

LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY

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

Chair:

Councillor B McCaig, South Lanarkshire Council

Councillors Present:

North Lanarkshire Council

B Chadha (Depute), T Lunny, H McGuigan

South Lanarkshire Council

J Anderson, G Scott

Attending:

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service

D Dickson, Co-ordinator to Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Board; A Ferguson, Procurator Fiscal

Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (LCJA)

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

North Lanarkshire Council

M Fegan, Head of Social Work Services; L Cringles, Justice Services 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 (Corporate Resources); R Swift, Head of Children and Justice Services (Social Work Resources)

Strathclyde Police

Superintendent E Ferguson (Q Division)

Apologies:

C Sloey, NHS Lanarkshire

A Gall, Strathclyde Police

K Gowrie, South Lanarkshire Council

H Dickson, Victim Support Scotland

Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair referred to the resignation of Councillors Mark Griffin and Claire Adamson as substitute members on the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority. He thanked them both for their contribution to the work of the Authority.

He also advised that this was Anne Ferguson's last meeting as a representative of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal's Service. The Chair thanked Anne for her input to the work of the Authority.

1 Declaration of Interests

The following interest was declared:-

Councillor(s)	Item(s)	Nature of Interest(s)
McGuigan	Scottish Prison Service Delivery Plan Report	Board Member on the Scottish Prison Service

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority held on 3 June 2011 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 24 August 2011 by the Chief Officer was submitted on the following national and local issues of relevance to the LCJA including:-

- ◆ a report by the Christie Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services which included the following key themes:-
 - ◆ individuals and communities must be involved in the design and delivery of the services they use
 - ◆ services must be integrated through partnership working to improve outcomes
 - ◆ expenditure should be targeted at early intervention and preventative measures
 - ◆ duplication should be reduced and efficiency increased
- ◆ the “Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Bill” which had been introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 16 June 2011. The objective of the Bill was to tackle sectarianism by providing 2 new criminal offences:-
 - ◆ preventing offensive and threatening behaviour related to football matches
 - ◆ the communication of threatening material particularly where it incited religious hatred

Nationally, Community Justice Authorities had welcomed the main objectives of the Bill but had expressed concern that there would be no resources made available to enable local authorities to prepare assessments on those convicted by courts, to supervise those sentenced to community disposals or to supervise those subject to statutory supervision on release from prison.

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

4 Planning and Development Adviser Update

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Planning and Development Adviser was submitted on the:-

- ◆ e-update on development areas and issues of interest to partners
- ◆ draft Annual Report 2010/2011
- ◆ Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority Performance Framework

Following the LCJA meeting held on 3 June 2011, the first e-update had been circulated to partners publicising developments of interest. This update, which was attached as an appendix to the report, had been well received. Circulation of the e-update would, in future, follow the calendar of Authority meetings and would be included in all future Authority papers.

The Annual Report related to the final year of the Area Plan for 2008/2011. The report highlighted the progress which had been made and the Planning and Development Adviser gave a presentation on key issues within the Plan including:-

- ◆ the strong working partnerships within the Lanarkshire area and new developments such as the Alcohol Drugs Partnership (ADP)/CJA Working Group, the Stakeholder’s group which focused on the links between HMP Addiewell and local services in Lanarkshire and the proposed development of a Victims’ Forum

- ◆ initiatives which were funded through the £190,000 'additional monies'
- ◆ progress on effective partnership working in relation to offenders with mental health issues and joint training between agencies
- ◆ best practice
- ◆ the utilisation of women offender monies totalling £0.1 million
- ◆ a range of news items reported over the last year
- ◆ 'Our future focus' which acknowledged the range of external developments such as the Christie Report which would impact on local services. This section also reiterated the focus for the period 2011/2012 which was to:-
 - ◆ continue to target money effectively
 - ◆ explore links with health
 - ◆ ensure that a range of services were available for young offenders and women offenders
 - ◆ monitor the quality of Community Payback Orders
 - ◆ prioritise arrangements that protected the public from sexual and violent offenders

The Performance Framework provided information which reflected the offenders' journey through services and progress against agreed objectives in the Area Plan 2011/2014. An update was attached as an appendix to the report covering the period April to September 2011.

The Authority decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that the Annual Report for 2010/2011 be approved for onward submission to the Scottish Government for approval.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 June 2011 (Paragraph 5)]

5 Cashback/Payback Monies

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Chief Officer was submitted on progress achieved in the Lanarkshire area in relation to the Cashback/Payback initiative.

At the LCJA meeting on 3 June 2011, members were informed that the LCJA could potentially be allocated £0.5 million to support unpaid work by offenders, subject to successful funding bids. The allocation had been divided into 2 parts:-

- ◆ £125,000 for the "Project Initiative Fund"
- ◆ £375,000 for the "Payback Sports Facilities Fund"

The "Project Initiative Fund" was intended to allow local authorities to buy materials and equipment for use in unpaid work projects. The CJA had asked both local authorities to agree what materials and equipment they would wish to purchase. When the LCJA was content that the local authorities' proposals met the criteria laid down by the Government, it would be forwarded to the Criminal Justice Directorate for confirmation that the terms of the grant scheme had been met prior to expenditure taking place.

The "Payback Sports Facilities Fund" was intended to promote the rehabilitation of offenders and improve sports amenities available to communities. The LCJA had provided the local authorities with a brief overview of the Government's criteria for those funds and had added its preference for fairness, transparency and geographical spread throughout the communities of Lanarkshire.

Both local authorities had agreed to undertake the following tasks:-

- ◆ compile a list of funding bids from each local authority area
- ◆ compile any agreed joint bids (similar to the successful Children's Games bid)
- ◆ take part in a funding panel in order to compile a final package for onward transmission to the Scottish Government

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 June 2011 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Scottish Prison Service Delivery Plan

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Scottish Prison Service Liaison Manager was submitted on the content of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Delivery Plan 2011/2012.

The Plan set out the activities of the Prison Service for 2011/2012. Of particular interest to the CJA and its partners was the SPS's commitment to:-

- ◆ ensure an operational structure that visibly supported offenders and contributed to reduce offending
- ◆ develop an integrated offender management process that responded to offenders' risks and needs and contributed to better outcomes

The Plan also detailed how the Prison Service would work to maximise the protection of the public and reduce reoffending by working in partnership with CJAs, local authorities and, in particular, Community Justice Social Workers, third sector and other agencies to share information and to help prepare offenders to make a successful transition back to their communities.

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor McGuigan, having declared an interest in this item, took no part in its consideration

7 North Lanarkshire Council Restorative Justice Team - National Award

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Justice Services Manager, North Lanarkshire Council was submitted informing members that North Lanarkshire Council's Restorative Justice Team had been successful in winning the prestigious Howard League's Penal Reform Award in the unpaid work category.

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

8 Finance Update

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Financial Adviser to the Authority was submitted on:-

- ◆ the quarterly performance of the Section 27 budget
- ◆ Quarter 1 spend against the administrative budget

The Authority decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 3 June 2011 (Paragraph 6)]

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.