

Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland
Local Area Annual Return Template
Reporting year April 2023 – March 2024**

April 2024



Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Local Area Annual Return Template

1. Background

This reporting template has been developed in discussion with community justice representatives from local areas. This template is designed to enable local areas to report on progress towards the community justice outcomes.

2. Statement of Assurance and Data Usage

The information submitted to CJS using this template will be used by CJS in its role to monitor, promote and support improvement in, and keep the Scottish Ministers informed about, performance in the provision of community justice.

In line with provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), CJS will use appropriate data to ensure that there is continuous reporting, development and progress towards the national outcomes. By providing data to CJS you are consenting to its use by CJS as indicated. Community Justice Partnerships should be aware that any information held by CJS is subject to statutory Freedom of Information obligations.

Completion of the template can help local partnerships to fulfil their requirements under s23 (1b) of the Act by using the developed content to inform the production of the publicly facing summary statement of annual progress.

3. General principles of the template

The template and guidance have been developed using the following principles:

- Support CJS in developing the evidence base for local community justice activity and progress across Scotland within the reporting year
- Support CJS to comply with their duties set out in the Act, Sections 26-30
- Support local partners to comply with their local reporting requirements set out in section 23 of the Act.



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4. How to fill in the template

The return should be completed and consulted on with partners involved in community justice in your local area. In line with the Act this includes statutory partners, third sector bodies involved in community justice in relation to the area, and such community bodies other persons as partners consider appropriate. CJS expects that completion of this template will be a collaborative effort.

This template incorporates guidance to support completion, with the text *(in blue)* providing reflective prompts to consider when developing your answer, which can be deleted and replaced with your response. These should be considered together through the development of your answer rather than addressed individually.

There is no expectation that areas will return substantial numerical data. It is likely that local areas will not have the national data indicators set out by the Community Justice Performance Framework at the time they are completing this template. **It is not anticipated that CJS will routinely use or refer to local level national indicator data in the context of the national outcome activity annual report.** If in developing the national report it becomes apparent that local-level data may support further analysis of particular outcomes, for example in identifying potential recommendations, exploring data outliers, or areas for further development, we expect this to be taken forward in discussion with the relevant local areas and partners.

Instead, we want partners to focus on the qualitative evidence drawn from their activity and insights about impact. Relevant local supporting evidence from the [CJS improvement tool](#) that will supplement the national indicator data has been specified under each national outcome in this template. We would encourage partners to develop the response to this template in conversation with each other and view it as an opportunity to reflect on your strengths and needs in partnership.

Where the template asks for evidence, a written response will suffice and there is no expectation that you send additional supporting documentation – if there are any aspects CJS is unclear on, it will be our responsibility to request clarification where necessary.

If any response or evidence requires details about people with lived experience (e.g. evidence in respect of someone's life story) please DO NOT include any identifiable personal or sensitive information (as outlined in Schedules 2 & 3 of the Data Protection Act 1998) as CJS does not require such information. If this is unavoidable then please ensure that the data is fully anonymised.

If you have any queries about completing the template, then please email CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot.



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1. Community Justice Partnership / Group Details

Name of local authority area/s	<i>Dumfries and Galloway</i>
Name and contact details of the partnership Chair	Name: Gordon Pattinson Email: gordon.pattinson@dumgal.gov.uk Telephone:
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Vikki Binnie Email: vikki.binnie@dumgal.gov.uk Telephone:

2. Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair

Enter the name of the chair to confirm that the local community justice partnership representatives have agreed this return as an accurate record. It should be returned to CJS by 27 September 2024.

For the purpose of submitting this return to CJS ensure you have agreement from community justice partners.

For the purpose of publishing this template as part of your s23 duty (publish a public-facing annual report on progress towards national and local outcomes) you should follow local governance arrangements.

Date:.....26.09.24.....

Name:.....Gordon Pattinson.....



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3. Governance Arrangements

Last year, we asked partnerships to describe their governance structure for community justice arrangements and include links to wider community planning. Please describe any substantive changes since your previous answer.

The purpose of this question is to contextualise local arrangements for community justice and understand any connections to other local groups or partnerships.

If nothing has changed from your previous return this question can be left blank.

No changes during this reporting period. This has however been identified as an area for review and improvement in the current local Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP)

4. The year overall

This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the reporting year on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, and delivery of services.

Challenges / Negatives

Describe some of the negative impact(s) and/or challenge(s) your community justice partners/hip faced in the reporting year. You may include how the partnership responded to these.

Funding for all services statutory and third sector continues to be a challenge. This is in respect of the continuation of little to no uplift in funding, short term funding and late notice of funding which inhibits effective planning and innovation as well as creating uncertainty for both staff and those using services. At the time of writing Community Justice Partnership Funding was only confirmed on 5th September for 2024/25, this is yet another example of the uncertainty we are working with. As with other partners, there has also been no uplift in this funding in recent years to support the partnership with business administration, hosting events, organising local consultations, implementing tests of change etc.

Competing demands. Staff shortages and pressure on services are undoubtedly making engagement and innovation more challenging as services have to concentrate on the delivery of core/statutory business. This is where identifying strategic links between areas such as community justice, Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Public Protection are critical for effectiveness and the avoidance of duplication.

National strategic priorities colliding and negatively impacting on each other. There are several areas where this is the case. For example, a drive towards the increased use of bail/electronic bail from justice whilst we know the majority of repeat MARAC cases are for breach of bail increases the risk to women and children. Ensuring good working relationships between the Community Justice Partnership (CJP) and Public Protection colleagues and partners intrinsic to the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda is crucial to ensure



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communication is shared and effective solutions identified and considered. This remains an area for concern.

Legislative changes and their impact locally.

[Bail and Release from Custody \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#)
[Scottish Sentencing Council, Sentencing Young People Guideline](#)
[Children \(Care and Justice\)\(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)

National decisions impacting on local partners and services. The location of Dumfries and Galloway provides the first court over the border from England into Scotland. We have seen a steady rise in the number of people being transported by GeoAmey to appear on charges they have received in Scotland and being left in police custody in Dumfries or appearing in other courts virtually from Dumfries Sheriff Court. This means that they then find themselves having to try and get home, often without the means to do so and often having some vulnerability. Despite this initially presenting a challenge for us locally a solution and additional required resource was found in relation to safeguarding and is detailed below.

Another example of this was the reinvigoration and further development of the **Community Support Services Tool (CSST)**. The requirement to provide further updates for this was time consuming for partners who were asked to provide the information, and for our Community Justice Partnership Manager who coordinated the collation and submission. Despite raising our concerns both around the utility of this approach and resource needed to complete, and local partners within the partnership objecting to allocating finite resources for this work being undertaken, this was submitted as requested. The reality is that this information is only up to date on the day it is submitted. Moving forward we will be requesting evidence of how this has been used and the impact it has had, if any.

Local housing pressures. The Housing Options and Homeless Service in Dumfries and Galloway has faced significant increases in demand over the last three years. Open homeless cases have risen to 544 as of 31 March 2024, compared to 280 on 31 March 2019, a 94% increase. Not only are they dealing with increased demand but also increasingly 'complex' cases where there is a combination of underlying factors, particularly mental health, and addictions. Service users are struggling to access mental health services, leading to people self-medicating with drugs and/or alcohol. With the lack of suitable support these are often leading to a revolving door or homelessness, justice involvement and prison, adding to the strain on police, community and prison resources.

Other challenging areas have been the **rise in Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) cases** (Management of registered sex offender and high risk offenders) and the impact on safe housing provision. During 23/24 there was a 42% increase in homeless applications where a member of the household was subject to MAPPA. While the case numbers are not high, the level of work associated with trying to place MAPPA households in both temporary and permanent accommodation is significant. There were a required 757 Environmental Risk Scans undertaken to find suitable accommodation. Much of this was not helped by a local campaign of social media outing targeting known offenders.

More housing information is included later in this report.

Internal restructure in organisations. This reporting year has seen a restructure of social work within the local authority. Whilst this will be a positive in the longer term it presents challenges and uncertainty for staff in the short term.



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Positives / Opportunities

Describe some of the positive impact(s) / opportunity(ies) your community justice partners/hip faced in the reporting year. You may include how the partners responded to these.

Safeguarding developments. Please refer to page 13 of this report for further detail.

CJP as a conduit for greater collaboration and partnership working. An example of this is the collaborative work taking place between HMP Dumfries, Families Outside and Summerhill Community Centre. HMP Dumfries does not have a Visitor Centre, nor does it have space to develop one within walking distance of the prison. Through meeting at CJP these partners came together to find a solution that would provide support for women and children visiting their loved ones in HMP Dumfries. Support is provided during visits as well as out with at Summerhill.

As a CJP we supported Public Protection Violence Against Women and Girls colleagues with a **French Learning Exchange Conference**¹. This was in recognition of the strategic links between our areas of work, particularly the work undertaken with perpetrators going through Caledonian System. Staff from the Public Protection Team² were originally approached by a member of staff from University of the West of Scotland (UWS) with the proposal of having a knowledge exchange on domestic abuse with agencies from Dumfries and Galloway, UWS and members of the French National Committee on Domestic Violence. As part of the three day visit there was a conference. This allowed staff from Dumfries and Galloway to gain deeper understanding of the good practice activity taking place in Dumfries and Galloway and across Scotland and learn from the French approach to domestic abuse which is embedded in gender equality³. To have experts at such a senior level from France was an honour and an opportunity that those who worked closely with them will benefit from.

Anti Stigma Strategy – over the reporting period our local Alcohol and Drug Partnership were keen to look at stigma and the development of an anti stigma strategy. This was a direct result of feedback from people in recovery, including families, that stigma is one of the greatest challenges they face. This presented us with an opportunity as we know stigma is also a huge issue for those with justice involvement, either past or present. As our Community Justice Partnership Manager is also Chair of the Violence Against Women Sub Committee it was suggested the Violence Against Women Coordinator should also be invited to a meeting to explore the potential of a joint anti stigma strategy. Initial discussions went well, strategic links and shared experiences of those involved in each area of work were clear to see. Work has now commenced with consideration being given to language and the potential to produce a Strategy for Kindness.

