

2021/22

# Restorative Justice Action Plan Annual Report



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## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the report and those from the Restorative Justice Stakeholder group who provided invaluable feedback throughout the development of this paper.

## Executive Summary

The Scottish Government's vision for the [Restorative Justice Action Plan](#) is:

“Restorative Justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it, and at a time that is appropriate to the people involved in the case. Approaches taken are consistent, evidence-led, trauma informed and of a high standard. This seeks to ensure the needs of persons harmed and their voices are central, and supports a reduction in harmful behaviour across our communities.”

The Scottish Government have worked collaboratively with key stakeholders over the past year on the priorities of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Action Plan.

### What's the progress so far?

1

#### Restorative Justice is available across Scotland

- The Sheriffdom area – Lothian and Borders identified and agreed as the first initial test project.
- Community Justice Scotland (CJS) funded to provide national oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the initial test project.
- Thriving Survivors funded to provide the National Service for RJ in sexual harm.
- The Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) submitted a proposal for additional resource to oversee the service for children and young people.
- The Scottish Government and COSLA hosted a Violence Against Women and Girls and RJ roundtable event.
- Midlothian Community Justice Partnership are completing a consultation with individuals convicted of sexual offences on RJ.

2

#### High quality Restorative Justice services are delivered by trained facilitators

- A codes of practice for adults, children and young people was compiled and signed off by the RJ stakeholder group and remain a live document for on-going consultation.
- RJ academics are completing research into risk and mitigation strategies to inform risk and policy development. This will be published in summer 2022.
- Strathclyde University were funded to complete a Training Needs Analysis to inform a Scottish model for training development.
- Thriving Survivors have recruited two facilitator and one assistant and will recruit nine additional staff members. Twelve individuals will receive training in RJ from foundational to advanced, including specialist and complex cases.

3

### There is a public awareness and understanding of Restorative Justice across Scotland

- CYCJ published research with 146 secondary pupils to explore their awareness, understanding and attitudes to RJ.
- CYCJ have consulted with children to co-produce an accessible version of the children and young people's code of practice.
- Sacro and the RJ forum published the RJ forum website.
- Various presentations on the RJ action plan have taken place across numerous local authorities and organisations.
- CJS and CYCJ submitted a proposal to complete a series of awareness raising events to coincide with the initial test project.

#### What's the next steps?

The Scottish Government will continue to work with stakeholders on the next steps of the action plan, which include:

- Progressing the initial test project, engaging with key partners to allow for monitoring, analysis and evaluation to inform future RJ Sheriffdom development.
- Publication of a mapping exercise of the Sheriffdom – Lothian and Borders.
- Publication of the Scottish Government and COSLA Violence Against Women and Girls and RJ roundtable outcomes and incorporate actions into the RJ action plan.
- Publication of the risk and mitigation research.
- Publication of the child and young people's code of practice.
- Publication of an adults code of practice.
- Complete a series of awareness raising events.
- The Children's Rights Impact Assessment will be submitted to the RJ stakeholder group for sign off.
- The Scottish Government will consider a policy development for RJ.
- Thriving Survivors will develop a number of working groups on policy, risk, training data and monitoring.
- Publication of Strathclyde Universities Training Needs Analysis and consideration of phase two.
- The CJS Development Officer will focus on participation and engagement with communities across Scotland.
- CYCJ will support the development of restorative approaches in broader settings, such as residential childcare and education.
- CYCJ will facilitate consultations in the practice of RJ and restorative approaches in Scotland and how it can support the development of a restorative youth justice systems.
- CJS will facilitate consultations in the practice of RJ and restorative approaches in Scotland can support the development of restorative criminal and community justice systems.
- CYCJ will work with groups of children to develop an accessible version of the code of practice for children and young people
- Publication of the child friendly code of practice

## 1. The Scottish Government's Vision of Restorative Justice

The Scottish Government's vision for the [Restorative Justice Action Plan](#) is:

“Restorative Justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it, and at a time that is appropriate to the people involved in the case. Approaches taken are consistent, evidence-led, trauma informed and of a high standard. This seeks to ensure the needs of persons harmed and their voices are central, and supports a reduction in harmful behaviour across our communities.”

