

## BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME BOARD

MEETING 7, 4 FEBRUARY 2015, 14:00-16:00

Polmont Young Offenders Institution

### MINUTES

<p><b>Members/Champions attended</b> Rose Fitzpatrick, Police Scotland David Hume, Scottish Police Authority Grant Manders, Police Scotland Susan McVie, Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research Paul Johnston, Scottish Government (Chair) Martin Johnstone, Poverty Truth Commission Wendy Wilkinson, Scottish Government</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Jackie Brock, Children in Scotland Lesley Fraser, Scottish Government Donald Henderson, Scottish Government Graham Hope, SOLACE Karyn McCluskey, Violence Reduction Unit Lewis Ramsay, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>	<p><b>Also attended</b> Cathy Barlow, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Duncan Beamish, Scottish Government Kirsty Bosley, Scottish Government Sue Brookes, HMYOI Polmont Clare Collin, Scottish Government David Cowan, Scottish Government James Docherty, Violence Reduction Unit Neil Grant, Scottish Government Fergus Millan, Scottish Government Cliff Sime, Scottish Government</p>
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#### Item 1: Welcome

1. Paul Johnston welcomed everyone and thanked Sue Brookes and her colleagues for hosting us at HMYOI Polmont.
2. Donald Henderson has stepped down from the Board after recommending that a Director of Public Health (DPH) represent health interests. Alison McCallum, Chair of the Directors of Public Health Group, has been invited to nominate a DPH to join the Board. [Note: this invitation has been accepted, member tbc]

#### Item 2: Presentations

3. Sue Brookes, Governor of Polmont, described the transformational work they are doing with young people in their care. Key points included:
  - The young people in Polmont have multiple and complex needs, with approximately 60 per cent estimated as having learning difficulties. Brain injuries, emotional and behavioural problems, childhood trauma, stress, anxiety, alcohol and drug addictions, and sleep problems are all prevalent amongst the young people who end up in Polmont.
  - Polmont is a learning environment and all activity is based around the Curriculum for Excellence and GIRFEC, with efforts being made to co-design services with the young people and to adopt peer mentoring/support.
  - Preventing school exclusions and helping young people to deal with bereavement and childhood trauma are two of the most crucial strategies for preventing young people from offending and ending up in Polmont.

- Polmont is focusing heavily on employability and moving young people towards training and employment on release and has recently refurbished its educational facilities and is developing areas for performing arts and creative media.
  - An officer from Police Scotland is about to be seconded to Polmont to work with the community safety team there.
4. James Docherty, from the Violence Reduction Unit, spoke about his own journey from Polmont to becoming a mentor working with the Violence Reduction Unit and told the story of a young man he mentors. Key points included:
- Becoming a parent can be an important trigger for people to change their lifestyle and peer mentors can help to give people the confidence and self-belief they need to move away from negative influences. Compassion from professional services is also important.
  - Support from mentors is particularly critical when people are going through difficult times such as a bereavement or the breakdown of a relationship.
  - Employment is key but there are many barriers for those with a criminal record to getting into employment or training. The Tattoo and Commonwealth Games work experience programme run by the Violence Reduction Unit showed that when people are given a chance and have a support network, they can move to a more positive destination for themselves and their families.
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**Action Point 1: Programme to make connections with Joe Griffin, the new Acting Director of Fair Work in Scottish Government to identify areas of mutual interest**

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5. The Board were keen to look for ways to support work that helps young people to deal with bereavement and traumatic loss and events, both in schools and in communities. Funeral directors in communities and faith communities may have a role to play here. The Board was also keen to support the work already underway to reduce school exclusions.
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**Action Point 2: Wendy Wilkinson to contact education colleagues in the Scottish Government about action on bereavement and school exclusions to discuss how the BSC programme can support this work.**

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6. HMYOI Polmont is keen to make better links with Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) given the young people in their care come from all over Scotland (Grampian YOI has not yet begun accepting young people). Initial

contact has been made with CPPs local to the facility. Support from the BSC Programme to improve engagement with CPPs would be welcomed.

