



Briefing note July 2018:

Scrutiny and assurance of community justice and criminal justice social work Background

The Scottish Government has asked the Care Inspectorate to lead on scrutiny and assurance activity of community justice and criminal justice social work in Scotland. This is to help support the implementation of community justice and provide up-to-date scrutiny of criminal justice social work.

A new strategic scrutiny team is in place within the Care Inspectorate. The justice team includes:

- Clare Wilson, service manager (strategic scrutiny, justice)
- Jane Kelly, strategic inspector
- Ray Jones, strategic inspector
- Strategic inspector (TBC)
- Debbie Murray, strategic support officer (lead for justice)

The team has started development work to ensure robust and dynamic approaches to scrutiny activity that can provide assurance on performance and progress. This will include developing methodologies, strong engagement and communication strategy and an agreed plan of scrutiny work.

There will be two strands of work. One will involve the Care Inspectorate supporting the implementation of community justice in Scotland and the other will provide scrutiny of criminal justice social work in Scotland. These strands will reflect the newness of community justice and how implementation could be best supported, as well as acknowledging there has been no focused inspection of criminal justice social work since 2007.

The legislative basis for our work that allows us to carry out our functions sits within the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010. We will also refer and draw on the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2017, the National Strategy for Community Justice, and the National Outcomes and Standards alongside other key strategy and policy.

We plan to promote improvement in the implementation and delivery of community justice by supporting partnerships' self-evaluation and working alongside statutory and third sector partners to design and carry out scrutiny activity to support and validate findings. Inspections will focus on criminal justice social work services, with an emphasis on community payback orders. This will take account of the Scottish Government programme to extend the presumption against short custodial sentences and how important it is that community-based options are able to support this.

We have also written to chief social work officers and community justice strategic leads to let them know about this work.

What next

We are in the process of setting up a high-level advisory group and will continue to engage with this group and other stakeholders as we develop the inspection model. We will publish regular update briefings as we roll out these changes.

If you have any questions about this please contact Clare Wilson on 07825841746 or by email at clare.wilson@careinspectorate.com