

Senior Management Meeting

Monday 23 August 2021

Attendees

Niven Rennie

Alastair Muir

Will Linden (via Zoom)

S38(1)(b)

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1. Welcome and Introduction

Niven welcomed everyone to the meeting. He highlighted that this was the first meeting in a new agenda style and it had been designed to accommodate the thread of the 5 year strategic plan.

2. Apologies

No apologies had been submitted.

3. Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting of 26 July 2021 were accepted as a true record and the actions updated.

4. Risk Register

No new risks were identified at this time.

5. Financial Update

S38(1)(b) provided an update and highlighted events that were upcoming that will carry some expenditure – the strategic plan launch, the Hackathon, Community Navigator in Ayrshire and some other minor spend. This spend was offset by some salary underspend earlier in the year. Local area spend was also discussed and S38(1)(b) highlighted the need to identify priorities in the short term.

6. Progress Against The Priorities of Strategic Plan

6.1 Better Use of Data

Will reported that he intends to identify potential areas work with SIPR following a meeting in the next few weeks. The SVRU sponsored work with Strathclyde University in relation to the use of knife imagery on social media is almost ready for

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publication and will underline that little benefit is gained from such use but that individuals who have experience of violence can find the images unhelpful. This is similar in finding to that of a report from Sheffield University that will follow.

The work around injury surveillance data and AI will be paused until work commences on a national strategy framework. Initial work by Police Scotland analysts had not been of the requisite standard and re-tasking will be required. Unfortunately, the data required by SVRU for an examination of weapons use was at multi-ward member level and required to be more detailed to be of worth. This requires the authority of the Information Manager at Police Scotland and that is awaited.

6.2 Addressing Vulnerabilities

a. Testing the navigator approach in other settings

I *Community Navigator Bowhouse Prison, Kilmarnock*

Will confirmed that funding was in place for the prison based community navigator model to continue in South and East Ayrshire until November allowing for a full evaluation.

II *Custody Navigator*

Niven summarised a meeting that he had held with Chief Superintendents Jones and McCreadie in respect of this issue in which future expansion was discussed along with the plethora of intervention programmes across the custody estate. It was decided that 2 further evaluations would be conducted for comparison against navigator. Will expressed concern at the level of demand being placed on ^{S38(1)(b)} and suggested that assistance may be required to undertake this additional work.

Niven also reported that he had little success in identifying assistance for ^{S38(1)(b)} to supervise the project given the distance he was required to travel from Edinburgh to Kirkcaldy. The nearest person who could assist was a CJ CI from Forth Valley. A potential to share responsibility would be discussed.

III *Community Navigator 'You Decide Team'*

^{S38(1)(b)} confirmed that a new training schedule had been prepared for the YD trainees which was more balanced, less demanding and allowed the trainees to follow an established path. This would allow the trainees to work with No Knives Better Lives in developing a schools programme which some of them may assist in delivering. Finance had also been secured from the Robertson Trust which would enable them to be trained in healthy eating which they could then utilise when dealing with vulnerable families. CBT training had been secured and also the skills of a therapist for face to face sessions where a need arose.

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Will stated that the workload of the two 'navigators' was manageable at present and is carefully monitored by S38(1)(b)

b. Post Covid 19 – development of new alcohol strategy

S38(1)(b) reported on the potential of the Hamilton Academicals 'harm reduction' programme and the alcohol/drugs facility being established in the campus which may provide an opportunity for work in this area. Discussion followed regarding street soccer initiatives across the country.

Will identified that much of the focus on alcohol intervention was on the addicted and not 'binge' or 'weekend drinkers' who are more likely to be involved in violence. This is a harder group to access, particularly if the drinking takes place in the home. Police Scotland will be essential partners here and perhaps an advertising campaign may prove fruitful. Niven suggested Alcohol Focus Scotland may assist and updated on discussions he had held with S38(1)(b) the previous week.

c. Development of the Help the Helper Programme

S38(1)(b) provided information on the development of further training courses in North Glasgow, Ayr and Dundee involving the cohort of trainees from previous 'train the trainer' programmes. These courses will be evaluated pre and post training to establish learning for further development.

