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Item No: 10

Meeting Date: Wednesday 27th November 2024

Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

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Justice Social Work and Community Justice Overview Annual Update

Purpose of Report:

To update the Integration Joint Board on:

- Justice Social Work developments; and
- Community Justice Glasgow developments.

Background/Engagement:

Engagement in relation to the community justice agenda is undertaken with service users, justice social work staff and the broader community justice partners.

Governance Route:

The matters contained within this paper have been previously considered by the following group(s) as part of its development.

- HSCP Senior Management Team
- Council Corporate Management Team
- Health Board Corporate Management Team
- Council Committee
- Update requested by IJB
- Other
- Not Applicable

Recommendations:

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report.

Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

The Integrated Joint Board is a named statutory partner to community justice through the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

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Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

Reference to National Health & Wellbeing Outcome:	This proposal supports the delivery of all 9 National Outcomes, with an emphasis on: 1. People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer. 2. People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected. 3. Health and social care services centered on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services. 4. People using health and social care services are safe from harm. 5. Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.
Personnel:	No identified implications.
Carers:	No identified implications.
Provider Organisations:	Glasgow City Council Health and Social Care Partnership, Glasgow Community Justice and third sector commissioned services. Wider community justice partners such as Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Court Service.
Equalities:	Justice services play a key role in promoting equality by working with people and communities to tackle the causes of crime, which are often rooted in inequality. This is achieved through an increased emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation. Justice services work with specific types of crime, such as violence against women and girls, and all forms of hate crime.
Fairer Scotland Compliance:	In its planning, justice social work takes account of the impact of poverty on those involved in the justice system.
Financial:	In addition to the Scottish Government ring fenced section 27 grant allocation of £19,629,059. Justice social work received an additional £1,897,364 to develop bail services and support ongoing pandemic recovery and transformational work in year 2024-25.
Legal:	No identified implications.
Economic Impact:	No identified implications.
Sustainability:	No identified implications.

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Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:	None
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Risk Implications:	A number of service developments discussed in this report are reliant on the additional pandemic funding. It is anticipated this additional funding will be mainstreamed into the Section 27 Grant allocation.
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Implications for Glasgow City Council:	Glasgow City Council is a named, statutory partner to Community Justice through the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016
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Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde:	NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde is a named, statutory partner to Community Justice through the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016
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Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	
Direction to:	
1. No Direction Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Glasgow City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Integration Joint Board on:

- Justice Social Work developments; and
- Community Justice Glasgow developments

2. Key Justice Social Work Developments in 2023-24

2.1 Prison Population

2.1.1 We continue to face an extremely challenging situation in relation to our prison population which has once again reached critical levels. In May 2024, our prison population reached 8,348 and the Scottish Parliament agreed to enact section 11 of the [Bail and Release from Custody \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#) to enable the early release of some short-term prisoners. The emergency early release process was effective in temporarily and rapidly reducing the prison population to ensure the safety of Scottish Prison Service staff and those in their care and ensure that those who pose the greatest risk of harm were accommodated.

2.1.2 In Spring of this year, Justice Social Work (JSW) worked alongside homeless services, health, third sector and the Scottish Prison Service to coordinate the early release of prisoners in Glasgow. Taking place over four tranches, this involved rigorous scrutiny of systems, records and risk assessments to ensure compliance with release eligibility and supporting access to housing, health

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and financial support where it was required. To support these arrangements further, JSW commissioned five short term accommodation placements to support the most vulnerable people being released as part of this process.

- 2.1.3 The effects of emergency release had limited impact, and the prison population is now approaching the levels seen prior to when the Scottish Parliament agreed to enact emergency release. The latest projections through to January 2025 indicate that the prison population will likely continue to rise further, which would put our prisons in an unsustainable position with wide ranging impacts across the criminal justice system.
- 2.1.4 The Scottish Government's intention now is to ask the Scottish Parliament to introduce primary legislation to bring forward the point of release for some short-term prisoners on an emergency basis.
- 2.1.5 Additional Scottish Government investment this year has allowed JSW in Glasgow to increase staffing in response to the emergency measures by enhancing our court team and increasing the uptake of community disposals. Recent statistics show marked and sustained increases in the number of community disposals including diversion from prosecution cases, structured deferred sentences and bail supervision. We also have historically high levels of use of electronic monitoring.

