

Position Statement - Review of the Renfrewshire 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.

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. However 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 should 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. The estimated timeframe for publication of the revised Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework and National Strategy was April 2022. The National Strategy was published in June 2022 and the revised OPIF submitted to the Scottish Government in September 2022 for further consideration and approval.

Community Justice Renfrewshire Position

The Renfrewshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2018 to 2021 came to an end in December 2021. However it was recognised that as a result of the pandemic, it was not possible to progress some of the recommendations.

After considering the above information it was decided that Renfrewshire CJOIP should not be revised at this time. It is essential that we 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 Renfrewshire CJOIP following publication of both these documents. Community Justice Scotland were consulted as part of this decision-making process and support this approach.
