

Children and Families Forum

November 9, 2017

HMP Glenochil

Attendees: Sharon Allison – Stirling Interface Community Justice Group, Shelley Bowman – Home-Start Clackmannanshire, John Brown – Volunteering Matters, Dave Budd – Volunteering Matters, Diane Cairns – Time for Us (Signposts), Anthea Coulter – CTSI, Lyndsay Jarvie – Stirling Interface Community Justice Group, Maureen Holden – Home-Start Clackmannanshire, Peter Marriott – NHS Forth Valley, Liz Rowlett – CTSI (Chair) and Richard Thomson – Clackmannanshire Council.

Apologies: Jo McCorrison - Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers' Centre, Susan Kennedy – NHS Forth Valley.

Sharon Allison spoke briefly about the work of the family centre in the prison. She has only been in post since April. There is also a visitor centre in Cornton Vale. Following an inspection at Cornton Vale a few years ago there were a number of recommendations that included building a family hub.

In the past prisons have been apart from other agencies but people have realised that this should change. There are wider issues about what happens when people leave custody – there has been a revolving door scenario.

There are placements in the hub – soup making, gardening and life skills, for example. Barriers are coming down.

Some 80% of women in jail have a man behind the crime. There is a high volume of professionals such as accountants and solicitors who have committed fraud.

Benefit structures have left women in crime but most of them are now receiving community payback orders.

Travel is a huge issue given the location of Glenochil. The centre was hoping to get some funding from SACRO.

Activities have included make and taste with dads and Halloween parties. The Scottish Book Trust has also been in.

Alison carries out “hidden sentence” training at Cornton Vale and hopes to do it at Glenochil. This covers the impact imprisonment has on families.

Alison has also worked with SFAD (Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs) in the past.

Richard Thomson talked about the community justice work with the Recovery Café and Volunteering Matters. Volunteering Matters is trying to connect people with other things in the community that are alternatives to criminal behaviour.

Peter Marriott noted the take up of Healthy Start vouchers and will leave some information with Sharon. He has also just received funding for cooking training at Hawkhill. This is aimed at reducing food poverty.

Anthea Coulter gave an update on the Childrens' Services Plan, Realigning Children's Services and the Local Outcome Improvement Plans (LOIPs). Key strands will be safe from harm, best possible life, healthy and confident and skills for life. Best possible start will be lead by Kathy O'Neill.

The Community Planning Partnership want to engage with children and young people. Jean Brodie from Action for Children will lead this and CTSI will be working with her. The action plan needs to be fit for purpose, for children facing barriers and the third sector will be in the middle of this, telling the story. There needs to be greater awareness of kinship and foster carers, whose voices are not being heard.