

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Community Safety Committee****4 March 2015****The Development of Mentoring Services for Adults at Risk of Offending within Perth and Kinross****Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report highlights the work undertaken by Tayside Council on Alcohol and their progress to establish a peer mentoring service in Perth and Kinross. The primary aim of the work is to support desistance from further offending and support offenders into more positive lifestyles.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Reducing Reoffending Change Fund (RRCF) Public Social Partnership (PSP) was established by Scottish Government in 2012 and funded for an initial 2 year period from June 2013 to March 2015. In July 2014, Scottish Government announced the extension of funding for a further 2 years until March 2017. The RRCF PSP is project managed through the Robertson Trust and has two key themes which are to provide offenders with substantial one to one support through evidence based mentoring schemes and to promote strong, equal partnership working between third sector and public sector organisations.
- 1.2 The RRCF PSP has focused on ensuring that those who have offended make the most of available opportunities so that they can fulfil their responsibilities and move away from offending. Informed by international research and those working to reduce reoffending, funding was made available by the Scottish Government for mentoring provision and a total of £2.7 million was committed to the development of this service for short term prisoners leaving prison. Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) were one of the 6 community based projects nominated to establish a mentoring service in the community. They currently deliver this service across Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross.
- 1.3 Initially the mentoring service by TCA has been run by paid mentors but, as the plan was to recruit and train volunteer / peer mentors from the client cohort they have attempted to build mentor capacity from among the service user group. To date there have been 20 volunteer mentors trained. This methodology supports the Recovery model of service delivery and in taking this forward, TCA have piloted and rolled out their Customised Award in Peer Mentoring Scheme (CAPMS). This is a Scottish Qualification Award accredited training programme specifically designed to prepare experienced service users or ex-service users for the role of peer support and as a future

volunteer mentor. In addition and as of February 2014, all prospective mentors undertake the Scottish Mentoring Network accredited training which will ensure adherence to standardised practice across Scotland.

- 1.4 The ethos of developing peer mentors underpins the mentoring provision for the One-stop Women's Learning Service (OWLS) for which TCA successfully tendered. To date there have been 2 peer mentors trained and a cohort of 6 women are currently undertaking the preparatory work for the peer mentoring training. With the planned expansion of OWLS to vulnerable women and those at risk of offending, this should increase the potential pool of suitable candidates to train as peer mentors in the future.
- 1.5 In addition to the mentoring service there is the added value and support from the Befriending service provided by Churches Action for the Homeless (CATH). Befrienders and volunteer / peer mentors are trained by TCA. After a woman has been mentored and following a period of stability, she will be matched with a Befriender. This allows for a smooth transition for the client to become independent of support services and is a helpful step in facilitating this process.
- 1.6 Since April 2013, CATH have recruited 20 volunteer Befrienders of which 15 people have been trained. The Volunteer Co-ordinator is also involved in the delivery of OWLS and actively promotes the service to women, the aim being to recruit volunteers to promote and enable the transition to becoming a Befriender.
- 1.7 **Outcomes**

The overarching outcome in criminal justice is to reduce re-offending which requires retrospective analysis once a person's Order or Licence has been completed. At present this analysis is difficult given the length of time the mentoring and befriending service has been running and the reporting of national re-offending rates which are usually two years in arrears. Also, an individual's pattern of offending behaviour is dependent upon a number of variables including their previous experiences, environment, personal relationships and current circumstances.
- 1.8 A useful means of gauging a person's understanding of where and how they perceive themselves is by using the Rickter assessment tool which helps the individual to assess their current lifestyle and actions. This tool is utilised by criminal justice, TCA and CATH for the purpose of recording an individual's outcomes. This has allowed a tailored approach to be developed for each mentee, whether this has been to build a person's self-confidence, decrease their social isolation or support them into employment, training or studying for a college course.
- 1.9 During the period of March 2013 to September 2014 there have been 61 referrals for mentoring. From the TCA performance reports for the period from March 2013 to September 2014, 83% have actively engaged and met with their mentors at least 3 times per month.

Initially the time limit with a paid mentor was specified at a maximum of 6 months followed by 6 to 12 months if required, with a mentor or Befriender. However, in practice this has not transpired and reflects the complex needs of some individuals. In certain cases, the paid mentor has worked with their mentee for up to 2 years. This has not inhibited client access to either a paid mentor or volunteer mentor as there has been flexibility within the service in meeting client need.

