

Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

1. Aim

- 1.1 The aim of this report is a request that the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Strategic Board sign off the Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020 – 2025 (the Plan) enabling it to be published on the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) website and be available to the public.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires a range of statutory partners to collaborate and produce a local outcomes improvement plan which is to be signed off by the respective CPP.
- 2.2 For the Scottish Borders this is the second such plan. Community Justice Scotland provide the link between local partnerships and the Scottish Government.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government provide annual funding of £50,000 for each partnership. The chair of the Scottish Borders partnership is Stuart Easingwood, Chief Social Work & Public Protection Officer supported by Graham Jones, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager.
- 2.4 The partnership prepares an annual report for Community Justice Scotland on progress, which is publically accessible, and provides feedback to the Scottish Government on the annual funding allocation.
- 2.5 The Plan has already been endorsed by the SBC Corporate Management Team and Community Planning Partnership Joint Programme Board.

3. Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

- 3.1 In compliance with the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 the Scottish Borders community justice partners established a Community Justice Board. The partners are required to collaborate and produce a local outcomes improvement plan.
- 3.2 The Board meets bi-monthly to deliver against the local Plan, the meetings are structured around a thematic agenda.
- 3.3 It is of note that a clear distinction exists between Justice Services who deliver statutory pre and post sentencing disposal requirements and community justice which seeks to improve individual circumstances and likelihood of offending through the provision of support such as stable housing, healthcare, employment, etc.

- 3.4 Statutory partners consist of Local Authorities, Police Scotland, Health Boards, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service. Other non-statutory partners such as a Registered Social Landlord and Department of Work and Pensions representative are also included.
- 3.5 There are seven common (national) Community Justice Outcomes. These reflect in the local improvement actions aligned to a national strategy, and outcomes performance and improvement framework.
- 3.6 The first Plan for the Scottish Borders covered the period from 2017 – 2020.
- 3.7 In preparing the latest Plan a Strategic Strengths and Needs Assessment was undertaken, and Integrated Impact Assessment completed. A public consultation and service user feedback exercise has informed the content alongside partner input. Community Justice Scotland have also provided feedback. The Plan follows an agreed structure.
- 3.8 The themed improvement action will be reviewed annually.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires that a range of statutory partners produce a Community Justice Local Outcomes Improvement Plan within each local authority area, signed off by the CPP. This is reported upon annual to Community Justice Scotland who provide information to the Scottish Government.

5. Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 The CPP Strategic Board are asked to approve the Community Justice Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for publication.

Community Plan/Locality Plan(s)	This work supports the delivery of the Community Plan.	
Consultation/Community Engagement	A Strategic Strengths and Needs Assessment was undertaken, and Integrated Impact Assessment completed. A public consultation and service user feedback exercise has informed the content alongside partner input. Community Justice Scotland have also provided feedback.	
Risks and Mitigations	N/A	
Resource/Staffing Implications	The Scottish Government provide an annual income grant for Community Justice to support delivery. The Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager has developed the Plan and annual report alongside the arrangements associated with bi-monthly meetings and follow up activity.	
Report by	Designation	Organisation
Graham Jones	Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager	Scottish Borders Council