**Community Justice Scotland**

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland

Local Area Annual Return Template

Reporting year April 2023 – March 2024

April 2024

1. **Background**

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

1. **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.

1. **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.
1. **How to fill in the template**

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

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

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

Instead, we want partners to focus on the qualitative evidence drawn from their activity and insights about impact. Relevant local supporting evidence from the [CJS improvement tool](https://communityjustice.scot/learning-hub/community-justice/a-community-justice-improvement-tool-local-evidence-for-national-outcomes/) 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.

# Community Justice Partnership / Group Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of local authority area/s | *Fife Council* |
| Name and contact details of the partnership Chair | Name: Cllr Margaret KennedyEmail: cllr.margaret.kennedy@fife.gov.ukTelephone:  |
| Contact for queries about this report | Name: Tricia SpaceyEmail: patricia.spacey@fife.gov.ukTelephone: 07887548280 |

# Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair

|  |
| --- |
| *Enter the name of the chair to confirm that the local community justice partnership representatives have agreed this return as an accurate record. It should be returned to CJS by 27 September 2024.**For the purpose of submitting this return to CJS ensure you have agreement from community justice partners.**For the purpose of publishing this template as part of your s23 duty (publish a public-facing annual report on progress towards national and local outcomes) you should follow local governance arrangements.*Date:……02/10/24Name:………………………………  |

# 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.

While there has been no significant change to local community justice arrangements, there has been a review of Fife’s wider community justice planning landscape within which local community justice partners operate. This review found that local partnership reporting arrangements have become fragmented and while early indications are that there are no plans for fundamental change to partnerships structure and role, there will be some changes to help improve focus and delivery of local priorities.

#  The year overall

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

**Challenges / Negatives***.*

With a ‘flatline’ budget for Justice Social Work Services nationally, the service locally faces as challenge as to how they continue to deliver high quality services as staffing costs steadily increase. As a Service, actions were taken to reduce costs wherever possible, however, how the Service manages capacity, demand and pressures within budget constraints remains a significant challenge.

Over this reporting period, they have continued to utilise the COVID 19 consequential funding to recruit staff, however the recruitment of experienced staff and retention of staff generally, remains a challenge. Increasing the duration of fixed term contracts to 2027 has supported with this to some degree, however, the temporary nature of the funding is inevitably linked to higher staff turnover as staff seek the security of permanent posts.

This is just one service example, with similar challenges faced by all partners, and the pressures to ensure own service delivery can impact on capacity to work in partnership.

A challenge which has been constant since the changes implemented in 2016, is the link between the national and the local and the pressure this can place on local partner representatives who may not always be knowledgeable of national discussions and decisions and yet are often expected to represent the whole organisation. An example of this can be seen in Police Scotland, and the different divisional responsibilities (think Custody and local).

**Positives / Opportunities**

# One of the main positives over the reporting period has been a renewed commitment and enthusiasm from local community justice partners, reflected in the engagement in the working group as well as commitment to meetings and actions outwith the working group environment.

# 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 prosecution[[1]](#footnote-2)

**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.

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

As reported last year, within Fife, all intervention work, including that relating to Diversion and Structured Deferred Sentences (for males) is managed by a single team – Justice Social Works ‘Early Intervention Service. Delivery through one single team is proving to work well with the team working in a pro-active, welfare-oriented way with those who are deemed to require lower-level intervention and supervision

It is recognised locally that crucial to success of diversionary activity is confidence within the local judiciary to use diversion. In addition to attending local Court User Groups, JSW staff have facilitated face to face meetings with local Sheriffs, to raise awareness of local programmes and encourage open and honest discussion. The plan is to have these meetings on a regular basis.

All individuals who undertake in diversion are given feedback forms to complete but it is recognised that response to this is limited and increasing opportunities for service user involvement is a priority within [Fife Justice Social Work Outcome Improvement Plan 2024-2027](https://www.fife.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/593732/Fife-Justice-Outcome-Improvement-Plan-2024-2027.pdf) (page 10)

Fife has seen an increase in numbers of those referred for diversion as well as a difference in the range of offences involved, with more and more complex cases coming in, some of which require specialist support from, some of the more experienced staff. While diversions are always welcome and locally, services will work to ensure a service is provided for all, there is no doubt the increases in both numbers and complexity impact resources requiring continual review and monitoring by our JSW service.