This report will provide an overview of the progress for the RJ Action Plan during the second year of delivery: April 2021 – March 2022. This will be detailed under a number of headings with relevance to the three outcomes of the RJ action plan, as detailed below. The report will conclude with the next steps for the RJ Action Plan, challenges and a summary.

- 1 Restorative Justice is available across Scotland
- 2 High quality Restorative Justice services are delivered by trained facilitators
- 3 There is a strong public awareness and understanding of Restorative Justice in Scotland

## 2. Progress of the Restorative Justice Action Plan

This section of the report will detail the progress of the RJ Action Plan under subject headings and consider how these activities have satisfied the outcomes of the RJ action plan.

### 2.1 Restorative Justice Stakeholder Survey

In order to identify a Sheriffdom area for the initial test project, a survey was submitted to the RJ stakeholder group asking members to detail their first and second choice, and their reasons for choosing. The vast majority of stakeholders suggested the Sheriffdom area – Lothian and Borders. Reasons for this included the ability to test within rural and urban areas and the already established RJ hate crime service in Edinburgh City.

## 2.2 Community Justice Scotland – Restorative Justice in Scotland

Community Justice Scotland (CJS) has been funded to provide national oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the initial test project. This includes two additional posts – a RJ Project Lead and RJ Administrative Officer. Both posts will work across the following activities.

- The initial test project of the Sheriffdom area – Lothian and Borders. This is in order to understand and demonstrate accessible RJ across Scotland, and includes its establishment, monitoring, evaluation and analysis
- Informing Scottish Government on resource and capacity needs identified with the test project area, in order to ensure appropriate, consistent RJ development across Scotland
- Support to the RJ Development Officer in raising awareness and understanding of RJ across Scotland by using consistent messaging, aligned to the initial test project of the model by Sheriffdom area
- Development of restorative approaches which compliment formal RJ methods and can be utilised to support conflict resolution within broader setting and groups
- Continued engagement with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) to ensure the rights of children are upheld and a process is developed to support youth and adult justice experiences
- Give consideration to ways in which the practice of RJ and restorative approaches in Scotland can support the development of restorative criminal and community justice systems

The National Hub for RJ will be launched on 30 May 2022.

### 2.2.1 Children & Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) – Restorative Justice for children and young people

To support the roll-out of the action plan for children and young people, CYCJ submitted a proposal which has been agreed by the Scottish Government for one additional full-time member of staff, to work with the current part-time co-ordinator, to oversee the service for children and young people. Both members of staff will work closely with the CJS RJ Lead and RJ National Team in the roll out of the agreed RJ model for Scotland being taken forward from June 2022, as outlined within the RJ Action Plan 2019-2023.

They will split the country into 3 (the part-time post covering 1 area and the full time post 2 areas) and they will follow the five key areas as identified with the CJS RJ National Team proposal including:

- The roll out of the Sheriffdom model identified for accessible RJ across Scotland for children and young people. This includes its establishment, monitoring, evaluation and analysis
- Awareness, knowledge-raising, relationship building and consistent messaging in RJ across Scotland, aligned to roll out of the model by Sheriffdom area with childcare partners.
- Development of restorative approaches that compliment formal RJ methods and can be utilised to support conflict resolution within broader setting and for groups, including within education and residential settings

- Ensure the rights of children are upheld and a process is developed to support youth and adult justice experiences – undertaking a Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA), where required
- Considering ways in which the practice of RJ and restorative approaches in Scotland can support the development of a restorative youth justice system
- Work with National and local stakeholder groups
- Link with colleagues within the University of Strathclyde, as part of their training needs analysis

From the feedback from research with children (2.8.3) CYCJ have also proposed to work with children and young people by forming a group of young people engaging with a current RJ service; including young people who have been harmed and those who have harmed. CYCJ will work with them to co-produce information on communication and processes/approaches. A CYCJ participation worker, working alongside the RJ Co-ordinator would support this work.

