

## Response ID ANON-4XVP-CJPQ-Z

Submitted to National Strategy for Community Justice: Revision Consultation  
Submitted on 2022-05-18 10:37:44

### Introduction

#### National Strategy for Community Justice - Aims

1 Is the wording of the four national aims understandable?

Yes

If you answered no, please provide further explanation:

2 Do you think the four national aims capture the most important aspects of community justice?

No

If you answered no, please provide further explanation:

Given the evidence in the 2021 Audit Scotland Report: Community Justice, Sustainable Alternatives to Custody, which details Scotland's lack of progression in making the shift to community sentencing, we would have liked to see a strategic aim around making a greater impact upon the Scottish Judiciary, media and public opinion in order to substantially improve this picture.

3 To what extent do you agree/disagree with the national aims for the revised National Strategy for Community Justice?

Q3 - Aim 1: Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity:

Strongly agree

Q3 - Aim 2: Ensure that robust and consistent community interventions and public protection arrangements are in place across Scotland:

Strongly agree

Q3 - Aim 3: Ensure that services are available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence:

Strongly agree

Q3 - Aim 4: Strengthen leadership, engagement, and partnership working:

Strongly agree

Do you have any further comments on the National Aims?:

These aims are very welcomed and we strongly agree with them.

We do feel that that within the aims there is less emphasis on diversion than intervention and we suggest that more focus is given to diversion.

We wholeheartedly agree with Aim 4 and feel it could even be expanded even further to put a greater emphasis on the importance of participation, accountability and commitment to partnership working and parity of esteem with the third sector.

The aims are very ambitious and will need adequately resourced to deliver upon them.

Feedback from some of our members stressed that there needs to be clarity over what is being delivered nationally and locally, particularly regarding resourcing, cost and expectations.

#### National Strategy for Community Justice - Priority Actions

4 To what extent do you agree/disagree that these community justice priority actions will contribute to the achievement of national Aim 1 (Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity)?

Q4 - 1. Enhance early intervention by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution:

Agree

Q4 - 2. Improve support for vulnerable individuals by ensuring the provision of consistent, equitable and accessible immediate support in a crisis and screening within Police Custody Centres:

Strongly agree

Q4 - 3. Improve support following arrest by ensuring substance use and mental health services are available and appropriate referrals take place at the earliest opportunity:

Agree

5 Do you have any further comments or suggested changes on how these priority actions will contribute to achieving Aim 1 (Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity)?

Please give us your views:

Again, we would welcome more focus on diversion and prevention to ensure support is available in the community in order to help prevent individuals entering the justice system at all.

Feedback from some of our members highlighted the need for more assistance to rural and more remote areas to deliver these priorities and to achieve parity with urban areas.

We feel additional support services after arrest should not solely focus on substance use and mental health services, to be more holistic and person-centered.

6 To what extent do you agree/disagree that these community justice priority actions will contribute to the achievement of national Aim 2 (Ensure that robust and consistent community interventions and public protection arrangements are in place across Scotland)?

Q6 - 4. Support the use of credible and robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality services are consistently available and delivered effectively:  
Strongly agree

Q6 - 5. Strengthen supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring and technologies:  
Neutral

Q6 - 6. Ensure that those given community sentences are managed appropriately and safely by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes that support public protection:  
Strongly agree

Q6 - 7. Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by ensuring consistent provision and effective promotion of available services:  
Agree

7 Do you have any further comments or suggested changes on how these priority actions will contribute to achieving Aim 2 (Ensure that robust and consistent community interventions and public protection arrangements are in place across Scotland)?

Please give us your views:

With regards to services (procurement and delivery), again we would stress that rural areas and the third sector should be given parity and adequate resourcing.

We would encourage that all alternatives to custody are increased and widened, not just electronic monitoring.

Feedback from some of our members expressed concerns about the need for a shared understanding on how restorative justice should be delivered and funded. There were feelings that without this clarity, the 2023 timescale is too tight.

In support of the VAWG Partnership's position, we would like to see more emphasis on the complexities of restorative justice and domestic abuse.

8 To what extent do you agree/disagree that these community justice priority actions will contribute to the achievement of national Aim 3 (Ensure that services are available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence)?

Q8 - 8. Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information between relevant partners:  
Strongly agree

Q8 - 9. Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the SHORE standards across all local authority areas:  
Strongly agree

Q8 - 10. Enhance individual's readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, careers services and relevant benefit services:  
Strongly agree

Q8 - 11. Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater consistency in the use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services:  
Strongly agree

9 Do you have any further comments or suggested changes on how these priority actions will contribute to achieving Aim 3 (Ensure that services are available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence)?

Please give us your views:

All of the above priorities will require strong partnership work and effective data sharing to be successful.

Feedback from some of our members pointed to the need to be realistic around employability outcomes and what is measured as progress.

In addition, some members pointed to issues with limited housing availability, with regards to the roll out of SHORE, which need addressed.

10 To what extent do you agree/disagree that these community justice priority actions will contribute to the achievement of national Aim 4 (Strengthen leadership, engagement, and partnership working)?

Q10 - 12. Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically:

Strongly agree

Q10 - 13. Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated:

Strongly agree

Q10 - 14. Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the local community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice:

Agree

11 Do you have any further comments or suggested changes on how these priority actions will contribute to achieving Aim 4 (Strengthen leadership, engagement, and partnership working)?

Please give us your views:

Feedback from some members suggests that not all partners within Community Justice Partnerships are participating equally. Support and accountability around this issue certainly needs to be a main focus.

All above actions will require adequate capacity and resourcing to support effective partnership working.

As previously stated, given the evidence in the 2021 Audit Scotland Report: Community Justice, Sustainable Alternatives to Custody, we would like to see more emphasis on working to achieve more buy-in from the Scottish Judiciary and media as well as the local community and workforce.

## Other

12 Do you have any other comments on the National Strategy for Community Justice: Revision Consultation document that were not captured in the national aims and priority actions questions?

Please give us your views:

## About you

13 What is your name?

Name:

Dawn Exley

14 What is your email address?

Email:

dawn.exley@scsn.org.uk

15 Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

16 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Scottish Community Safety Network

17 The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response only (without name)

18 We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

19 I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

## Evaluation

20 Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: