
Report To:	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Date:	29 October 2024
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP	Report No:	SWSCSP/32/2024/JH
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Subject:	Notice of Self-Evaluation in Justice Social Work		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 This report advises the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel of a national self-evaluation of Justice Social Work led by the Care Inspectorate.
- 1.3 The review takes place between September and November 2024 and will focus on self-evaluation of performance and quality assurance within Justice Social Work. This will be followed by a validation phase during January and February 2025, where self-evaluation findings will be validated in four local authority areas.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel is asked to note the planned review of social work governance and assurance.

**Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde HSCP**

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Care Inspectorate notified all local authority areas of their intention to undertake a self-evaluation of Justice Social Work services in correspondence dated 5 August 2024 (Appendix 1). The self-evaluation focuses on performance and quality assurance measures in the context of the ability of Justice Social Work services across Scotland to demonstrate that the supervision and support offered to people on community sentences is of a high quality.
- 3.2 The aim of the review is focused on the National Strategy for Community Justice and reflects the importance of Justice Social Work being able to evidence high quality support and supervision to those on community supervision as key to delivering on the expectations of the strategy. Earlier inspection activity across the country highlighted inconsistencies in the format and frequency of performance reporting.
- 3.3 The self-evaluation exercise has been developed in consultation with the Social Work Scotland Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group and Community Justice Scotland Improvement Leads. It is intended that this work will add value by building capacity for self-evaluation across the justice sector and supporting continuous improvement.
- 3.4 The framework for self-evaluation is structured around a number of high-level themes, with prompt questions designed to support its completion. Key elements are as follows:

3.5 Part 1: Performance, quality and outcomes

Measuring performance:

- How effectively are you able to measure the performance of your service in delivering support and supervision for people on community sentences?
- How effectively are you measuring the quality of work you undertake to support and supervise people on community sentences?

Measuring outcomes:

- How effectively are you measuring the difference your delivery of community sentences is making to people on community sentences?

3.6 Part 2: Organisational drivers and capabilities

To what extent the following elements support performance and quality assurance activity:

- A culture of learning and continuous improvement
- Leadership
- Governance
- Knowledge and expertise
- Resources

- 3.7 The service will evaluate the current capacity for improvement, any likely barriers and identify priority areas for improvement. Further information on the self-evaluation can be found on the Care Inspectorate website at [Self-evaluation of performance and quality assurance in justice social work \(careinspectorate.com\)](https://www.careinspectorate.com/self-evaluation-of-performance-and-quality-assurance-in-justice-social-work)
- 3.8 Associated with the self-evaluation of Justice Social Work is a Community Justice self-evaluation. The Care Inspectorate is currently supporting a number of Community Justice Partnerships to undertake bespoke self-evaluation activity and this will be extended nationally on a staged basis. Locally, the Community Justice Lead Officer is in contact with the Care Inspectorate to discuss how this might be progressed by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The data provided within the self-evaluation will be used to inform a national thematic review and individual area performance will not be assessed.
- 4.2 Following completion of the self-evaluation phase, four partnership areas will be selected by the Care Inspectorate for in-person validation visits in early 2025.
- 4.3 A further report can be provided to the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel following publication of the national review report.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal/Risk		x
Human Resources	x	
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		x
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

Staff time to participate in the areas of this review.

5.5 Strategic

None.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

None.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
x	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
x	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 No formal consultation will be required in order to complete the self-evaluation however input from staff and managers within Justice Social Work will be sought.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Our Ref: JK/HI/JP/JSEI/PN

Date: 05 August 2024

Dear colleagues

Justice self-evaluation intentions

We are writing to notify you of our intentions in relation to our justice work. Our self-evaluation intentions consist of two separate but related pieces of work. One focuses on justice social work and the other on community justice as outlined below. This work is enabled by our responsibilities within the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 as well as other national policies and guidance.

The Scottish Government tasked the Care Inspectorate to:

- provide scrutiny and assurance of justice social work
- support the implementation of the community justice model

The national aims, priorities and outcomes for justice are outlined within the [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) and the accompanying delivery plan.

Background

Key to delivering on the expectations of the National Strategy for Community Justice is the ability of justice social work services and partners to demonstrate that the supervision and support offered to people on community sentences is of a high quality.

Learning from our previous justice social work inspections and thematic work highlighted performance management and quality assurance as key areas for improvement. We found a lack of consistency in the format and frequency of performance reporting. Accessing timely and reliable data to aid analysis of performance was often challenging. Services were often limited in their ability to demonstrate the difference that community sentences made in the lives of people accused or convicted of offences.

Given we share similar aspirations to the goals of the Social Work Scotland Performance and Quality Assurance sub-group and Community Justice Scotland improvement leads this work has been developed in consultation with them. While our activities are independent, our work will add value by building capacity for self-evaluation across the sector and supporting continuous improvement. A self-evaluation approach also takes into account the recovery status and capacity of the sector at this time.

Care Inspectorate, Headquarters, Compass House, 11 Riverside Drive, Dundee, DD1 4NY

We have offices across Scotland. You can find details at careinspectorate.com

Intentions

- **Justice Social Work self-evaluation: Performance and Quality Assurance**

The national justice social work self-evaluation will run between September 2024 and May 2025.

Phase 1: Between 2 September and 20 November 2024 justice social work services will be asked to complete and submit a self-evaluation using a template provided by us.

Phase 2: Between 20 January and 28 February 2025 we will validate self-evaluation findings within four local authority areas. We will then produce a national report.

We will also engage with national agencies who request data from justice social work services to inform the context of the final report. This will incorporate findings from both phases of activity and will be uploaded to the Care Inspectorate website by early May 2025.

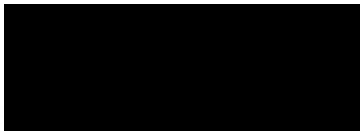
- **Community Justice self-evaluation**

We are currently engaged with a number of community justice partnerships in supporting bespoke self-evaluation activities. We are also piloting a Core Assurance template which was shared with co-ordinators and will be extended nationally. A staged approach will enable us to direct our resources efficiently and effectively. Further details on this work are available upon request.

We look forward to working with you. We will contact justice social work services again at the end of August to provide additional detail and guidance on the self-evaluation activities. If there any questions in the meantime, we can be contacted on:

justice.scrutiny@careinspectorate.gov.scot

Yours sincerely



Kevin Mitchell, Executive Director of Scrutiny & Assurance

CC: This letter has been issued to chief social work officers, justice service managers, Community Justice co-ordinators, Social Work Scotland, Scottish Government, Community Justice Scotland

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