### 2.3 Thriving Survivors – Restorative Justice and Sexual Harm

Thriving Survivors were successful in their funding bid to design and deliver a national RJ service for sexual harm. This is in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University and CJS who will facilitate specialist and complex training for sexual harm on RJ. This is underpinned from a [consultation with survivors](#) of domestic and sexual abuse on their views of RJ. The service will have four elements detailed in table 1:

Table 1: Restorative Justice and Sexual Harm Service Elements

RJ direct and indirect communication	Direct and indirect RJ with person harmed, person responsible and other relevant parties
RJ healing circles	For families and wider communities to facilitate restorative conversations to aid healing of secondary harm
Secondary victimisation service	A restorative approach facilitating communication between statutory organisations (e.g. COPFS, Police) and people harmed
RJ story telling	A restorative approach not involving the person responsible, but provides a platform for the person harmed to process the impact of sexual harm

Thriving Survivors are in the early stages of developing the service and are facilitating a number of working groups on policy, risk and training which are overseen by the Thriving Survivors RJ advisory board. This also includes the recruitment of a project coordinator and two part-time RJ facilitators.

## 2.4 Strathclyde University – Training Development

Strathclyde University were successful in their funding bid to complete a national Training Needs Analysis (TNA) to inform RJ training requirements necessary against the ambition of the RJ Action Plan. This includes a series of consultations with stakeholders identified as providing awareness, facilitation and support. The TNA will also include a review of existing training programmes and providers and a consultation exercise on what they can offer, and an accompanying estimation of who is currently trained in RJ will also be compiled. The next step will involve a conference workshop, presenting the key themes from the consultations with accompanying questions for attendees. The aim is to produce a programme of training requirements and include a knowledge and competency framework, standards of practice and evaluation measurements.

Included in the proposal are a series of phases that follow on from the TNA, these include:

- Phase 2 – an accessible RJ training package, which will be accredited at postgraduate level by The University of Strathclyde
- Phase 3 – a curriculum of modules designed to qualify practitioners in different levels of RJ
- Phase 4 – a comprehensive accredited training programme offering an independent qualification to practice in RJ in Scotland

Phase 2-4 require further funding and this will be considered by the Scottish Government in consultation with the RJ Stakeholder Group based on the outcomes of the training needs analysis.

## 2.5 Codes of Practice – Adults, Children and Young People

CJS and CYCJ led a small working group that aimed to bring together relevant expertise to develop a codes of practice document that set out the practice rules and standards necessary for operational implementation of the Scottish Government's RJ vision and to support practice that is consistent, evidence-led, high quality, and appropriate in the context of the wider justice system.

The working group consisted of justice partners, RJ facilitators, academics and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners. It was agreed that separate documents be produced for adults and children and young people, and these were submitted to the RJ stakeholder group for comments and sign off. The documents will remain in working format throughout the initial test project to ensure they are tried and tested in practice and incorporate feedback from service providers, partner agencies and people who use services.

Collaborative working on the Code of Practice document identified key policy questions in relation to the operation of RJ in parallel to the criminal justice system, any duty on criminal justice stakeholders to support RJ delivery and safe, legal and proportionate information sharing. A presentation on this will be provided to Criminal Justice Board on 22 April to support progress in any additional policy framework required, and its national agreement thereafter.

CYCJ have also started work with children to co-produce an accessible version of the children and young people's code of practice.

## 2.6 Children’s Right Impact Assessment

This is in the process of being completed and will require further consultation with the wider stakeholder group. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which are going to be affected include:

- Article 1 – (definition of a child)
- Article 2 – (non-discrimination)
- Article 3 – (best interests of the child)
- Article 5 – (parental guidance and a child’s evolving capacities)
- Article 12 – (respect for the views of the child)
- Article 23 – (children with a disability)
- Article 40 - (juvenile justice)

It is intended that upon completion of the first draft, this will be circulated to the wider stakeholder group for feedback.

## 2.7 Gender Based Violence and Restorative Justice

### 2.7.1 VAWG and Scottish Woman’s Aid Position Statement

In May 2021, the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector and Scottish Woman’s Aid (SWA) submitted a position statement to the Scottish Government. This paper highlighted shared concerns for the use of RJ and Gender Based Violence (GBV); these include, but are not limited to the detail in table 2:

Table 2: VAWG and SWA Position Paper Summary on GBV and RJ

Concerns	Response
RJ and the justice system	The risk of RJ replacing the traditional justice system advising RJ should not impact on sentencing, or be seen as a sign of positive behaviour change or risk reduction
Risk assessment	The risk assessment process requires specialism with regards to assessing control, coercion and traumatising
Specialist support	The requirement for access to individualised specialist support before, during and after a RJ process that is able to reduce the risk of re-traumatising
Resource and funding	Risk on current specialist resources were highlighted and that additional funding would need to be allocated to match demand;

