

Position Statement

Review of the Ayrshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

Background

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (“the Act”) requires community justice partners to produce a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) for each local authority area, outlining how they intend to work together to reduce re-offending. Partners must report annually on progress against locally and nationally determined outcomes.

The legislation states that Statutory Partners must review their CJOIP:

- After the publication of a revised national strategy for community justice; a revised national performance framework
- After the publication of a revised local outcomes improvement plan in relation to the area under section 7(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- From time to time

Following the review, partners are required to publish a revised version or publish a statement stating why they do not consider the plan should be revised. When reviewing or revising the CJOIP partners must have regard to the national strategy, the national performance framework, and the local outcomes improvement plan.

Review of National Strategy for Community Justice and Review of the Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework

The Act sets out that Scottish Ministers must review the national strategy for community justice no later than five years after the strategy is published. Following such a review, the Scottish Ministers must either publish a revised strategy, or publish a statement indicating that they consider that the strategy should not be revised.

The Act also requires that Community Justice Scotland (CJS) must review the Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework (OPIF) no later than five years after the framework is published. Following such a review, CJS must either make proposals to Scottish Ministers for the revision of the framework, or publish a statement indicating that they consider that the framework should not be revised. The Scottish Ministers must consider proposals made to them following CJS’ review of the framework and then either publish a revised framework reflecting them (with such modifications as they consider appropriate) or publish a statement indicating that they consider that the framework should not be revised.

To comply with the Act, reviews of both the national strategy and the OPIF required be completed by 24 November 2021 (though publication of any revised documents may take place after this date).

Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland Update

In May 2021, the Scottish Government (SG) and Community Justice Scotland (CJS) issued a joint statement in relation to the review of the National Strategy for Community Justice and Review of the Outcomes, Performance, and Improvement Framework.

It outlined the Scottish Government's intention to review the Strategy in Summer 2021 and informed that CJS have reviewed the OPIF and concluded that it needed to be revised. An OPIF revision project was established and aimed to further define the specific revisions required and develop proposals for consideration by the Scottish Ministers. The estimated timeframe for publication of the revised Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework and National Strategy (if revised) was April 2022.

The new National Strategy was published in June 2022. Community Justice Scotland indicated that recommendations regarding the OPIF (rather than publication) would be made to Scottish Government at end of September 2022 predicated on three-month post publication of strategy. Publication timeframe would be dependent on Scottish Government accepting recommendations and the timeframe / steps needed to publish.

Following submission of proposals by CJS in September 2022 to the Scottish Government, SG colleagues have circulated a draft revised OPIF for consideration by the Community Justice Network. The draft focuses on setting out the national outcomes and the national indicators which are to be used to measure performance in achieving the national outcomes. In order to allow local areas to add context to the quantitative national indicators, the draft sets out an expectation that local supporting evidence will be gathered and analysed to provide context to the national indicators. To support this, CJS are drafting an improvement tool to sit alongside the draft OPIF, which sets out the role of local supporting evidence in understanding and reporting performance in relation to the national outcomes.

Community Justice Scotland plan to publish the improvement tool on their website on the same day as the revised OPIF is published on 1 April 2023.

Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Position

Following agreement by the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Board, the Ayrshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2018 to 2021 was extended until the end of 2021. Work took place during 2022 to establish the evidence base for a new plan through a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, however due to delays with the publication of the National Strategy and the OPIF, the Partnership were unable to develop a new CJOIP during this time.

In the absence of a revised OPIF, the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Board agreed to the development of a Transition Plan to guide the work of the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership from April 2023 to March 2024. This will allow the Partnership to establish a baseline position based on the National Outcomes within the OPIF and establish priorities to be included within the new Ayrshire CJOIP.

After considering the information outlined above, the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Board have decided that the Ayrshire CJOIP should not be revised at this time. We want to ensure that our new plan aligns and reflects the new OPIF and new Strategy, therefore we are taking a pragmatic approach and will review and revise the Ayrshire CJOIP following publication of these documents. Community Justice

Scotland were consulted as part of this decision-making process and are comfortable with this approach.

If the revised OPIF is published as planned in April 2023, it is anticipated that the Ayrshire CJOIP will be published prior to April 2024.

31.03.2023

*****Please note the Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework will now be referred to as the Community Justice Performance Framework (CJPF)*****