Women through a different lens – On the back of the anti stigma strategy work a joint ADP, VAWG and CJP workshop took place during 16 Days of Activism on the particular challenges and intersectionality facing women in each of these areas. The workshop was delivered online and well supported by multi agency staff.

¹ Visit of members of the Comité National des Violences Intrafamiliales (Commission recherches auteurs/Research Commission on Offenders).

² Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator and Community Justice Partnership Manager

³ This also links and provides evidence for Priority Action 13, page 39



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Over the reporting period CJP supported Public Protection Week with their theme of lived experience. The two justice lived experience organisations were both keen to be involved. Summerhill hosted an in person event which was really well attended, whilst Apex delivered an online session talking through their journey to become a trauma informed organisation and experience of developing lived experience groups and supporting staff with lived experience.

Partners sharing resources. Over the reporting period we were able to secure agreement to have the Justice Social Work Business Improvement Officer as a dedicated resource for CJP one day per week. This has enabled us to develop our local delivery plan into a workplan where progress can be tracked more effectively. It has also enabled us to begin to consider and move towards the use of PDSA for specific pieces of work, such as the safeguarding initiative detailed above. Whilst we provided some funding towards the post (with the agreement of all partners) over the last year this arrangement is continuing (albeit on a more adhoc basis and where capacity is available) moving forward, recognising the benefit to both CJP and JSW as they develop their new strategic plan. The Public Protection Partnership have also provided us with support from the Performance, Quality and Assurance Lead Officer to help with data collection and analytics and offered some business administration support for minute taking at meetings.

Lived and living experience work. JSW agreed to fund both lived/living experience projects for a further year. We are now beginning to see themes developing from the feedback received which will should lead to improvement activity as we move forward. Despite this, no funding has been identified to continue this work moving into 2024/25.

Community Justice Scotland Link Improvement Lead Officer. As a partnership we have felt much more supported by our LLO over this reporting period, particularly with the development of our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan and baselining activity. This has enabled us to produce a more focused CJOIP and associated delivery plan, highlight challenges and seek solutions and to ensure we can report more effectively on our progress towards national priorities.



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Priority Action One

Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution

Nationally determined outcome:

More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution⁴

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people undertaking diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people supporting the delivery of diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.

5. What activity has taken place to increase successful completion of diversion? What impact has there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Third Sector*
- *Health*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

In relation to police there is a new national police system in place, National Case. This system includes questions in the antecedent section which asks officers if they have considered diversion, and direct measures. This acts as a helpful reminder of these options, furthermore the questions must be answered before the system will move on so cannot be ignored.

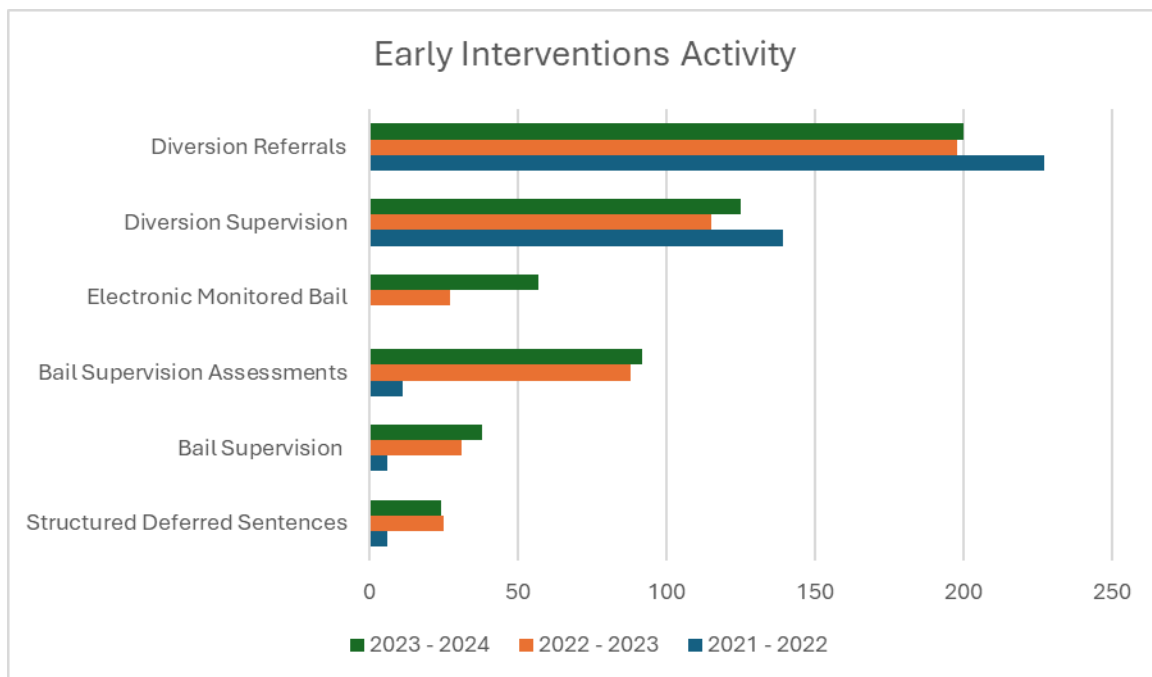
Supporting people to successfully complete diversion remains a priority for Justice Social Work with continued efforts from staff within the Early Intervention Team to promote compliance through building relationships. Examples of this include flexible meeting times to support people more effectively, accommodating employment etc. Also,

⁴ National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

concentrated efforts to tailor support specific to each person's needs/risks. Feedback from those being supported confirms positive impacts in terms of people's resilience, sense of self-worth and confidence. In helping meet the needs and aspirations of individuals, collaboration with partner agencies is common practice. For example, health, addiction support, help with, employability and housing support services. There have been marked increases over the last two years in both bail supervision and structured deferred sentence numbers which is encouraging. In terms of Diversion from Prosecution, case numbers remain high across Dumfries and Galloway. Following the recent national Thematic Review of Diversion from Prosecution across Scotland, updated national guidance is being prepared. In line with the national justice strategy, it is anticipated that more complex cases will be included in the scheme. Discussions are underway to ensure we will shape local delivery in accordance with the revised national guidance, once published.



Please note the addition of Electronic Monitored (EM) Bail to the table this year, with figures indicating a significant increase in the use of EM Bail since it was made available to Courts in May 2022. As an alternative to remand, EM Bail is designed to provide structure to individuals during their bail period, and in some cases, protection to others (e.g. victims or targets of an alleged violent offence, including domestic cases). While Justice Social Work are not responsible for the management of EM Bail, the Early Interventions Team continue to provide suitability assessments to Court.

Apex undertook a pilot project with Justice Social Work to offer support from their Shine Mentor to women on Structured Deferred Sentence (SDS). This has previously not been possible as Shine focused on supporting women at risk of breaching their Community Payback Order or on release from prison (details below). Over the reporting period there were nine women referred through the structured deferred sentence route. It was made clear to the women that the referral and support were optional and attendance voluntary. It was also clearly articulated that non engagement/attendance with Shine would not affect the outcome of their structured deferred sentence.

Rationale for this approach:

What?

Shine will be working in partnership with Dumfries & Galloway (D&G) JSW colleagues to pilot extending the eligibility criteria for Shine referrals to include women on a Structured Deferred Sentence (SDS).

Why?

In December 2021, D&G introduced SDS for females as a new offering to Court. They have identified numerous benefits from the more intense support from JSW over a briefer period (typically 3-6 months), rather than a CPO with Supervision that's typically imposed for 12 months or more. Successful completion of SDS can also see the case be admonished by Court – which has advantages (e.g. no disclosures when seeking employment). However, one disadvantage is that because the women don't have a CPO, a referral cannot be made to Shine.

D&G have reported 25 cases of SDS imposed, where at least 5 of them may have benefitted from additional support from Shine.

When?

The pilot will run for a 9-month period, with Shine accepting referrals in D&G to support women on SDS, from July 2023-March 2024.

How?

Regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be in place, with monthly reviews between local D&G Lead and local Shine Lead, as well as quarterly reviews with Shine Partnerships Manager and local mentors. Monthly referral trends and case monitoring will be captured and shared at the tripartite meeting with SG & SPS colleagues, as well as reported into the quarterly Project and Programme Boards. This will allow us to monitor the level of need, as well as caseload and capacity.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- *JSW resuming the role as case manager.*
- *JSW case manager using self-assessment tool to formulate action plan.*
- *JSW case manager and Shine mentor working closely together to agree respective areas of support.*
- *Weekly contact remaining in 1st 3-month period; reduced to fortnightly thereafter if assessed as suitable (can be delivered together with Shine as appropriate)*
- *JSW case manager including work with Shine in Court review reports.*
- *Shine Mentors will deliver as normal, working in partnership with JSW to share information and contribute to action plans and reporting.*

This also links to:

Priority 5: *Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes.*

Priority 10: *In relation to community integration*

Priority 11: *Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically.*

Priority Action Two

Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs⁵

Local Evidence:

- There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centre for local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population

6. ***What activity has taken place to support people in police custody to access support? What impact has there been as a result?***

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Police Scotland*
- *Local Authority*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Third Sector*
- *Health*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

There continues to be a good relationship between community justice partners and our local Alcohol and Drug Partnership, with many of the same partners involved in both strategic groups. This year has also seen the Community Justice Partnership taking ownership of the ADP Strategy priority in relation to public health approaches towards justice, arrest referral is included within this. Locally we have an Arrest Referral Service funded by ADP that is included as part of the region wide drug and alcohol service provided by We Are With You. ADP continue to drive work forward on MAT standards, this includes MAT Standards in justice settings which obviously overlaps the community justice agenda. A local working group in relation to MAT in justice settings is being planned.

Progress to date includes the development of two pathways from police custody, one ensuring people have access to their choice of MAT and the other to Assertive Outreach

⁵ National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres

which includes harm reduction access. Experiential work in justice settings is planned during the next reporting period which we expect to provide rich and beneficial data. During the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, We Are With You (WAWY) received 30 referrals via Arrest Referral across the region. They also received 45 referrals from Justice Social work.

