



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date: 4 Dec 2023
Report By:	Vicki Cloney, Chair, Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership	Report No:
Contact Officer:	Ian Hanley, Community Justice Lead Officer	Contact No:
Subject:	Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership- Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan Update	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inverclyde Alliance Board with an update in respect of the future publication of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (The Act) provides the statutory framework for the model of community justice at a national and local government level. The Act stipulates adherence must be given to the publication of a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) in each local authority area.
- 2.2 In respect of the current Inverclyde CJOIP, the current plan was extended to 2023 following a recommendation by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership. Progress reports in respect of the delivery of a revised CJOIP have been raised to the Inverclyde Alliance Board in October 2021 and March 2023.
- 2.3 Following publication of Scottish Government documents which sets out the strategic direction of community justice in Scotland and at a local level, Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership can now finalise arrangements for the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP. An indicative timeline is provided in sections 4.8 to 4.13 of the report which includes draft publication, proposed engagement activities and submission to the Inverclyde Alliance Board for approval in June 2024.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
- Notes the progress of the delivery towards publication of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, specifically around the delivery timetable.
 - Considers its preference with respect to the consultation and engagement of the draft plan as considered in the recommendations section of the report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In order to provide context to the future delivery of the new Inverclyde CJOIP, section four of the report intends to provide an overview of the national context, progress thus far in preparation of the Inverclyde CJOIP and proposed activity leading to the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT/NATIONAL CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE

- 4.2 In June 2022, the Scottish Government published the revised [National Strategy for Community Justice](#). The strategy sets out four national aims for community justice, and thirteen priority actions which the Scottish Government and community justice partners should seek to deliver over the duration of the strategy. To achieve these, partners must work closely together. Effective coordination and collaboration are key and community justice partners must ensure they have a clear focus on delivery.
- 4.3 The [Community Justice Performance Framework](#) was published in March 2023 and sets out nine nationally determined outcomes which are to be achieved in each local authority area, and ten national indicators which are to be used in measuring performance in achieving the outcomes.
- 4.4 In June 2023, the Scottish Government published a delivery plan which contains time-limited deliverables. The plan details the activity which the Scottish Government and national community justice partners are taking forward to drive improvement towards each of the priority actions in the strategy. If the delivery plan is achieved, it should support progress towards achieving both the priority actions in the strategy and ultimately the nine nationally determined outcomes in the Community Justice Performance Framework. The [Community Justice Delivery Plan](#) has a range of improvement activity between 2023 and 2026.
- 4.5 The Act requires that local partners must review their CJOIP after the publication of a revised national strategy for community justice and revised performance framework. The Inverclyde CJP held the view that a new local CJOIP was needed for Inverclyde and proposed to extend the current Inverclyde CJOIP by one further year and to produce the next Inverclyde CJOIP during the 2023/24 reporting year. In advance of this, a paper was prepared for the Inverclyde Alliance Board at its meeting on 4 October 2021 accepting the recommendation to endorse the decision to extend the current Inverclyde CJOIP. A further update was provided to the Inverclyde Alliance Board at its meeting on 13 March 2023.

INVERCLYDE CJOIP PROGRESS

- 4.6 During the 2022/23 reporting year, Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership held two development sessions to consider the future CJOIP and have developed a plan that will take cognisance of the four national priority aims (as set out in the National Strategy for Community Justice); (i) optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity, (ii) ensure that robust and high quality interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland, (iii) ensure that services are accessible and address the needs of individuals accused of or convicted of an offence and (iv) strengthen the leadership, engagement and partnership working of local and national community justice partners. The Community Justice Partnership have also identified a local priority aim (locally determined outcome) around improving the housing and homelessness outcomes for individuals in the justice system.
- 4.7 In preparation for the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership confirmed changes to the previous structural arrangements. This improved the family group structure within the Community Justice Partnership with the creation of additional sub-groups and the refocussing of existing sub-groups. Additionally, work has been undertaken to strengthen arrangements with other strategic groups in Inverclyde ensuring opportunities for better partnership working leading to better outcomes for individuals in the justice system.

PROPOSED CJOIP ACTIVITY

- 4.8 The Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Board is scheduled to meet on Tuesday 12 December 2023 where the Partnership are being asked to approve the release of the Draft Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024.
- 4.9 Section 20(4) and section 20(5) of The Act requires that the community justice partners in preparing a plan for the local area must make all reasonable efforts to secure the participation of a range of partners in preparing the plan and must consult with Community Justice Scotland, third sector bodies involved in community justice in relation to the area, community bodies in relation to the area and such other persons as the Partnership considers appropriate (Section 20(6)).
- 4.10 Although not an exhaustive list, those partners, third sectors partners and other such persons include; all Inverclyde CJP Board Members, Inverclyde Community Justice Third Sector Forum, community groups as supported by Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development, Your Voice Inverclyde and CVS Inverclyde, other strategic partnership where there is a shared relationship (such as Inverclyde Alcohol Drug Partnership, Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership), elected members, those individuals with lived or living experience of the justice system and the Inverclyde Alliance Board.
- 4.11 Consultation and engagement of the draft strategy will be undertaken during January to March 2024 through a range of on-line and in person events. The Act requires that the community justice partners for the local area must publish a 'participation statement', practically it has been suggested that this takes the form of an analysis of responses and is appended to the published CJOIP. In order that the CJP considers the responses this analysis will include a 'how we will respond' section outlining any improvement activity identified.
- 4.12 It is likely that the CJP Board will meet on Tuesday 26 March 2024 where the CJOIP will be formally confirmed. In line with previous arrangements this will then be tabled at the following Inverclyde Alliance Board meeting for approval/endorsement.
- 4.13 The finalised/published Inverclyde CJOIP is likely to include a range of associated documents which will include; a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, a Participation Statement (as outlined at 4.11), a Performance Framework and other governance documents such as an Community Justice Memorandum of Understanding, Equality Impact Assessment and Data Protection Impact Assessment.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Inverclyde Alliance Board are asked to consider its preference with regards to how it wishes to be consulted with as set out in sections 4.9 and 4.10 of the report. As our parent group it is important that the views of the Inverclyde Alliance Board are considered as part of our consultation response. Sections 5.2 and 5.3 make some proposal for the Alliance Board's consideration.
- 5.2 As noted at 4.10 it is the intention to host a series of on-line and in person engagement events. Should it satisfy the Inverclyde Alliance Board those events can be shared with Alliance Board members to consider attending those events individually. Additionally, the CJP Board Chair will be writing to all statutory partners with an opportunity to respond through means of a consultation survey if they are unable to attend the on-line and in person events.
- 5.3 The Community Justice Partnership recognises the demand on business discussed at the Inverclyde Alliance Board, however should it satisfy the Inverclyde Alliance Board, the CJP would welcome a further opportunity to engage at the next Alliance meeting taking the views of the Inverclyde Alliance Board as a whole.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal

Section 19 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires the community justice partners for the area of a local authority to publish a plan in relation to community justice for the area. Section 20 of The Act requires that the preparation of a community justice outcomes improvement plan must have regard to the local outcomes improvement plan for the local area.

Finance

A Community Justice Lead Officer is appointed and hosted by Criminal Justice & Children's Services within Inverclyde HSCP using Scottish Government funding (Community Justice Partnerships- funding to support collaborative working). The total funding to each local authority is £62,500.

Human Resources

None

Equality and Diversity

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed with the published Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Alliance Partnership Plan:

The Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership and community justice activity sits under theme 4- a supportive place.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Update- Inverclyde Alliance Board, 13 March 2023.

8.2 Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Update- Inverclyde Alliance Board, 4 October 2021.