**Review of the Falkirk Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020-2023**

**Background**

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (hereafter referred to as “the Act”) requires community justice partners to produce a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) for each local authority area, outlining how they intend to work together to reduce re-offending. Partners must report annually on progress against locally and nationally determined outcomes.

The legislation states that partners must review their CJOIP from time to time and in the event of the following:

• After the publication of a revised national strategy for community justice and publication of a revised national performance framework.

• After the publication of a revised local outcomes improvement plan in relation to the area under section 7(5) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Following the review, partners are required to publish a revised version or publish a statement stating they do not consider the plan should be revised. When reviewing or revising the CJOIP partners must have regard to the national strategy, the national performance framework, and the local outcomes improvement plan.

The Act sets out that Scottish Ministers must review the National Strategy for Community Justice no later than five years after the strategy is published. The revised National Strategy was published by the Scottish Government on 30th June 2022.

Following the publication of a revised National Strategy, Community Justice Scotland submitted a proposal for a revised Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (OPIF). Final publication of the revised OPIF is anticipated in April 2023. Revised Guidance for Local Partners is also expected.

**Falkirk Community Justice Partnership position**

Falkirk Community Justice Partnership currently has a CJOIP in place outlining activity for 2020-2023. The time span for the CJOIP was set locally to follow review periods for the Falkirk Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan, now known as The Falkirk Plan 2021-2030 which was published in October 2021.

After close consideration of local needs and legislative duties, Falkirk community justice partners have decided that the CJOIP should not be revised at this time. It is essential that the partnership can ensure that our new plan aligns with and reflects the revised OPIF, therefore, our plan review period will be extended until after its publication. The process of refreshing our strategic needs and strengths assessment to inform future local priorities is underway and this work will continue whilst partners continue to deliver and report on improved community justice outcomes for Falkirk. The next iteration of the CJOIP will be published on 1st April 2024.

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Report date: 15th December 2022