

Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community justice outcome activity across Scotland:
Local area annual return template
Reporting year April 2024 – March 2025**

April 2025



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 gather information and 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 the area, and such community bodies or 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 26 September 2025.

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

Date: ...24th September 2025.....

Name: ...Gordon W F 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 but governance has been identified as an area for improvement in the Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2023-2028 (DGCJOIP) and discussions are ongoing between DGC CJP and Community Planning leadership.

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, delivery of services, or other as relevant.

Challenges / Negatives

Many of the challenges identified in the previous OAR are just as relevant in this reporting period. As highlighted last year delays in court proceedings continue to be challenging. Again, this can be felt most acutely by women affected by violence and sexual violence. All local organisations involved in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda have reported the impact of this not only on the women and children they support but also their friends and family as well as other survivors and staff supporting. From a justice perspective there is a person accused who may also have a family and cannot move forward.

There are continued funding pressures on all partners as they continue to be asked to do more and more with less and less resources. Whilst this is felt by all Community Justice (CJ) partners it is perhaps more acute for third sector partners who unlike statutory services, may not have the resilience to continue if funding for one of their services is lost. Our third sector partners provide valuable support that enables statutory partners to concentrate on the work they do best.

The pressures and demands on Justice Social Work (JSW) have continued consistently throughout 2024-2025. Demands on their services continue to rise, reflecting the pressure faced by prison numbers being at capacity and over, as well as the national agenda to shift from custody to community; the constant legislative changes which require national and local implementation considerations and actions, and the continued challenges across the justice system to deal with delays (as highlighted above) in processing justice dating back to the Covid19 pandemic. As with other areas of social work, JSW also face ongoing recruitment challenges, and ongoing pressure on resources required to address increasing demand.

Responding to the population challenges being experienced across the wider prison estate, HMP Dumfries provided respite to some establishments needing to move mainstream prisoners on who had been presenting challenging behaviours in that establishment. These prisoners were not from within our catchment area and mostly not within our normal sentence range for the local mainstream population. The prison managed the presenting challenges well, however found that with the reduction in occupancy levels in our local mainstream population and the numbers of such displaced prisoners sitting at 43% of our local mainstream population, these prisoners were 'bed blocking' the normal flow of



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prisoners and therefore increasing the instances where HMP Dumfries were diverting to HMP Kilmarnock. HMP Dumfries has made a concerted effort to redress the balance of those held on 'respite' and the need to reduce the instances of divert being applied. At this moment in time there are ten (25%) prisoners being held on behalf of other prisons (out with our normal classification) and this has seen only three instances of 'divert' being applied in the last seventeen working days compared with twelve instances in the previous seventeen days¹.

Thirty-four Risk Management Team (RMT) cases were considered this year, with ten being approved for progression to National Top End or Open Estate. This is low in comparison to the anticipated amount who may meet the initial assessment criteria for progression, however the Offence Protection individuals (150 as at 14/7/2025), have differing needs for programmes or other work required. A Case Management Review Board was established in late 2024 to review these needs and align appropriate management plans where possible. HMP Dumfries currently have four Order of Lifelong Restriction's (OLR). The biggest risk is having no Psychologist on-site and no offending programme model. Offence Related Programmes re-establishment at HMP Dumfries is a recommendation from the HMIP report and whilst an initial plan was provided, no commitment to the financial expenditure for resources was given.

A total of forty-nine cases were considered for Home Detention Curfew (HDC) with only eight being approved. This is largely due to the low Short Term Prisoner numbers, Early Release and STP² 40 releases superseding HDC.

Commissioning of the new National Voluntary Throughcare Service and communication around this process proved challenging throughout the reporting year with uncertainty for those delivering Shine and New Routes, the people being supported by them and those making referrals. It has also created challenges in accessing local data rather than general data for this reporting period. To date we have been unable to source any local outcome data for those using the service, purely numbers supported which tells us very little regarding how those people were supported or positive outcomes they might have achieved to move forward with their lives.

Changing legislation, including changes to release of short-term prisoners continues to impact. As do delays to national guidance which are out with our local control and inspection activity which increases pressure on partner resources.

The drive towards increasing the use of bail and community sentences, keeping people out of custody continues to be challenging for colleagues involved in VAWG agenda. Partners tell us that women feel more let down than ever due to breaches of bail and non-harassment orders (NHOs), increasingly feeling that there are no consequences for such actions. Furthermore, Scottish Government have now indicated ringfenced funding will be cut to the Caledonian System, recognised as best practice and well used in Dumfries and Galloway. This makes it appear that VAWG is not the priority it should be and may impact on the safety and wellbeing of women and children across Scotland.

Once again, whilst changes in representation on the partnership are inevitable, it should be recognised that local partnerships work best because of the relationships that have been built up over time, any changes to representation take time to bed in.

Community Justice Partnership (CJP) funding is largely utilised for the CJP Manager role; indeed, this is supplemented by additional funding. This leaves no capacity for any tests of change, collaborative working approaches etc. In recent years, such initiatives have typically been jointly funded by JSW, ADP, and Welfare Rights; however, tightening budgets and increasing demand, are placing significant strain on

¹ Information received July 2025

² Short Term Prisoner



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collaborative funding opportunities. Furthermore, the close working relationships we have built up with the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and the Public Protection Partnership (particularly Violence Against Women) has been critical, enabling us to evidence areas of crossover and consider the needs and voices of victims more effectively and authentically. The funding received also takes no cognisance of scale, both in terms of population or geographical areas, nor the underlying issues that lead to increased offending (poverty, housing crisis and others).

We recognise that those involved in justice have contact with health services prior to, during and after justice involvement. Health remains an integral partner within ADP structures and our alignment with ADP ensures we remain sighted on activity; however, it has been more challenging to access specific data in relation to justice experienced people. Systems are not set up to capture this information out with justice settings i.e. police custody and prison as people should be accessing universal services. Work remains ongoing to improve communication and data capture, particularly with partners involved in health and social care.

A challenge related to reporting on outcomes has been raised this year. Next Chapter Scotland report that the way in which national charities feed into CJP outcomes is not clear and it would be helpful to have a clear line of reporting for these CJP member organisations.

Positives / Opportunities

Over the reporting period there has been a restructure of Children and Families Social Work. Youth Justice has moved from locality teams to a region wide team and has undertaken some successful multi-agency preventative work alongside police and youth work services, including in Dumfries town centre, leading to intensive work with families and group work with young people and parents, 'The Nithsdale Challenge'. It is hoped to replicate this model in other parts of Dumfries and Galloway.

The team has also been working with schools and undertaking some group work with young people who are at risk of exploitation and coming into conflict with the law. The Youth Justice partnership has recommenced and are currently exploring the possibility of youth courts in Dumfries and Galloway. There are obvious links with community justice with CJ representation at YJ and vice versa.

JSW are now fine tuning their performance framework and have begun the detailed work around the projects and development work needed to meet the strategic outcomes identified in their JSW Strategic Plan 2024-2028. Alignment and crossover between this plan and the DGCJOIP has taken place to ensure there is no duplication, rather outcomes and achievements can be cross referenced where applicable. The restructure and introduction of two new Team Manager positions for the service has certainly been very welcomed. The new positions will contribute enormously to creating the capacity the service needed to support service development and implement a raft of new Scottish Government guidance and services proposed for the summer of 2025.

Building on the innovative work undertaken in 2023/24 and our Safeguarding from Custody pilot work a new Community Justice Multi Agency Safeguarding from Custody Policy and Procedure document has been developed and agreed by the partners involved. Following testing, changes were made to make the process more robust, this included agreement for a small amount of funding to be made available through CJP for those not meeting the criteria through Scottish Welfare Fund, ensuring nobody falls through the gaps. This process was specifically highlighted during an SPS Service Audit at Stranraer Sheriff Court. Auditors were impressed with the systems in place for those released from court and felt this was an example of best practice nationally. Partners involved in the process have stated it has provided clarity, saving time for both services and those released from custody who were able to return home more quickly, accessing their local support systems.



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In August 2024, HMP Dumfries hosted an HMIP Inspection team with the final report being published in January 2025³. The report was very positive, highlighting the relationship between staff and individuals in custody as excellent with ownership and responsibility clear amongst the staff group. Whilst there were 36 recommendations for SPS, many of these were minor and have already been addressed. This was regarded as the best HMIP Report ever received by HMP Dumfries and everyone who works within HMP Dumfries should be thoroughly commended for achieving this.

Understanding people's views: Next Chapter Scotland, a third sector member of D&G CJP, has undertaken a Scotland-wide piece of community engagement, listening to the experiences of over 300 people with lived experience of the criminal justice system. The 12 key themes that emerged from the work were as follows: Mental Health & Trauma, Physical Health, Finances & Employment, Stigma, Racism, Impact on Families, Navigating the Justice System, Effective Representation & Advocacy, Accountability, Person-Centredness, Moving On, Speaking up & Lived Experience. The report also calls for a series of changes in line with these key themes and identifies a series of Key Actions to make progress towards these changes. Next Chapter Scotland are now active members of our local CJP.

Once again partners agreed to utilise a small amount of partnership funding to contribute to the ongoing provision of the Families Outside Family Support Coordinator in Dumfries and Galloway. This recognised the cross-cutting nature of the role and support provided to those with a family member or close friend in prison with this work not sitting neatly with one single partner, rather impacting across partners and agenda areas.

³ Available at [Full Inspection Report on HMP Dumfries - August 2024 | HMIPS](#)



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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?

Police Direct Measures remain the first point of intervention for those involved in offending, however if an individual does not meet the criteria for Direct Measures, a weighted SPR antecedent can be submitted by the reporting officer expressing a viewpoint on Diversion from Prosecution (DfP). If a person is considered not to meet the threshold for DfP then the case would be reported to Crown as per normal process.

In 2024, Police Scotland Criminal Justice Services Division, relaunched Direct Measures guidance due to revised Lord Advocates guidelines and the process now being fully automated on an officer's mobile device which allows the creation of the crime record and the updating of the Criminal History System.

The removal of the restriction of those on bail being issued a direct measure, recorded police warnings can be issued within 28 days where it was previously 7 days, no restriction on the number of direct measures issued to adults, officers being given more discretion to apply professional judgment as to when a direct measure should be issued and the number of common law and statutory offences being increased.

Over the reporting period we were unable to access data for Recorded Police Warnings but there were 67 ASB Fixed Penalty Notices, a decrease of two on the previous year.

DfP can be requested for any case where the individual reported to Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) has an identifiable need and diversion is in the best interest of the individual and the wider public. (There must be a sufficiency of evidence to meet the criteria of DfP).

⁴ National Indicator:

Number of diversions from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed



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Responsibility of the Police: It is the responsibility of Police Scotland when carrying out investigative enquiries to additionally consider capturing a more detailed antecedent history for their SPR. The remarks section of an SPR provides a platform and opportunity for Police Officers to give a view on the potential suitability for DfP based on their knowledge of the incident and of the individual. **The decision to refer for DfP rests with COPFS.** Examples of areas which may fall into this category but are not limited to

- Mental Health
- Alcohol/Drugs/Other
- Risk
- Vulnerabilities
- Disability
- Attitude to Offending
- Family Dynamics
- Education, Employment, Training

Supporting people to successfully complete diversion remains a priority for JSW 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, 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 including third sector is common practice. For example, health, addiction support, help with employability and housing support services.

Diversion from Prosecution referrals have increased in Dumfries and Galloway in the past year. Locally, we are also seeing an increase in more complex referrals involving mental health, child-related incidents and domestically aggravated incidents. This reflects the National Justice Strategy with the introduction of a "two-tier" diversion referral process, diverting more complex cases from prosecution than previously. The updated National Guidance has not been completed to inform the new process however Dumfries and Galloway JSW continue to accept more complex referrals from COPFS whilst introducing training for staff to expand their knowledge and skills. This enables JSW to continue to provide a high-quality service, supporting appropriate cases to work on their presenting needs at the time. We will be able to develop local procedures once the revised National Guidance has been made available.

