

**Recover, Renew, Transform Programme**  
**Update for Victims Taskforce – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Criminal Justice Board**

1. The Justice Board has established a Criminal Justice Board (CJB) to lead the justice system's 'Recover, Renew and Transform' (RRT) programme of work. The CJB includes SCTS and COPFS, Police Scotland, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Scottish Prison Service, Community Justice Scotland, and Scottish Government.
2. The RRT programme will contribute to recovering a viable justice system that can live with COVID-19 whilst delivering a more effective and efficient justice system - which is fundamental to protecting rights and freedoms and addressing inequality.

**RRT Work Streams**

3. A series of work streams have been set up under the CJB. Each of these work streams is focused on enabling the justice system to operate again at pre-COVID-19 levels and prepare for future transformation.
4. Much of this transformation will build on the emergency response to the pandemic, which has seen innovative approaches to processing court business virtually and for case information and evidence to be shared digitally.
5. Whilst the focus of the RRT programme is on the criminal justice system, links will be made with work on the recovery, renewal and transformation of civil and administrative justice.
6. Victim support organisations (VSOs) are directly represented on the work streams where they have a strong interest.
7. The RRT work streams are as follows (further detail on membership can be found at Annex A):
  - **High Court Trials** – Led by SCTS. Membership includes Rape Crisis Scotland. Following work on High Court jury centres, work is underway to consider Sheriff & Jury Trials.
  - **Virtual Summary Trials** - Led by SCTS. Membership includes Victim Support Scotland.
  - **Summary Procedures** – Led by COPFS. Membership includes Victim Support Scotland, with a clear commitment from COPFS to liaise directly with other organisations, such as Scottish Women's Aid and ASSIST, at appropriate points where further engagement is required.
  - **Virtual Custody Courts** – Led by Police Scotland.

- **Community Justice and Prisons** – Led by Community Justice Scotland and Scottish Prison Service

### **RRT Advisory Group**

8. An Advisory Group is also being established to provide the CJB with independent expert advice and provide confidence that the RRT programme is being considered from the perspective of the potential impacts that could arise for those going through the justice system, whether they begin that journey as an alleged perpetrator or victim of, or witness to, crime. The intention is for the Advisory Group to act as a 'critical friend' to provide views and non-binding strategic advice on the formulation of new/updated policy and proposed direction considered by the CJB, whilst also drawing on the skills and knowledge of its members who have considerable expertise within the justice system.
9. The Advisory Group will also enable human rights and equalities issues to be identified and considered across the programme, and presents the opportunity for these to be addressed as effectively as possible in implementation. This is of particular value in terms of common issues such as the risk of digital exclusion, where a consistent approach can be considered, and where there may be interdependencies or linkages which are not as visible from a system perspective.
10. An invitation will be issued shortly via the Victims' Organisation Collaboration Forum Scotland (VOCFS) inviting VSOs to collectively discuss and consider how best victims' experiences should be taken into account in this process.

### **Strategic Narrative and Communications Strategy / Work Plan**

11. Work is underway to develop a strategic narrative and work plan. This will set out what the RRT is aiming to achieve and why. It will also help identify critical interdependencies across the RRT programme.
12. Aligned with that strategic narrative, a communications strategy and delivery plan for the RRT programme are under development and will be informed by direct input from VSO communications leads. This will aim to recognise and address the communications requirements of different audiences the programme needs to engage with and include a route for feedback from those audiences.

## Annex A

## RRT Work Streams – Overview of Membership (as at 03/09/2020)

<b>RRT Work Stream</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>High Court Trials</b>	SCTS	Judiciary Rape Crisis Scotland COPFS Law Society of Scotland Faculty of Advocates Scottish Government  Also seek the input of others with relevant expertise, such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service, Victim Support Scotland, and Scottish Women's Aid.
<b>Virtual Summary Trials</b>	SCTS	COPFS Police Scotland Scottish Legal Aid Board Law Society of Scotland Scottish Prison Service Victim Support Scotland
<b>Summary Procedures</b>	COPFS	SCTS Police Scotland, Victim Support Scotland Scottish Legal Aid Board Law Society of Scotland Scottish Government  And a commitment to engage directly with Scottish Women's Aid, ASSIST and other victim support organisations at appropriate points where further engagement is required.
<b>Virtual Custody Courts</b>	Police Scotland	COPFS Scottish Legal Aid Board Law Society of Scotland NHS Scottish Prison Service GEOAmey)

<b>RRT Work Stream</b>	<b>Lead Organisation</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>Community Justice and Prisons</b>	Community Justice Scotland / Scottish Prison Service	COSLA Social Work Scotland Police Scotland Parole Board for Scotland Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum Scottish Government