



Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

The Framework for Smart Justice Strategic Commissioning Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

3rd May 2019

What's the vision for this work?

We want the Framework to be the process by which partners can work together to plan, put in place and review the best possible services to support rehabilitation and reduce (or prevent) reoffending. It aims to support system change towards increased prevention and tackling of root causes. We want the Framework to be for the Sector, by the Sector, enabling cultural and system development for greater collaboration in planning and delivery across statutory and non-statutory partners, those with lived experience of the justice system, and the third, independent and private sectors. For it to be effective and something that all of us can use, the input of partners and partnerships is critical.

Scottish Government has made a long term commitment to embedding strategic commissioning in community justice. It will help partners to maximise their progress towards a number of national outcomes, especially working together strategically to plan and deliver services and to improve access to necessary services.

In the immediate term, Community Justice Scotland (CJS) has been asked to develop guidance that spans three years, to 2022. This is so that community justice can reach a consistent level of good partnership practice in that time, and for solutions to national issues to be pursued and put in place during the same time. It will also allow longer term delivery to be informed by pending strategic developments such as the refresh of the National Strategy by 2021. The goal by year three is that all community justice partnerships and partners are effective at strategic commissioning.

Many Community Justice Partnerships (CJPs) are already delivering parts of the commissioning cycle, and the Framework will support the adoption of a consistent approach across all community justice partnerships and partners.

Developing effective joint strategic commissioning across the system will allow community justice to have a stronger common purpose, to better understand and align resource to need in individual areas, regions and nationally. It will increase collaborative, preventative action and action to reduce inequalities. The Framework will be invaluable – but only if community justice partners contribute to it and implement it in their area.

What will the Framework include?

The Framework will...

- Outline guidance for community justice partners to work together to understand people's needs and arrange and oversee the best possible services to support their rehabilitation and reintegration, and reduce (or prevent) further offending. It will help to build collaboration within and across partnerships and be based on good practice.
- Identify key, guiding principles to be used in community justice strategic planning and delivery.
- Be an accessible guide to partnership working in strategic planning and delivery.
- Align to existing processes such as Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan development, and annual reporting and self-assessment.

What it won't do...

- Identify national priorities in community justice.
- Focus on procured services - or any specific services.
- State funding arrangements for particular services.
- Mandate any changes to provision.

What are the new timescales for delivering the Framework?

- We will share and publish the Framework online for consultation in June/July this year. In addition, we will be hosting at least two sessions for people to feed back in person.

- Over summer 2019, we want to continue to engage with the community justice sector about the long term route map.
- The Framework will be published in October 2019 on our website, and via networks and social media.

What's the plan for implementation in the longer term?

We have been in discussions with Scottish Government to better define plans for implementation.

Using input from partners so far and the evidence on commissioning and equity of access, we are developing an outline of what we hope community justice strategic commissioning can achieve in the next 3 – 10 years. We want to work further with the sector to refine and finalise this outline. We will be consulting with the sector about this and the priority actions you think should be taken forward after the Framework is launched. Then, a business case will be then developed and submitted to Scottish Government outlining a proposed delivery programme and resource needs.

What support is going to be available to implement the Framework?

CJS will be developing a proposal for medium-to-longer term implementation programme, however in 2019/20, we will be doing the following:

- Strengthening a common vision across community justice
 - Developing and disseminating a route map for system development over the next ten years and a programme of work for implementation, informed by partners' views about priority action areas
- National action to improve structural / system challenges, e.g. increasing throughcare data availability to community partners
- Practical implementation support to local areas
- Workforce development
 - Undertaking a training needs analysis with Community Justice Coordinators, and developing an action plan to meet them as part of the business case for ongoing development
 - Developing and disseminating guidance for individual steps of the planning cycle, focusing on needs assessment and service / resource mapping
 - Publishing evidence briefings and good practice guidance for strengthened service design and delivery
- Developing baseline and monitoring and evaluation capabilities, to measure progress in implementing the Framework for Smart Justice.

How can I take part in developing the Framework?

- Respond to the Consultation - we really want to get responses from individual partners as well as partnerships, so please put time aside in June/July to respond to the consultation or attend one of the consultation events
- Come to a consultation workshop – there will be sessions in Perth and either Glasgow / Edinburgh for partners to feed in. We will be issuing 'hold the date' emails very soon.
- Get in touch - or join the mailing list for get updates (email Sarah McCullough, Commissioning Framework Lead on sarah.mccullough@communityjustice.scot)
- For information - we will provide an update at the Community Justice Coordinators Network meeting in May 2019.



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