The practice approach of the Early Interventions Team, focused on relationship-based work to engage and tailor the intervention, is integral to the successful completion of diversion.



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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?

Planned Voluntary Interview Pathway

In 2024/2025, Police Scotland as part of wider Criminal Justice Reform, and to enhance the investigative options available for officers to conduct interviews of suspect persons introduced PVIP. The PVIP has been established to allow the interview of a suspect person, on a voluntary attendance basis only, out with the custody suite environment.

Officers assess if a crime is eligible for a voluntary interview to take place (for low level / minor offending) within a defined room of an approved police station. There must be a pre-planned element to this interview which will be defined in the national guidance. Within Dumfries and Galloway – Annan, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Lockerbie, Newton Stewart, Sanquhar and Stranraer are all designed to accommodate interviews of suspect persons using PVIP. Online forums/training have been delivered to officers across the division to highlight the pathway.

The primary aim of the pathway is to reduce the number of person's having to be arrested and taken into the custody environment reducing the risk of trauma and the savings to response policing from travelling time to a custody centre and the subsequent processing time. The pathway cannot be used for Domestic Incidents or Hate Crime.

At the conclusion of the interview, if a charge is libelled, all disposal options will be available to the officers as per the national guidance, with the use of Direct Measures being actively encouraged.

An arrest referral is the way in which we can offer people with an identified vulnerability support within the community in which they live. Locally, ADP have made Arrest Referral an integral part of the region wide alcohol and drug support service delivered by With You. With You is expected to provide a robust Arrest Referral pathway which will include but is not limited to:

- Offering advice on reducing harm from drugs and alcohol
- Conducting assessments

⁵ National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres



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- Referral into appropriate services

Direct arrest referral also takes place by police to approved support services. With You provided us with the following information over the reporting period. The service received thirty-one referrals over the reporting period, with eleven of those attending for an initial assessment (35%). There were also a further four people who were assessed and never attended any follow up appointments offered. The break down for these were as follows:

Alcohol: 21 referrals where 7 attended for initial assessment (33%) and a further 2 never attended any follow up appointments offered.

Drugs: 7 referrals where 3 attended for initial assessment (43%) and a further 1 never attended any follow up appointments offered.

Both: 3 referrals where 1 attended for initial assessment (33%) and they never attended any follow up appointments offered.

Reasons for discharge:

- 17 Never Attended/Not Contactable.
- 4 Dropped Out.
- 3 Declined Service.
- 4 Planned closure/Alcohol or Drug free
- 3 Transferred in Custody.

Over the last year engagement has been poor with the service. With You have met with Police Scotland Criminal Justice Services Division to try and address this and have been discussing how we can work together to make the Arrest Referral service better. Ideas have been identified and although no concrete changes have been made to the process With You were involved when Police Scotland were inducting new Custody Suite staff and a presentation was undertaken to advise them of what the service do and don't do.

The service reported that Police Scotland have said that they would like someone in the Custody Suite but due to restructures within With You this has not been possible (there are only 3.6 Recovery Workers across the region). However, the Service Manager has discussed whether the Assertive Outreach team could possibly visit the Custody Suite if they are contacted by Custody staff as they are out and about in the local community. Discussions still need to take place with ADP before implementing this therefore this is not in place at the current time.

The police arrest referral process is supported by the **Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016** – which promotes people staying within the communities within which they live and getting the support they need at home. The referral scheme is offered to adults 18 years and over, children concerns are raised via a vulnerable person's report. Consent must be sought prior to sharing any information and no information will be passed regarding criminal history, risks or warning markers.

The arrest referral system within Police Scotland has provided some excellent examples where one conversation in custody has led people onto a better path and allowed them to seek support for these underlying concerns, reducing the likelihood of them returning into the criminal justice system.

Once a concern or need has been identified, there will be two ways an arrest referral can be made by an officer. This will be by either:

- The completion and submission of an **Arrest referral form**; or



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- By inviting the person to speak with a visiting **Arrest Referral Worker** on site if available.

The National Custody System will log **all** referrals offered to a person within Police Custody.

Police Scotland Criminal Justice Services Division have six arrest referral champions, predominately based within Dumfries Custody Suite and the Support Service Directory of Services guide is available to assist an offer to find a suitable service. The Criminal Justice Services Division Healthcare and Interventions team also supports the arrest referral programme by identifying and working with the support services, ensuring a smooth partnership is maintained to maximise and record the number of referrals and ensuring compliance within Police Scotland is maintained.

Currently direct police arrest referrals for Dumfries and Galloway are reported as part of figures which include East Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute, work is ongoing to separate divisional information moving forward. Locally police have confirmed that arrest referral figures are increasing, anecdotally this may be due to the process becoming more embedded but also increasing complexity of those coming into police custody.

Care and Welfare of persons in Police Custody

Police Scotland have a duty to ensure that those who are being released from custody are fit, able and prepared to look after themselves and that any identified threats or vulnerabilities are managed. This involved taking all reasonable steps that a person being released is not a danger to themselves or others.

To achieve this, a thorough pre-release risk assessment (PRRA) is carried out for every person in custody prior to release, including transfer to court. Custody staff must ask every person being released the following questions to inform the pre-release assessment:

- Do you have thoughts of suicide or self-harm at this time?
- Do you have thoughts of harming any other person?

All responses **MUST** be recorded on the National Custody System. If a person answers yes to either question the custody staff must ensure advice is taken from a Healthcare Practitioner and or engagement with local policing to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to provide the necessary, level of support. A raised level of pre-release assessment must be undertaken by the enquiry officer with the custody supervisor for person in custody, where the offence circumstances or character of the person in custody suggest a potential risk. Examples of such include, but are not limited to:

- Sexual offending, indecent images of children
- Members of the armed forces / police officer / police staff
- Person arrested who are in a position of trust
- Offences where the consequences are likely to have substantial effect to the person in custody or their family.

In many circumstances it may be appropriate for the custody supervisor to offer appropriate advice and provide options (protective factors) which may support the persons care and welfare on release, this may include:

- Contacting a responsible family member, relative, friend, carer or named person in order that the individual can be released into their care and/or



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- Providing the individual with contact details of available support agencies and/or voluntary organisations.

It is justifiable and reasonable for the custody supervisor not to release a person from custody when there is clear and imminent danger, this may include their level of intoxication. If they are deemed unfit for release or unable to understand or answer the PRRA questions at that time, they should remain in custody until their level of intoxication has reduced to a level where it is deemed there is no imminent danger, and they are fit to answer the PRRA questions. Where a person answers 'no' to both questions in the PRRA, but the custody supervisor still has concerns regarding their suitability for release, the custody supervisor must discuss the circumstances with a Health Care Professional (HCP), in order to ascertain the requirement for an HCP assessment prior to release.

The national custody system will be updated accordingly to document clearly and in an auditable manner any decisions taking place regarding the person whilst within Police custody.

Medical Provision

Medical provision for person in custody is the responsibility of NHS Scotland. Should medical advice and/or assistance be required in relation to any person in custody, it is the responsibility for the custody supervisor to make direct contact with the HCP.

Where there is immediate concern for the health of a person, they are to be removed to the nearest hospital by ambulance or by Police vehicle if there is significant delay in the arrival of an ambulance and the circumstance warrants immediate medical attention, though it should be considered and recognised that Police vehicles do not have resus facilities within. In all cases the hospital should be advised of the imminent arrival of a person from police custody, together with details of symptoms.

A person in custody must be referred to an HCP if there is any reason to believe that they:

- Are suffering from any illness or injury including alcohol and drug withdrawal if applicable
- Have consumed any other substance which might conceivably cause harm
- Have indulged in solvent abuse
- Are pregnant
- Appear to be suffering from a medical illness

The custody supervisor is to discuss the case with the HCP to determine whether a visit is required or not, or to arrange for the removal of the individual to hospital, even though the person may have not complained of their condition nor requested the services of an HCP. Particular care must be taken in relation to persons who are

- Drunk
- Under the influence of drugs
- A combination of a head injury and alcohol/drugs

When a person is examined by a HCP, details of the medical care plan must be passed to the custody supervisor and recorded on the national custody system along with any other relevant information and must include:

- Fit to be detained
- Observation frequency/reason



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- Medication required and who can administer
- Review frequency
- Name of HCP

Distress Brief Interventions (DBI)

Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) is an innovative way of supporting people in distress. The DBI approach emerged from the Scottish Government's work on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health strategies and the need to improve operational response to people presenting in distress.

The aim of the DBI programme is to provide a framework for improved inter-agency working, collaboration and co-operation across a wide range of care settings, interventions and community supports, working towards the shared goal of providing a compassionate and effective response to people in distress. This makes it more likely that individuals in distress will engage with and stay connected to services or support that may benefit them over time.

In addition to police, DBI is provided by frontline services across a wide range of roles where staff frequently encounter people in distress e.g. staff in accident and emergency, GP service, ambulance service, and social care. In many cases more than one service can be involved in responding to the same individual. DBI provides Police Scotland with opportunities to:

- Improve outcomes and quality of life for people in distress by providing early and effective interventions
- Improve pathways to quicker access to support
- Reduce demand
- Enhance partnership working at both local and national level
- Achieve objectives set out in the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategies

Mental Health Pathway (MHP)

The Mental Health Pathway is a collaboration between Police Scotland, NHS 24 and the Scottish Ambulance Service and provides for the establishment of a dedicated Mental Health Hub (MHH) within the NHS 24 Contact Centre, staffed by appropriately qualified mental health practitioners. The MHH now operates 24/7 and both 101 non-emergency and '999' emergency callers to Police Scotland who fit the referral criteria can be referred via a dedicated telephone 'hotline' to the MHH. Having received a referral, MHH staff will assess the caller's individual needs and initiate any necessary measure(s) of care or support. In the vast majority of instances, no further Police action will be necessary. Similarly, the MHH also provides a mechanism for the referral of matters to Police Scotland by NHS 24 staff, in circumstances where a police response appears appropriate.

MHP figures broken by health board have only been collated since 3 February 2025. Since then, C3 have completed 35 MHP referrals for the Dumfries and Galloway Health Board area. This is around 2% of all MHP referrals across the country. Using this level for the 24/25 year, it can be assumed that around 85 (2%) of total referrals were for the D&G area. This is not a confirmed figure but offers some context around MH demand within Dumfries and Galloway area.

Community Triage Service

Police powers and responsibilities for dealing with Mental Health are primarily contained with the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. The Community Triage Service has been developed to support these measures and provide Community Psychiatric Nursing (CPN) support to operational police officers to aid their decision-making process



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around managing risk. It is for persons aged 18 years and over who come into contact with the police in the community where it is suspected they may have a mental disorder, personality disorder or misuse substances. The service is not suitable for where there is an immediate threat to life.

There are agreed referral pathways to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for persons under 18 years of age under Child Protection arrangements. The Community Triage Service is designed to lead to more timely intervention by Mental Health professionals when required, providing a better service for individuals as well as achieving efficiencies and improvements for the police, health and other services including:

- Reducing the number of inappropriate detentions to hospital.
- Reduce the burden on both police and health staff who are tied up whilst awaiting assessments.
- Improve outcomes for those who are detained and those who are dealt with in the community.
- Improve partnership working between Police and Health services.
- Improve pathways to effective Mental Services including follow up service to those difficult to engage following initial contact with the police.
- Reduce costs to police, health and criminal justice system

MASH – Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

The purpose of the MASH is to protect and safeguard children and adults at risk through effective information-sharing and rapid decision-making. The staff in the MASH will screen referrals, identify risk and where appropriate gather and share information enabling them to have an initial referral discussion (IRD). This means decisions can be made quickly and any immediate action can be taken to keep children and adults safe.

What does the MASH do?