There is good joint working between services although it was noted that some referrals made are not appropriate leaving WAWY staff sometimes feeling frustrated due to non-engagement and lack of commitment from those referred to carry out any structured work with the service. There has and continues to be communication received advising of the changes being made to the Arrest Referral process regarding sharing of information.

Service leaflets are available in both Stranraer and Dumfries for staff to hand out to all those who have been arrested where drugs or alcohol are an issue. Onward referral to other services in relation to need may also be made, for example employability support, housing etc.

The Service Manager reports that the number of referrals received are high compared to other We Are With You services in Scotland.

There may be some confusion between funded arrest referral provision and 'arrest referral' happening in police custody by custody staff.

Potential areas for improvement nationally may include:

- Mapping funded Arrest Referral Services across Scotland and who provides the funding. This might highlight inconsistency of provision which is what we want to avoid.
- Agreement from police to share data in relation to onward referrals made from police custody with each local authority area.

Owing to the data sharing agreements between police and other partners, referral agencies are limited within V division. All custodies are offered onward referral for support which are co-ordinated through Criminal Justice Services Division (CJSD) health care intervention. It should be noted that whilst onward referral for help and support is offered to all, it is not always accepted, and police are unable to refer on without consent.

All custodies are signposted to local agencies that can provide the relevant and appropriate assistance including:

- NHS drug & alcohol services (DAS)
- Alcohol and Drugs Support SW Scotland (ADSSW)
- Issu 18 (young persons substance use)
- Sexual Health D&G
- D&G Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre
- Aberlour (Family support)
- We Are With You (drugs & alcohol)
- Women's Aid (Dumfries and Stewartry in the East and Wigtownshire in the West)

The most recent figures from Police Scotland across V Division for the period 27/05/23-27/05/24 show that 42 referrals were made via police arrest referral. It should be noted that all custodies are provided with a z card which includes details of local support services. They take this with them on release and can make contact if they want to do so, however, as stated there would be no official referral through CJSD owing to the protocols. The z card

provided was supported and developed through the Community Justice Partnership and funded by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership a number of years ago. At that time there was no third sector Arrest Referral provider, it was thought the z card would help to raise awareness of support services in the interim. It is a reflection on how useful this is that it is still being used as a means to encourage support.

NHS D&G have monthly meetings with Police Scotland to look at the ongoing delivery of healthcare to those that are in police custody. There are clear pathways in place for those who are requiring access to Mental Health services who are in custody and collaborative work with the FME and Police Scotland continues.

A problem solving partnership: Safeguarding from Custody Working Group

Over many years, there has been a lack of clarity amongst agencies regarding the roles and responsibilities when an accused person requires assistance on release from custody or court. Assistance is typically sought by way of travel warrants and occasionally additional spends for food, drink, or even clothing. Those requiring assistance are typically living out with Dumfries and Galloway. Without clarity, situations often resulted in confusion amongst services and detracted from the needs (and vulnerabilities) of the person in need of repatriation. Recognising an increase in people being brought cross border on Scottish warrants to appear in the first court over the border a more effective solution was required, particularly as Dumfries and Galloway were picking up the costs of arrests and warrants from all over Scotland just because of their geography.

Led by Justice SW and chaired by the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership Manager, a Safeguarding from Custody Working Group was formed in November 2023. Representatives of the working group also includes Police Scotland, Geoamey, Out of Hours Social Work and Dumfries and Galloway Scottish Welfare Fund, SCTS and the Dean of the local Faculty. The aim of the group was to consider the difficulties with pre-existing practice and identify the key roles and responsibilities moving forward. With an acceptance of 'shared responsibility', a working agreement built on trust and streamlined process were quickly reached. As a result, people being released from Court or Police custody are now assisted to travel home in a timely manner. In turn, this reduces the risk of a person coming to harm (e.g. lone travel late at night) and speeds up access to supports and provisions at home (e.g. with other agencies, to medication).

A local Policy and Procedure is currently being drafted to secure collaborative practice between organisations/partners moving forward, even when staff change. Feedback from partners involved include 'it feels like a shared responsibility now....much more collaborative'

It should be noted that whilst a local solution to this issue has been found and implemented it has also been raised at a national level. Dumfries and Galloway should not be disadvantaged and be accountable for funding people to return home who have committed offences in other areas of Scotland just because of our geography.

Priority Action Three

Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively

Nationally determined outcome:

More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision⁶

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to support a high quality bail assessment.
- Referral pathways are in place that support identified needs of people on bail supervision.

7. What activity has taken place to increase the use of bail, and support people to access services to address needs while on bail? What impact has there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Defence Agents*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service*
- *Third Sector*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Service*
- *Judiciary*
- *Employability, Education and Training services*
- *Housing*
- *Health*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

Activity has included strong and effective communication between JSW, Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) and other court users to maintain awareness of the bail scheme. Also, locally JSW have a daily bail screening process and regular discussions with Crown Office Procurators Fiscal Service (COPFS), defence agents etc.

⁶ National Indicator:

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

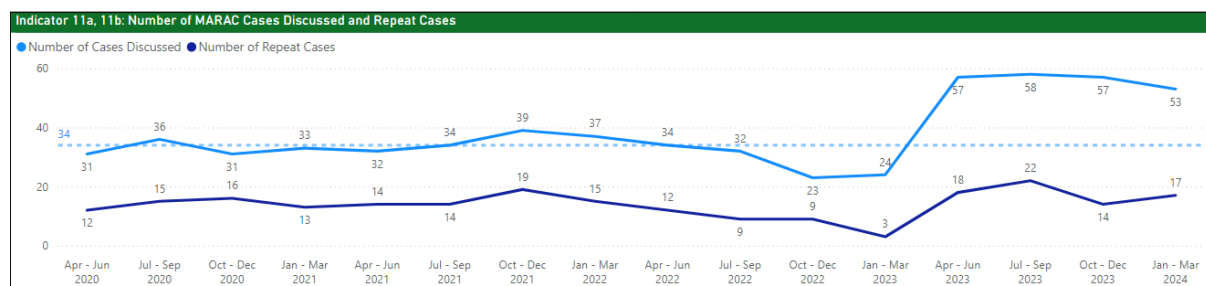
Regular bail assessments are carried out with a dedicated team (Early Interventions Team) to support those subject to bail supervision. Impact includes stabilisation for people remaining in the community, this includes maintaining family ties and positive friendships. We also recognise this work contributes to national aims of reducing the prison population.

In helping individuals remain in the community, collaboration with partner agencies is common practice. For example, health, addiction, employability and housing services. Mention must also be given to SHINE mentoring service for the lead role they have taken with one to one support for individuals on supervised bail. Individuals are seen to be motivated by the communication and support across services.

With the benefits of time and case experiences, the Early Interventions Team continue to develop approaches in the delivery of Bail Supervision and Structured Deferred Sentences. Both schemes continue to be managed in accordance with national guidance.

Please also refer to page 10, Priority Action 1: Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution.

It feels relevant to include information from Violence Against Women Sub Committee in relation to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) at this point, giving consideration to the main reason for MARAC repeats. In the period 2022/24, a total of 338 MARAC cases were discussed with 104 repeat cases (31%) compared to a total of 273 MARAC cases with 118 repeat cases (43%) in the previous two-year period. The percentage of cases discussed has increased by 20% with repeat cases falling by 12% compared to the previous 2-year period. It should however be noted that we have seen further increases in both the number of MARAC cases and repeat cases over the last 12 months and we expect this to continue to increase into the next reporting period.



As in previous years the primary reasons for repeat MARAC cases were due to breach of bail, breach of Non-Harassment Order (NHO) or breach of undertaking of court order. This was consistent with the previous two-year period and the current national trend. Close working relationships between VAWG and community justice means this was also raised within the Community Justice Partnership, reflecting strategic alignment and collaborative working.

As stated over the last two years, there has been increased use of bail supervision and diversion managed by the Early Intervention and Diversion team within Justice Social Work. This reflects the national drive to reduce the use of custody, using prison as a last resort whenever possible. Whilst we understand that community sentences and early intervention are very often positive, this becomes more challenging in relation to domestic abuse and consideration of victim safety. These national drivers and decisions in justice have impacted negatively on victims and survivors with increasing demand on specialist services to support women and children affected by violence. In turn, this affects statutory services when the capacity of services to offer specialist support is reached; the overall responsibility to keep people safe sits with the local authority. Despite this, evidence indicates that staff continue to

provide a high standard of support to those most at risk across our region. Quality assurance provides the partnership with assurance that people are listened to, involved and there is good collaborative working evident across services. However, the risk to all services if any one service could not deliver the current level of support would have a significant impact across the partnership.

Priority Action Four

Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

8. What activity has taken place in your area to increase the use electronic monitoring technologies? What impact has there been as a result?

This priority action was identified by Scottish Government as requiring nationally-driven actions as set out by the community justice strategy delivery plan. Given this is a developing area that does not have a national outcome, CJS do not expect many local areas to have undertaken significant activity in relation to it, however we recognise that some local areas, for example those involved with EM pilot projects, may want to report on their activity.

As an alternative to remand, electronic monitoring (EM) Bail is designed to provide structure to individuals during their bail period, and in some cases, protection to others (e.g. victims or targets of an alleged violent offence, including domestic cases). While Justice Social Work are not responsible for the management of EM Bail, the Early Interventions Team continue to provide suitability assessments to Court.

As in the response to question 8 above, a local daily bail screening process is in place and regular discussions take place with COPFS, defence agents etc⁷.

Regular bail assessments submitted to court. Assessment includes regular discussions with victims of (alleged) offences and recommendations for 'away from' addresses as well as to a person's own address.

Figures from G4S indicate increase in usage last year (57) compared to first year EM bail was introduced (27).

It should be noted that EM bail is often imposed without JSW being asked for or submitting a EM bail assessment. This is contrary to evidence which shows that bail is more effective when support is provided. This highlights potential need and may be a future area for improvement activity⁸.

From a prison perspective in relation to the use of electronic technology and Home Detention Curfew (HDC) HMP Dumfries assessed 28 people for HDC, approving the release of nine over the reporting period.

⁷ Comments relate to EM bail only, not HDC, RLO, RMR or any other form of electronic monitoring.

