

## **Position Statement**

### **Review of the Ayrshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2018 to 2021**

#### **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 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 must therefore 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 needs to be revised. An OPIF revision project has now been established and aims to further define the specific revisions required and develop proposals for consideration by the Scottish Ministers. The project's core group are currently developing the proposed approach and revisions.

The estimated timeframe for publication of the revised Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework and National Strategy (if revised) is April 2022.

### **Community Justice Ayrshire Position**

The Ayrshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2018 to 2021 is coming to an end later this year. A review has been undertaken and work has begun to establish the evidence base for a new plan for 2022 onwards, through a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment.

After considering the information outlined above, the Community Justice Ayrshire 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 potential 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 agree with this approach.

If the Revised OPIF and Strategy (if revised) are published as planned in April 2022, it is anticipated that the Ayrshire CJOIP will be published shortly thereafter.

**07.07.2021**