- provide a single point of entry for all child and adult protection referrals.
- provide a screening function for referrals.
- ensure that information about agreed actions and decisions is passed onto the relevant locality and/or agency within timescales.
- carry out monitoring and checking as part of quality assurance processes.

Benefits of the of the MASH team approach:

- Joint screening of referrals
- A shared understanding of risk
- Faster effective joint decision-making
- Effective information-sharing
- Co-ordinated intervention
- Commitment to continuous improvement
- Effective use of resources
- A shared understanding of thresholds

MASH is noting an increase in referrals. In the academic year (1Aug 2024 to 31 July 2025) there have been 543 referrals to MASH via Initial Referral Discussion Notification Form for a total of 999 children, this is an increase from 2023/2024 (11% rise in referrals). From these referrals 345 have went to an Initial Referral Discussion again involving 608 children, this is an increase from 2023/2024 (29% rise in IRD). The most prevalent Impact of Abuse



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

identified at IRD for 2024/2025 are Emotional Abuse, Neglect and Physical Abuse and the main vulnerabilities for children identified at IRD for 2024/2025 are Domestic Abuse, Parental Drug / Alcohol use and Services finding it 'Hard to Engage'. This process is overseen through public protection partnership structures locally.

Health colleagues confirm that signposting takes place (as detailed earlier), with referral on for people if they consent to With You (WY) Alcohol Support/Addiction Services. Police Custody staff may also offer a phone call to Breathing Space while people are in custody. If they feel there are any social/Adult Support and Protection concerns they make the referral via Vulnerable Person Database (VPD) to the MASH.

Police also refer direct to Forensic Medical Examiner (FME) if there are acute medical issues. FME sends email to Assertive Outreach for at risk behaviours in drug users. There is currently no structure in place for FMEs to refer detainees directly to psychology/ mental health /Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS) unless the person is in a crisis scenario.

Police and the FME have pathways that support triage, signposting and assessment of individuals who present with concerns in relation to mental illness. This is part of the locally developed blue light pathway. Police are also able to refer to Distress Brief Interventions (DBI, information above) which is provided by third sector.

A pathway is in place from police custody for people to access their choice of MAT. MAT is coordinated and led by ADP.

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?

Police Scotland are duty bound to have regards to a person's right to liberty under Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights ("ECHR") and must consider whether it is reasonable and necessary to keep that person in custody.

The specific duty in terms of section 50 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 ("2016 Act") to take every precaution to ensure that a person is not unreasonably or unnecessarily held in police custody, must be considered in every case.

In order for a police officer to decide to keep an individual in police custody there must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that:

⁶ National Indicator: Number of:

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



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

- the person has committed an offence; and
- that keeping the person in custody is necessary and proportionate for the purposes of bringing the person before a court or otherwise dealing with the person in accordance with the law (section 14(1); 2016 Act)⁷.

In making the assessment of necessity and proportionality, police officers should be aware, and should consider, the new two-stage bail test that the court will now apply, introduced by the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023. The relevant provisions relating to bail come into effect on 14 May 2025⁸.

The new test for bail currently sits alongside the earlier instruction from the Lord Advocate to prosecutors, considering the current pressures on the prison population, to only oppose bail generally where there is a substantial risk of reoffending and causing harm to the public, victim or witness, and this risk cannot be mitigated by imposition of bail conditions. In all cases, an appropriate risk assessment must be conducted to establish whether the circumstances of offending behavior can be reported to the Procurator Fiscal whilst the person is at liberty, including whether conditions can be imposed to manage any risk identified.

As the reasons not to liberate may also influence the Procurator Fiscal's position in relation to bail, it is important that the reporting officer should give as much detail as possible of the basis for a decision not to liberate and, where appropriate, should do so with reference to these guidelines. In particular, the details provided by the reporting officer in relation to any risk the person poses to individuals, or the public should be sufficient to allow the Procurator Fiscal to fully consider the overall public interest in respect of bail, taking account also of the current pressure on the prison population. An arrested person should not be detained unnecessarily. Where it is decided not to liberate that person, the reasons for doing so must be set out in the antecedent's section of any police report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Any decision not to liberate a person must be regularly reviewed, especially if the person is detained in custody for a period of more than 24 hours. If the reason(s) for keeping a person in custody no longer apply the police officer should consider releasing the person.

Where a victim or witness is a child, police officers must also have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC). In particular, the best interests of a child victim or child witness must be a primary consideration in terms of Article 3 of the UNCRC, and the views of the child, where known, should be considered.

In every circumstance where a decision is made to keep a person in custody, a thorough record of that decision, including reasoning and any review of that decision, should be maintained. All police officers must understand and be able to explain, and justify, their decisions if called upon to do so, including when giving evidence at any trial or inquiry.

⁷ When considering whether it is necessary and proportionate to keep an individual in custody for the purposes of bringing the person before a court, a police officer may have regard to:

- whether the person's presence in custody is reasonably required to enable the offence to be investigated fully.
- whether the person (if liberated) would be likely to interfere with witnesses or evidence, or otherwise obstruct the course of justice; and
- the nature and seriousness of the offence (section 14(2); 2016 Act).

⁸ The court will still consider whether there is a substantial risk of the person: committing further offences; interfering with witnesses or obstructing the course of justice; or absconding or failing to appear. The court may also consider any other substantial factor which appears to the court to justify keeping the person in custody.

Part two of the new test, however, further directs that bail can only be refused by the court where it is necessary:

- (i) in the interests of public safety, including the protection of the complainer from a risk of harm, or
- (ii) to prevent a significant risk of prejudice to the interests of justice.

Only where both stages of the new test are met and relevant information relating to each stage can be submitted to the court would it be appropriate for a prosecutor to oppose bail in a case.



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

The JSW Early Interventions Team has continued to deliver in the areas of Bail Supervision, Structured Deferred Sentences (SDS) and Diversion from Prosecution. In correlation with national legislative changes, namely the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023, there is increased demand in community-based alternatives to custody. Bail Supervision has continued to prove effective, with the Early Interventions Team in Dumfries and Galloway ahead in terms of practice development, in comparison with other Local Authorities.

As noted, the Bail and Release from Custody (Scotland) Act 2023 was implemented this year. Nationally, there has subsequently been a significant decrease in the number of Bail Supervision Orders imposed. Locally, JSW have had 12 Orders imposed this year in total. We do not yet have clear information to explain this trend.

JSW have continued to work closely with Courts, defence agents and involved professionals to assess suitability for Bail Supervision and during management of the Orders. There remains a daily bail screening process and regular discussions with COPFS, defence agents and meeting with individuals in custody to complete bail assessments. The Early Interventions Team support people subject to Bail Supervision focusing on stabilisation, promoting engagement with addiction and mental health services, and compliance with Bail restrictions for people, in alignment with the National Justice Strategy to reduce remand cases.

Locally, JSW have already developed a local Bail screening practice and proforma to progress assessments for the Court at the earliest opportunity. This approach is now being piloted nationally with a triage proforma. Additionally, in Dumfries and Galloway, we have introduced an Additional Information Proforma to Court, with concise and up to date information enabling an informed decision which considers risk balanced with the needs of the individual in custody.

Fundamental to establishing these processes, has been the positive relationship with the Court and Sheriffs which has been significant in building trust and facilitating good communication, ultimately leading to effective and responsive risk management beyond Bail Supervision. JSW has had feedback from Sheriffs who state they feel the service provided by the Early Interventions Team and JSW is “a gift” and they find the quality and level of communication and information provided, hugely beneficial.

Regular assessment meetings are now established across the region. This gives a forum for discussion regarding assessment and recommendations to Court. There is a quality assurance function to this, ensuring shared thresholds and understanding. Unpaid Work are now also in regular attendance which has proven to be a helpful development towards the JSW One Service Approach.

As noted earlier the JSW Early Interventions Team are responsible for the management of SDS which, in Dumfries and Galloway, still focus on women only. This may be expanded in future to include males however this will require work to develop alongside partners including the Crown and COPFS. As evidenced in the OAAR 2023/24 a pilot supported by SHINE women’s mentoring service took place, this continued during this reporting period however came to an end in November 2024 with uncertainty around the commissioning of the new national voluntary throughcare service.

In the past year there appears to have been an increase in SDS being imposed for women as an alternative sentencing option, for those convicted of domestic abuse. This required further analysis, provoking some further thought and consideration regarding past experiences informing current triggers and the interaction between this and female domestically violent behaviour. This was picked up through the development of the VAWG data dashboard and subsequent scrutiny meetings.



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

There are obviously several variables which not only lead women into the Justice system but also influence how they are dealt with and their sentencing outcomes: Police decision-making at point of charge, PF screening, sentencing trends etc. These are just some of factors which could impact, before we even consider the personal profiles of the women (experience of trauma etc). These are common themes JSW see in their experience of working with women generally, not just those women subject to SDS.

Perhaps not unsurprising, significant numbers of the women subject to SDS and other court orders, have experience of trauma. In the past year, the trauma noted for the women subject to SDS include parental addictions during childhood; significant bereavement at an early age; traumatic experiences in the armed forces; sexual abuse; and witnessing and experiencing violence within the family home in childhood. In terms of experience of domestic abuse, many of the women have been victims of abuse in past and in their current relationships.

Social Work records highlight some of the women have Children and Families Social Work (CFSW) involvement, restrictions or no contact with their children. Drug and alcohol use is a prevalent factor. Further analysis would need to be undertaken to be able to distinguish whether alcohol and drugs were associated with parenting concerns and CFSW involvement.

The most significant common theme in terms of criminogenic needs and responsivity, however, is mental health. The Early Interventions Team spend a significant proportion of case management, advocating and promoting engagement with mental health services and local GP practices. There appears to have been an increase in the past year in individuals – men and women - presenting with complex mental health needs, some undiagnosed and untreated.

The continued use of SDS by the courts as an alternative to community payback orders, where proportionate to risk, is encouraging in offering a brief, individually focused intervention which will hopefully prevent people becoming involved longer term and unnecessarily in the justice system.



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

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?

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 JSW are not responsible for the management of EM Bail, the Early Interventions Team continue to provide suitability assessments to Court.

The daily bail screening process undertaken by the Early Interventions Team include consideration of suitability for EM Bail. Assessment includes regular discussions with victims of (alleged) offences and recommendations for 'away from' addresses as well as to a person's own address.

We would again highlight that there have been continued instances of EM bail being imposed without an assessment being requested from JSW which would include consideration of Bail Supervision. This is contrary to evidence which shows that Bail is more effective when support is provided.

The Early Interventions Team now undertake Home Detention Curfew (HDC) assessments, referred by the Scottish Prison Service. Since the implementation of the Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Act 2025, there has been a noticeable increase in referrals which now, alongside Diversion from Prosecution, constitute most of the casework of the Early Interventions Team. There are evident trends locally, with most of the referrals concentrated in the East of the region.

The Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, Section 245A makes provision for a court to impose a Restriction of Movement Order or a Restriction of Liberty Order on offenders. Additionally, the Prisoners and Criminal Proceedings (Scotland) Act 1993 allows the release of eligible offenders into the community on HDC Licenses, to a given address. Both allow the use of electronic monitoring equipment to monitor compliance with the terms of such orders.

The electronic monitoring equipment can monitor an offender's presence or absence within an address and can therefore be used to check curfew conditions or stay away conditions, i.e. not allowed in a particular premises. Police Scotland's role and responsibility in relation to Restriction of Liberty Orders is to:

- Report any identified breaches to the Electronic Monitoring Company
- A breach in itself does not constitute an offence, nor does a breach have a power of arrest.
- Execute any warrants issued by the court

If the officers suspect the individual is breaching HDC conditions Police Scotland's role and responsibility is to:



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

- Check curfew and additional conditions on CHS/PNC record
- Notify Scottish Prison Service
- Complete Home Detention Curfew – Contact Report forwarding to the release prison
- No power of arrest at this point

When the officer receives a recall to Prison enquiry, they should:

- Apprehend the suspect and return them directly to Prison.
- If Prison is not accessible (out of hours) take into Police Custody awaiting transfer to Prison, notifying the Electronic Monitoring Company of the arrest (if wearing an electronic tag).
- Ensure the PNC detained marker is removed
- Inform local warrants office that the suspect has been returned to Prison



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

Priority Action Five

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?

