

The background of the slide features the coat of arms of the Government of Yukon. It is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a yellow diagonal cross on a blue background. The top-right quadrant shows a white moose head on a blue background. The bottom-left quadrant shows a white sailing ship on a blue background. The bottom-right quadrant shows a white eagle with spread wings on a blue background. Above the shield is a crown with four white maple leaves. Below the shield is a white banner with the text "A NE FOR A'".

Agenda Item 10

Renaming of Criminal Justice Service

Title: Renaming of Criminal Justice Service
Meeting: Education, Children and Young People Executive
Date: 4 June 2019
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

Falkirk Council

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Criminal Justice Service is seeking to change its name to "Justice Services". Approval is sought from Committee for this change.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Education, Children and Young People Executive is asked to agree to change the title of Criminal Justice Service to "Justice Services".**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 received Royal assent in March 2017, introducing a new partnership based model for planning and delivering interventions to prevent and reduce further offending. The legislation supported the implementation of a National Strategy for Community Justice, setting out expectations for statutory partners to work collaboratively to progress the national vision for a "safer, fairer and more inclusive Scotland".
- 3.2 The National Strategy makes specific reference to "the power of language to facilitate or inhibit the process [of reintegration into society]" and recommends a shift away from stigmatising terms which are considered unhelpful for changing behaviour as well as attitudes within wider society. This is an approach endorsed by the national body, Community Justice Scotland, who have consistently scrutinised the use of pejorative labels such as "offender" and "ex-offender" which are seen to deny the prospects of rehabilitation.
- 3.3 Community Justice partnerships across Scotland are adopting a shift towards more progressive branding, with many Local Authorities deciding to drop the word "Criminal" from their Justice Services.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 It is proposed that Falkirk Council adopts the recommendation to use language that is more inclusive to people with convictions and follows the trend of other Local Authorities in considering the impact of service branding.

- 4.2 The renaming of the “Criminal Justice Service” to simply the “Justice Service” is reflective of a more progressive approach to the management of those with a history of offending behaviour, eliminates stigmatising labelling of those individuals, and is consistent with the national vision and approach being adopted across Scotland.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Social Work Officer, Children’s Services Senior Leadership Team, Justice Services Management Team and the portfolio holder for Public Protection. On a wider scale, discussion with other Local Authorities and the expectation of Community Justice Scotland, as detailed previously in this report, supports the renaming.
- 5.2 Service users were not consulted directly by us as we considered it was highly unlikely that anyone would object to the removal of the word “Criminal” from the service title. Service users groups formed part of the consultation carried out by the Scottish Government prior to the introduction of Community Justice Scotland and the National Strategy for Justice, and, as such, their views around the use of language and pejorative labels were taken into account at that time.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The only costs would be associated with changing letter-headed paper and a sign at Brockville reception. These costs are minimal as we use internal services to provide letter-headed paper and signage.

Resources

- 6.2 The role and remit of justice services staff will not change. One post type, Criminal Justice Court Assistant, will have the title amended to reflect the removal of ‘criminal’ from the Service name. This task will be done in partnership with HR.

Legal

- 6.3 No legal implications arise from the report recommendations.

Risk

- 6.4 No risk implications arise from the report recommendations.

Equalities

- 6.5 An equality and poverty impact assessment is not required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 Not applicable.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The renaming of Criminal Justice Service to “Justice Services” is reflective of a more progressive approach to the management of those with a history of offending behaviour; eliminates stigmatising labelling of those individuals; and is consistent with the national vision and approach being adopted across Scotland.

Director of Children’s Services

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Appendices

None.

List of Background Papers

None.