

Community Justice Strategy Updated Delivery Plan

Summary and Recommendations

This paper provides the Board with a recently updated version of the Community Justice Strategy Delivery Plan.

This paper invites the Board to:

- i. Note the recently draft updated version of the Community Justice Strategy Delivery Plan, attached at Appendix A
- ii. Provide comments on the document for COSLA officials to submit to Scottish Government to inform finalisation of the update.

References

Previous relevant reports:

- 22-12-02 CWB Board Item 4.3 Community Justice Strategy Delivery Plan
- 23-02-17 CWB Board Item 4.1 Community Justice Strategy Delivery Plan

Elisa Bevacqua
Policy Manager – Communities
elisa@cosla.gov.uk
0131 474 9342

Date Considered: Feb 2024

Community Justice Strategy Updated Delivery Plan

Purpose

1. This paper provides the Board with the draft Community Justice Strategy Delivery Plan update for Members to offer views on progress of the deliverables and wider strategic aims and actions.

Current COSLA Position

2. The first iteration of the delivery plan was [published](#) in June 2023 with the purpose of expanding on the community justice strategy by “setting out a number of tangible, time-limited deliverables, detailing exactly what work will be undertaken to drive improvement nationally for each of the aims and priority actions contained in the strategy”
3. The Community Wellbeing Board considered an advanced draft of the Plan in February 2023 and agreed a number of key areas for COSLA to feedback to Scottish Government on to inform the development of the document, including monitoring and reporting, resources, workforce issues and the need for a gendered lens across the Plan.

What is changing?

4. The delivery plan is to be updated twice each year. Scottish Government officials have produced the first update to the plan since its publication, available at Appendix A to this report. Updates were received from organisations responsible for leading each deliverable, as well as from other organisations involved in achieving them.
5. The updates cover the period from June to December 2023. Updates include a high-level overview of work done during this period and may also include immediate next steps.
6. A ‘status’ has been assigned to each deliverable to help indicate its progress to date. Statuses are defined in the introduction to the plan.
7. While the Scottish Government is responsible for the publication and update of the plan, progress towards the deliverables and their overarching priority action is monitored by the Community Justice Programme Board. The Board was established in May 2023 and includes representation from COSLA officials.

Proposed COSLA Position

8. The Board is asked to note the draft updated Delivery Plan and offer any comments and feedback from local areas for COSLA officials to discuss with Scottish Government colleagues to inform the document’s finalisation.
9. Members are also asked to consider and agree, subject to any amendments, the following high-level observations on the updated Plan:
 - Given the breadth of the actions covered by the Plan, we would suggest that a RAG status is given to each of the actions to more easily highlight to partners where

potential risks and challenges may be affecting delivery of certain actions.


- In light of record prison population numbers, the updated Plan – perhaps in its introduction or ‘strategic context’ sections - needs to acknowledge current pressures on the system, its likely drivers and set out how the actions in the Plan are seeking to address the issue in the medium to longer-term (seeing as contingency measures may be taken in the shorter term), and its likely implications on capacity for community justice partners, including local authorities.
- As we flagged in February 2023, we continue to have reservations about the ability of local authorities to be able to fully meet the ambitions of the plan. We are concerned that without a strong commitment to working with Local Government on adequate resourcing of local justice services, this plan risks widening the existing ‘implementation gap’ between national policies and legislation and local delivery. This is also the case for other services that are critical to reducing reoffending, such as housing.

Next Steps

10. COSLA officers will engage with Scottish Government officials to inform the updated Plan and continue to report to the Board as appropriate.

Date Considered: Feb 2024

Contribution to agreed COSLA Plan and Verity House Agreement:

<p>COSLA Plan 22-27</p> 	<p>Priority Areas</p> <p>Strengthen Local Democracy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Secure Sustainable Funding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Improve the Wellbeing of Individuals, Families and Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Enhance Education and Support for Children and Young People <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Deliver a Just Transition to a Net Zero Economy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Support the Most Vulnerable in our Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Verity House Agreement</p>	<p>Shared Priorities</p> <p>Tackling Poverty <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Just transition to net zero <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sustainable Public Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>