⁸ Please also refer to page 10, Priority Action 1: Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution

Priority Action 5

Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences⁹

Local Evidence

- Availability of local programmes to support desistance from domestic abuse and sexual offending.
- Availability of referral pathways to support the needs of local population on community disposals.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people with experience of community disposals to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of the community justice workforce with regard to supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement.

9. What activity has taken place that will support people serving sentences in the community to desist from offending, address their needs, and help them successfully complete their sentence? What impact has there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Justice Social Work*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service*
- *Third Sector*
- *Health*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

⁹ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

Justice Social Work staff have continued to complete core training for staff throughout the year, building skills required in order to manage the growing complexity of cases in the community and support people with behaviour change.

There has been a rise in MAPPA Level 2 cases subject to Community Payback Orders, being managed by the community teams. These, rightly, are resource intensive and present a different challenge in terms of management and potential support from partners. Accessing the national training required - Risk of Serious Harm (ROSH) training - to manage these cases can be challenging with limited training places being offered. JSW have accessed specific training for staff to allow continued service delivery in this area.

Improvement work has focussed on drugs and alcohol, with tests of change in the area of assessment. This is to ensure that people are targeting the correct areas linked to reoffending. Much of the justice service in Dumfries and Galloway are now Naloxone trained, having completed both Emergency First Aid and specific Naloxone administration training. This is positive and ensures that JSW staff can assist those in need if required, in line with the national Drug Death Strategy and local Alcohol and Drug Strategy.

Whilst men can be signposted for support if they recognise their own behaviour or feelings are problematic, the only direct work carried out with perpetrators continues to be provided by Justice Social Work (JSW) and is court mandated. [The Caledonian System](#) is a combined response to men's abusive behaviour for men convicted of domestic abuse related offences. JSW have delivered the Caledonian Programme to 46 men, a 21% increase compared to the previous reporting period (38 men). Men who have completed the Caledonian programme have said:

"Made me realise change can be a good thing and I can give up control now and being wrong is not a bad thing but a learning experience."

"An understanding that DA happens in many shapes and forms, and that there are more ways to go about things than this..."

"Working on myself so I can be better for everyone and myself."

"The facilitators are welcoming and superb at their job."

"I feel like I can deal with things a lot better and think before I speak. I have learnt different ways to work through things."

"Learning on how to control my anger and my emotions better as well as feel a lot happier talking to the group about things that happened in my life, better to get things off my chest."

JSW also continued to deliver the Moving Forward: Making Changes (MFMC) Sex Offender Programme. In the past 24 months the service has had 13 MFMC Programme Requirements imposed as part of a Community Payback Order and currently have groups running east and west of the region with an average of five men per group. A few men received intervention on a 1-1 basis due to complex needs which makes this the preferred treatment option for the individual.

JSW also delivered seven MFMC interventions and three Caledonian interventions to men released from custody post-sentence compared to 5 MFMC interventions and one Caledonian intervention in the last reporting period. This work is becoming more frequent for the team due to men serving custodial sentences (short term and long term) not being able to access programmes within a prison setting prior to release. Where feasible work will start

whilst men are undertaking home leave periods to ensure planned and consistent intervention pre- and post-release.

Community Supervision: The numbers of individuals being supervised by Justice Social Work in the community remains high. There are noted demands placed on the service due to increasing numbers of Justice Social Work Reports being requested by the Courts. These reports are provided following conviction, to assist the judiciary in imposing sentence. Staffing has remained consistent over the year, but JSW have needed to utilise casual report writers in busier periods to ensure that they maintained their 100% performance regarding the submission of reports to court on time.

Justice Social Work once again provided funding for **lived experience work**, recognising the need to build on work that started in 2022/23. This work continues to be hosted and delivered by Summerhill in the East of the region and Apex in the West. The majority of those involved have experience of, or are still subject to community payback orders, although some people accessing groups have historical justice involvement. A Lessons Learned Lived Experience Report covering the full two years of this approach is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Unpaid Work (UPW): This is continuing to grow alongside the traditional unpaid work range of projects, tasks and activities the UPW team are increasingly developing opportunities for personal placements for the individuals involved.

One such placement was at the Cree Studio in Newton Stewart, facilitated by the Complex Care & Support Team.

Cree Studio is a music and short film recording studio set up within Newton Stewart Activity & Resource Centre (ARC). It is a place where people can compose and record their own music on CDs, make short films/DVDs, create comic strip production or animation.

The work undertaken at the studio was pioneering and gained several national and regional awards, including a Special Commendation from the Scottish Social Services Council. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the studio was closed and most of the equipment dismantled as additional capacity was needed to adhere to Covid restrictions.

However, the opportunity arose for an individual with experience in this area of work to undertake his unpaid work in the studio and was able to assist in re-assembling the equipment to get Cree Studio up and running again. His positive view of this experience is outlined below:

"I would just like to state how much I enjoyed the placement repairing / setting up Cree Studio. It is my natural environment and the type of work I love.

When I first started, I was feeling very unwell and suffering greatly from depression. I really enjoyed the work and the environment, and it really lifted my spirits. It is the type of work which is specialist and would have been costly to bring someone in to do it.

I now hope it can be enjoyed by many people of all groups and ages as it was before.

If it happens that I would not be allowed to work there because of disclosure issues I would happily tutor someone suitable to operate the equipment and go through our working practice free of charge in my own time.

I feel as though I am moving forward in a positive way and this placement has been a big thing in helping me do this. I am very grateful for the support of the staff of the ARC and JSW staff for their wonderful support.

Thank you so much"

Unpaid Work – positive outcomes

Mark (not his real name) was made subject to a Community Payback Order in August 2022, with 24 months supervision and 300hrs UPW. He completed his UPW hours in February 2023. He admitted that he was very concerned about what it would be like at unpaid work, *“who you are going to be with, what you’re going to do, I was shi**ing myself after court”*.

When Mark arrived at unpaid work for his induction, he said he was *“immediately put at ease when I was met by staff. The way the worker came about, nice and pleasant. I was worried you would be abrupt because of what I’d done but you see people, not what they have done”*.

Eventually, Mark got to know people at UPW, and began interacting with others. *“I got involved in tasks such as looking after the ponies, and this really helped my mental health. My head was all over the place, unpaid work helped giving me something different to think about. Taking care of the horses/animals, interacting with different stuff instead of over thinking. My confidence changed from when first started, felt like I was getting back to my normal self, giving cheek again (using humour)”*.

On completion of his UPW hours Mark asked to stay on and volunteer at the UPW unit. He said *“I felt like I was the one that was helping folk, everyone seemed to want to come and talk to me. I thought I would ask to stay as I was the one to help people. It was a good area and good team.”*

Recently Mark has been delivering a cooking project in both Dumfries and Annan unpaid work units. This project, part of Amazing Futures, is a Lived Experience project hosted by Summerhill Community Centre. Mark uses his skills in relating to others to teach cooking and budget management to those on current Community Payback Orders. Although a very new project feedback has been fantastic. Well done, Mark! A case study focusing in Mark was also provided by Summerhill and can be seen below.

‘Assessed as suitable for a personal placement, he came to visit the Centre and our meeting highlighted all his amazing skills and abilities that needed to be nurtured and recognised. He initially could not see a life away from his present social group and he was heavily dependent on benefits as his income. Over a six month period, he started attending the Centre daily to keep busy and he was building a good relationship with other volunteers. His cooking skills had been developed further in Prison and he now had an opportunity to help in the Community, cooking as part of a team for our Lunch sessions. Undertaking relevant training was an important part of the process and receiving certificates was an incentive that could help with a future career. He began to think of running his own business and developing a self-financing future without the need for benefits.



This was a massive change in his thinking processes, at a time whereby his life was starting to take shape. He was drug free; was due to end his Unpaid Work Order; had secured his own tenancy in a better location and was starting to plan his future food business. His new friends and networks were very supportive and opened new opportunities.

In 2024 he opened his new food business. This person’s journey through an Unpaid Work Order has shown how he began engaging in the community; took new positive opportunities; networked with a wide range of organisations and businesses; realised his own worth and his potential to become successful. He recognises the need to stay focused and strong, to maintain his ongoing daily resilience and keep going in the right direction. He continues to do well’

As demonstrated above, third sector partners continue to work closely with Justice Social Work, supporting those using services and freeing up social worker time to concentrate on criminogenic need and behaviour change. During the reporting period Apex supported a number of personal placements for people completing Community Payback Orders. These roles include helping in the food bank, charity shop and Fareshare. Many of these individuals struggle to take part in group work due to health issues, or their particular offence means it would be difficult for them to mix in a group setting. Apex reported ***'We have excellent relationships with CPO staff and they regularly come to visit their clients on their placements and speak to staff for an update on progress. CPO also deliver Fareshare for us weekly and we would really struggle to maintain this without the support of the CPO team, staff and service users'***.

Summerhill Centre is based in the heart of North West Dumfries and run by volunteers who are supported by the Centre Manager. Their partnership working enables a holistic approach to supporting individuals who are suitable for an Unpaid Work Personal Placement in the community. This process builds on the work undertaken by JSW and allows for a person centred and needs led programme of unpaid work activities that also encourages positive personal development, networking and building confidence for an amazing future¹⁰.

Snapshot Male (Under 30) 75 hours Unpaid Work

This young man was a first time offender and was initially very worried about starting an Unpaid Work Order. His very diverse needs: gender identity, sexual orientation and his view of the world needed a safe and welcoming environment that could allow self-expression and a supportive network to move on in life. A Personal Placement at Summerhill could support this.

He had no family support or positive social network, but he developed a good connection with others at the centre. He became very much part of the environmental activities and got involved in volunteering after completing his order. This young man initially preferred to work alone; however, he began to slowly trust others and became a very valuable part of the team. He became more confident, took part in training; debates and informal conversations whereby he could reflect on his previous offending behaviour and recognise his potential to do well in life. He has co-represented the Centre at several regional gatherings; has welcomed visitors and facilitated meetings, co-hosted events and still enjoys the relaxed atmosphere at the Centre where he is accepted and valued.

Over recent months health colleagues have been able to establish closer working relations with JSW. This has included sessions with the clinical forensic psychologist who is able to support JSWs work with individuals who are subject to community disposals.

