Promote the values of community justice and social inclusion and seize opportunities to influence policy development

Overview	This standard is about taking action to promote the values of community justice and social inclusion. It involves seeking opportunities to influence policy development, in relation to those policies which are not specifically directed at promoting community justice and social inclusion, for example policies addressing education and training, employment, health and social care, and social security.

You may have little, or no direct influence on the policies under development, and it is likely that policies such as these may be developed in settings and contexts other than your own. In order to promote the values of community justice and social inclusion through policy development, you will need to be alert to opportunities that may arise. These might involve training and development, publicity, awareness campaigns, formal and/or informal interaction and involvement in collaborative ventures. You may also need to be proactive in capitalising upon opportunities to influence the setting of policies by keeping abreast of initiatives in the overall environment where you work, and recognising opportunities to link the promotion of community justice and social inclusion into policy makers' other aims and objectives.

The term `community' has been used to mean a set of people who are united either by a common geographical location or by a common interest or aspect, such as their work, gender or a disability. These might include groups and organisations, for example, business communities, young people, minority ethnic groups, the LGBT community.

There are two elements
1. Create and capitalise upon opportunities to influence the setting of policies that will affect community justice and social inclusion
2. Promote community justice and social inclusion as an essential value when setting policies

Target group
This standard is applicable to those who have responsibility for promoting the values of community justice and social inclusion, through seeking to influence policy development. This may involve departments of your own organisation, other than where you work, for example within a local authority you may be seeking to influence the development of transport policies. It also includes influencing policies set by other organisations, for example those supporting victims and survivors may seek to influence the local authority's housing policies. It is designed to be relevant to a wide range of organisations, including probation, social work, police, prison service, local authorities, inter- |

agency teams and voluntary sector organisations.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Create and capitalise upon opportunities to influence the setting of policies that will affect community justice and social inclusion

1. monitor your working environment to identify potential opportunities to influence policies which affect community justice and social inclusion
2. prioritise opportunities for influencing policy
3. explain clearly and effectively the added value which the promotion of community justice and social inclusion brings to the agendas and objectives of policy makers
4. prioritise improvements in community justice and social inclusion which are relevant, current and consistent with the agendas and issues identified
5. offer examples of how community justice and social inclusion has been effectively included in others' policy development
6. communicate information to the appropriate people using methods that promote its value and emphasises how improvements in community justice and social inclusion will facilitate the achievement of other aims and goals
7. prepare information on community justice and social inclusion and related issues in a form which is likely to be of interest and value to the policy makers concerned
8. reinforce improvements, successes and achievements made by policy makers at every opportunity supported by relevant and accurate information
9. tackle queries and objections to the idea of including community justice and social inclusion in policies constructively and make alternative proposals
10. provide advice and information on specific areas of policy within agreed timescales, that are based on evidence and in a form relevant to the user
11. encourage policy makers to seek advice on your area of expertise when it would benefit them to do so
12. evaluate your effectiveness in influencing the policy agenda and use this to inform future practice

Promote community justice and social inclusion as an essential value when setting policies

13. obtain information on individuals and organisations likely to be interested in community justice and social inclusion as an issue, and identify those which are a priority
14. obtain the contact details for the policy makers within these organisations, and check that these are correct and up to date
15. identify the most appropriate methods for gaining the interest of different policy makers and organisations

16. plan the most effective ways of interesting policy makers in community justice and social inclusion prior to contact

17. contact the identified policy makers using methods that are conducive to an effective relationship being established, and are likely to arouse their interest

18. design the initial contact to be the foundation for further cooperation and discussion, at times and in ways which are of benefit to both parties

19. use any early interest from policy makers to identify how contact might be maintained

20. identify the nature of the policy makers' organisation and the issues which they face, and use this information to relate community justice and social inclusion to their issues and agendas

21. present ideas to policy makers and organisations using methods which show how the promotion of community justice and social inclusion will add value to their interests and agendas

22. give policy makers opportunities to communicate their views and make appropriate responses

23. identify the reasons for disinterest in, or rejection of, initial proposals and make alternative suggestions

24. maintain contact with policy makers and organisations in relation to the promotion of community justice and social inclusion in line with your role and responsibilities

25. maintain accurate and up to date records of contacts made with individuals and other organisations, in line with your organisation's requirements

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

1. legal and organisational requirements which relate to community justice and social inclusion, and their impact for your area of operations
2. legislation, policies and procedures relating to data protection, health and safety, diversity and their impact for your area of operations
3. the role of your organisation and its services, and the services which it provides in promoting the values of community justice and social inclusion through policy development
4. the organisation's policy and procedures regarding confidentiality of information and the disclosure of information to third parties, and the specific circumstances under which disclosure may be made
5. the limits of your authority and responsibility, and the actions to take if these are exceeded

Working within the community justice sector

6. methods and strategies of awareness raising which have been carried out by others and the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches
7. the impact of crime on victims and their need for protection, respect, recognition and information
8. the social and environmental factors which contribute to social exclusion, including the particular needs of individuals who may be socially excluded or stigmatised
9. why social justice is important to working effectively with socially excluded individuals, groups and communities
10. the concepts of community justice and social inclusion, including:
10.1 the profile of your local area
10.2 its communities, structures and amenities
10.3 community groups including those `hard to reach' communities
11. the principles which underpin policy setting and how these can be built into policy formulation, including:
11.1 the context in which policy development takes place
11.2 the process and purpose of policy development
12. the range of different aspects which needs to be developed in policies directed at community justice and social inclusion
13. the tensions and conflicts which may arise during the development of policies directed at community justice and social inclusion
14. the factors and priorities which may influence the development of policies

and their acceptance, including:

14.1 public opinion

14.2 legislation

14.3 resource implications

14.4 knowledge and practice

14.5 technology

15. how community justice and social inclusion can be promoted in policies which have other aims at their centre, including methods for achieving this

16. the nature, roles and functions of the principal organisations within the sector in which you work, including the:

16.1 different roles which people have within the organisations concerned

16.2 different settings of policy makers

16.3 policies related to these settings

17. different ways of relating community justice and social inclusion to the agendas and issues of others, including methods for achieving this

18. the importance of sustaining goodwill with engaged policymakers and organisations

19. methods for monitoring and evaluating your own practice against the intended outcomes, including why it is important to share information about successes and failures

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