

Youth Justice Improvement Board

Note of meeting – 9 December 2019

Attendees:

Lesley Sheppard, SG Chair (LS)
Luiza Leite, SG (LL)
Lauren Sorrell, SG (LSO)
Liz Murdoch, SG (LM)
Anthony McGeehan, COPFS (AMc)
Rod Finan, SG (on behalf of Iona Colvin) (RF)
David Doris, SG (on behalf of Donna MacKinnon) (DD)
Bill Fitzpatrick, Community Justice Scotland (BF)
Diane Dobbie, Chair of NYJAG (DD)
Paul Carberry, Action for Children (PC)
Gill Robinson, SPS (GR)
Alastair Hogg, SCRA (AH)
Neil Hunter, SCRA (NH)
Nicola Dickie, COSLA (ND)
Christopher Lumb, Care Inspectorate (on behalf of Jackie Deas) (CL)
Jackie McRae, CHS (on behalf of Elliot Jackson) (JMc)
Claire Lightowler, CYCJ (CL)
Davie Duncan, Police Scotland (DD)

Apologies:

Tom McNamara, SG
Martin Dorchester, Includem
Elaine Walker, Scottish Courts
John Trainer, Social Work Scotland
Lynsey Smith, Includem
Fiona Dyer, CYCJ
Ross McLaughlin, SOLACE
Donna MacKinnon, SG
Mary Berrill, Education Scotland
Fiona Dyer, CYCJ
Jackie Deas, Care Inspectorate
Elliot Jackson, CHS
Tracey McFall, Partners in Advocacy

1. Welcome and Apologies	Actions:
1.1 LS welcomed members and invited round table introductions.	
2. Minutes of September meeting, matters arising and actions 2.1. Minutes of last meeting The minutes were agreed as final. 2.2. Feedback from joint meeting with the justice board 2.2.1 LS provided an update from the 21 November joint meeting between the Justice Board and Youth Justice Improvement Board.	

<p>2.2.2 The joint Board discussed the two main areas of focus for Youth Justice policy arising from the Expert Review of Mental Health (EROMH) Report :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendation 77- Extension of the Whole System Approach. 2. Recommendation 79 - New Models of Secure Care and Custody. <p>2.2.3 The joint board agreed that further work was required in order to fully consider both recommendations and this should include the relevant data and costings, and in particular this data should include the number of care experienced children in the adult criminal justice system and in custodial settings.</p> <p>2.2.4 The joint Board considered the overall direction of travel in relation to children and young people in Scotland – in particular the commitment to maximalist UNCRC incorporation, the implications of considering future higher ACRs and the forthcoming consultation on 16/17 year old joint referrals.</p> <p>2.2.5 The end of the current youth justice strategy and successor plan were also discussed. The joint board agreed that links should be made between the new youth justice strategic plan and the Justice Vision and Priorities. LS thanked all those who had attended and supported the joint board session.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>2.2.6 By way of update, LS noted that a roundtable meeting had taken place with cross-portfolio Ministers on 4 December, at which the EROMH recommendations were considered.</p> <p>2.2.7 Reflective conversations around the principles of WSA have taken place for a number of years. Board agreed it would be good to get some clarity as to what the next steps will be, including getting it right for under 18s. It was agreed that time needs to be taken to consider all the issues and to encourage integrated working between all partners.</p>	
<p>3. Rights Respecting? Scotland’s approach to children in conflict with the law</p> <p>3.1 LS invited Claire Lightowler (CL) to give a presentation on Paper 3. CL provided an overview of the paper, (circulated to members ahead the meeting), and invited discussion, reflection and challenge from board members.</p> <p>3.2 Discussion followed on challenges flowing from comprehensive implementation of UNCRC, and what it will mean in practice following legislative change. Concerns were raised around resources and how the commitment to adopt UNCRC in full fits in within the current landscape.</p> <p>3.3 The youth justice experience was perceived by some Board members as one of being a victim of its own success. Positive data results had led to deprioritisation and disinvestment. However, when more recent adverse data returns had prompted concern results then the resources are no longer available.</p>	

<p>3.4 It was agreed that we had strong values and policy foundations in Scotland but the youth justice community needed more encouragement to get to the next level. Wales' 2014 approach was cited as a good practice example. Board members were still ambitious to look at services and responses to 18-26 year olds and to promote better transitions and destinations for this age group.</p>	
<p>4. Workshop – Next steps</p> <p>4.1 LS set out the purpose of the workshop to agree five main priorities for Youth Justice in Scotland, and the questions for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see as the main priorities for the next two years? • From all the priorities what would you see as the top five? <p>The groups identified the following top 5 priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider workforce supporting Children and Young People • Resources - Make Youth Justice a priority again • More data and evidence • Pathways approach • Embedding the key components of WSA <p>4.2 LM provided a brief update around planning of engagement events in March. There will be a review of the original June deadline for publication of the new action plan/end of year report – this will be to allow enough time to tackle this work carefully and to consider the outcome of the Independent Care Review. LM welcomed any suggestions around engagement with children and young people as part of the engagement events in March.</p>	<p>Scottish Government to consider the priorities from the workshop, for incorporation in to the new vision and action plan for Youth Justice in Scotland</p>
<p>5. AOB</p> <p>5.1 Cross System group</p> <p>5.1.1 NH provided an update on cross system planning and preparation group which had met for the first time on 26 November. This group had been set up, following agreement at the last YJIB in September, to consider the challenges around 16/17 year olds in the hearings system.</p> <p>5.1.2 It was agreed that the Cross system group would proceed with this work and determine terms of reference and that it would report to YJIB. The group are due to meet again in February, and would update the June meeting.</p> <p>5.2 Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of YJIB will be on 19 March 2020– calendar invite to follow.</p>	<p>Scottish Government to add this as a standing agenda item.</p> <p>Scottish Government to identify dates for 2020 and to issue calendar invitations.</p>