Specialist training	RJ facilitators require robust specialist training that is designed by VAWG agencies and written into robust guidelines. Training should be adequately resourced, monitored and evaluated and ultimately ensure that facilitators are skilled in detecting the tactics that perpetrators use to undermine victim/survivors, including manipulation, control and coercion;
Trauma informed principles	The need for RJ to be underpinned by a trauma informed principles was highlighted as key;
On-going consultation	A lack of consultation was highlighted, specifically with regards to the research recently completed by Thriving Survivors, noting limitations in relation to a lack of consultation with specialist survivors related organisations and survivors who have protected characteristics, complex needs and children and young people.

The position paper was circulated to the RJ stakeholder group and community justice partners. It was concluded that many of the concerns highlighted are shared across different sectors, Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland with a commitment to ensure such concerns were addressed during the life-span of the project and within the initial test project Sheriffdom area. To ensure concerns were understood, an RJ Roundtable Event was actioned and findings from this are presented in the next section of this report.

### 2.7.2 Scottish Government and COSLA Gender Based Violence and Restorative Justice Roundtable Event

The VAWG sector and COSLA requested a roundtable event to discuss the RJ Action Plan and the Equally Safe strategy. This was jointly hosted by COSLA and the Scottish Government in November 2021. The aims of the event were as follows.

- Raise awareness of the aims and associated work currently being progressed through the RJ Action Plan and Equally Safe Delivery Plan
- Explore potential benefits and risks that engagement with RJ processes may have for women who have experienced domestic abuse and other forms of GBV
- Identify actions and next steps required to ensure that a collaborative approach is taken to supporting the implementation of the RJ Action Plan, underpinned by a shared commitment by all partners to promote the safety and wellbeing of victims/survivors of all forms of GBV

The roundtable event invited key speakers to provide inputs on RJ, the Equally Safe strategy and learning from England and Wales [All Parliamentary Party Group Report on RJ](#) in relation to

coercive control and the 8 stages of domestic homicide model. A series of breakout rooms were provided on agreed questions around the use of GBV and RJ, which covered risks, safeguards, benefits and protected characteristic groups.

An outcome and action plan report will be published in 2022, and this will be included as part of the existing RJ Action plan to ensure alignment, oversight and monitoring of progress in these key areas. Actions focus on training, risk and mitigation strategies, engaging lived experience, awareness raising, exploration into funding and resource and case example workshops. VAW partners, Scottish Government and CJS committed to their delivery in line with the Equally Safe Strategy for Scotland and the vision for RJ in Scotland.

### 2.7.3 CJS and Rape Crisis Scotland – Case Example Workshops

CJS and Rape Crisis Scotland are working in partnership to host case example workshops. These aim to examine cases of RJ and sexual harm, which included ones that did not go ahead and their associated reasons and outcomes. The workshops will also consider cases that Rape Crisis Scotland support within their centres. The aim is to inform developments for RJ in sexual harm that will include the creation of risk assessment tools and standards for the codes of practice documents. The initial steps involve Rape Crisis Scotland completing a consultation survey with service managers across the 17 Rape Crisis centres in Scotland capturing their views around RJ. This includes questions on concerns, benefits, service impact and needs from a rural and urban perspective. The publication of the consultation exercise will be used to structure the case example workshops. These should take place during the summer months.

## 2.8 Research Projects

### 2.8.1 Restorative Justice Animation Survey Report

CYCJ and CJS published an [animation](#) of RJ in a Scottish context in March 2021. An accompanying survey was completed by over 300 participants to measure the impact of the animation. Results are positive and provide recommendations on how to develop and improve future awareness raising material to a number of groups, including professionals, the public and people who may use RJ services. Access an easy read version of the report [here](#).

### 2.8.2 Mitigation and Risk in Restorative Justice

RJ academics from the University of Sheffield, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Napier University were commissioned by the Scottish Government to research risk mitigation strategies utilised by experienced RJ facilitators for participation in an RJ process. The research will aim to include how they identify risks (including in specialist and complex cases), what (if any) instrument they use, and their experience of the effectiveness of the risk mitigation measures. The research seek to interview facilitators from England and Wales, Belgium, Northern Ireland and Scotland to inform policy and practice development for the RJ Action Plan. This is due to be published summer 2022.