Developing services to meet need can be clearly evidenced by our partners in JSW. JSW staff had widely reported anecdotally, a high number of service users with mental health issues which was impacting their ability to engage successfully with their community orders.

As such, they undertook a staff survey to capture the number of service users case workers assessed as needing low level mental health support to engage and/or complete their community payback order successfully (at risk of breach).

The next steps involved the procurement of services utilising JSW budget ringfenced for Third Sector support services for JSW Service users. In previous years this was used to support the development of lived experience work, funding two Lived Experience Peer Mentors East and West. Sustainability was always part of the future development for the services that hosted these posts, and as such funding would not continue to the same degree (if at all). A new need was clearly evidenced.

Using the learning from the lived experience procurement journey discussions took place with those involved which provided guidance. Change Mental Health were successful, having experience of delivering Outreach Support Services across the region in often hard-to-reach rural areas to enable people to integrate back into their local communities.

⁹ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

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



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

In September 2024, the Scottish Government tasked the Care Inspectorate with providing scrutiny and assurance of JSW in the form of a 'Thematic Review of Performance and Quality Assurance'. JSW engaged with the Self Evaluation (SE) and found the exercise productive, as a result of the process they were able to grade themselves as **"mostly"**, effective in measuring our performance in delivering support and supervision for people on community sentences. They were also able to demonstrate that they **"mostly"**, had a performance framework in place, including a range of quality assurance measures and effective quality improvement processes and practices. Dumfries and Galloway Council were not one of the local authority areas to be chosen for further validation. Since the SE JSW have continued to work on the development of their local performance framework. They welcome the findings and considerations of the care inspector review and are keen to engage in any future national work, to develop clarity and consistency of meaningful outcome measures for community sentences.

There are some barriers identified with accessing assessment/intervention for Drug Treatment and Testing Orders/Alcohol Treatment Requirement. The drug and alcohol project continues to focus on this as an area for improvement and the Locality Manager is part of the National Working Group. This may be an area of focus for us as we move forward, linking to already identified improvement activity.

Unpaid Work (UPW) is as a requirement of a Community Payback Order (CPO) continues to be a very popular Court disposal in Dumfries and Galloway. At the end of March 2025 there were 285 individuals subject to a CPO with an UPW requirement; in total they had 54,455 hours of unpaid work imposed by the Court. In response, staff across the service have worked hard to help individuals fulfil the requirements of their unpaid work orders. Operating over a seven day week, careful planning is required to promote compliance and equal opportunities for individuals to attend. In addition, to ensure a variety of meaningful unpaid work projects are available, much focus has been given to our relationships with local partners. The benefits of these efforts are evident in the positive feedback received from education services following various offers of assistance to local schools. These include the making and restoration of playground equipment, with headteachers commenting on a 'team of stars' and 'the pupils being thrilled' with the work undertaken. Similar feedback was received from local community groups, with notable projects at Clark's Little Ark, Riding for the Disabled, Lockerbie in Bloom Community Gardens, and Incredible Edible Stranraer. Encouragingly, feedback from those attending unpaid work also reflects the efforts of the team to provide a range of opportunities and projects. One individual commented that 'doing woodwork has helped my skills get better to use at home' and 'working with others has helped me bounce ideas rather than try to do everything myself'. An analysis of exit interviews also showed that 96% of those attending unpaid work felt that staff treated them with dignity and respect.

The use of personal placements has continued to develop, again with notable benefits for local partners and individuals attending. At one placement with YMCA, the individual completing unpaid work has been involved in food preparation and administrative jobs. Despite significant anxiety (with no previous offences), this individual commented on the inclusive nature of the placement and how it helped regain some confidence within society.

In terms of facilities, the hard work and planning at the JSW UPW Annan base (over the past 2-3 years) has come to fruition - with a poly tunnel full of plants and produce that will soon be shared with local groups within the community. In reaching this stage, many individuals have developed a new awareness and appreciation for the world of horticulture. Building works have also been started at the Dumfries base, with the installation of a new 'training' kitchen and 'other activities' room. While other activities can only account for a small percentage of unpaid work hours, we are keen to expand the opportunities for individuals to develop essential life skills as a feature of their unpaid work requirement.



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

Examples of small projects and feedback from beneficiaries:

At **Sorbie Parish Church**, assistance has been given with ongoing grass cutting and various ground maintenance tasks. Unpaid Work squads have also assisted clearing up following storm damage, including fallen trees. This timber was then used to supply firewood to older people across the community.

		<p><i>I write on behalf of the congregation at Millisle Kirk to thank you very much for your help in maintaining the grounds of our church. Your team's time and efforts are very much appreciated by us all and it gives us much pleasure to see it looking smart and well cared for.</i></p>
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Incredible Edibles Stranraer

<p><i>"It's lovely to eventually have the bus stop beds planted up again! Big thanks to the Community Payback team who uplifted the old ones (preserving the plants in them), built the new ones and put them in place. We couldn't have done it without them! They are both filled with various herbs – thyme, chives, marjoram, rosemary, oregano, parsley and green onions along with some wee alpine strawberries as ground cover. The beds took a lot to fill – bags of horse dung, wood chips and compost. All they need now are some labels!"</i></p>	
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Case Study¹⁰

Pam (not her real name) was made subject to two separate Community Payback Orders (CPO) with a combined 80 hours of Unpaid Work. She quickly completed her hours of unpaid work. Pam experienced trauma in her childhood and as an adult was diagnosed with Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder (EUPD), using substances to cope. This affected her ability to developing trusting relationships with others including building unhealthy relationships and involvement in offending behaviour. Pam's engagement with other support services to date had been limited and inconsistent.

Working with Pam required her JSW worker to take a direct, transparent, open, honest and consistent approach. In turn asking her to be open and honest as well, modelling examples of how she can achieve this. The consequences of not engaging were clearly explained and reinforced regularly in a matter-of-fact way. This allowed her worker to challenge and address issues when Pam didn't keep to agreements or supervision appointments.

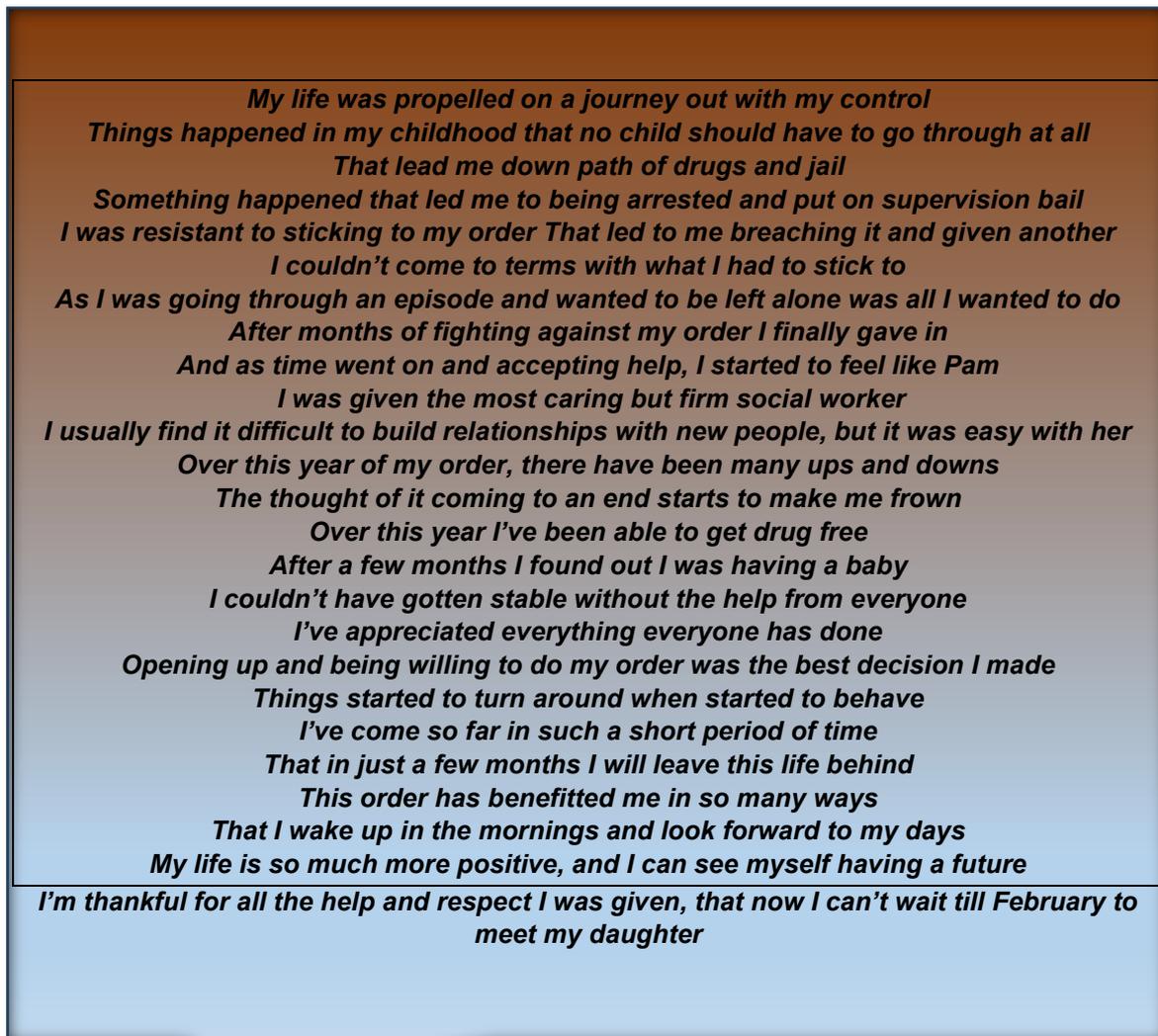
¹⁰ Case studies are often the most effective way to demonstrate the difference made when someone receives the right support at the right time, particularly for those undertaking community sentences and are included throughout this report. Names have been changed.



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

Together, they developed a case management plan that included the appropriate agencies to support and address her needs. Additional support was needed to help her attend and engage with specialist drug and alcohol services adopting the same approach. The plan involved regular communication between Pam, her JSW worker and the other services to keep on track. This approach also helped Pam to feel safe and confident and direct her own treatment goals.

Pam's poem below, provides a first-hand account of her journey and the impact that involvement with JSW has helped her engage with support agencies and achieve her goals to build a better life for her which includes motherhood and caring for her child. We are grateful to Pam and JSW colleagues for agreeing to share.



JSW in Dumfries and Galloway continue to deliver the Caledonian Service across the region. This is an integrated programme comprising of a behaviour change groupwork programme for men convicted of domestic abuse offences, a Women's Service which offers support to the (ex)partners of the men, and a Children's Service which ensure the experiences of their children is not forgotten.



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In recognition of The Caledonian System reflecting the best practice standards for addressing men's domestically abusive behaviours, representatives from JSW's Programme Delivery Team were invited in October 2024 to share their knowledge and experience at an international domestic abuse conference hosted by École Nationale D'Administration Pénitentiaire (ÉNAP) in Agen, France. It was a generous and enjoyable opportunity and highlighted the high quality of work being undertaken by all JSW staff involved in the Caledonian System across Scotland. This is a photograph of all the international delegates and the director of ÉNAP¹¹. To find out more please follow the link [here](#)

It is therefore both disappointing and challenging that at the time of writing Scottish Government are cutting the ringfenced budget for the Caledonian System. Further risking disenfranchising women and girls, potentially deterring them from reporting domestic abuse incidents and losing faith in justice.