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**Action point 3: Board members, particularly Graham Hope, SOLACE, to consider how to help Polmont make better links with CPPs.**

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### **Item 3: Phase 1 Update**

7. Duncan Beamish, Scottish Government, noted that letters had issued in early January from Paul Johnston to the seven BSC places inviting them to formally participate in the BSC Programme. A number of positive responses had been received. He drew members attention towards the Highlight Report (Paper 7.1) which also noted that:

- The homicide and fire statistics for 2013-14, published in late 2014, had shown a positive downward trend in support of the programme's aim;
- Andrew Magowan of Inspiring Scotland had offered to support the place champions for Alloa, Gorbals and Possilpark, where Link Up is active and to arrange visits as required (it will be important to engage with the relevant local authorities and housing associations too);
- The National Team had met twice to discuss performance and Scottish Government analysts had prepared proposals for monitoring progress on phase 1 of the programme;
- A Champions' Briefing Pack had been produced; and
- The BSC website had been completely revamped and can be accessed at [www.buildingsafercommunities.scot](http://www.buildingsafercommunities.scot).

### **Item 4: Phase 2 Update**

8. Cathy Barlow, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, provided an update on Phase 2 work to reduce unintentional harm. She noted that:

- A strategic assessment on unintentional harm would be prepared for the first time in Scotland (by April/May 2015) and this would enable the setting of a stretch aim for Phase 2.
- The Phase 2 steering group had heard a presentation from Evan Morris from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service on a project in Cheshire which involved 65+ GPs and uses a risk matrix to identify the most vulnerable people in the community. This can then be shared with relevant partner agencies to help them prioritise interventions like home safety visits. Lewis Ramsay would like Evan to present to a future meeting of the BSC Board so we can consider whether a similar initiative could be introduced in Scotland.

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**Action point 4: Lewis Ramsay and Programme Office to arrange for Evan Morris to be invited to present at a future meeting of the BSC Board and Fergus Millan to speak to Aileen Keel, Acting Chief Medical Officer, and Alison McCallum, Directors of Public Health Group, to tee up NHS Scotland engagement on the matter. Richard Dennis also to be involved in discussions**

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#### **Item 5: Champions discussion**

9. A briefing pack had been circulated to the champions. The pack is there for Board members to dip into as required. Board members were supportive of the document and welcomed the intention that the document would be dynamic, with champions able to feed in information as their work develops.
10. It would be useful if a mechanism could be established for Champions to share information and learning with each other between meetings. This could be a password protected or members' area of the BSC website, a Sharepoint site or a Knowledge Hub group. The Programme team will investigate what is possible.

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**Action point 5: Programme office to establish a mechanism for champions to share information between Board meetings, e.g. a restricted area of the website, a Sharepoint site or a Knowledge Hub Group.**

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11. Not all Board members are comfortable with the title 'Champion', with some preferring 'Sponsor'. Board members are free to use whatever term they feel comfortable with that suits their role.

#### **Item 6: Programme aim and monitoring progress**

12. Neil Grant, Scottish Government, introduced Paper 7.5 which set out proposals for measuring progress against the Phase 1 aim. He noted that:
  - While the agreed end date for the Phase 1 aim is 2017-18, the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is not scheduled to publish in that year. However, a decision will be taken by end-March 2015 on whether to move to annual surveys. It is therefore recommended that, for now, the BSC aim is retained as it stands and is revisited after end March 2015. The Board will be kept informed.
  - It is recommended that phase 1 aim proxy measures are developed around different types of crime, although they should additionally include high-level outcome measures, for example on perceptions of crime in the local area and on the fear of crime.

- It is recommended that a method is now developed to use annual police recorded crime data as a proxy for victimisation, but that they are used fairly loosely as an indicative proxy measure for the ongoing delivery of the BSC phase 1 aim. In addition, that further high-level outcome measures are agreed (for example on perceptions of crime in the local area and on the fear of crime) and are tracked using the SCJS.