During the assessment process JSW staff offer multiple opportunities to engage the service user. Whilst the first step is a letter inviting the individual to attend an assessment appointment, if the individual does not attend, further appointments are offered and a home visit is undertaken. Additionally, addresses are checked and verified through Fife Council Housing colleagues due to our partnership working. When someone is subject to a Diversion programme, appointments are flexible, taking cognisance of individual needs. Appointments can take place within the service-users' home or in an office setting. This has been effective in encouraging engagement and further evidences that that service-users' needs are at the forefront of the decisions made.

JSW take a welfare-based approach to Diversion programmes and regularly link in with third sector agencies for further support. If needed workers can transport individuals to their referral appointments. This a further recognition of the fact that service users often face barriers to accessing support, an example of one being difficulties in travelling around. Offering flexibility appoints and access to travel helps to overcome obstacles to engagement.

JSW use a Quality Assurance process whereby the Diversion worker, and the individual, score various aspects of their life at the beginning and end of a programme. This information is then collated to evidence improvements but also allows any gaps in the service to be identified.

An example of when this was used can be seen relates to support to improve the mental health of individuals. JSW staff identified a gap in the service in terms of improving individuals’ mental health. In looking to address this gap, they sourced help from a colleague from Social Work colleague who was trained in providing holistic therapies to improve individuals’ mental health. Diversion workers can now submit a referral to this colleague who can then offer bespoke therapies. Additionally, colleagues within the Women’s Justice Team follow a similar welfare approached which has proved successful. The Women’s Justice Team is a multi-disciplinary team which includes a Psychologist, Assistant-Psychologist and Mental Health Nurse. This partnership working has allowed individuals subject to a Diversion programme to access support for their mental health in a streamlined way. The team have also developed a group work programme- Fife Connect- which supports individuals to complete a variety of modules, such as cooking, health and wellbeing and fitness. This has been extremely successful and allowed the attendees to gain new skills.

There are many cases whereby offence focussed work should also be completed. It was noted that there was an increase in domestically aggravated cases being referred for Diversion. As such, JSW ‘Diversion’ colleagues employed the expertise of Group Work Services team to put together a Healthy Relationships programme which they can work through with those on Diversion programme. Colleagues in Group Work Services offered in depth training in facilitating the programme and provide additional support if required.

Similarly, a gap was identified in relation to individuals who committed alleged road traffic offences and could not participate in the road traffic groupwork programme due to timescale, employment, etc. JSW staff reached out to colleagues within Fife Council’s Safer Communities Team, who developed a one-to-one road traffic programme. Again, colleagues in Safer Communities provided in depth training and can be contacted for additional support if required. Programmes for Hate Crime and Anger Management are currently in development by practitioners in the service.

JSW colleagues work in partnership with SACRO in relation to 16 and 17 year old. Those in that age group who are referred for Diversion, will be assessed and managed by SACRO. JSW are in continual discussion with SACRO regarding those cases, outcomes, changes to processes and recording of statistical information. Additionally for this age group, funding has been secured to provide intensive welfare support for those who are care experienced. This has led to the creation of 3 new posts which will focus on this area of support with the aim of providing intensive, practical support to lead those individuals away from any potential further offending and contact with the justice system.

Numbers of those who have successfully completed diversions can be provided on request (they are reported elsewhere). A further priority within [Fife Justice Social Work Outcome Improvement Plan 2024-2027](https://www.fife.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/593732/Fife-Justice-Outcome-Improvement-Plan-2024-2027.pdf) is to ‘Develop a consistent framework to demonstrate the impact of diversion (page 10).

During 2023-24, local Police Scotland staff continued to use Direct Measures as an alternative to prosecution in cases of local level offending. Following an update of the Lord Advocates Guidelines Police Scotland have refreshed the guidance for Direct Measures, widening out the circumstances when they can be used, any impact this has had locally will be reported next year.

