effectiveness of community disposals
- ◆ consider the opportunities and limitations that CJAs had when allocating funds
- ◆ progress the development of national and local performance frameworks

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

5 Area Plan 2011 to 2014

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Planning and Development Adviser was submitted on the progress of the draft Area Plan for 2011 to 2014.

The current Area Plan for 2008/2011 was due to end in 2010/2011, with a new Plan being developed to cover the period 2011 to 2014. Extensive work had been carried out across the 8 Community Justice Authorities to ensure that the various Plans demonstrated increased consistency when detailing information. Consideration had also been given to the format of the Plans to ensure that they retained a local focus when setting out issues and priorities.

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the draft Area Plan 2011 to 2014 be approved and circulated for consultation to partners and stakeholders; and
- (2) that the final draft Area Plan be submitted to the Scottish Government by the due date of 28 May 2010 with a clear indication that it should be treated as a draft until it was considered by this Authority on 4 June 2010.

6 Officer Update

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Chief Officer was submitted on the following national and local issues of relevance to the LCJA:-

- ◆ court visits arranged for 17 and 31 March 2010 to Hamilton and Airdrie Sheriff Courts
- ◆ Community Service National Awards events
- ◆ Community Planning Partnership/Single Outcome Agreements
- ◆ quarterly Performance Report
- ◆ proposals to allocate £0.190 million of additional development money received from the Scottish Government
- ◆ conference reports

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed allocation of funding, as detailed in the report, be approved, subject to satisfactory evaluation of the various projects.

7 Financial Update

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Financial Manager was submitted on:-

- ◆ Criminal Justice Social Work Services allocation of grant for 2010/2011
- ◆ the quarterly performance of the Section 27 budget
- ◆ Quarter 3 spend against the administration budget

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

8 Certified Annual Accounts 2008/2009

A report dated 19 February 2010 by the Financial Manager was submitted advising that:-

- ◆ the Authority's accounts for 2008/2009 had received a clear audit certificate from the external auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers
- ◆ the auditor had submitted a report which highlighted 2 action points for the Authority to consider as follows:-
 - ◆ management should review, on an annual basis, the apportionment percentage used to allocate costs to the various CJA projects, as recorded in the grant claim, for example, staff costs. This would ensure that the apportionment basis was accurate

- ◆ for the 2009/2010 Lanarkshire Community Justice Financial Statements, management should consider the statement of internal financial control to ensure that all areas of assurance were reflected within the statement and that the statement was forward looking where applicable. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, this statement should also be enhanced to cover the Authority's wider governance and risk management arrangements.

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the certified accounts for 2008/2009 be adopted; and
- (2) that the actions proposed to meet the requirements of the action points raised in the audit be approved.

9 Strathclyde Police "Offender Management" - Presentation

A report dated 19 February 2010 by Strathclyde Police was submitted on the approach to offender management and problem solving being developed by North Lanarkshire Police Division.

Divisional Commander Graham Cairns and Inspector Mark Nicol gave a presentation outlining the approach to violent offender management being developed in the Wishaw Tactical Area including:-

- ◆ measures taken to improve public confidence
- ◆ mapping activity and focusing resources
- ◆ encouraging and utilising community information/intelligence
- ◆ using a joint problem solving approach
- ◆ efforts to increase the public's trust in the initiative
- ◆ measures to ensure that the approach became embedded in mainstream police work

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Convener thanked both officers for their effective and informative presentation.

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

10 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.