¹⁰ It should be noted that the snapshots provided also support Priority Action 9 in relation to employability.

Priority Action 6

Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

10. What activity has taken place to make restorative justice available to people and support them to access it, and what impact has there been as a result?

This priority action was identified by Scottish Government as requiring nationally-driven actions as set out by the community justice strategy delivery plan. Given this is a developing area that does not have a national outcome, CJS do not expect many local areas to have undertaken significant activity in relation to it, however we recognise that some local areas, for example those involved with RJ pilot projects or who commission their own RJ services locally, may want to report on their activity.

This is a future area for development for both Justice Social Work and Children and Families Social Work (CFSW), although CFSW are in the process of developing practice around restorative justice through making links with contextual safeguarding work and issues in the wider community. To date they have examples of:

- vandalism in Stranraer football ground causing thousands of pounds of damage, young people have been volunteering with the support of Youth Justice staff. However, they are now continuing to volunteer without support. Club staff spent time with the young people describing the impact of their actions and encouraging them to make reparations through volunteering.
- The rowing club was vandalised, some of the young people have written letters of apology and are willing to meet with the rowing club staff to discuss impact.
- The local park in Annan was vandalised, the staff there have discussed the impact with the young people, and they have volunteered litter picking etc.
- Some issues took place in the town centre on the buses, impacting on the driver and his feelings of safety, CFSW are liaising with stagecoach to support the young people to talk to the driver about the impact on him of their behaviour.

Work in this area has allowed the person harmed to talk to the young people to explore their thoughts and feelings around what has happened to them/their property and the impact. The worker helps both parties explore the consequences of their behaviour if it continues. Both parties are supported to be respectful of each other and find some resolution.

We are hoping to work with SCRA to explore restorative justice for victims of crime in a safe way, understanding that some training is needed for staff to undertake this work.

Priority Action Seven

Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence¹¹

Local Evidence

- Health and social care circumstances/care plans are reflected in collaborative plans for release.
- Referral pathways and information sharing arrangements are in place to support timely access to health and social care supports upon release.

11. What activity has taken place to support people to access health and social care support after release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Prison Service*
- *Health*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Local authority*
- *Third Sector*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

Through implementation of the MAT Standards pathways in relation to MAT, drug and alcohol treatment and harm reduction support have been developed for individuals leaving prison, demonstrating efforts to improve continuity of care and access to support services upon release.

HMP Dumfries continue to chair a Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board (MACRIB) meeting which is attended by Community Justice and other Third Sector partners to discuss those due to be liberated to Dumfries and Galloway within the next 10 weeks. This also includes those on remand who are identified as potentially being released from court. Support services are identified, and referrals made at this stage to engage and provide support. The MACRIB is an excellent example of multi agency partnership work, benefitting those returning to Dumfries and Galloway across Scotland as well as supporting strong and effective collaborative working to help reduce the risk of people returning to custody/offending.

¹¹ National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

The Recovery and Wellbeing Officer and NHS Addiction Nurse within the prison work in partnership to deliver Naloxone Awareness and assess individuals for Prison to Rehabilitation (over the reporting period no person identified as meeting the need for this service).

The HMP Dumfries Recovery and Wellbeing Officer also engages with external partners such as We Are With You, Scottish Recovery Consortium and NHS within the Prison who provide support for individuals in custody, this also includes the development and support of Peer Mentors. There is no doubt that accessing this support whilst in custody helps facilitate a more effective release and reintegration back to the local community.

Priority Action Eight

Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence¹²

Local Evidence

- SPS admissions and liberations information is shared with relevant partners to support suitable accommodation planning.
- Proportion of admissions where housing advice was provided.
- Percentage of people leaving prison who have been housed by the local authority and have maintained tenancy for more than 1 year

12. What activity has taken place to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Scottish Prison Service*
- *Housing Services*
- *Other housing providers/landlords*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Health*
- *Third Sector*

¹² National Indicator:
Number of:

- homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

- *Any other partners as relevant*

Dumfries and Galloway has had a Prison Discharge Protocol in place for a number of years. This has recently undergone a review and it is anticipated that this review will be completed by end of September 2024. Unfortunately, during 2023/2024 we were unable to rehouse any individuals via our Prison Discharge Protocol, this was mainly due to the slowdown of available permanent accommodation from our Registered Social Landlords (RSL).

Due to Dumfries and Galloway Council being a stock transfer local authority we rely heavily on our RSL providers to lease accommodation to the Local Authority to fulfil their statutory duty around temporary accommodation. Sadly, people are placed in their temporary accommodation for longer periods of time due to the slowdown of permanent accommodation. Due to the high level of homeless presentations Dumfries and Galloway Council have had to utilise Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation to fulfil their statutory duty.

It is always the aim of the homeless service to ensure that prison liberations have temporary furnished accommodation when they are released. However, this is not always possible due to the exceptional demands on temporary furnished accommodation. On occasions B&B has been used for people being liberated from prison. However, this is only short term and when temporary furnished accommodation becomes available, customers within B&B are always moved on to temporary furnished accommodation as soon as possible. Due to budget challenges Community Care Grants have not always supplied the necessary home furnishing particularly around floor coverings when people move into permanent accommodation, this is constantly being monitored by the Housing Options and Welfare team. Our support providers always ensure that they mentor the individual to enable them to access a source of funding for any other goods that will ensure the flat is fully furnished.

On a more positive note, we continue to have Housing First in the east of the region, supported by Turning Point Scotland. Over the reporting period Housing First:

- supported 20 people, 17 men and four women (this includes one couple).
- Two people left the service (wanted to be housed out with Dumfries)
- Twelve tenancies at April 2024
- Three tenancies sustained over a two year period, seven over a year and three over six months.
- 87% tenancy sustainment rate over twelve months.
- Two people in temporary accommodation, one in custody, one in residential rehab and one living with his partner.

Successes:

- Fourteen people engaging with drug and alcohol support, including one person in residential rehab in Ayrshire.
- Twelve people engaging with mental health support.
- No overdoses in the last six months.
- One service user now has overnight access with her son and will soon have joint custody.
- Continued close working relationships with external services, in particular JSW and prison staff.

Challenges: Dumfries is a small area in many respects and people know each other. This means there have been some challenges with service users struggling to avoid previous

acquaintances and repeat offending can be a challenge. As stated earlier in this report, a lack of permanent housing remains a challenge.

Housing First Case Study¹³:

Finlay was 25 when he was referred to the service. He had served 14 months of a 28-month sentence and was due to be liberated. He had a significant history of homelessness and had never had his own tenancy.

Finlay had been known to Social Services as a child and had suffered significant childhood trauma. He had been in care and had started using drugs in his early teens. Finlay also had significant mental health issues and used self harm as a coping mechanism.

While in prison Finlay engaged with the addictions nurse and was prescribed Buvidal. He reports that this interaction “gave me the confidence to believe that things could be different. She referred me to Housing First and encouraged me to give it a go.”

Finlay’s allocated worker visited him in prison prior to liberation. Finlay had a history of non-engagement and had only ever engaged with support for two to three weeks in the past. It was important to start a relationship with Finlay before liberation so he knew who he would be working with. Upon liberation, Finlay was put into B&B as a temporary measure. The Housing First team worked closely with the Homeless service staff to ensure that everyone knew how Finlay was getting on and any issues could be addressed quickly. Finlay said he was not sure about the Housing First service to begin with but the intensive support let him see that his worker wouldn’t give up on him. “John didn’t give up on me, even when I wasn’t answering his calls or texts. He kept checking on me and made sure I was okay. I was really struggling at first and he made me feel like I wasn’t on my own.”

Finlay was moved into temporary accommodation after a week, which was a one bedroom flat. At this point he was allocated a new worker as his current worker was promoted within the service. Finlay engaged very well with his support worker and a good relationship quickly developed. His worker supported him to attend appointments with the NHS Specialist Drug and Alcohol service. He engaged very well and has not used illicit substances since liberation. He has also now engaged with support with his mental health and is being assessed for ADHD.

Finlay signed for his first tenancy last week. Care was taken to ensure he was offered an appropriate tenancy in an area where he would thrive, away from past associates. Turning Point Scotland worked in partnership with the Homeless team and Wheatley Homes South to identify a property and facilitate a smooth move.

Finlay is delighted with his new home and with help from his worker, he has furnished it and is now starting to decorate to put his own stamp on it. His worker has gone out with him in the community to support him to get to know the area and start making connections. He is on first name terms with the local shop owner and has a good relationship with his immediate neighbours.

Finlay’s support will continue for as long as he wants, and he decides when he sees his worker and how often. When asked how it felt to have his first home his response was “At 22 I never even thought I would make it to 25, never mind have my own house! I didn’t ever

¹³ A very powerful case study has been provided by Turning Point in relation to Housing First. This is included as a separate appendix (Appendix 2) due to its length. We make no apologies for including it as it clearly demonstrates the difficulties faced by people and for the staff supporting them. It is also an excellent example of partnership working.

think I could come this far. The support I get is so important. Ashley speaks to me like a human being, not a child or like someone who has loads of issues. I make my own decisions about what support I need and what I want to happen in my life. I am spoken to in an up front and honest way. My life is going in the right direction”

Priority Action Nine

Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment¹⁴

Local Evidence

- Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports:
 - i. local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions
 - ii. local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support
 - iii. local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions.
- Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support:
 - i. at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO
 - ii. following release from custody.

13. What activity has taken place to support people to access employability support, and what impact had there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Local Authority employability services*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Third Sector*
- *Scottish Prison Service*

¹⁴ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- those in employability services with convictions

- *Scottish Courts and Tribunals Services*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

Employability, work, learning and skill acquisition often begins in custody for some people, and sometimes for the first time in their lives. This absolutely enhances their opportunities for work and better reintegration on release back to their families and local communities. HMP Dumfries delivers education qualifications supported by Fife College which enhances people's ability to qualify for employment opportunities. HMP Dumfries deliver two Let's Cook Programmes per year in which 14 individuals participated in modules linked to the hospitality industry to support employment upon release. Skills and knowledge development are also offered in gardening and joinery and is supported by community projects.