# 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 needs[[2]](#footnote-3)

**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

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

As reported in previous years, Fife Custody Navigators, funded by Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership, delivered by SACRO , supported by the Violence Reduction Unit continue to offer support in local custody suites. Although they only visit the centres once a week (Sunday evening) they can except referrals from custody staff. From April 2023 to March 2024, the service received 240 referrals.

The following table from their annual report provides additional information:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **3.2 Output Description (SLA)** | Annual Target | Progress |   |
| Q1 Apr23-Jun23 | Q2 Jul23-Sep23  | Q3 Oct23-Dec23 | Q4 Jan24-Mar24 | Comments |
| Referrals to the Navigator Service   | **90** | **83** | **63** | **86** | **76** | Total for Year 240 |
| Referrals by Gender |  | Male – 64Female – 19Transgender – 0Non-binary – 0Other – 0  | Male – 54Female – 9Transgender – 0Non-binary – 0Other – 0  | Male – 63Female – 23Transgender – 0Non-binary – 0Other – 0  | Male – 51Female – 25Transgender – 0Non-binary – 0Other – 0  |   |
| Referrals by Age |  | 16-17 – 418-19 – 7 19-24 – 725-40 – 4041-50 – 1951-54 – 255-64 – 165+ – 3  | 12-17 – 418-19 – 519-24 – 1125-40 – 2941-50 – 1151-54 – 255-64 – 065+ – 1  | 12-17 – 018-19 – 919-24 – 1025-40 – 4441-50 – 1651-54 – 655-64 – 1 65+ – 0 | 12-17 – 118-19 – 719-24 – 1125-40 – 4041-50 – 751-54 – 555-64 – 365+ – 2 |   |
| Service users have engaged with the service from custody for 3- 12 weeks (based on closed cases)        Timescale taken from Planned Closures | **60** | **Closed – 68****Planned – 47***SU Declined – 0**No Contact – 19**Not Suitable – 2*3-12 weeks – 343-6mths – 86-9mths – 59-12mths – 0Over 1yr – 0 | **Closed – 77****Planned – 50***SU Declined – 3* *No Contact – 21**Not Suitable – 3**Custodial Sentence* *- 1*3-12 weeks – 383-6mths – 96-9mths – 39-12mths – 0Over 1yr – 0 | **Closed – 60****Planned – 35***SU Declined – 1* *No Contact – 18**Not Suitable – 1**Custodial Sentence* *- 5*3-12 weeks – 313-6mths – 46-9mths – 09-12mths – 0Over 1yr – 0 | **Closed – 92****Planned – 47***SU Declined – 2**No Contact – 37**Not Suitable – 2**Custodial Sentence* *- 4*3-12 weeks –423-6mths – 46-9mths – 19-12mths – 0Over 1yr – 0  |   |
| Service users who are actively engaging with the next ADP service for at least two appointments. (caveat) | **40** | 9 | 13 | 8 | 12 |   |
| Service users with increased motivation to reduce their use of substances  | **40** | 20 | 27 | 14 | 20 |   |
| Service users receiving ABI (alcohol brief intervention) | **40** | 17 | 12 | 6 | 16 |   |
| Service users receiving DBI (drug brief intervention) |  |   |   |   | 10 | Started collating in January 24 |
| Service users receiving a THN (Take Home Naloxone kit)  | **20** | 10 | 15 | 11 | 6 |   |
| Reduction in reported criminal activity or reoffending.   | **60% improvement achieved through CJ Outcome Star**  | 69% | 60% | 44% | 33% | Total to date 55% |
| Advice re Coronavirus Vaccine  |    | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 |   |
| Arranged covid vaccine  |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   |
| Supported SU to appointment |   | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |   |

The annual report also notes the following:

**Summary of service user support**

The Custody Navigators have provided support to service users with various support needs. Since January the support provided includes:

* Contact and arrange appointments and support attendance with Psychiatrists and Community Mental Health Nurse
* Contact and liaise and arrange and accompany to appointments with Addictions service
* Contact, arrange appointments and support to attend doctors and mental health nurse
* Liaise with Housing to ensure documents completed, address rental arrears and rechargeable repairs
* Link with energy companies to request payment plans and ensure energy topped up
* Referred individuals to Cosy Kingdom and Fife Council welfare support team for energy support and food support
* Contact and liaise with Frontline Fife to support individual to re-locate and move from scatter flat to supported accommodation
* Refer individuals to Furniture Plus for furniture access
* Refer to Saint Vincent de Paul for furniture and bedding
* Refer and support individuals to foodbanks
* Refer and support individuals to attend Boomerang for activities and social engagement opportunities for people with mental health needs
* Refer and support individuals to restoration for activities, emotional and social support to overcome addictions and isolation
* Refer and support individuals to make connections with Pheonix Futures for emotional, social and practical support to overcome addictions
* Referred individuals through ADAPT to other alcohol support agencies such as Fife Alcohol Support Service
* Support and individual to set up home internet, email address and mobile phone network account
* Support and individual to contact and attend Universal Credit appointment and complete Work Capability Form to access the correct amount of benefits
* Contact Social Work for support accessing records and understanding decisions about themselves
* Support and individual to access bereavement counselling
* Support to link with Safer Communities and Fife Council lawyer to address ASBO concerns and welfare needs. Resulting in no ASBO being issued.
* Refer to Fife Forum for local activities and home help support
* Contacted and arranged support from Penumbra Housing support to arrange house clearance
* Refer and link with BRAG, Fife Voluntary Action, Ecology Centre and Saint Vincent de Paul to access volunteering opportunities
* Contact and update lawyers about clients and provide information from lawyers to clients
* Court support provided to remind of court dates and accompany if necessary
* Contact and encourage engagement with Clued Up to address drug misuse
* Refer and support to access help from Circles Advocacy regarding legal and medical issues
* Refer and support to engage with Private Rental Solutions to support individuals to address homelessness
* Contacted a local garage to support and individual to have her car and documents returned to her after the offence related accident
* Refer and support contact with Fairstart to access employment opportunities
* Supported to access and complete concessionary bus travel pass

And provides the following case study:

**Case Study A**

REFERRAL BEHAVIOUR – Male 69 y/o. (B) B was referred to Custody Navigator Service in February 2024 for issues regarding housing support, alcohol, and domestic abuse. After initial meeting with B in Dunfermline Custody Suite, it was identified that B required support with his mental health and his physical health due to an infection in his foot.

B has struggled engaging with services and accessing support due low mental health and lack of capacity due to having alcohol-induced dementia, alongside not having secure housing. Due to a relationship breakdown and domestic abuse, B was moved into secured accommodation the day of his arrest which resulted in him not knowing local services due to it being in a different area.

FAMILY BACKGROUND – B has a complex relationship with his family due to longstanding alcohol addiction. He keeps in contact with his sister and brother-in-law who live in the EU and try to support him as best as they can.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS – B has struggled with a relationship breakdown between his partner and himself due to domestic abuse. He has struggled with alcohol dependency which has played a role in the decline of his mental health and unsettled lifestyle at home. B has never had a secure tenancy from Fife Council or other housing associations as he has always resided with his partners in their tenancy until he was taken into custody.

B has had a lack of access to services and has struggled to engage due to poor mental health and lack of capacity to access support when needed.

RISK TO SERVICE USER AND OTHERS – B’s lack of support services and lack of capacity increases his risk of harm. B finds it difficult to understand and communicate his needs with professionals. B struggled to engage with Custody Navigator Service and other services but after trust was built, engagement with service increased and B was able to engage with onward referrals with support.

OUTCOMES after engagement with Custody Navigator Service -

ACCOMMODATION – B was supported to engage with Link Living for short-term housing support. It was later identified that short-term housing support would not be adequate for the level of support B needed and so a request was submitted to social work for long-term housing support. B was referred to Furniture Plus to help furnish his accommodation.