Caledonian Women's Service Case Study

Jane (not her real name) had reported her ex-partner for domestic abuse which led to a trial at High Court where ultimately, he was convicted of lesser offences, leaving Jane feeling let down by the justice system. Prior to her ex-partner being sentenced, the Caledonian Women's service worker met with Jane, and they talked through sentencing options, including the Caledonian Programme, and the support that would be available to Jane through this. They discussed the (pre-sentence) Court report process and the worker contacted the High Court and put Jane's views forward in terms of a NHO (non-harassment order) and requested consideration be given that he could not contact nor approach her, explaining that Dumfries is a small town. She also requested that her address was not specifically part of the NHO to respect her privacy and on-going safety. Support was given on the day of Court as Jane was struggling emotionally; this ensured Jane was supported when the High Court advised Jane of sentence. When Jane met again with the Caledonian Women's Worker a few days later Jane spoke about "feeling heard" by the support of the Caledonian System. Despite having given a victim statement that we know was read in Court, she felt that the Caledonian process carried her voice even further and that the sentence given was the best possible outcome for a community disposal. Caledonian Support continued throughout the duration of her ex-partners CPO with a requirement to complete the Caledonian Men's Programme and Jane has progressed very well in terms of her safety planning that has been put in place, and she feels that she can start to begin to live freely again.

¹¹ This followed a joint Domestic Abuse Conference, detailed in last year's submission, held in Dumfries hosted by UWS, Dumfries and Galloway Public Protection Partnership and French Colleagues.



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JSW once again provided funding for **lived experience work**. This was the third and final year of the same level of funding for work that started in 2022/23. Over the reporting period the Lived Experience Peer Mentors continued to be hosted by Summerhill in the East of the region (Amazing Futures) and Apex Scotland in the West (Positive Opportunities Programme – POP), both continued to take very different approaches. The post in the East was supplemented by some additional funding to support those visiting HMP Dumfries whilst the post in the West continued to focus on those with direct justice experience.

As mentioned in Priority Action 9, this year brought significant change across Apex Scotland, both nationally and locally. A job evaluation process was undertaken throughout the organisation for all posts, and a wider organisational restructuring took place to strengthen service delivery.

JSW, Statutory Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS) and With You referral pathways embedded within ADP residential rehabilitation pathway. Ensuring that JSW can refer the people they support on community sentences for residential rehabilitation funding if eligible (pathway below).



In 2024/25, Dumfries and Galloway ADP funded seven residential rehabilitation placements. five people had applications for funding declined by the panel. Reasons for an application being rejected include not engaging well with community services or having an outstanding criminal offence. Unsuccessful applicants are given feedback on their application and guidance to support them should they wish to make a future application. An appeals process is also in place for anyone who wishes to contest the decision made by the panel. There were 6 people who were granted funding but returned the funding and did not start a residential rehabilitation placement. Reasons for this include deciding to continue engaging with community services, changes in personal circumstances or feeling that it was not the right time.

During the reporting period JSW have undertaken a staff survey and are using the findings to improve ways of working where possible. Much of the feedback captured was positive, with 90% of those who took part stating they were confident in their role and have the ability to work autonomously, 88% think the JSW service delivers a high-quality service and 74% stated they feel supported and their contribution to delivering a high quality JSW is valued.

Analysis was also done on Unpaid Work CPO Exit Interviews:

- 55% of people said they had learned a new skill.
- 83% said they were treated with dignity and respect with one person saying ‘Yes, I have been treated with respect by all supervisors and case managers I have dealt with. On occasion I have missed days or been late, staff have been understanding and somewhat lenient which has allowed me to manage family and work life whilst still being able to complete my hours in the allotted time’.
- 93% said their circumstances were taken into account; *‘I am a full-time carer and on occasion have had to leave early or been unable to come in due to be needed at home. Staff were very understanding about this’.*



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

- 93% received information about their order and understood it; *'it was clearly pointed out what was required of me and when'*
- 76% of people thought being on a CPO had helped them – *'yes learn to respect others as it goes a long way helped my mental health at times when I have down with thoughts'*
- 81% of people have looked at why they offend whilst on their CPO – *'A lot of time to think about how and why and makes me understand consequences of my actions were not good, to think more!'*
- 74% of those completing their exit questionnaire said their attitude towards offending has changed during their CPO – *'I have refocused my life, found activities and pastimes to fill the void in my life, I have now got a much greater understanding of the damage I was doing to the victims of my offending'*
- 79% of people had considered the impact on victims whilst carrying out their CPO – *'prior to my order I never considered the impact of my offending might have on my victims I now realise that there are many victims of what I have done and just how deeply people are affected'*

When asked If you could change one thing about Unpaid Work, what would it be? The following feedback was received:

- *As previously mentioned, find more work projects*
- *No de-nailing and pallet breaking and just do work on the community projects*
- *I think as it is, it's currently a good set up. The only flaw would be the lack of jobs and projects.*
- *nothing, seems well run*
- *later days*
- *nothing, I feel proud I have completed it*
- *offer placement as I work and have wide skill set and could have been far more helpful at the likes of Clarks Ark*



Community justice outcome activity across Scotland: Local Area Annual Return Template

Priority Action Six

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?

Restorative justice is already used with young people across the region. Youth Justice report their activity through the Youth Justice Partnership. Updates on national work and progress in this area is shared with partners through the CJP Manager and information shared by Community Justice Scotland; this includes training opportunities.

Police Direct Measures – Younger Children

Police Scotland will continue to support local partnerships in the uses of a formal warning where a child has committed a minor crime/offence. It is equally essential that the needs of victims are considered, and their voice is considered in the context of warnings. A Restorative Warning is a process facilitated by trained personnel that involved the warning of a child, whilst addressing the impact on the victim and the community. The victim will be informed of the outcome. The decision to apply this process will be made by the Divisional Concern Hub and the information shared lawfully with relevant partners via the Early and Effective Intervention Co-Ordinator.

Restorative Warnings should only be carried out where:

- The child admits the offence, and
- There is no information that would prevent a warning from being delivered.



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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 sentence¹²

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?

Over the reporting period funding has been secured for a Mental Health Nurse to work in HMP Dumfries who can provide outreach work on liberation. This is to support those with mental illness register with GPs, access community appointments and liaise with housing and partner agencies where required.

The Prison Based Social Work (PBSW) Team based within HMP Dumfries, has experienced a significant increase in workload linked to the prison population and the complex needs of prisoners. Although this presents its challenges, an excellent HMIPS inspection report from January 2025 evidences the dedication, care and compassion shown by Social Work staff to support those in custody. However, overcrowding remains a significant issue and requires ongoing planning and forecasting to maintain the high standards recorded, whilst also prioritising the transitions of those being released back into the community. To this end the implementation of the Prisoners (Early Release) (Scotland) Bill 2024) has changed the point at which some short-term prisoners are released from prison to 40% of their sentence.

Prison Based Social Work continue to work with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and partner agencies under the local Multi Agency Community Integration Board, developing the means to creating positive pathways for prisoners' reintegration and resettlement back into their communities, whilst also implementing risk management strategies under public protection arrangements. One example of this practice evidences the ongoing work undertaken by SPS, Social Work, Police Scotland, Health and Housing to co-ordinate a multi-agency response to the support of prisoner releases immediately from HMP Dumfries. Although longer term analysis of the practice needs to be undertaken to determine on the impact of re-offending rates and compliance/engagement with statutory provisions in place, the co-ordinated approach allows for some prisoners' to be accommodated immediately on release, register with GP Practice, offered the support of addiction/mental health services and in some case immediately meet public protection arrangements through the requirement for Sex Offenders to register an address with the local Sex Offender Policing Unit (SOPU).

¹² National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community



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Although these practices are well established, the increase pressure placed on services means a co-ordinated approach is critical to service delivery.

Service user feedback - Below from a very happy justice service user (on parole licence) who has massively appreciated help from point of release

CC is looking very well. Her home is lovely, and she has been doing this up since release last year with Housing First help and support. No drug use reported since release and engagement with all services has been exemplary. CC advises that she is incredibly proud of herself for leaving illicit drugs behind. She was emotional and stated she is proud she has given housing and social work a chance on her release as their support and input has been life changing. CC expressed her gratitude especially for Housing First and stated that it has been incredible, and she could not have done this without people giving her this chance. I don't think we realise our impact on people. CC has external stresses with her family and her children; she feels that she has caused a lot of this with her choice of lifestyle. Expressed to CC that this is insightful, but she cannot beat herself up about this forever. She is here now and rebuilding not only her life but also attempting to make things up to her two daughters, three grandchildren and now has a supportive partner. CC has another reporting session before the end of her licence but this ends in April. She became very emotional and stated that she cannot express how much that our working relationship has helped her. She reported that she hated social work and services, but this has helped her heal and treat the service at face value. CC remains abstinent from illicit drug use. She will continue to work with Lochfield and Housing First.

Take Home Naloxone (THN) is offered to all individuals upon release, with peer-led overdose awareness training embedded in establishments.

SPS contributes to the National Drugs Early Warning System and HMP Dumfries collaborates with D&G ADP with the Local Early Warning System (LEWS).

Assertive Outreach pathways from prison liberations are in place to ensure rapid engagement with health services.

Third sector drug and alcohol service With You expected to link closely with the local Prison Throughcare Team to ensure prisoners have a smooth transition into services on release.

If eligible on release when in the community, people can be referred to the ADP residential rehabilitation funding pathway through JSW, SDAS or With You¹³.

SPS supports the Prison to Rehab (P2R) pathway, enabling individuals to access abstinence-based residential rehabilitation upon release. Recovery planning includes family engagement, mutual aid, purposeful activity, and access to education and employment support.

¹³ Pathway available on page 29



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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 sentence¹⁴

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?

Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a Housing Emergency in June 2024 due to unprecedented demands across the housing sector, this has an impact on many aspects of the Homeless Service with Dumfries & Galloway.

Unfortunately, during 2024/2025 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) and the local Housing Emergency that was declared.

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 hotels have been used for people being liberated from prison which we know isn't ideal.

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. People are placed in their temporary accommodation for longer periods of time due to the slowdown of permanent accommodation. High levels of homeless presentations to Dumfries and Galloway Council has meant we have had to utilise Hotel accommodation to fulfil our statutory duty however, the commitment is to move customers on as quickly as possible when temporary homeless accommodation becomes available

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.

¹⁴ National Indicator: Number of:

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



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It is always the aim of the homeless service to ensure that when MAPPA customers are being liberated from Prison that they are housed within temporary homeless accommodation that is deemed manageable by the responsible agencies following completion of an environmental risk assessment. Our Prison Liaison Officer and Sex Offender Liaison Officer attends Multi Agency Community Reintegration Board (MACRIB) meetings with our local Prison to ensure that the transition from prison estate to community living is a planned and supported transition to ensure public protection for the individual and the wider community.

On a more positive note, we continue to have Housing First in the east of the region, supported by Turning Point Scotland. Moreover, Dumfries & Galloway Council as part of their Housing Emergency action plan has introduced a new approach to homeless prevention with a view to early intervention preventing households from entering the homeless system by assisting to maintain and sustain current accommodation where this is suitable.

As noted above, Housing First is available in the East, and although current funding is coming to an end, the Housing First Working Group are actively seeking funding for this to continue. At the time of writing the Housing First service is supporting sixteen service users (thirteen men and three women – this includes one couple). There are twelve permanent tenancies with thirteen tenants. Of these we now have two tenancies that have been sustained for over three years, five over two years and five for over a year. Two people are in temporary accommodation and two people are currently in prison. In total, nineteen permanent tenancies have been provided since the service began.