During 2023-24 the local Skills Development Scotland (SDS) teams closed their public access centre to co-locate with Dumfries & Galloway College in Stranraer and Dumfries. They currently offer a service five days per week. This has enabled the team to be more responsive and reactive to those with presenting needs and allowed for better partnership working. Many people have referenced lived experience with the justice system and advisers provide a tailored support to each case and referral on as appropriate.

SDS/Scottish Prison Service have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This has been developed to take account of recent changes in the justice system, for example under 18s now being kept out of custody and instead serving sentences in the community plus the success of the Whole Systems Approach. The agreement sets out joint working priorities between Skills Development Scotland (SDS) with SPS over the next two years (2024-26). Key areas of joint work include:

- SDS/SPS supporting young people aged under 18 on community-based sentences plus providing SPS with new liberation pack inserts detailing SDS services available in local communities (see attached)
- Further collaboration on Community Justice approaches
- Joint CPD activity to develop the skills and knowledge of Skills Development Scotland and SPS colleagues.
- Explore and develop remote delivery options.
- Raise awareness of SDS services available to the wider (adult) prison population in their home areas, which are accessible on release using digital media systems/kit/approaches.
- Continue to monitor and review the Data Sharing Agreement between both organisations.

SDS continues to work to embed trauma informed practice and refine our approach.

Following initial discussions with Apex and Dumfries and Galloway Employability and Skills Service (ESS) a seed was sown centred around developing a supportive employability programme involving multiple partners, working with people going through community payback orders. For various reasons progress stalled, at which point the Community Justice Partnership Manager reached out to SDS for support and asked if they would Chair a short life working group to get this initial idea off the ground. Because of the time delay, it was identified that Apex were about to pilot an employability programme for justice experienced people in the West that was very similar to the discussed partnership project. SDS contacted Employability and Skills and suggested that rather than having duplication, The Community Justice Partnership, including SDS, ESS and Apex could work together to deliver this programme. They also asked if any PMO/LEP funding was available to support this, suggesting this might go to Apex as the lead delivery organisation.

Anyone who signed up for the programme could also be registered on Hanlon and receive ongoing support from ESS once they completed the programme and progress through the pipeline, demonstrating effective partnership working and collaboration.

Details of the pilot from the initial Apex proposal:

‘Stranraer Pilot is an employability focused programme for people who have experienced or are at risk of entering the Justice System. It will offer Intense mentoring, focused group work sessions, sector specific qualifications and work tasters and placements. We envisage the course to last for 8 weeks, however this is participant led and dependent on the stage they enter therefore it is anticipated that some people may complete quicker than eight weeks, while others will be supported for longer than eight weeks. In addition to the programme we will offer participants who are successful in gaining employment In-work Support for up to 6 months.

The first pilot will start on 5th February 2024 with a focus on hospitality, offering ten places for those who have an interest in or a willingness to work in this industry. The Apex Best Practice Manager will monitor the progress and success of this pilot with a view to establishing further programmes linked to various other industries.’

ESS agreed that because the request for funding was under £5,000 they could approve the spend through No One Left Behind and the pilot commenced. This piece of work would not have been possible without the support of all partners involved and identifying the small amount of funding required. Particular thanks to SDS colleagues for being so proactive with this. An update on the Foundation Programme pilot is included below.

The Stranraer pilot Foundation Programme was initially set up as an 8-12 week programme with a hospitality focus as stated above, for people who had experienced or were experiencing the Justice system. The only criteria was that they had to have a desire or willingness to work in the hospitality industry. For this particular programme no one with convictions against vulnerable groups, sexual convictions or a conviction of arson would be eligible due to the specifications of the industry.

Initial discussions between Apex and a local branch of Greene King meant that potential work tasters and work placements were available to those participants who completed the programme and worked through to the later stages of the Participant Journey.

Apex staff attended the Justice Team Meeting to market the programme to staff and talk through referral processes. Although this was well received by the Justice Team no referrals were made by them for this pilot.

Components of the pilot included:

- Identify and address barriers
- Letter of disclosure
- Employment Portfolio
- Cooking and kitchen skills
- Customer Services basics
- Manual Handling
- First Aid
- Food hygiene
- Work Tasters

Referrals came from the following sources¹⁵

Participant	Referrer	Status	Initial Journey Stage ¹⁶
Participant 1	Time 2 Chat	Economically Inactive	Stage 1
Participant 2	Time 2 Chat	Economically Inactive	Stage 1
Participant 3	Time 2 Chat	Economically Inactive	Stage 1
Participant 4	Time 2 Chat	Unemployed (awaiting UCLCWA decision)	Stage 1
Participant 5	Time 2 Chat	Economically Inactive	Pre employability
Participant 6	Moving In	Economically Inactive	Stage 1
Participant 7	Moving On	Unemployed	Stage 2
Participant 8	Shine	Economically Inactive (no benefits as recently released from prison)	Stage 2
Participant 9	PoP ¹⁷	Economically Inactive	Stage 1

Of the nine referrals seven were Economically Inactive, receiving either Universal Credit, Limited Capability for work and work-related activity (UC LCWRA) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA) support group element. One was on unemployment benefit, but awaiting confirmation of successful UC LCWRA claim, with the final participant on unemployment benefit only and actively seeking employment.

Through their experience Apex knew their participant group has always been more challenging. Chaotic lifestyles, traumatic experiences, addiction issues alongside no or little work history, low level or no qualifications and no confidence or self-belief has made the journey more demanding on staff time and resources.

Those at the lower stages of the participant journey, those who are not required to look for work due to no requirement to do so for benefits presents additional challenges:

1. More challenging to motivate.
2. Very concerned about even thinking of employment due to the money they would lose from their benefits.

Outcomes: On completion of the Foundation Programme the following outcomes were achieved.

- 8 out of 9 completed an accredited qualification.
- 14 accredited qualifications were completed in total.
- 1 gained full time employment.
- 3 started volunteering.

Learning: The participants registered on this pilot project who were in receipt of a sickness benefit reported that this was for mental health rather than physical health. The important point here is that it can take weeks, sometimes months to motivate someone and help them towards a more structured lifestyle when mental health is poor. The norm for employability

¹⁵ Referral sources were all other Apex services

¹⁶ Initial assessment identified 2 participants at different levels 1 at stage 3 and 1 at stage 2, however after further appointments it was agreed that these stages should be adjusted for a more accurate representation of what we identified in the early engagement. These were changed to stage 2 and stage 1.)

¹⁷ Paths of Positivity – Lived Experience Group

contracts is target and time driven, therefore not a suitable environment for people with complex needs. To achieve meaningful and significant progression we need sufficient time, experienced staff and outcomes that represent what is achievable and a success to the individual, therefore for future employment specific programmes Apex will only seek referrals from people who are actively seeking work, are registered unemployed and are not economically inactive.

Foundation Pilot Case Studies:

Participant B first came to Apex having been referred from Homeless Housing to our Moving In service for a food parcel.

B had been relocated from Dumfries, she had been living with her partner in his tenancy, he then received a prison sentence, and she was no longer able to stay there.

B was relocated to Stranraer as this was the only homeless accommodation available, however this was something that B did not want, it was far from family and other support network and in an area she did not know.

B then engaged with our Time to Chat service for general support. She was then referred to our Foundation Pilot as she was keen to work towards employment and had previous hospitality experience. After registering on our FP B began volunteering within our foodbank and an action plan was created setting out training and qualification targets.

The following week B received notice that she had been allocated permanent accommodation 85 miles away from Stranraer and given a quick entry date, therefore withdrawing for the programme.

This is just one example of the challenges and barriers presented when registering participants on a employability journey who are at the early stages of their journey.

Participant E was offered a place on the Foundation Project pilot in February 2024 and was very keen and motivated for the opportunity. He had 100% attendance and completed two qualifications as well as attending cooking classes throughout the course. His motivation and attitude to the programme set a great example to others on the project during his time with us. An opportunity of employment was presented to Participant E through the project from a local factory, and we supported him to apply for the job. He was assisted with the application form, supported with interview skills and he was delighted to be given the offer of full time employment. Participant E attended his induction at the factory, and this went extremely well, he continues his employment with the factory.

Participant E continues to access support through our In Work Support element of the Foundation Programme. Through this he has been able to access a clothing grant for people who gain employment and is also being supported to apply for funding for driving lessons.

Participant E is very grateful for the opportunity he was given and says it has made such a positive difference to his life and that he can now see a brighter future.

Apex Scotland's Moving On service provides support to service users (16+) in Dumfries and Galloway to address personal barriers to employability. The service, funded through the local authority, is aimed at those involved in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviours, and those who are socially isolated as a result of problems including homelessness, substance misuse, low literacy and numeracy, lack of work or education, etc.

Over the reporting period the service received 115 referrals with 77 of those going on to engage. Engagement was significantly higher in the West at 85% compared to 51% in the East. Referrals were predominately male (107 men compared to only 8 women) and the majority were aged over 25 (90 people).

Barriers identified¹⁸:

• Criminal record	103
• Substance use	70
• Housing issues	40
• Previously been in prison	64
• Mental health issues	68
• Literacy/numeracy issues	58
• Sex offender	17
• Have never worked	27

The service has a target of 90% of referrals being offered an appointment within 5 working days, over the reporting period they achieved 98%¹⁹.

Outcomes:

The following soft outcomes were achieved, service users may have achieved more than one.

Displayed a positive change in attitude, confidence and self-esteem:	30	42	72(76%)
Completed disclosure process and understand relevance of their convictions:	32	14	46(48%)
Completed a CV:	20	24	44(44%)
Applied for jobs:	16	22	38(40%)
Offered an interview for employment or education:	12	15	27(28%)
Referred to specialist support agency:	0	27	27(28%)

Total achieving at least one soft outcome: 76%

Hard Outcomes (40% will achieve a hard outcome.)

Achieved full time or part time employment:	6	13
Undertook accredited training:	2	18

Total achieving at least one hard outcome: 41%

Case Study

Craig was referred by DWP for support with understanding his convictions as his job coach was wanting him to try harder to find work. He explained he has avoided applying for any job that asks for conviction information and that there are not any other suitable jobs he wanted to apply for.