2.2 Glasgow Sheriff Court Social Work Team

- 2.2.1 The JSW team based at Glasgow Sheriff Court has been at the forefront in responding to the prison population crisis by offering the Court credible alternatives to remand and custodial sentences by testing a number of new ways of working to improve social work visibility at Court.
- 2.2.2 This has included an increased social work presence within the custody court each day allowing Sheriffs, defence agents, clerks and Procurator Fiscals to seek advice and guidance from social work staff on matters such as community resources and a person's suitability for community-based disposals. This new way of working has allowed staff to highlight public protection concerns to Sheriffs in real time based on information held within social work records. The feedback we have received to date is this has greatly assisted in decision making, allowing Sheriffs to make informed decisions about a person being able to remain in the community.

2.3 Unpaid Work

- 2.3.1 JSW unpaid work service has been working with third sector and charitable organisations to develop community based unpaid work placements. We have supported and commissioned three local community providers in 2024, namely Greater Easterhouse Supporting Hands (GESH), Open Gates and Crookston Community Group. This model supports our aspirations for people to undertake unpaid work in their own community as a form of restitution which offers a range of benefits, both to the individual and the broader community.
- 2.3.2 Working directly in their own community allows a person to actively contribute towards repairing harm. This can help build a sense of responsibility and

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accountability for the person, as they witness the positive impact of their efforts. Examples of work undertaken across all three providers include cleaning local pathways, grass cutting for vulnerable members of the community, supporting community cafes, food bank provision, charity shops, furniture restoration, furniture uplift, painting and graffiti removal for local community services. The skills obtained by those undertaking unpaid work can be practical for future employment / training, assisting them with reintegration and rehabilitation. We have seen evidence when people work to improve their community, they have a sense of fulfilment and often start to view themselves as active and responsible members of the community.

2.4 **MAPPS Implementation Plan**

2.4.1 The Multi Agency Public Protection System (MAPPS), which is the replacement for the current Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR), remains planned for national implementation from 2025 into 2026. Given the importance of the safe management of people on the sex offenders register and others who pose a risk of serious harm who are managed under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), such as a terrorism and those managed under Orders of Life Long Restriction, Glasgow is already working on an implementation plan to support the transition from ViSOR to MAPPS.

2.4.2 JSW have stood up an implementation group to oversee implementation, and progress is now reviewed every six weeks to consider the ongoing requirements of MAPPS and associated local actions. Significantly it is recognised that MAPPS will be more resource intensive in comparison to ViSOR, so options are being explored within the implementation plan to identify requirements and support planning for the change from ViSOR to MAPPS.

2.4.3 Ahead of the implementation of MAPPS, we have a city-wide focus on developing risk practice across the JSW staff team. A development plan is currently in draft for review, which includes consultation with staff to ascertain needs and approaches to address identified need including consideration of applied workshops, supervision focus on risk practice, individualised development plans, and a quality assurance process.

2.5 **Lilias Community Custody Unit (CCU)**

2.5.1 Lilias CCU opened its doors to women in custody in October 2022. Located in the Maryhill area of Glasgow, the CCU's accommodation consists of four shared houses with a total capacity for 24 women. Lilias was designed to provide safe and secure accommodation, which is trauma informed and gender specific. It supports the needs of women in custody who would benefit from closer community contact and access to local services. Women are supported to live independently in Lilias in accommodation based on a 'shared house' principle to develop a range of independent living skills, which are reflective of real life.

2.5.2 At present, Lilias has 23 of the 24 beds occupied. All 23 women are allocated to the Prison Based Social Worker (PBSW) at Lilias which is delivered by

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JSW. The role of the PBSW is to provide statutory support to the Scottish Prison Service in the risk assessment and case management of women nearing the latter stages of their sentence and progressing to community access. In terms of the non-statutory element of work, the PBSW utilises a proactive approach to identifying community supports within the woman's own local areas, developing relationships with the women to support them during their time in custody and participating in pre-release planning.

2.5.3 Formal one-to-one work has also been facilitated with five women within the past year to support them in settling into less secure conditions and preparing for access to the community. The PBSW also participates in NHS-led multi-disciplinary team meetings to identify areas of need in relation to the women's care and develop action plans. Positive working relationships between Liliass staff and Tomorrow's Women Glasgow are actively encouraged, and the women's engagement with the service, particularly when accessing the community, is promoted.

2.5.4 At present, two women from Liliass attend Tomorrow's Women groupwork and Tomorrow's Women staff continue to facilitate a wellbeing cafe at Liliass, which both provides wellbeing support to the women and promote awareness of the service.