Successes:

- 10 people are engaging with Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services (SDAS), and two people have been discharged as they no longer need support.
- 10 people are engaged with mental health support
- No overdoses in the last six months.
- Turning Point Scotland staff have received wellbeing supervision from NHS Psychologist.
- Partnership working continues to go well, especially with SDAS and HMP Dumfries Addictions and Mental Health nurses.
- People being supported have real choice in where they live in Dumfries and the type of property they are offered.
- Fidelity to the model is high, and all partners understand the importance of Housing First principles.
- Very successful Care Inspectorate inspection achieving high scores and excellent feedback from those using the service.

Challenges:

- Lack of options to be housed out with Dumfries.
- Repeat offending behaviour continues to be a challenge, people know each other because of the area.
- Referral criteria excludes some people who would benefit from service support.
- There can be long waits for permanent tenancies at this time



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Housing First Case Study - Andrew

Andrew is 26-year-old, he was referred when he was 25 years old. Andrew was referred to us in February 2024 following his release from prison on the 16th of February 2024. He served a fourteen month of a twenty-eight sentence for assault and robbery with a knife. Andrew has had committed similar offences before. Andrew has PTSD from childhood trauma and self-harms. He has been diagnosed with EUPD, anxiety and depression and has ADHD.

Drug addiction for Andrew can be an array of drugs but can mainly be Valium and heroin. In prison Andrew was prescribed Espranor. Andrew has a history of homelessness and has never had a stable tenancy. Andrew was referred to Housing first as he expressed interest when it was mentioned to him. He wanted a fresh start and would be happy to be part of Housing first. The aim was for Andrew to benefit from support to maintain a tenancy and developing his personal skills and to enhance his life skills. Intense support for Andrew would help promote and maintain abstinence and integrate him into the community.

On release on the 16th of February 2024, Andrew was placed in emergency accommodation in a B&B and then to temporary accommodation. His engagement was poor with one of my colleagues who was first assigned to him. When I started back with Housing First, I met Andrew, and he was allocated to me. The first visit I had with him started off well and we chatted away and got on really well. We quickly formed a working relationship and his engagement increased.

While in temporary accommodation, Andrew's engagement was consistent, and we started to work well together. He done everything that was asked of him. He got on an even track and started getting his Buvidal regularly. At this time, he was only smoking Cannabis and no other illicit drugs. He started taking Quetiapine and we went to the doctors as he has issues with his stomach and got him on medication for his IBS. I was seeing Andrew 3 to 4 days a week, and he was always phoning me to check in. He listens and takes on advice.

Andrew has a history of stomach issues beginning when he was born. Andrew's hygiene can be poor, but we started to get a grip on this and he started to look after himself better. In August 2024, Andrew got a permanent one-bedroom tenancy. He settled in really well and started to get is house organised. He thrived with the tenancy and was doing really well.

Andrew started a relationship 4 months ago and things became very chaotic. I supported him through this and then it peaked resulting in Andrew splitting up from his girlfriend and breaking down mentally. I supported him to get back on his ADHD medication and working with his doctor at SDAS. His mental health has improved, and he is back in his own tenancy full time. Andrew is still on his Buvidal and has been abstinent from all drugs including Cannabis for over a month now. He is working with Dr X with his mental health and is coping well. He has admitted to me that he is incontinent and has problems with his bowels. He has the doctors soon to try and get this resolved.

Plans for the future include Andrew getting his house sorted and making it more like a home. He is working towards goals and the result of reaching these goals will be that myself and him go rock climbing. He is now very settled and doing really well. He is thinking a lot clearer and is definitely back on track.

As in previous years HMP Dumfries continue to host and chair a MACRIB meeting which is attended by Community Justice and other Third Sector partners to discuss those due to be liberated within the next 10 weeks. This also includes those eligible for HDC or 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 ready for release. The



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MACRIB is now embedded, continuing to be an excellent example of multi-agency partnership work, benefitting those returning to Dumfries and Galloway from across Scotland as well as supporting strong and effective collaborative working to help reduce the risk of people returning to custody/offending. 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.

With ongoing prison population increases throughout Scotland this year several individuals have been released early either via the Emergency Release scheme or by the introduction of STP40. But with continued partner and community engagement at the MACRIB meeting's all the individuals released early through both pathways were successfully supported.

Despite all this it can be challenging to collate and report on data in relation to those being discussed at MACRIB. The year-to-date figures, rather than the reporting period figures show that 570 people have been discussed at MACRIB, including 28 long term prisoners. 78 short term prisoners resident in HMP Dumfries, 356 people returning to D&G from other establishments (up to 10 weeks and 10 weeks to 6 months pre-release), 96 people on remand and 40 people HDC. Data capture was identified and agreed as an area for improvement in our CJOIP to enable us to evidence the work undertaken by all partners involved in MACRIB, however this has proved more challenging than first thought with no single agency being able to record information both pre and post release. Discussions remain ongoing.



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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 employment¹⁵

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?

Wellbeing and health underpin everything, including readiness for employment and improved life skills. The HMP Dumfries Wellbeing Strategy continues to flourish and using the Wellbeing Gardens, a successful Summer Programme of activities and events took place to support trauma and recovery. This included Grow a Brighter Future project, Recovery events, Family Days and general access supported by PTI's and Residential staff. The Wellbeing Gardens was awarded an Outstanding Award in 'Dumfries and Galloway It's Your Neighbourhood' for the second year in a row.

In September, HMP Dumfries became the first and only Scottish Prison to be part of Park Run UK which holds running events every Saturday as close to 9.30 am as possible. This partnership was developed by the PT team and supports the participation of around 35 runners and volunteers every week. Originally this was only for Offence Protection but is now open to Short Term Prisoner (STP)/Remand on a Sunday. We have also supported the attendance of staff and some external runners who have written positive journals regarding the Jessiefield Park Run. A survey and feedback analysis evidenced the Park Run as helping individuals with both mental and physical health and improved morale and relationships between staff and individuals in custody.

During the reporting period HMP Dumfries have continued their employment skills programme in the Life skills in collaboration with Dumfries and Galloway Training and Roberston Trust. This is now in its 12th year where individuals complete a variety of employability workshops, cooking 3-course meals under the supervision of industry chefs,

¹⁵ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- those in employability services with convictions



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participating in barista and mocktail sessions and complete accredited qualifications such as REHIS¹⁶ Introduction to Food Hygiene, REHIS Emergency First Aid at Work and SQA Scottish Certificate for Safe Sale and Service of Alcohol.

Recovery and Wellbeing - Life-skills HMP Dumfries.

- Bite-sized cooking sessions with both populations still being delivered
- “Let’s cook” STP group continued to be delivered with our last group starting in November – completed with a celebration in December 2024.
- “Grow a brighter Future” programme, which takes a group of individuals through a seed to plate journey, of growing, harvesting and cooking from an allotment style garden. This was well-received last year and has been expanded this year with more allotments being available.
- Recovery Café’s being delivered to both populations, with positive partnership engagement with Scottish Recovery College (SRC) and With You (previously Addaction).
- Smart Recovery –business case to ADP for funding
- At present there are four Recovery groups running (STP & LTP), with WY and SRC. And in addition to this there are two groups that are Peer facilitated.
- STP & LTP Recovery and Wellbeing Peer Mentors
- Peer Naloxone Champions – Regular meetings with Scottish Drug Forum with both STP & LTP individuals and NHS addictions staff. Process in place for Naloxone training to be delivered by peers to all individuals prior to release.
- Numbers of Naloxone trained individuals have greatly increased with NHS and our Recovery Officer working closely together.

Faith based activities HMP Dumfries.

- Continued delivery of the Sycamore programme¹⁷ continues to be popular.
- Alpha course – delivered by Prison Fellowship completed. Prisoners now attending the next level of the programme with a view to start a new Alpha course later in the year.
- Temporary Imam continues to provide faith-based support to those of the Muslim faith. Nine individuals completed Ramadan with an Eid celebration held in the Life Skills for those who took part and a celebratory meal provided by the Catering team for the whole prison in recognition of Eid.
- Buddhist faith-based support now available to two individuals within their care.

HMP Dumfries have continued to develop partnerships with community partners including Rotary Clubs to support community joinery projects, Keep Britain Beautiful (It’s Your Neighbourhood), Peoples Project and Canine Concern. They formed a new partnership with Amey at the turn of the year who are in the process of employing two individuals in custody upon release and providing another with assistance to gain his driving licence to support employment.

The Local Employability Partnership used an evidence-based approach in identifying a need for employability interventions for those with MAPPA restrictions and those at stages 1-3 of the employability pipeline with experience of the Justice system. Two contracts were awarded on this basis to Apex Scotland, with the MAPPA programme starting in the first Quarter of 24/25 and the CJ support programme beginning in the final quarter. The purpose

¹⁶ [Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland - REHIS](#)

¹⁷ [Sycamore Tree - Prison Fellowship](#)



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of these contracts was to provide more intensive employability support to the identified target groups.

Anyone referred to DG Works (D&Gs employability brand) for support, except those with MAPPA restrictions (who go direct to Apex Scotland for support), are assigned an Employability Key Worker to support their journey from day one with the service. 6% (79) of all clients supported via DG Works in 24/25 had a disclosed criminal conviction. All these clients were referred to Apex Scotland for the additional specialised support required.

Employability, Skills and Partnerships work strategically with other employability partners to identify individuals who may benefit from the support on offer. This includes, for example, case conferencing regularly with the likes of DWP to identify appropriate referrals for support.

This year brought significant change across Apex Scotland, both at the national level and within local service delivery. As noted above, a key development was the introduction of a framework by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Employability Skills Team, enabling providers to bid for No One Left Behind (NOLB) funding from the Scottish Government.

Apex Scotland have delivered services for those involved in justice for many years and have been active members of CJP since its creation. They were proud to be directly awarded the MAPPA contract, in recognition of their unique expertise in this area. The contract began at the end of July and ensures that any individual subject to MAPPA and fit for employment is supported through this dedicated, specialised service. Some of these individuals would previously have engaged with the Moving On Service, however, may not have received the same level of support that this funding allows.

In addition, Apex Scotland were awarded an employability contract through NOLB for individuals with experience of the justice system. However, due to the delayed launch (mid-November to March), it posed staffing challenges in such a short time limit.

As Moving On was originally developed as an employability-focused service for justice-involved individuals, the changing landscape made it essential to review the service focus, aims, and outcomes. A revised Service Level Agreement (SLA) was introduced this year, targeting individuals between Pre-Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Apex Scotland Participant Journey. Development of the SLA was supported by the CJP Manager. The SLA has introduced clearer reporting requirements, supporting a more evidence-informed approach to tracking outcomes.

Participant Engagement & Outcomes (2024/25)

Outcome	Number Achieved
<i>Apex Scotland initial assessment and action plan completed</i>	63
<i>Signposted to specialist services</i>	45
<i>Accessed suitable community resources</i>	30
<i>Established a support network</i>	35
<i>Identified targets and set personal goals</i>	55
<i>Increased skills development</i>	25
<i>Completed disclosure support process</i>	46



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<i>Completed employment preparation activities</i>	25
<i>Achieved a volunteering opportunity</i>	7
<i>Attended job interviews</i>	6
<i>Secured a work placement</i>	2
<i>Achieved a qualification</i>	9
<i>Gained full-time employment</i>	4

Innovation and Engagement: As mentioned earlier Apex Scotland introduced Participant Progress Cards this year to help individuals track their own goals, achievements, and development through their Participant Journey. These visual, co-created tools help build ownership, reinforce progress, and create talking points for support sessions. Participants have responded positively, citing them as helpful for motivation and clarity. They have also continued developing trauma-responsive practice, ensuring that even those furthest from the labour market experience meaningful engagement and a sense of safety in their service.

Ben first came to Apex Scotland seeking a food parcel. A deeper conversation revealed broader support needs, including building confidence, CV support, and finding structure after a difficult period in Glasgow where he became involved in antisocial behaviour, resulting in charges for breach of the peace and assaulting a police officer.