### 2.8.3 CYCJ – The Views of School Pupils on Restorative Justice

CYCJ was commissioned by the Scottish Government to conduct research with children, young people and families to explore their awareness, understanding and attitudes to Restorative

Justice. 146 secondary pupils participated from eight classes across four schools. Findings are shared in a [report](#) by CYCJ researchers Nina Vaswani and Aaron Brown, including children’s understandings of harm, the awareness and acceptability of RJ, and key messages for the Scottish Government about the implementation and delivery of RJ in Scotland. To ensure this research is accessible to a younger audience, a [child-friendly version](#) is also available.

#### 2.8.4 Restorative Justice and Sexual Harm: The voices of those who have harmed

Midlothian Community Justice Partnership in collaboration with CJS are completing a consultation aiming to interview 60 individuals convicted of sexual offences to understand what (if any) factors would motivate them to engage in a RJ process. This research will ensure that the voices of those who cause sexual harm are captured to shape service and policy design, ensuring RJ processes are safe, appropriate, evidenced-led and trauma informed for all parties that wish to engage with them.

### 2.9 Raising Awareness and Understanding of Restorative Justice

#### 2.9.1 Restorative Justice Forum Website

SACRO received funding from the Scottish Government to create a RJ Forum website designed to provide resources, information and raise awareness and understanding of RJ for practitioners, academics and members of the public. This [website](#) is available to view and will continue to be populated as the RJ Action Plan progresses.

#### 2.9.2 Restorative Justice Presentations

Various presentations have taken place throughout the reporting period of the RJ Action Plan. These are presented in table 3:

Table 3: Restorative Justice Action Plan Inputs

Stakeholder	Engagement
Community Justice Partnerships:  Stirling Perth and Kinross East Dunbartonshire Aberdeen City Aberdeenshire Edinburgh City The Scottish Borders The Highlands Clackmannanshire Dundee	RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders
Social Work Scotland Standing Committee	RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders

VAWG Partnership	RJ Action Plan presentation and feedback from stakeholders
Children's rights in justice: UNCRC and beyond - CYCJ	CJS and CYCJ RJ Action Plan presentation and workshop on children and young people
Community Justice Partnership Network	CJS RJ Action Plan and Survivors Voices presentations and stakeholder feedback

### 2.9.3 Restorative Justice Awareness Event Proposal

CJS and CYCJ submitted a proposal to complete a series of awareness raising events to coincide with the initial test project. These aim to raise awareness and understanding of RJ among 'referring practitioners,' defined as individuals who come in contact with people harmed, people responsible and other relevant parties (e.g. family members). The events will provide learning opportunities and promote opportunities and promote referrals for RJ.

The awareness events will take two formats: the first involves face to face and/or online half day webinars that will focus on RJ related topics, inviting a range of audiences including national and local agencies and communities. The second involves shorter inputs modified to suit particular agencies, such as Police Scotland, the Judicial Institute and Victim Support Scotland. The sessions will cover information relating, but not limited, to an overview of RJ, involving a definition, principles, the vision of RJ in Scotland and the action plan. The events aim to invite guest speakers, including academics, practitioners and people with lived experience.

## 3. Next Steps

Significant progress has been highlighted across all outcomes of the RJ Action Plan within 2021-22, however this has not been without identifying risks, challenges and learning though out the period in order to fuel continuous improvement across approaches taken.

### 3.1 Risk, Challenges and Learning

Table 4: Risk, Challenges and accompanying Learning and Mitigation

Risk/Challenge	Learning/Mitigation
COVID-19 has resulted in significant delays across the justice system, and competing pressures on services. Face-to-Face research has also been unable to occur. The 2023 deadline originally provided for the RJ Vision in Scotland has been significantly impacted by 18-months, and stakeholders report an inability to resource RJ within existing services, placing a requirement on Scottish Government to	CJS, CYCJ, Scottish Government and stakeholders remain committed to the delivery plan, however the priority remains a safe, appropriate and sufficiently resourced RJ model for Scotland over a challenging timescale commitment. Delivery timescales will be continually revisited to ensure this, and Scottish Government are aware and open to discussion from all stakeholders on additional

