

12. WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY JUSTICE STRATEGY PLAN 2019-24

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the development of the draft Community Justice Strategy 2019-24 and the Community Justice Action Plan 2019-21.

The Community Planning Partnership's commitment to reducing reoffending was clearly identified in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). West Lothian CPP and its partners had a Reducing Re-Offending Strategy for 2013-18 that had brought many positive benefits to West Lothian communities.

The approach taken in West Lothian was seen as forward looking and since 2017 the West Lothian CPP had had legal responsibility for delivering community justice outcomes for West Lothian.

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2019, as well as requiring the CPP and a number of key partners to adopt a duty to co-operate also saw the creation of a new national oversight body, Community Justice Scotland (CJS).

As a partnership the CPP was required to submit an annual Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJ OIP) to CJS along with an annual report.

Approval was being sought to adopt a longer term strategic approach with CJS that would allow the strategy attached to the report at Appendix 1 to become the CH OIP for West Lothian, allowing less duplication of effort in producing annual plans and ensure annual reporting to become more streamlined. The approach sought in West Lothian would also align better in approach with other key partnership strategies.

The strategy had identified five main priorities; these being :-

1. Young people
2. Women who offend
3. Response to violent crime
4. Health and substance misuse

Also attached to the report at Appendix 2 was the Community Justice Action Plan 2019-21. The Action Plan only covered a three year period to ensure that there was a focus on short to medium term goals and to make sure the Action Plan remained fit for purpose throughout its lifespan.

It was recommended that the Community Safety Board :-

1. Note and consider the draft Community Justice Strategy 2019-24 and Community Justice Action Plan 2019-21; and
2. Note that these documents would be submitted to the Community Planning Partnership for approval on 25 March 2019

Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report; and
2. To agree that reference should also be included in the strategy document to the help and support that was available to ex-offenders in terms of access to opportunities in volunteering, education or employment through programmes such as Access2Employment.