Ben acknowledged the role alcohol played in his offending, especially when combined with his ADHD and Autism, which made him vulnerable to peer influence. Determined to break that cycle, Ben relocated and moved into supported accommodation at Hampton Court, where he consistently attended appointments and made a fresh start.

Despite receiving a Community Care Grant, Ben lacked essential furnishings. We approached local businesses and secured generous donations from a local hotel, including carpets, bedroom furniture, and dining essentials. This helped improve both his living space and mental wellbeing. He later received further support via a Hollywood Trust Grant application to furnish the rest of his home.

Knowing Ben's passion for the outdoors, we explored education options and identified a forestry course at Barony College. Although he was accepted, transport barriers made it unfeasible. Undeterred, Ben explored alternatives and applied for the Project Search course at Stranraer Campus, with support in completing the application. He is now awaiting an interview.

Ben remains fully engaged with weekly check-ins and has not reoffended since his move. His resilience, growing independence, and positive choices reflect the success of a supportive, person-centered approach.



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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 sentence¹⁸

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?

HMP Dumfries have developed a Reintegration Wellbeing group, which looks at support for those close to liberation. This involves a six-week reintegration activity group coproduced with those in our care to support reintegration back into our communities. This continues to be developed through ongoing evaluation. Input from Education and Waste Management to support this.

HMP Dumfries Wellbeing Garden Developments

- Partnership with Tarras Valley Nature Reserve, supporting local reforestation within their reserve.
- Continued engagement with Trellis to support initiatives working with aging population and Care Home groups.
- Wellbeing seniors walking group – PTI's and B1 staff take over 60's outside everyday weather permitting as part of the summer programme.
- The introduction of the Regime review has seen an increase in the access for individuals to the Wellbeing Garden.

Over the reporting period both Shine and New Routes experienced challenges due to the commissioning of a new national voluntary throughcare service. Any change brings uncertainty, and this was no different, impacting local organisations, their staff and those being supported by services.

The community referral pathway for Shine ended on 1st November 2024 due to the upcoming transition to the new service (now UpSide). Additionally, the service supported

¹⁸ National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced



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individuals released under the new short term prisoner release legislation ('STP40') that came into force in Q4 of 2024/25.

Shine Case Study

N is a 55-year-old woman living alone in a rural area, referred to me by JSW. She was given a Structured Deferred Sentence following her involvement in legal matters.

N has experienced a lifetime of trauma, including abandonment in childhood, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, and a difficult divorce. These experiences have significantly impacted her mental health and sense of trust in professionals, making it difficult for her to engage with support services. Despite these challenges, she is determined to make positive changes in her life, but her ongoing struggles with housing and a sense of isolation have compounded her difficulties.

Building a Relationship: *Recognising the importance of trust and consistent support, I focused on establishing a rapport with N from the outset. Given her history of being let down by professionals, I took a patient, non-judgmental approach, engaging in a variety of interactions to help build her confidence and reduce her anxiety about working with me. Our work together started with regular home visits, followed by informal coffee dates and occasional office meetings. These meetings allowed us to build a strong, supportive relationship where N felt safe to share her feelings, needs, and fears. Over time, N began to open up more about her traumatic past and the impact it has had on her ability to trust and engage with systems of support. This foundation of trust was crucial in helping her move forward.*

To help prioritize her needs and begin tackling the most pressing issues, we completed an Outcome Star assessment. This tool allowed us to identify the key areas of N's life that required attention and develop a plan of action. While multiple areas needed support, it quickly became clear that housing was her most immediate concern.

Housing Struggles: *N's living conditions are severely inadequate, contributing to her sense of hopelessness. She is currently renting from a social landlord, but the property is in disrepair, which has left N feeling trapped. Despite her desire to move, she cannot exchange the property because potential viewers are put off by the visible state of disrepair, which is damaging her chances of securing a move.*

The social landlord has stated that there is no funding available to make improvements, leaving N in a situation where she feels powerless to change her circumstances. The psychological impact of living in an unsafe and uncomfortable environment is taking a toll on her mental and physical health. She often speaks about feeling desperate, isolated, and overwhelmed.

Intervention and Advocacy: *Understanding the gravity of the housing issue, I arranged several meetings with N's Housing Officer to explore potential options. I emphasised the severe impact that the living conditions were having on N's psychological health and wellbeing, urging the Housing Officer to consider more immediate solutions. Unfortunately, these discussions have yet to yield substantial results.*

In light of this, I took additional steps to advocate for N. I reached out to the local Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) to raise the profile of N's housing situation. The MSP has been instrumental in highlighting the issue with the relevant authorities, helping to bring more attention to the ongoing difficulties that N faces. This has provided N with some hope that her situation may eventually improve, even though the process is slow and the outcome is still uncertain.

Neighbourhood and Legal Issues: *In addition to housing problems, N has been involved in ongoing disputes with her neighbours, which have escalated to the point where she has had*



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to go to court. These disputes further contribute to her sense of vulnerability and stress, as they exacerbate her feelings of being unsupported and powerless.

I have supported N by attending meetings and providing emotional support during these legal proceedings. I have also assisted her in understanding her rights and responsibilities in the situation, helping her navigate the complexities of the legal system. While the legal process is ongoing, it is clear that N feels trapped in an environment where she is continually facing external pressures that prevent her from moving forward.

While progress has been slow, N has made notable strides in regaining some sense of agency over her life. Through our work together, N has developed a clearer understanding of her needs and has become more empowered to advocate for herself, especially regarding her housing situation. The completion of the Outcome Star assessment has provided a tangible way to measure her progress, even though housing remains a significant hurdle.

The ongoing relationship we have built has also helped N reduce some of her isolation. She has expressed feeling more supported and less alone in her journey, and she is now more willing to engage with professionals, when necessary, despite her previous reluctance. While her living situation remains challenging, the involvement of external advocates, including the MSP, has offered N a renewed sense of hope that a resolution is possible.

Conclusion: N's case is a powerful example of the importance of building trust, taking a holistic approach, and advocating for individuals who face multiple, compounding challenges. While there is still much work to be done, the support N has received has helped her feel less isolated and more empowered in her efforts to improve her life. Her journey is ongoing, but the progress she has made so far reflects her resilience and determination, even in the face of significant adversity.

Case Study 2

S was referred to Shine in June and was subject to a Structured Deferred Sentence. She is a local lady, aged 45 years old with 5 children, her 2 youngest being in their early teens.

Previously S was married for over 20 years, but throughout that period she suffered from complex trauma at the hands of her husband. Eventually, she managed to break free and was placed in a Women's Refuge for some time. Following a divorce, she has her own accommodation and feels settled, surrounded by family and a good support network.

She is currently in a 5-year relationship, which was at times volatile due to them both being heavy drinkers. This led to them both being charged with domestic assault. This was a game changer for S, as she had never been involved in the justice system before and this gave her the motivation to address her drinking habits, and she has been abstinent for four months now.

S was distraught by her involvement with JSW and was keen to engage with me. The initial referral highlighted that S needed support to increase self-esteem and to reintegrate into the local community. I meet with S every week and keep in contact between 1-1 appointments. This has built S's confidence as she enjoys a safe space to discuss sensitive issues that impact her wellbeing.

Previously S has worked in a hospital setting, so was concerned about how her court disposal would affect future employment opportunities, as she plans to return to work in the near future. S received correspondence from the PVG scheme, indicating that she may be enrolled on the barring list. I compiled a response on my mentee's behalf, putting forward the relevant background information to be considered in context of her actions, and highlighting the progress she has made since.

Meanwhile, S has wholeheartedly jumped on board with mentoring and is open to suggestions I brought to our meetings. I was able to offer her a volunteering position within the Dumfriesshire Foodbank, and she has become a very integral part of our team. I



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also made a referral to Branching Out, delivered by DGOWL group in partnership with Scottish Forestry, Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership and Dumfries and Galloway Council. This is an outdoor therapeutic programme for adults who are accessing Mental Health services and are in recovery from problem substance misuse. I supported S to the initial Branching Out activity and it was such a rewarding day, watching her chat freely with other participants and enjoy the surroundings. As her mentor, I feel very lucky to support her on her journey and observe her confidence grow week by week.

S has also really benefitted from volunteering within our Foodbank and is a positive influence on the younger team members.

I am delighted to report, that S has received a response from the PVG scheme informing her that she will not be added to the barring list. If the outcome hadn't gone in her favour, she would have been severely limited in moving forward in a positive direction. This is amazing news meaning she will be able to return to employment in the near future.

She is now longer involved in the justice system as her Structured Deferred Sentence was admonished at her 3-month court review.

On reflection, S has been through an emotional mill but has made remarkable progress. She remains abstinent, which has improved her relationships, has accessed new activities she would have never considered before, widened her support network, gained new skills, and is thriving.

These changes would maybe not have come about, had she not been involved in the justice system and sought support from Shine. S considers this as her silver lining.



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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?

As per our legislative requirement we have our:

[Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2028](#),

[Community Justice Participation Statement 2023-2028](#)

[Community Justice outcome annual activity report 2023-2024](#)

Links to all these documents sit within the new Public Protection Website www.dgppp.org.uk.

Some of our local partners are leading on work within the National Delivery Plan for Community Justice. At present the only updates we receive come via Scottish Government and through papers for the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board.

We continue to work well with ADP, leading on their Public Health Approach to Justice priority. We also link with Public Protection Partnership, particularly VAWG Sub Committee which continues to be Chaired by our CJP Manager. Any multi agency training identified or sourced via CJP is shared through the Learning and Development Sub Committee of Public Protection who have developed their own training charter and have a training calendar which is updated and shared regularly.

Over the reporting period our CJP Manager has supported JSW with recruitment through participation on interview panels. This has provided the opportunity for the inclusion of specific questions relating to partnership working, lived experience and community justice. This also supports **Priority Action Thirteen**.



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A new Terms of Reference has been developed for CJP and an Induction Pack for new members is also almost complete. We are unable to give either of these final sign off until our improvement activity in relation to governance and a review of structures is complete.

We continue to provide quarterly update reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board and have highlighted a proposed governance review within this. Work remains ongoing in this area to evidence progress towards this as an identified improvement area within our CJOIP.



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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?*

Over the reporting period and to support our priority area of lived experience, the POP group in the West has continued to evolve. The Lived Experience Peer Mentor [Danny](#)¹⁹ (employed by Apex Scotland, funded by JSW) has now been formally recognised as a Practitioner rather than a support worker, following the job evaluation process. This has given him more security, a sense of recognition and pride in his work. It also sets a positive example and instils a sense of hope for those who attend his groups. Apex Scotland reports that he has really grown into his role and taken on increasing levels of casework and participant support as well as the ongoing peer support. Well done Danny!

POP engaged with eighteen participants over the past year through group work sessions. These sessions centered around activities at the Unexpected Garden (a community garden near Stranraer waterfront) and at Stranraer Football Club. Both organisations have provided letters of support and value for the work Danny and his peers undertake.

Alongside group sessions, Danny also contributes weekly to the hot food drop-in at Apex Scotland Scotland's Stranraer Hub, with an average of ten people attending each week. This space provides opportunities to connect with the community in an informal setting, offering both social interaction and a chance to discuss issues that participants may be facing. Danny's presence in these sessions helps to foster positive relationships and promote pro-social choices.

This year, Apex Scotland introduced Participant Progress Cards, a visual tool co-created with those using services and attending groups to help them track their goals, achievements, and development through their own Participant Journey. These cards have proven highly effective in promoting ownership and reflection, and participants have described them as motivating and helpful for staying focused.

¹⁹ Link to find out more about Danny and his journey.



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Case Study

Male, Age 21

A 21-year-old participant moved from the Glasgow area to Stranraer and joined POP during a difficult period of transition. When he started, he was drinking regularly and smoking cannabis, and the few people he knew locally were not a positive influence on him or his mental health.

His background included exposure to violence in childhood, where fighting was normalised and even encouraged by his father. Despite this, the participant showed strong motivation to change and improve his life. While attending POP groups, he made the independent decision to stop drinking and smoking, demonstrating personal resilience and commitment to change.