<p>consider additional resource/funding for this purpose.</p>	<p>time periods required to support improved partnership working in this area.</p>
<p>As a result of the impact of COVID-19 on stakeholders, and ongoing spending reviews across the justice sector, additional resource for the delivery of RJ remains unclear. The model agreed for Scotland requires additional resource within the Sheriffdom to coordinate and support information sharing, while further resource may be required to support specialist sectors in their development of RJ within complex and sensitive cases.</p>	<p>Scottish Government advise that RJ remains a priority and commitment for delivery, as outlined within the Scottish Nationalist Party Manifesto. RJ is also a priority activity within the Vision for Justice in Scotland (<a href="#">Vision for Justice Scotland 2022</a>) and the Community Justice Strategy (for publication Spring 2022). A primary aim of the initial test project within Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders will be to more accurately understand the current landscape and thus, the necessary resource needed to make the RJ vision a reality across Sheriffdom areas.</p>
<p>Awareness and understanding of RJ has been identified to be patchy across services and communities, highlighting mixed messaging compounded by the media and international practice. There is also a lack of clarity on how RJ will operate in parallel to the criminal justice system, and how this will be made a safe approach using a range of delivery and engagement methods.</p>	<p>Criminal Justice Board and Scottish Government will consider a Policy Framework for RJ which would seek to provide greater clarity on the operation of RJ in Scotland. While extensive engagement has occurred and continued, an additional briefing/newsletter will be provided across services, a communications document and an RJ case study paper. An engagement strategy has also been drafted for the test project which includes further engagement with people who experience harm across all sectors.</p>
<p>As outlined in Section <a href="#">2.5</a> of this report, collaborative work on the Code of Practice highlighted a gap in policy related to a number of key areas across the establishment of RJ in Scotland. These include the expectation on services in relation to RJ, the operation in RJ in parallel to the criminal justice system, and further clarity on resource to support the implementation of the Gloucestershire Model in Scotland.</p>	

### 3.2 Restorative Justice Policy Framework

As outlined in Section 2.5 of this report, collaborative work on the Code of Practice highlighted a gap in policy related to a number of key areas across the establishment of RJ in Scotland. These include the expectation on services in relation to RJ, the operation in RJ in parallel to the criminal justice system, and further clarity on resource to support the implementation of the

Gloucestershire Model in Scotland. The Criminal Justice Board will meet in 22 April 2022 to consider this, and to support the development of a policy framework within Scottish Government in response to these issues.

### 3.3 The Initial Sheriffdom Test Project

The initial test project will begin by completing a mapping exercise of the Sheriffdom area to provide more information regarding current service provision, identifying gaps and ascertain the local need and resource provision required to expand RJ services. This is in survey format, but includes the option of local consultations, which are already on-going in the area. Information sharing agreements for the five local authorities within this Sheriffdom will be key to the development of RJ services and therefore the creation and development of these will be a priority for the commencement of the initial test project. The initial test project will include working in partnership with Thriving Survivors in their development of a national RJ service for sexual harm.

Additional next steps include:

- Publication of research projects
- Publication of the VAWG roundtable outcome and action plan report
- Completion of Strathclyde Universities TNA
- Deliver the series of RJ awareness raising events
- Consultation on the Codes of Practice documents in relation to the initial test project
- Consideration into policy development

This work, alongside the evaluation of the initial test project, which will highlight areas of good practice and service improvement, and will including information on costs and demand. This will help inform and support consistency of practice standards and service delivery in the future roll outs of the remaining RJ Sheriffdom areas.

## 4. Summary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to cause delays in some areas of the RJ Action Plan, there has been significant progress towards all three priority areas. This includes the design of two Codes of Practice documents, the identification of the initial test project and continued engagement with key stakeholders within the Sheriffdom area and wider engagement with Community Justice Partnerships. Scottish Government have also agreed to authorised hold a series of further awareness raising events to take place within 2022/23. The RJ stakeholder group will continue to play a crucial role in ensuring the commitment, participation and engagement both at a national and local level.

Concerns around communication, engagement and participation options have been raised by some stakeholders, and these are being considered by Scottish Government as owners of RJ Action Plan, its vision and outcomes. These appear to relate more to engagement with local services than national organisations. CJS and CYCJ are keen to increase participation from those with experience of harm in the ongoing development of the test project and the further



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establishment of RJ in Scotland, and services who would be keen to engage and support this should contact the authors of this report.