

EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Community Safety Committee held in Room 415, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 3.00pm

Present: Councillors D Pover, J Coburn, R Brock, A Munro and H Stewart.

In attendance: J Walker, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Gilruth and M Notman (both Housing and Community Care); L Carson, C Flynn and L Brown (all Chief Executive's Service).

Councillor D Pover, Convener, Presiding.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. There were no apologies for absence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE MODEL OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE IN SCOTLAND

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Housing and Community Care) (14/314) seeking approval of a proposed response by Perth and Kinross Council to the Scottish Government's Consultation paper on the Future Model for Community Justice in Scotland.

Resolved

- (i) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to submit the proposed response appended to Report (14/314) to Scottish Government, subject to the inclusion of the following revised responses to Questions 4, 8, 9 and 10 of the consultation paper:
 - (Q4) If the National Performance Framework is to reflect the relevance of both national priorities and local concerns, it should not be so restrictive as to preclude variations reflecting local needs and concerns. The proposed focus of the work to be undertake under RRP2 (as outlined in paragraph 97) is fully supported. Some of the elements of the current performance framework, however, present as prescriptive while the correlation between certain national performance indicators and long term reduction in reconviction rates is not fully established. The resulting focus upon certain offender groups to the exclusion of others has resulted in the termination of at least 1 local project – focusing on drink driving. This was a project with a distinguished pedigree held in

high esteem by our local courts. Drink driving was not, however, deemed a national reconviction priority, and consequently, funding to support the project was withdrawn. It is to be hoped that the articulation of performance frameworks will take the form of a conversation with CPPs and not simply a communication. It is also to be hoped that any National Performance Framework will not be used to justify reductions in funding to Community Planning Partnerships which demonstrated their effectiveness in securing consistent reductions in reoffending.

The proposed factors within the framework, noted with paragraph 99, are fully supported. The matter at issue is more whether this framework will prove sufficiently flexible to permit the inclusion of local factors deemed a priority by CPPs;

- (Q8) This may depend upon whether Community Justice Improvement Scotland (CJIS) includes contracts and commissioning within its functions. If it does, then the proposed staffing levels may be necessary. Were it to restrict its activities to national strategy performance, oversight, and training/development, the economics of management scale available to local authorities in relation to commissioning may reduce the level of staffing required for the CJIS;
 - (Q9) It is not clear from the diagram exactly how strong links will be developed with Community Planning Partnerships to ensure that necessary conversations around service quality and consistency are maintained and developed;
 - (Q10) Given the observation at paragraph 112, that staff may be based at headquarters or home based - in Glasgow or Edinburgh is not, perhaps, quite as strong. The SSSC is based in Dundee and both Stirling and Perth are located centrally with good communication links to the rest of the country. The Council believe that Perth would be well placed to host the CJIS and would be happy to enter into discussions with the Scottish Government to this end.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to bring forward further reports to Committee once the outcome of the Consultation process is known.