13. The following points were raised in the discussion that followed:

- Care is needed in the use of sexual crimes data to ensure that those not committed within the five year time-period to which the BSC phase 1 aim relates do not skew the findings. It is important that we recognise and do not discourage the current increased reporting of such historic crimes.
- The extent to which Single Outcome Agreements and CPP plans could be utilised to help build a picture of progress towards the BSC phase 1 aim should be investigated. Helping CPPs to develop their measures and fill gaps may be an area of support the programme could offer which would be welcomed by local partners.
- We need to be careful about using recorded crime as a proxy as we need to be alive to which crimes local people want to see tackled. We might also want to think about identifying control areas to demonstrate the added value that BSC programme activity or approaches are delivering
- The development of further programme outcomes should consider different types of crime and their volume and impact (social and economic cost).
- Most of the measures being discussed for monitoring progress against the phase 1 aim are about deficit reduction, while the programme is focused on promoting asset based approaches. Therefore, it is important that we also measure asset growth and people's perceptions. It is the interaction between deficit reduction and asset growth which leads to transformational change. How people feel is as important as statistics.
- The Place Standard being developed by Scottish Government Planning and Architecture colleagues, NHS Health Scotland and Architecture + Design Scotland offers a useful tool that could be used down to street level. The tool will be consulted on shortly and then published in the autumn. The BSC programme could be an early tester and adopter, perhaps tailoring it in line with our 2020 Vision. The Standard could be used with different groups, allowing us to overlay views of the community, different age groups, CPPs, police etc.
- A hard copy of a paper by Susan McVie on work undertaken at Rainier Beach in Seattle was circulated. While heavily resourced, this project provides a model from which the BSC programme could learn and elements of it could be adopted for working with the BSC places.
- The model developed by Glasgow Housing Association, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service could be considered for replication in the BSC places.
- The programme could consider developing parallel measures alongside the national performance framework if that allows us to measure what we want to know.

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**Action point 6:** Susan McVie and Scottish Government analysts to meet to discuss the Phase 1 proxy measures and monitoring progress in more detail and provide an update on the development of a measurement framework for the programme to the next formal meeting of the Board.

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**Action point 7:** Programme team to circulate the Place Standard to members and consider how it could be adapted for use by the BSC Programme in line with our 2020 Vision. Programme team to also circulate an electronic copy of Susan McVie's paper on the Seattle work.

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#### **Item 7: Next steps**

14. The next formal meeting of the Board will be on 21 April and the proposed location is Possilpark, subject to discussions with Glasgow City Council, NG Homes and Inspiring Scotland. The Minister for Community Safety, Paul Wheelhouse, will attend this meeting.

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**Action point 8:** Programme team to confirm the location of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board (Possilpark proposed) and members to suggest agenda items.

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15. The Champions will meet informally at Martin Johnstone's home on 5 March.

#### **Item 8: Any other business**

16. Wendy Wilkinson updated members on the work of the Reassuring the Public Programme. The Programme Board had met for the final time in November and a draft report summarising all of the research findings plus a set of six recommendations for future work to implement the learning will be submitted shortly to the Justice Board for approval, prior to their publication. The BSC Board should consider how it can assist with implementing this work.

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**Action point 9:** Programme team to share the Reassuring the Public report and recommendations with members once it has been approved by the Justice Board and members to consider ways of supporting implementation.

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## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

- Action Point 1:** Programme to make connections with Joe Griffin, the new Acting Director of Fair Work in Scottish Government to identify areas of mutual interest
- Action Point 2:** Wendy Wilkinson to contact education colleagues in the Scottish Government about action on bereavement and school exclusions to discuss how the BSC programme can support this work.
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- Action point 4:** Lewis Ramsay and Programme Office to arrange for Evan Morris to be invited to present at a future meeting of the BSC Board and Fergus Millan to speak to Aileen Keel, Acting Chief Medical Officer, and Alison McCallum, Directors of Public Health Group, to tee up NHS Scotland engagement on the matter. Richard Dennis also to be involved in discussions
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- Action point 9:** Programme team to share the Reassuring the Public report and recommendations with members once it has been approved by the Justice Board and members to consider ways of supporting implementation.