

The first Working groups in SSD&G and G&S have now been completed.

Elizabeth Bergen, new Project Manager for SSD&G took up her post on 14 January 2008 and Jackie Powell (for North Strathclyde) started on 4 February 2008. Both have good operational knowledge of their respective Sheriffdoms, having worked, between them, in Hamilton, Paisley and Dumbarton Sheriff Courts in the past.

Elizabeth also has substantial practical experience of the local unification process, having been heavily involved in establishing and maintaining strong links with the Livingston District Court staff in her last post at Linlithgow. She will be able to share lessons learned from this experience with other Sheriff Clerks about to engage in similar activity.

Elizabeth says a major lesson is that it is really vital to work on these links as early as possible. Building trust between the Sheriff and District court staff is a really important part of identifying and dealing with District Court staff's concerns. That takes time, so the earlier SCS staff engage with DC staff, the more ready you are for effective unification..

Elizabeth has begun the scoping activity in SSD&G, and has completed work in North Lanarkshire. Glasgow and Strathkelvin is almost complete, with just Rutherglen to be completed with some additional discussions taking place with Strathclyde Police on Camera Partnerships and associated matters. Jackie has established initial communications with the legal departments of all North Strathclyde local authorities. Both project managers will provide regularly updates to Sheriff Clerks at local Sheriffdom meetings.

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