Areas for further expansion of this programme were discussed and Niven highlighted previous support from the 'Alliance Healthcare Group' who may be interested in training some of their third sector members. Niven offered to discuss this with their chair Ian Welsh.

ACTION: Niven to discuss hth programme with the Alliance.

d. Supporting the growth of the One Community Charity

Alastair confirmed that One Community had not been successful in their bid to the Scottish Government Equally Safe Fund but that other funding options are being pursued. The charity continues to expand and will be holding a social gathering for the S39(1) over the next few weeks, a largely excluded small group of 'New Scots' who have settled in Glasgow.

S38(1)(b) advised that she had proposed a new board member with financial expertise for the charity as they required a new treasurer.

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e. Bystander Activity

I MVP

Alastair provided an overview of recent discussions regarding MVP and Niven updated on S30(b)(i)&(ii)

II Scottish Government

S38(1)(b) reflected on feedback received from Scottish Government participants on the pilot bystander programme she had delivered with S38(1)(b). Many had been fully in favour but some did not believe that a problem existed which required training to be given. S30(b)(i)&(ii)

This had implications moving forward as the government wished to proceed with a 'train the trainer' module and were asking for applications for trainers. S38(1)(b) suggested that she or S38(1)(b) might be involved in selection to ensure the right people are chosen and Niven offered to raise this with Government.

ACTION: Niven to raise criteria for selection with S38(1)(b).

III Sports Clubs and Youth Organisations

S38(1)(b) summarised progress with Hamilton Academicals how now wish trauma and bystander training to be given to parents and volunteers. This would be led by the club and involve community partners. S38(1)(b) observed that this was an ideal place to commence a whole systems community based intervention.

Similarly discussion continues with the CEO and support team at Dundee United who wish assistance with their domestic abuse work, this will involve a similar trauma informed input as delivered to Hamilton.

Niven added that he had commenced discussion with Al Kellock, CEO of Glasgow Warriors and was hopeful that they will also become involved in this style of programme. Finally, he summarised discussion with Lt Col Gilly Moncur who oversees the army cadet programme and can give access to volunteers involved with 15-18K cadets across Scotland in the Army, Navy and Air Force. This opens up numerous opportunities and a discussion with S38(1)(b) is being arranged.

F. Mentoring

S38(1)(b) said the St Giles Trust mentoring programme had been slightly delayed but one to one sessions were taking place with the trainees. A few problems had arisen with laptop access but these had been resolved.

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G. Repeat Victims Targeting campaign

S38(1)(b) confirmed that voice overs in Glasgow and Dundee had been undertaken successfully and preparation was almost complete. The next step will be to identify newspapers to carry the story with the Daily Record and the courier being considered.

H. Work with No Knives Better Lives to Develop New Prevention Responses

Alastair summarised S38(1)(b) work with NKBL involving the S&A ECHO trainees aimed at progressing new classroom materials. The trainees may be involved in delivery.

I. Prison Based Trauma Work

S38(1)(b) highlighted that Edinburgh Prison had disconnected due to a change in staff. She felt this unfortunate as the staff had indicated that they wanted to undertake trauma informed work and their recovery café is ideal for this to be provided. Niven offered to contact David Abernethy, the governor, in order to progress. Alastair confirmed that S38(1)(b) remains in contact with the prison.

ACTION: Niven to contact Governor at Edinburgh Prison to progress.

S38(1)(b) then summarised progress at Perth Prison which is far more satisfactory.

Finally, Alastair reported on Dumfries Prison where COVID had impacted progress.

6.3 Place Based Approaches

a. Glasgow North

Will provided a full report on Glasgow North and intimated that he intended to spend 2 weeks in Springburn with S38(1)(b) to ensure his element of the project is addressing the strategic needs. He was pleased to report that S38(1)(b) had made contact with the schools and that programme was progressing.

Will also reported on the work being undertaken by S38(1)(b) on the Peer to Peer project and stated that wider social work consultation will take place to evaluate the worth allied to potential for funding.

b. Ayr Wallacetown

There had been quite a bit of support provided to S38(1)(b) over recent weeks by the senior team and all agreed that he was making great progress. Niven confirmed

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that information from 418 surveys was being examined by S38(1)(b) and the results would be available soon.

