

## Justice Committee

### Community Justice (Scotland) Bill

#### Written submission from the Parole Board for Scotland

Further to your email of 19 May 2015 to the Chair of the Parole Board for Scotland, the Board wishes to make the following submissions in relation to the questions posed.

1. *Will the proposals in the Bill transform the community justice system in the way envisaged by the Commission on Women Offenders in its 2012 report, such as addressing the weaknesses identified in the current model, tackling reoffending and reducing the prison population?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter but welcomes the initiatives to tackle reoffending and reduce the prison population.

2. *Are you content that the definition of 'community justice' in the Bill is appropriate?*

Yes

3. *Will the proposals for a new national body (Community Justice Scotland) lead to improvements in areas such as leadership, oversight, identification of best practice and the commissioning of services?*

Yes, the new national body should lead to consistency across community justice services in relation to the obligations which they have to the Parole Board for Scotland. It should also provide for more efficient and effective flows of information and feedback between the Board and social workers who provide information and reports to the Board and who supervise prisoners who are on parole or non-parole licence. .

4. *Taking into account the reforms set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill relating to Community Planning Partnerships, will Community Justice Partners have the powers, duties and structures required to effectively perform their proposed role in relation to community justice?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter.

5. *Does the Bill achieve the right balance between national and local responsibility?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter.

6. *Will the proposed reforms support improvement in terms of:*

- (a) leadership, strategic direction and planning?*
- (b) consultation and accountability?*
- (c) partnership and collaboration?*
- (d) commissioning of services and achieving best value for money?*

See response to 3 above.

7. *Are the resources, as set out in the Financial Memorandum, sufficient to transform the community justice system in the way envisaged by the Commission on Women Offenders in its 2012 report?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter.

8. *Is the timetable for moving to the new arrangements by 1 April 2017 achievable?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter.

9. *Could the proposals in the Bill be improved and, if so, how?*

The Parole Board does not wish to comment on this matter.

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