I assisted Craig to complete a Subject Access Request (SAR). During the three weeks it took for a response I helped Craig create a new CV template and helped him create multiple CVs based on job specifications from his searches on Indeed. This gave him a library of CV options to use and made his job applications more effective.

¹⁸ It should be noted that often people present with multiple barriers.

¹⁹ The delay was due to incorrect contact details recorded on referral form and extended annual leave.

Once he received the SAR response from Police Scotland, I was able to help him understand that only one of the three convictions he had needed to be disclose. I then helped him create a disclosure letter that explained this minor offence.

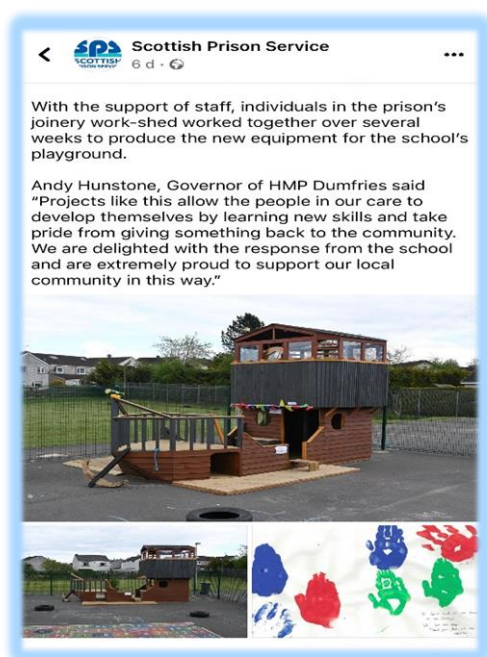
Craig was much happier and more confident as a result and felt he could now apply for some of the positions he was avoiding previously. At this point he felt he did not need any further support and continued job searching on his own. After a month had passed since his file was completed, I called him to see how he was getting on. He happily informed me he had been taken on by a local bus company.

Employability and Skills within the Local Authority reported 7% of all their clients registered on the Hanlon CMI system reported having a conviction; this represents 45 individuals and is a huge increase in the previous year. This increase was in part due to Local Employability Partnership (LEP) funding to support APEX in delivering employability support and training for individuals engaging with their Foundation project, other contributing factors include an increase in referrals from DWP and an improved employability training offer.

Over the reporting period Disclosure Scotland provided training related to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Helping Employers Recruit Safely for both practitioners and employers in the region.

Referrals pathways to LEP funded employability support are largely through DWP at present. Work will get underway in 2024/25 to improve work directly with Social Work and those working to support other aspect of justice experienced people's lives.

Building on previous years success and a visit by Koestler HMP Dumfries looked at entering an item into the 2023 craft category. Working in partnership with Community Payback and Local Primary School, individuals within the Joiners work-party were encouraged and motivated to put their learning into practice. Over the next few months, the individuals utilised materials within the party and recycled old pallets to design and build a Pirate Ship. Photographs and a short description of the project were submitted and was awarded a GOLD award.



Two individuals in the care of SPS within HMP Dumfries have successfully achieved the British Institute of Cleaning Science (BICS) Assessor Award and will now take on the role of peer support assessor within the VT Cleaning party. To our knowledge and feedback from BICS this is a first for prisoners to achieve the assessor award.

Priority Action Ten

Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence²⁰

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences.
- Proportion of people liberated from short term custody:
 - i. made aware of support
 - ii. accepting support offer
 - iii. with a co-ordinated pre-release plan in place.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people accessing voluntary throughcare to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of community justice partners in delivering voluntary throughcare to support the needs of people leaving short term custody.

14. What activity has taken place to support people to access voluntary throughcare? What impact had there been as a result?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Police Scotland*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Scottish Prison Service*
- *Third Sector*
- *Health*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service*
- *Integration Joint Boards*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

As stated earlier in this report the Multi Agency Reintegration Board (MACRIB) continues to be chaired by SPS and brings together all local partners to discuss those being liberated and returning to Dumfries and Galloway from across the prison estate. The MACRIB is now well

²⁰ National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

established and embedded in Dumfries and Galloway, with robust relationships between partners. This ensures the needs of individuals are largely met and any gaps in provision can be highlighted, allowing for solutions to be sought and effective throughcare arrangements to be in place.

Apex deliver both Public Social Partnership Throughcare Mentoring Services in Dumfries and Galloway, Shine for women and New Routes for men. This is staffed by one full time mentor covering the whole region for New Routes and the Shine role is split with two part time mentors based in Dumfries and Stranraer. The geography of the region makes it very hard to cover for one person and the New Routes mentor spends a lot of time travelling. More local prisoners are now being held in Kilmarnock, as well as prisons further afield which makes it harder to build up the relationship with the mentee before they are released.

Apex has an excellent relationship with Dumfries Prison and sit on the MACRIB, but don't have the same relationships with other prisons. There have been issues getting access to visit people in HMP Kilmarnock meaning that sometimes the mentor has not met the person before they are released and can't then do a gate pick up.

As stated previously, housing has been a big issue over the reporting period and this is a real area of concern. Many people have been placed in temporary Bed and Breakfast accommodation which is not conducive to effective reintegration and doesn't really seem fit for purpose in this instance, no cooking facilities, access to crockery etc. Even accessing food parcels that contain food which can be 'cooked' using a kettle is far from ideal with the food having very little nutritional value and those on low incomes simply cannot afford to eat out all the time. Whilst we recognize the pressure local housing and homeless services are under and appreciate having somewhere to stay is better than nowhere, we also recognize the impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals who are already vulnerable and may have little or no support from friends and family.

Shine cast study: *I had only ever met K when she visited the Foodbank, also housed within Apex premises. Then a short while later I received a prison referral for this lady.*

She failed to engage with appointments for Shine and seemed only ever to turn up when she needed a food parcel.

I liaised closely with colleagues at Justice Social Work and was advised that I'd be lucky if she engaged as she was a serial non-attender, meaning her compliance with her Community Payback Order was heading toward a breach.

So I persevered and eventually K attended an appointment with me. We took it slowly and by the time we'd completed her Outcome Star over a couple of sessions, she could see for herself that she needed support. It was like a lightbulb moment and a turning point for this lady, who was keen to admit that her lifestyle had been chaotic for the past 25 years.

We arranged our meetings for the same day and time each week, which gave her a little structure. A gentle text reminder in the morning worked well.

K has engaged steadily ever since, only missing the occasional appointment. But I am delighted that she is engaging at all, as this is new territory for her.

Each week we take a step further to address her needs, starting with registering with a GP. Something that we all take for granted, but K was discharged from her previous GP Practice

several years ago, as she moved and was told to register in her new locality. She told me she had made attempts but had got nowhere as she was a known IV drug user, and with that comes the stigma.

One appointment later, we had completed a registration, set her up an email account, and requested a smartphone through Shine to get her online.

K can start to see changes for the better and is motivated to keep attending as she can see progress, so she is invested in leading a better life.

Irene: Irene grew up in England and has two daughters aged 14 and 20, one lives with her dad the older one lives with Irene's mother, both still in England. She moved to Scotland just before lockdown to find two friends living in Stranraer, unfortunately these friends had moved on but she decided to stay in Stranraer.

Irene was placed in homeless accommodation. She suffers from social anxiety and had no friends in this area. Irene was referred to Shine as she was undertaking a Structured Deferred Sentence, She has no history of offending behaviour prior to this particular incident.

Her Shine Mentor quickly realised Irene suffered with anxiety and with JSW a referral was sent to 'Change Mental Health' for support with this. The Mentor met Irene at her home address a few times to build a relationship, this built up her confidence enough to meet out with her home, starting with meeting her halfway then getting further away each meeting until she was ready to walk to Apex on her own. Irene was allocated a 'Change Mental Health' worker. By this stage Irene was able to walk to Apex on her own, she would also walk to get her shopping rather than get it delivered and also joined the local gym which she attends on her own. Irene spoke about starting a meditation class as she felt this was missing from the area, she has experience in this field.

Irene's last appointment with her Shine Mentor was very emotional, seeing her confidence build and how much happier she was. She couldn't thank her mentor enough saying "SHINE is a great service and got me through a very difficult time in my life, I would hate to see how things would have turned out without this service".

New Routes Case Study: Background: Released from prison March 2023 was in homeless accommodation and receiving help from New Routes and Specialists Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS). Has no relationship with children and has addiction issues and health issues.

Key work undertaken: Worked closely with SDAS to manage addiction from heroin, placed on buprenorphine, been very successful and has had no relapse. He has rekindled his relationship with both kids and family members. Received a hip replacement and has improved mobility and quality of life. Went on his first family holiday with his children and applied to get his driver's license back, he has now bought a car.

Outcomes/next steps: Signed off from New Routes in June 2024. Only has SDAS support now and has rebuilt his life, no further agency support needed at this point which is amazing.

As a result of K engaging well with Mentoring, JSW has reduced the number of appointments they require her to attend. This is because they can see the value of Shine's contribution and are happy for me to report back.

Priority Action Eleven

Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

Local evidence:

- Mechanisms are in place to support engagement in each local authority, specifically:
 - a community justice outcomes improvement plan (CJOIP)
 - a participation statement
 - an annual report on progress towards nationally and locally determined outcomes.
- Mechanisms are in place to support an effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives within Community Justice Partnerships.
- Evidence of mechanisms to engage non-statutory partners in strategic planning
- Use of the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with focus on Leadership and Direction

15. How has your partnership worked to develop local leadership and enhance strategic planning and collaboration? What impact had there been as a result?

Scottish Government have indicated that activity to delivery in relation to this priority action should be built into the work of partners to progress the 9 national outcomes.

We encourage partners to reflect on what local activity has taken place to develop engagement, collaboration, and demonstrate leadership in community justice partnership working. For example, this could include development as a partnership, engagement and joint working with other local strategic partnerships, or other relevant activity. If any self-evaluation activity has been undertaken, this may support development of this answer.

Community Justice Partnership information is hosted on the Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership website²¹. This is where partners and members of the public can access our [Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2028](#), [Dumfries and Galloway CJOIP Participation Statement](#), previous annual reports (local annual report is published following submission of this return). The page also provides information and links to all statutory partners and details some (but not all) of our third sector partners.