Will suggested that the area was ripe for a community navigator model similar to ECHO and there is a potential for a franchise model. Indeed the local authority housing department has £112K to spend on advocacy workers and this may be an opportunity to undertake this work.

c. Edinburgh

Alastair updated the meeting on S38(1)(b) ongoing work and the fact that he had expanded links with the Cyrenian's becoming an advisor to them. Niven added that he was taking a group from G20 to meet Heavy Sound at Cockenzie on 7th September.

d. Capture and Cascade

The majority of work in this area is conducted by S38(1)(b) and she has several evaluation reports due including in the next few days, Wallacetown residents survey.

6.4 Expanding The Approach

a. Further Establishing Local Footprints

Niven confirmed that dialogue continues in Caithness with a Police Scotland team visiting this week to discuss the issues further. S38(1)(b) is representing the VRU in these discussions although not travelling up this week. Furthermore, Niven has been asked to contribute to discussions around the redeployment of the Police Scotland Gangs Task Force which is positive and may allow for progress in this area.

b. Ayrshire

Niven has been maintaining contact with S38(1)(b) and joined him in a visit to the third sector community hub in Kilmarnock where intervention work is conducted. This was most impressive and could provide a template for further third sector interventions.

c. Dundee

Alastair had visited the previous week and was extremely impressed with Alexander Community Development. They have huge ambition and potential for expansion into numerous areas. In terms of employability, Alastair has linked them to TIGERS through Paradygm but they also are considering an S&A

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approach. Alastair also observed a potential for a franchised community navigator deployment. He praised the work ^{S38(1)(b)} is doing in Dundee and observed an upcoming meeting between Niven and local management aimed at securing her tenure for a longer period.

6.5 Thought Leadership

a. Development of Ongoing Maintenance Toolkit

Will advised that ^{S38(1)(b)} was progressing this in conjunction with numerous similar projects across the UK.

b. Develop Training Solutions

Much of this work with NKBL, the prisons, hth etc had been covered under earlier reporting.

c. Work with Service Providers to develop a Public Health Approach

The 5 year Strategic Plan will be launched by the Justice Secretary on 9th September. Police Scotland has launched a partnership with Public Health Scotland and the VRU will seek to influence this. Demand for wider consultation and presentations in Scotland and beyond are becoming significant once more.

d. CPDs and Other Training

Demand for training is also increasing and in addition to that provide by ^{S38(1)(b)} the SVRU have been contributing to the wider training environment including the Scottish Government led 'collective leadership development programme'.

6.6 Joining The Dots

a. Creation of a multi-agency strategy for tackling violence in Scotland

Niven updated the team on discussions with members of SG and the fact that the Secretary of State for Justice is interested in developing this strategy. Further discussions will follow but recently Police Scotland have asked to join these and introduce partners such as SOLACE and COSLA.

b. The Hope Collective

Niven provided an update on preparations for the Glasgow Hack on 13th November and the wider hackathon development across the UK.

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7 Staff

a. Funding Charitable Posts

Will had identified the national lottery improving life budget as the most appropriate to utilise to obtain funding for the ECHO project team. This limits the amount awarded to £200K over 3 years but would really assist in mainstreaming this activity. Ideally though financing through the COVID Recovery funds would be the best option.

b. Communications Manager (job Share)

S38(1)(b) confirmed S38(1)(b) as the successful candidate but that S38(1)(b) She is aware and will take the post when offered. She has a month of notice to provide to her current employer.

8 Planning

a. Launch of Strategic Plan

S38(1)(b) provided an update in this issue and outlined plans for the launch at G20 on 9th September.

9 AOCB

a. Moira's Run

S38(1)(b) confirmed that a remote event would take place in October and arrangements are being progressed.

b. TIGERS

A request had been received from TIGERS regarding a potential work placement. After discussion it was regrettably decided that we were unable to assist. Niven will write to confirm.

ACTION: Niven to write to TIGERS

c. COVID

S38(1)(b) expressed concern at lack of adherence to COVID protocols and it was decided that she would prepare guidance for staff.

ACTION: S38(1)(b) to provide appropriate COVID guidance for staff.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 27 September.

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