

## MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH SENTENCING COUNCIL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

24 NOVEMBER 2016, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, EDINBURGH

### MINUTES

- Members present:** Lord Turnbull  
Gillian Thomson, Justice of the Peace  
Professor Neil Hutton  
Sheriff Frank Crowe (advisory member)
- Secretariat:** Ondine Tennant (Secretary to the Scottish Sentencing Council) (until item 2.3)  
Andrew Bell (Principal Research Officer)
- Apologies:** Stephen O'Rourke

## 1. PROCEEDINGS

### *Item 1.1: Introduction and welcome*

1. Apologies were received from Stephen O'Rourke.

### *Item 1.2: Proceedings [Paper RC1.2]*

2. The Committee elected Professor Neil Hutton as Chair.
3. The Committee agreed a quorum of 3 members, including the Chair.
4. The Committee noted and agreed the procedures for minutes and publication of papers [Paper RC1.2].

### *Item 1.3: Private papers*

5. The Committee agreed not to publish the following papers: RC2.1A, RC2.2, RC2.3A, RC2.3B and RC3.1

## 2. COMMISSIONING RESEARCH

### *Item 2.1: Research Framework [Papers RC2.1 and RC2.1A]*

6. The Committee discussed the Research Framework [**Papers RC2.1 and RC2.1A**].

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP1** *Andrew Bell to update paper RC2.1A to reflect discussion and circulate revised paper for comment with the minute of the meeting.*
- **AP2** *Research Committee members to provide any further written feedback with a view to recommending the research framework to the Council in March 2017.*

#### *Item 2.2: Research Update [Oral, with reference to RC2.2]*

7. The Committee were updated on interactions with research stakeholders.

#### *Item 2.3: Internships [Papers RC2.3, RC2.3A and RC2.3B]*

8. The Committee were updated on changes to the anticipated start dates of the SGSSS Ph.D. internship scheme [**Paper RC2.3**].
9. The Committee agreed that in light of the timetable for engagement around the draft Principles and Purposes guideline and the revised internship timetable, an externally commissioned literature review was not worth pursuing and agreed to recommend this to the Council [**Paper RC2.3A**].
10. The Committee felt the Ph.D. internship scheme remained worthwhile and agreed that a project on public perceptions of youth offending should be pursued through the scheme if possible. The Committee agreed the project should be taken forward by other methods if the Ph.D. internship scheme was not viable. [**Paper RC2.3B**] The Committee agreed to recommend this to the Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **R1** *That the Council does not pursue a further literature review on the principles and purposes of sentencing.*
- **R2** *That the Council undertakes a project on public perceptions of youth offending, ideally through the SGSSS Ph.D. internship scheme.*

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP3** *Andrew Bell to take forward public perceptions of youth offending project, subject to Council approval.*

### 3. RESEARCH REPORTS

#### *Item 3.1: Principles and Purposes literature review [Papers RC3.1]*

11. The Committee discussed the literature review on Principles and Purposes of sentencing, prepared by Stephen O'Rourke. The Committee agreed to provide any feedback by email. **[Paper RC3.1].**

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP4** *Research Committee members to provide written feedback to Andrew Bell by 02 December 2016.*

### 4. PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

#### *Item 4.1: Sentencing research symposium [Oral]*

12. The Committee discussed holding an event for academics and practitioners highlighting current sentencing research and good practice.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP5** *Research Committee members to provide written feedback to Andrew Bell by 02 December 2016.*

### 4. PROMOTING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

#### *Item 4.1: Sentencing research symposium [Oral]*

13. The Committee discussed holding an event for academics and practitioners highlighting current sentencing research and good practice.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- **AP6** *Andrew Bell to explore options for a research symposium event.*

### 5. AOCB

*Item 5.1: AOCB [Oral]*

14. There was no other business.

**6. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

*Item 6.1: Future meeting dates [Oral]*

15. The Committee agreed to meet at least two weeks before Council meetings, to allow recommendations to be passed to the Council.

**ACTION POINTS**

- **AP7** *Andrew Bell to canvass dates with members.*

Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat

November 2016