Although initially wary and carrying a “city mentality” marked by suspicion and paranoia, he gradually adapted to the slower pace of life in Stranraer. Danny worked with him to explore these differences, helping him feel safer and more connected to his new environment. He has been in a stable relationship for 18 months, and within the group setting he has become highly engaged, open in discussions, encouraging towards quieter participants, and willing to reflect on his past. Recently, he began volunteering at Stranraer Football Club to gain work experience, with the goal of moving back into employment.

This case reflects the importance of building trust, recognising strengths, and supporting participants to take ownership of their progress.

Within our JSW Community Supervision Teams, a model of good practice has been developed using service users in their staff recruitment. This has proved to be successful and a policy and procedure around this is in process.

The HMP Dumfries partnership with Summerhill Community Centre sadly came to an end on 31 March 2024. This had been a successful partnership for nearly 2 years, but the community centre was unable to deliver the contract after the contract end date due to staffing issues and subsequently did not apply for further funding to continue. Over the last year the community centre has assisted HMP Dumfries with children’s visits and provided fun sessions from some special easter activities, pizza making, Halloween and Christmas parties as well as assisting with the family fun days in the wellbeing garden.

Funding has been agreed by Scottish Government through Families Outside for a further visitor service for Dumfries and we are currently going through the process of applications. It is hoped that this service will be up and running soon, depending on who is successful in the process. We have learned many things working in partnership over the last year and will use that experience to shape the new service to better meet the needs of HMP Dumfries.

Through the Family Contact Officer (FCO) and community partners, HMP Dumfries have provided child visits in their wellbeing garden and have further expanded this to provide a pizza making sessions for child visits. This enabled the parent in custody to share the making and cooking of pizzas with the children and partner, as well as sitting at a table to enjoy the meal they made together.

Summer family fun days took place in July with over 90 visitors making the most of the fun and games provided during these sessions. The Christmas party was inclusive from all areas of the prison with both LTP and STP population coming together to ensure their children and families had a fantastic time playing games and receiving a present from Santa.



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The presents were kindly provided by community partners and the individuals in custody were able to select a suitable gift and wrap this themselves to allow Santa to provide something that was suitable for the individual child.

Media & Community Events coordinated by HMP Dumfries.

- Prisoners Week- (November)
- Carol Service with representatives from local churches- (December)
- Holocaust event held in Learning Centre to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day- (January)
- Radio Interview – SW Scotland – Robert the Bruce – (May 24)
- Border Life – Border Tv – short film publicising positive community partnerships and our Wellbeing Garden
- “Hiding Place” – A play presented by the Oddments Theatre Group the true story of Holocaust survivors. (21-05-24)
- Poetry Challenge in conjunction with The Togetherness Poetry Project and Erroll McGlashan. Five individuals received letters of recognition with one having his poem read at the award ceremony in Southwark Cathedral, London. –(November)
- Celebration of Learning event- Awards ceremony for those individuals gaining qualifications/certifications in the Learning Centre.
- “Something To Take the Edge Off” Errol McGlashan Play (14-08-24)
- D-Day Coffee Morning (14-06-24)
- Andrew O'Hagan Author Visit (15-08-24)
- Recovery Month (September 24)
- Overdose Awareness
- Alzheimer's Awareness (21-09-24)
- Dyslexia Awareness and Literacy Day (22-10-24)

Police Scotland is committed to supporting victims of rape and serious sexual crime from the time of report and throughout the investigation. The Crown Office and Procurators Fiscal Service (COPFS) have developed a Victim Strategy which allows the Police to fully inform the Procurator Fiscal (PF) regarding a victim's vulnerability, their care and safety plan, the support network already in place and what further support might be required to progress through the justice system without causing any further trauma.

The Victim Strategy template is now embedded into all Police reports of sexual harm/domestic offences to ensure that the information is capture and shared with COPFS. The victim strategy incorporates

- Sexual Offences Liaison Officer / Contact Details
- Victims Background
- Details of any vulnerabilities identified
- Attitude to Police investigation and Criminal Proceedings
- Awareness and understanding of process
- Victim expectations
- Victim in unreported/reported crime
- Name and contact number of parent/guardian/key worker/supporter
- Preferred method of communication
- Any other relevant information to inform the vulnerability assessment

As evidenced previously CJP continue to link closely with the VAWG Sub Committee of Public Protection, often highlighting crossover with justice. We recognise that the voices of victims and survivors is well represented across the VAWG agenda with staff supporting and empowering those using services to be heard and have their experiences recognised.



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The number of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) cases remained steady over this reporting period, but numbers now continue to remain above 2022/23 levels. Dumfries & Galloway has been selected as one of two local authority areas to participate in the Safe and Together and MARAC Pilot from August 2025. This pilot aims to integrate Safe and Together principles into the MARAC process, strengthening responses to victims and informing practice at local, national, and international levels. This will embed Safe and Together by using the Perpetrator Mapping Tool for two cases at every MARAC.

As the data dashboard for VAWG continues to develop information and data in relation to Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) will also be considered. The aim of MATAC is to effectively tackle offending by perpetrators who present the greatest risk of harm, to achieve positive outcomes for victims and their families

Police Scotland leads this locally and is committed to tackling domestic abuse collaboratively by working with partners to reduce the harm it causes and ultimately eradicate it.

Police Scotland – VAWG Strategy 2023 – aims to enhance organisational capability to ensure women and girls live free from all forms of violence, abuses, exploitation and harassment. Police Scotland are dedicated to tackling these issues, with focus on improvement on the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland and preventing and protecting women and girls from violence, along with using policing powers proportionately to bring perpetrators to justice.

Police Scotland is committed to delivering a person-centred approach when responding to incidents of violence against women, involving affected communities in the design and deliver of local services to ensure they are supported, and their experiences are understood and heard. During 2025/26 a multi-agency self-evaluation looking at how services work together to support families affected by violence and abuse is currently in progress. All VAWG partners are supporting this work, both statutory and third sector, making it quite unique. Case file audits, interviews and focus groups with both staff and women and children supported will take place. We need to consider what we do well and recommendations for change, acting on the voices of survivors and feeding back as we go through the process.

Within Dumfries and Galloway, Police Scotland are embedded into both the VAWG and CJP ensuring a multi-agency approach to manage and maximise the best outcomes for all women and girls locally, ensuring a robust response to perpetrators. Feedback is regularly sought to ensure a better understanding for police staff and to ensure continuous improvement around service delivery both internally and externally. Strong relationships within the local Police Scotland / D& G Public Protection arena are evident and has been gained through information sharing and close partnership working, this is not occurring in other divisions.

Following discussion JSW colleagues agreed to contribute resource to the delivery of multi-agency training for staff from Families Outside on the impact of family imprisonment. This will be coordinated and supported by the CJP Manager and cascaded through the Public Protection multi agency training calendar. This also contributes to Priority Action thirteen.

Submitted a multi-agency response to the consultation on changes to Long Term Prisoners release.



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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 justice²⁰

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?

Multi agency trauma training is available to all staff across Dumfries and Galloway, increasing people's awareness and understanding of trauma and enabling them to recognise and consider behaviour as a symptom with an underlying cause.

The CJP continues to take ownership of the ADP priority area of 'a public health approach to justice, recognising the crossover and strategic links between both partnerships.

Police Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership continue to work collaboratively to provide support and guidance in relation to substance use (and often associated anti-social/offending behaviour) across the area and to achieve and support a safe and secure environment for those who live across the region. A Police Officer is part funded by ADP working in partnership to provide preventative approaches to target drug related deaths and non-fatal overdoses, provide education/inputs around substance use to education, partner agencies, community groups and other organisations, support national and local campaigns and work with those who have 'lived experience.

During **16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2024** a practitioner workshop was held which explored the challenges and intersectionality between services involved in supporting people experiencing violence against women, involved in substance use and/or justice services. Service generated risks were also discussed, connections made, and networks broadened. Those who took part valued the opportunity to meet and talk about their concerns and challenges with each other, taking learning from the opportunity.

We have collaborated with Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership and working with MAPPA colleagues across South West Scotland to produce an awareness raising video for MAPPA. Following several meetings with both CJP leads and MAPPA colleagues, a procurement process was initiated, and bids were received; a draft script and ideas to be included were discussed. A first draft was shown and discussed at MAPPA SOG in December, with feedback provided to producers and an amended, updated version agreed and produced. This is currently going through the required governance routes²¹.

²⁰ 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

²¹ Chief Officer Groups in each of the four local authority areas.



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A full roll out is being planned and the video will be used as an internal training resource for multi-agency staff and partners. Arrangements will also be made to provide input at a selection of meetings, such as Community Planning Partnerships, Violence Against Women Partnerships, and others. Police Scotland colleagues have advised they would like to use the video across Ayrshire Division. Reporting on the roll out of the video and any impact measures will be included in the 2025/26 return.

The activity and work of the CJP is routinely included in the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report.

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

Drive forward CJP governance review with clear reporting lines and increased accountability. This will also enable us to complete the revised terms of reference and new induction pack for partners.

Create more effective links with Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership, including identification of meaningful data for those with justice experience and ensuring more effective communication and reporting.

Continue to develop our local performance framework, building on the minimum data set we are required to report on through the National CJ Performance Framework.

Support JSW and Change Mental Health as they start to work together to pilot a new support service to help people affected by mental health who have also been sentenced to complete a CPO. The service will work with them alongside their CPO to be safe and stable in their mental health supporting them to be prepared to complete their CPO successfully. This will help reduce the risks of further custodial sentence and improve their social wellbeing. There are also obvious benefits to their families and local communities. This is a pilot project that is funded for one year until March 2026.

After successfully securing the ADP contract for the regionwide alcohol and drug service, With You is expected to link closely with JSW to develop a joint working agreement and information sharing protocol, in relation to drug treatment and testing orders that addresses poly-substance use. With You is expected to develop the joint working agreement and information sharing protocol with JSW within a year of the contract start date (start date 1st April 2025). Drug and Alcohol service provision document being created as a source of info for JSW staff, detailing medical and testing provision, medical treatment options and interventions, psychological and mental health provision, social support provision and recovery specific provision. It is crucial that we are sighted on this work moving forward.

The MATSIN Justice Network continues to meet monthly and serves as an important forum supporting a membership that includes partners working in prisons, police custody, community, third sector, PHS and ADPs. Within this wider context, collaborative work continues to be progressed in justice settings with plans to undertake benchmarking of the ten MAT standards across all prisons throughout 2025–26. It is important that we remain linked with this work as a local partnership with a local prison.

As part of the Public Protection Partnership Performance Quality and Improvement Self-Evaluation Calendar for 2025, we will be undertaking the first multi-agency **VAWG Self Evaluation** in Dumfries & Galloway. This activity will be driven by the relevant representation from all the partner agencies/services across the partnership. This will be a groundbreaking piece of work as we have not previously undertaken self-evaluation that included adult and children's statutory services but also our Third Sector Specialist Services. This activity will be developed in a collaborative way to ensure that the findings



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can provide reassurance to the Public Protection Committee and Chief Officers that we are keeping those adults and children safe because of the way we work together We are working towards a timescale of file reading in Oct/Nov 2025 with final reporting to PPC and COG in early 2026. Partners involved in this work are also part of CJP and as such it is important that we support ongoing work and recommendations that come from the findings of this, recognising VAWG as an important cross cutting issue.

In early 2025, the Scottish Government and COSLA announced that work would commence to develop a **VAWG Needs Assessment Tool**. The tool will be an important aide in bringing together partners from across different services and policy areas to raise awareness of everyone's role in tackling VAWG, help identify opportunities to drive forward improvements and maximise the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people. Dumfries and Galloway has expressed an interest to test the tool, complimenting and adding value to the aforementioned local self-evaluation of VAWG.

