

11:00 Start

Attendees:

Mark Whaley (Making it Out) - Chair
Vicky Waller (Sussex Pathways)
Tim Holtam (BTTC)
Liz Fletcher (BTTC)
STEPHEN FRADLEY (MIO & Sussex Pathways trustee)
Odette Frey (HMPPS -Brighton)
Mike Peachey (Ford Forward)
Marion Taylor (Brighton Women's centre)
Lucy Edwards (Sussex Pathways)
Isabella Camilleri (student)
Iris Caballero Perez (student)
Jane King (High Sheriff - East Sussex)
Hanna Song (YMCA – George William Mews, Portslade)
Denis Byrne (Sussex Prisoners Families)
Clare Mckinley (Clocktower Sanctuary)

Bryony Edgar (YMCA Worthing)
Adrian Northeast (New Futures Network)
Nigel Cox (CGL – Brighton recovery)
Luisa Gonzalez (HMPPS – Pre-release HMP Lewes)
Kitty Newbury (HMPPS Brighton Probation)
Helen Schofield (MIO Trustee)

Apologies:

Piero Izzolino (St Giles Trust mentoring)
Yazmina Suleyman (equinox care)
Janie Pamment (equinox care)
Lisa Baskott
Justin Williams (Brighton Uni)
Holly Peters (HMPPS)

1. Introduction and explanation

- Mark Whaley (MW) introduces the forum and thanks organisations for attendance and enthusiasm for the forum.
- MW explains that the forum meetings have restarted after discussions with colleagues at SPF and Sussex pathways to meet a need for greater communication between local organisations.
- Previous meetings (2019) were useful for staff to meet other organisations and there were suggestions that a directory of services could be created for people in contact with CJ system both inside and outside of prisons.
- The hope of the forum 2023 onwards is to provide a space for staff of all experience to share current problems and create new connection across voluntary and statutory that improve services and reduce time wasting and duplication.
- Also a hope to empower new organisations to work within CJ sector and for the forum to take a role within that.

Our also hope that the forum management be spread out and that 'ownership' of the forum feels shared, hence the task below to look at TOR.

1130 – 1230

Groups discussed the below for 30 minutes, the below is feedback to the group after these discussions.

The 'terms of reference' doc – What could be added/removed (please make notes)

Feedback taken and an updated TOR can be found below.

Main changes to TOR and other hopes for the forum going forward were:

- To look at ensuring that the forum was Sussex wide and not Brighton centric. Changing the meeting location would help with this. This could encourage services across Sussex to attend and may lead to more services in remote areas connecting with those that are more regional.
- Data sharing agreement may be helpful
- What format can the forum take, agreement to look at structures and possibly formal 'group' of some sort.
- What format can the forum take digitally (email group initially but also to explore more up to date technologies)
- Still keen on a database and directory to exist and for it to be updated regularly, this has been started both by Sussex pathways and MIO and will continue to grow to be looked at again early summer.
- Include lived experience in the meetings

Criminal Justice Forum – Sussex

- Focus on specific themes at each meetings suggested and generally agreed around the room. This would help to widen participation of different sectors that cross over with CJ.
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What do your organisations service users currently struggle with most?

- Transitions for young people to adult estate and from youth to adult services.
- Release and resettlement challenges including release back into the family home and engaging families (including children, which is not seen as a MOJ responsibility)
- Not knowing what support is available and understanding thresholds/eligibility to access support services. A Map of local CJS services would be helpful.
- Given the challenges facing services and beneficiaries we discussed the possibility of collective 'campaigning' for systems changes.
- Several organisations identified that they struggle to find services willing to start working with those with multiple deprivation, i.e addiction and mental health and housing.

Who would it help for you to have more regular contact with?

- Across prison gates identified as a key element of communication breakdown, especially for services not currently working within the prison.
- Adrian NE offered to hep organisations access employment aspect of prison release and introduce organisations to employment lead at HMP Lewes Hannah (surname unknown)
- First 'themed' meeting suggested to be housing to allow providers and support accommodation to be present to outline what they can offer to who.

1300 Finish

Purpose and Terms of Reference

Updated after meeting group feedback on March 16th

Sussex Criminal Justice Forum

The Forum is a Sussex wide group including statutory and voluntary organisations in the criminal justice sector. The group will meet regularly to share information and collaborate to reduce re-offending and to improve services and outcomes for people who have been in prison or are at risk of imprisonment.

The group will meet every three to four months at accessible locations across East and West Sussex and will be chaired by nominated individuals. Notes will be taken and circulated with any agreed actions.

Membership of the group is open to organisations supporting the aims of the forum.

Terms of reference

1. Strengthen opportunities for reducing re-offending, rehabilitation and resettlement in East and West Sussex
2. Share information about organisations in East and West Sussex working in rehabilitation and resettlement, and achieve more integrated approaches to meeting the needs and aspirations of individuals across diverse backgrounds who have been in prison or are at risk of imprisonment, keeping also in mind the perspectives of victims of crime
3. Identify gaps in the provision of opportunities and services and seek ways in which gaps can be met, including gaps in cultural opportunities and services within organisation and across the sector in East and West Sussex
4. Identify and make best use of the resources provided by the Ministry of Justice through HMPPS to reduce reoffending, and strengthen rehabilitation and resettlement
5. Identify and respond collaboratively to any opportunities for partnership funding that might enhance opportunities for rehabilitation and resettlement
6. Draw on expertise and lived experience for information and advice, including representation at the meetings
7. Support, promote and respond to strategic initiatives that might strengthen reducing re-offending, rehabilitation and resettlement in East and West Sussex.
8. Propose positive action agreed by members of the Forum and monitor how organisations are able to achieve these actions.