2.6 **Martha's Mammies**

2.6.1 Martha's Mammies is now an established project supporting mothers who have lost care of their children. The project is led by JSW and supported by Children and Families and Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services. The aim of the service is to provide assertive outreach to assist in stabilising and supporting women following the removal of children to prevent a deterioration in their mental health or addiction issues and reduce the risk of significant harm.

2.6.2 Martha's Mammies was awarded the 'Team of the Year 2024' and 'Overall Winner 2024' at the Glasgow City HSCP staff excellence awards. This reflects the team's hard work and success in implementing and providing an innovative range of services and activities that engage and improve the wellbeing and future opportunities of the women accessing Martha's Mammies. The Team also won at the COSLA 2024 Excellence Awards in September this year, winning the 'COSLA Chairperson's Award'. This award recognises and celebrate teams and projects that exemplify best practice and innovation in Scotland.

2.6.3 Martha's Mammies has also recently been shortlisted for a Scottish Public Service Award 2024. The Scottish Public Services Awards showcase some of the most innovative and thought-provoking work in Scotland. Inspired by the late Campbell Christie and his efforts to help reform Scotland's public services, Holyrood launched these awards in 2014 with the aim of recognising and rewarding best practice, teamwork, innovation, and clear leadership across Scotland's diverse public services.

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2.7 Justice Social Work Research

- 2.7.1 We continue to foster a strong relationship with the university sector and have undertaken a number of collaborations with Strathclyde University in 2024, who have an eminent criminology department.
- 2.7.2 This year our staff were afforded the opportunity to work with world leading scientists in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to test its applicability in supporting risk and harm assessments in a research environment. We will be working with Social Work Scotland, the Risk Management Authority and the university sector to take this learning forward and develop a position statement nationally for the use of AI in JSW.
- 2.7.3 Two PHD students with lived experience of the criminal justice system undertook research with practitioners and service users in Glasgow who were involved in the parole process to understand experiences of rehabilitation. The results are expected to be published at the end of the year and will be especially interesting given the findings and recommendations contained in the recent [HMIPS Thematic Review of Prison Progression in Scotland](#).
- 2.7.4 We have also engaged with the University of West of Scotland in a piece of research on Restorative Justice with men convicted of sexual offences. The outcomes of this research will assist in our understanding of the effectiveness of these approaches in assisting victims of sexual crime alongside providing insight into the potential effectiveness of Restorative Justice approaches in reducing recidivism in the longer term.

2.8 Community Justice Glasgow

- 2.8.1 [Community Justice Glasgow](#) (CJG), is a local partnership, legislated to locally deliver the statutory arrangements of the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) and the [Vision for Justice](#) in Scotland's transformation priority of "*Shifting the balance between use of custody and justice in the community*". The Act has an overall ambition to reduce the risk of re-offending through reduced use of less effective short-term sentences and a focus instead on more effective, person and needs centred community-based approaches that allow for rehabilitation and addressing the underlying drivers of offending behaviour, breaking the cycle of offending.
- 2.8.2 A full overview of the work of Community Justice partners can be reviewed within the [2023/24](#) Digital Annual Reporter; a newspaper style report showcasing articles from across the partnership's public and third sector partners that demonstrate how their work contributes to reducing re-offending.
- 2.8.3 CJG's [Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan](#) 2023/2028 sets out areas of particular focus including Young People, Victims of Crime, Families Impacted (by a loved one's imprisonment), Equalities Characteristics, Women, and Inequality & Poverty. Additionally, there are four specific identified improvement areas – Diversion from Prosecution, Prison Health, Housing and

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Benefits (PHHaB), Alternatives to Remand and Presumption Against Short Term Sentences.

- 2.8.4 The most significant step forward in 2024 has been with the PHHaB project and the strengthened relationship with the housing sector, which now reaches across 39 organisations, covering 88% of the social housing sector in the City. This allows for data sharing to quickly identify when a tenant is placed in prison to enable a plan to be put in place for the individual and their tenancy. Sharing data enables a line of communication to be open which wasn't available previously.
- 2.8.5 A further related area of development has been the publication of the [Literature Review](#) for the Health Needs Assessment of people serving their sentence on remand or in the community. Quantitative data linkage is also underway between CJG and Public Health Scotland.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:
- a) Note the contents of this report.