Mechanisms to support the effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives sits with those national statutory partners. We have identified improvement activity in relation to this within our CJOIP by way of local updates from local

²¹ Available at [Public Protection Home Page - Public Protection \(dgppp.org.uk\)](https://publicprotection.org.uk)

partner reps on progress within the National Delivery Plan for Community Justice. This has had limited success and is an area we continue to focus on.

A delay in the review and refresh of the [Guidance for Local Partners in the New Model for Community Justice](#) has not been helpful. However, the new [Community justice outcomes improvement planning and reporting: Statutory guidance](#) is a clearer, more accessible document and is welcomed.

A review of governance and the development of an induction pack for new members or new representatives to the Community Justice Partnership is an area of improvement within our CJOIP. Through the National Community Justice Peer Network, we are basing a new local induction pack on one shared by a colleague from Stirling (inspired by one from Angus). Until work is completed on governance structures, we are unable to complete this work at present. Terms of Reference for CJP are also currently under review.

Examples of partners working together is clearly evidenced throughout this report including:

- SDS supporting an employability initiative/pilot proposed by Apex Scotland, advocating and supporting funding to be sought from local authority employability and skills.
- Safeguarding
- Business Improvement Officer support for PDSA and self-evaluation

At a national level the National SDS team and Community Justice Scotland colleagues facilitated 'talking points' sessions with local Community Justice Co-ordinator/Managers and SDS local reps, to share insight, practice and national themes. The national SDS team attend the national Community Justice Programme Board together with other statutory partners.

Priority Action Twelve

Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

16. How has your partnership worked to understand and incorporate the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families into partnership planning and implementation? *What impact has there been as a result?*

Scottish Government have indicated that activity to delivery in relation to this priority action should be built into the work of partners to progress the 9 national outcomes.

We encourage partners to reflect on what local activity has taken place to enable participation of people accused or convicted of offences, their families, victims of crime and other stakeholders in community justice strategic planning, delivery and impact monitoring.

Our Lived Experience Lessons Learned Report is included as an Appendix to this report and lived/living experience is embedded across our CJOIP 2023-2028. An update on Lived/living experience is a standing item on the CJP agenda.

During the reporting period focus groups were carried out with people with justice experience, including those in prison. This helped shape the local CJOIP.

We largely rely on partners to bring the voices and experiences of those with lived and living experience to the partnership table. Although we have had very limited contact with Victim Support Scotland this year, the voices of victims and the challenges they face is conveyed by [ASSIST](#) (Advocacy Support Safety Information Services Together) and [Dumfries and Galloway Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Support Centre](#).

Our Community Justice Partnership Manager is also Chair of the Public Protection Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Sub Committee, enabling barriers, challenges and successes to be shared between strategic groups resulting in a more joined up approach. An example of this is the increase in MARAC repeats being highlighted at VAWG Sub and then taken to CJP. All VAWG partners have an open invitation to attend CJP meetings if they want to do so. Having a Chair with a remit for community justice has also helped VAWG to get agreement that MATAC data will be reported through this route, a positive step forward. This also supports Priority Action 13 below.

The real added value of having partners such as Families Outside and Summerhill on our local CJP has been to listen and learn from wider family members. Funding remains challenging in this area, despite the input being crucial for improvement activity.

Priority Action Thirteen

Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

Nationally determined outcome:

More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice²²

Local Evidence

- Community justice partner contribution to joint activity across policy areas to tackle stigma.

17. What partnership-driven activity has taken place to improve understanding of and confidence in community justice across the workforce and local community?

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- *Other local area strategic partnerships (e.g., Community planning, Alcohol and Drugs, Violence Against Women and Girls, Health Integration Joint Boards, etc.)*
- *Third Sector*
- *Any other local or national partners as relevant*

Lived Experience Lessons Learned Report (Appendix 1).

Following an initial approach made via UWS to our VAWG Coordinator and CJP Manager we were able to support VAWG colleagues to host a visit of members of the Comité National des Violences Intrafamiliales (Commission recherches auteurs/Research Commission on Offenders) as seen in **Appendix 3**.

“The conference gave us an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in Scotland in relation to violence against women whilst recognising there is still much work to do. On a personal level I was struck by the passion of all those working in this field, from police, Justice Social Work, third sector and academia; huge thanks to partners involved in the Violence Against Women Sub Committee for their continued support. We were delighted to highlight and share the learning to date on the Caledonian Programme, working with perpetrators of domestic abuse and supporting the women and children affected by such abuse....Whilst I think there is much we can share with our French colleagues we also have to acknowledge there was learning for us to take away, particularly in relation to the status

²² National Indicator:

Percentage of people who agree that:

- people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

victims are given within court processes, the recognition of forced suicide and innovations in non-court mandated (pre- sentence) perpetrator work with men.

This year, Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership and local leads from Dumfries and Galloway CJP attended a MAPPA development day. This included observing a Strategic Oversight Group meeting, allowing community justice staff to increase their awareness of the inner workings of MAPPA strategic meetings. Attendees at the event heard from retired Detective Superintendent Gail Johnston, who shared some important learning drawn from a recent Significant Case Review, as well as Emeritus Professor Hazel Kemshall - a preeminent expert on MAPPA - about what it takes to be an effective Strategic Oversight Group. The increased partnership between CJAP, Dumfries and Galloway CJP and MAPPA colleagues is important, especially when considering actions around tackling stigma.

Quarterly reports continue to be provided to the Community Planning Partnership Board evidencing progress towards national and local outcomes as well as towards CPP priority areas.

Examples of strategic links with other partnerships is reflected throughout this report, including:

- CJP leading on the public health approach to justice within the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategy. This has enabled us to influence the service specification in relation to arrest referral and more effective data capture on onward referral and engagement.
- Benefits of the Community Justice Partnership Manager chairing the Public Protection VAWG Sub Committee.
- Supporting oversight of the lived/living experience work, this will also support the Public Protection Partnership priority area of lived experience moving forward.
- CJP partners supporting and delivering workshops and events during Public Protection Week on their theme of lived experience.
- Joint work on the development of an anti stigma strategy (ADP, CJP, VAWG).
- CJP representation on Public Protection Learning and Development Sub Committee (Vice Chair).
- CJP involvement in the Strategic Alcohol and Drug Death Group.
- Support with PP VAWG 16 Days of Activism events.

Information is regularly shared by the Community Justice Partnership Manager to all partners which is then cascaded to staff teams as appropriate. This includes opportunities for learning and development, national conferences and consultations and innovative pieces of work. We have a standing agenda item at every CJP on 'Local and National CJ Developments' and also 'Lived/Living Experience'. Over the reporting period we have had inputs from Community Justice Scotland, SPS presented on Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 and potential impacts, Apex Scotland updated us on the proposed Foundation Pilot Project, Public Protection Manager provided an input to partners on the developing Public Protection Strategy, JSW Business Improvement Officer talked us through PDSA and self evaluation and colleagues from Homeless Services presented on housing challenges and justice.

Although not driven by CJP we wanted to include the following as a positive example of community involvement, awareness raising and tackling stigma. This year HMP Dumfries entered their Garden's Area which included the Wellbeing Garden into the "It's Your Neighbourhood" award scheme which is part of Keep Scotland Beautiful. The award is assessed over three categories; Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement, with each area being scored through 5 levels' from "Establishing"

through to “Outstanding”. On assessment HMP Dumfries’s Garden was found to be Outstanding in all three areas²³. Below are some comments from the report.

“The whole garden is a wonderful example of what can be achieved within a prison environment. The garden is a place that most people would enjoy spending time in and is beautifully designed.”

“For a prison to be somewhere that opens its doors to members of the community for them to undertake meaningful activities is incredible. The continued work undertaken in partnership with care homes and with individuals who have dementia is such a positive service to the community.”

“The partnership with Trellis allows members of the prison community to build skills and knowledge that could be used in the future, and which will add to the sustainability and success of the garden”.

“Overall, this is an interesting and beautiful garden which will hopefully bring a great deal of happiness and contentment to those who spend time in it”.



**It's Your
Neighbourhood**



**PART OF THE
Keep Scotland Beautiful
CHARITY**



²³ Also links to Priority Action Nine, page 28

18. Look ahead for your local area. Please tell us what the next steps are for your partnership.

Reflective questions to consider in developing your answer:

What are the next steps for your partnership?

What opportunities are there?

What barriers and/or risks?

Next steps and opportunities –

- JSW are in the process of reviewing their last strategy and developing their new one. As a CJP we should support this work to help ensure alignment and evidence progress towards national and local outcomes and priorities.
- Review and refresh our underpinning local delivery plan. Although short, medium and long term goals have been identified and work continues towards these, this review will provide us with updated priorities moving forward and potentially highlight additional areas for improvement activity.
- Complete review of governance arrangements and associated work²⁴.
- Ensure close links are maintained and strengthened with VAWG given the impact of national justice developments on women and children.
- Supported self-evaluation of the partnership. We have already been in contact with the Care Inspectorate regarding their staged approach to self-evaluation of community justice partnerships and are keen to pursue this.
- Develop collaborative improvement actions and activity in relation to health and health and social care. Although activity is obviously taking place gaps in relation to communication and impact have been identified during the writing of this report.

Barriers/risks –

- As highlighted at the beginning of this report changing legislation has and will continue to be challenging. Risks, particularly to women and children have been raised several times over the last few months through both the VAWG Sub Committee and CJP.
- Funding for services integral to improvement activity within our CJOIP, including lived experience, Housing First and support for families via Families Outside create significant risk on our ability to achieve the aspirations we've set out.
- The ongoing housing crisis. We know safe and stable accommodation and somewhere to call home has a huge impact on successful reintegration and rehabilitation, ultimately supporting desistance and creating less victims.

²⁴ Induction pack for new CJP members, updated ToR.

- The drive towards increasing the use of community sentences comes at a time where we are seeing the withdrawal of community support. An example of this is the support to women at risk of breaching their CPO. Community referrals and support from the Shine mentoring service begins to be withdrawn in November as preparations are made for the transition to a single throughcare service without that particular aspect of support. We are already considering options to mitigate the impact of this utilising other services funding permitted.