- 1.10 The following table illustrates the outcomes collectively for the mentoring service including 16+ mentoring, OWLS and the Reducing Re-offending Change Fund:

Outcome	Progress
Reduced criminal activity	Over 80% of clients are making positive progress in reducing their criminal activity
Increased confidence/ belief in ability to change	100% of clients have maintained or increased their belief in their ability to change
Improved psychological and/ or physical wellbeing	Over 80% of clients have improved their psychological and/ or physical wellbeing
Increased motivation/ readiness for change	Over 75% of clients are making positive progress towards increasing their motivation/ readiness for change
Increased feelings of responsibility/ ability to solve everyday problems	Over 80% of clients indicated that they have maintained or increased feelings of responsibility/ ability to solve everyday problems
Improved engagement with education, work or training	Over 80% of clients are making positive progress towards increasing their employability skills/ engagement with education and training
Reduced consumption of alcohol and other drugs	Over 80% of clients have stabilised or reduced their consumption of alcohol and other drugs

1.11 Mentee Feedback

The individual experience and journey of the mentee is crucial to the ongoing success of the mentoring service and feedback helps to inform and develop this approach. To give an indication of the impact of the mentoring service for the mentees, the following feedback has been recorded:

“I was on a downward spiral and felt I had no way out but now I’m feeling better in myself and more confident”. “Before working with the mentor, I was

stuck in a cycle of drugs and unhealthy living but now I have goals and am looking forward to a different future". "There's a lot of support working with the mentor. It helped me turn my life around. Have not committed another crime and don't intend to." "I am now at college for the first time with her (mentor) support. My personal relationships are a lot better (and) I have controlled my temper which has effectively made everything better".

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The recent confirmation of additional Scottish Government grant funding under the Reducing Re-offending Change Fund until March 2017 has helped lessen the concern about the continuation of the mentoring service for the PSP and specifically criminal justice. Scottish Government, as part of the terms of the extended funding, has stated that sustainability must be built into future PSP plans and that continuation of mentoring services post 2017 should be met by local Councils. In addition, there is ongoing evaluation through Ipsos Mori and this should help inform the impact and sustainability and viable options to continue with this service.
- 2.2 Consideration is also being given to the sustainability of peer mentors for OWLS with the plan to create mentors from the cohort of female offenders. Expanding the service to vulnerable women and those at risk of offending should increase the opportunity to engage more women and increase capacity to recruit more peer mentors. The expansion of OWLS has been delayed due to the refurbishment of the new premises at West Mill Street.
- 2.3 As the Service Level Agreement with TCA for OWLS peer mentoring ends in March 2016 and the RRCF PSP funding will cease in March 2017, it is therefore critical that discussions take place with all partners using all relevant performance information to date to inform either a sustainability strategy or an exit plan.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The peer mentoring service provided by TCA has been operational for both OWLS and RRCF PSP since March 2013 in conjunction with the Befriending service provided by CATH. The Service Level Agreement for OWLS peer mentoring finishes at the end of March 2016 and the RRCF PSP funding will cease in March 2017. It is, therefore, opportune to review the current service provision provided by TCA to determine how this service can be sustained in the future.

It is therefore recommended that Community Safety Committee:

- note the contents of this report
- endorse the proposal to review the service provided by TCA
- instruct the Executive Director to bring forward a further report on the outcome of the review to Committee in October 2015.

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The undernoted table should be completed for all reports. Where the answer is 'yes', the relevant section(s) should also be completed. Where the answer is 'no', the relevant section(s) should be marked 'not available (n/a)'.

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 This report supports the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (iv) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations*

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013 – 2018 lays out five strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. The relevant strategic objectives in respect of this report are as follows:

- (iv) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.*

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no immediate resource implications arising from this report as funding is currently available until March 2016 for peer mentoring for OWLS and the RRCF PSP funding has extended until March 2017. However, a review is required to assess the impact of the service and look at a sustainability strategy for the future.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

None.

Legal and Governance

There are no legal and governance issues associated with this report.

Risk

The risk associated with this service relates to its sustainability as the funding to support the various elements of mentoring have come from different sources and are time limited. It is necessary to review the future provision of the mentoring service and consolidate its delivery for the future, in addition to evaluating its impact on outcomes for this client group.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Finance was consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 The Director, Tayside Council on Alcohol was consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. Communication

None.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Development of Mentoring Services for Adults at risk of Offending within Perth and Kinross (30 January 2014) – Community Safety Report No: 14/26.

3. APPENDICES

There are no appendices attached to this report.