HEALTH – As B was not registered with a GP due to being given a tenancy in a different location, B was supported to complete a GP Allocation Form upon leaving custody. B was supported to A&E for support with an infection in his foot. Concerns were reported to Social Work due to lack of capacity to manage his prescriptions. B was supported to a local pharmacy where he was given a NOMAD in order to manage his medication.

FINANCIAL – B was advised to contact Social Security Scotland for support with his benefits. B was referred to Link Housing Support Team where he was supported to a benefits check and a request to change his benefits to be paid into his account and not his partners account. A Cause for Concern was submitted to Social Work in regards to concerns surrounding potential financial abuse from partner.

WELFARE SUPPORT – B was referred to the Big Hoose Project for support with toiletries, cleaning products and other items. Navigators helped to collect referral and deliver to the address. B was referred to Dunfermline Foodbank for a food parcel which Navigators delivered to address.

FUTURE AIMS –

Continued engagement with GP and Pharmacy for support with medication and health concerns.

Increased engagement with social worker from Older Persons Team to protect welfare and safety.

Secured long-term housing support in tenancy from Link Living.

Support from Furniture Plus to furnish accommodation.

Increased independence and security having support from welfare officer to have benefits paid into his own bank account.

Increased self confidence and motivation to make positive changes.

Continued cessation of offending behaviour.

Compiling this report has evidenced that while is it evident that there is support in custody, delivered by NHS staff as well Police Scotland custody officers (as noted within this inspection report - <https://www.hmics.scot/media/c5olbvx1/custody-inspection-report-fife.pdf>), it is not a topic which is discussed within the CJ Working Group and therefore an oversight of it all, was not possible for this report. This is something which will discussed at future working group meetings.

One point to note is that NHS staff in custody do distribute naxolone to those identified as in need.

# 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 supervision[[3]](#footnote-4)

**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.

# *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?*

Justice Social Work’s Bail Supervision service continues to operate in the Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy Sheriff Courts. Delivered by Justice Services ‘Early Intervention Service, the bail supervision service offers the Court a robust and credible alternative to remand, whilst supporting the early identification of risk and needs. Unlike practice in other Local Authorities, assessments are made to all cases, not only those who have been ‘bail opposed’.

This service is deeply welfare orientated and the team takes a proactive, community-based approach to deliver holistic support.

Integral to the service is recognising the critical role of stable accommodation, and JSW work in close collaboration with Fife Council Housing Services to ensure that from the point of assessment, individuals have access to safe and secure housing. The service has also been pioneering a range of therapeutic interventions designed to address emotional regulation and negative thinking patterns. From traditional psychological approaches to a variety of holistic therapies, the service offers a broad spectrum of support aimed at fostering mental and emotional well-being.

Historically, facilitating bail supervision assessments for external Courts (including Dundee Court where many individuals from Northeast Fife appear) have proved more of a challenge. This has been discussed at our local CJ Working Group, where members and the Chair were fully supportive of the commitment of JSW colleagues' towards ensuring equity of opportunity for all Fife residents. Ongoing dialogue with Dundee colleagues has seen some improvement in access to the court and alongside the new National Guidance for Bail Supervision, and bail incentivisation monies, it is hoped this will result in greater consistency of service provision locally and nationally.

# 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.

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

There has been a relatively low update of RMR’s in Fife to date, however we have provided training and support to staff to ensure they are confident when managing this requirement. An RMR can provide victims of offences with a level of safety and reassurance that would not have been provided otherwise. It can also provide evidence which enables workers to challenge individuals around their behaviours and the impact of such. However, some individuals struggle to adhere to the requirements of an RMR due to issues including a chaotic lifestyle, mental health, and / or a lack of maturity. If an RMR is imposed by the Court against report recommendations, it can at times, have a detrimental impact on both the victim and the individual

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# Priority Action 5

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

**Nationally determined outcome:**

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences[[4]](#footnote-5)

**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.

# 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?

Offence focused intervention continues to be integral to the delivery of Justice Social Work services, regardless of whether that engagement is mandated through Community Payback Order, Statutory Licence, Structured Deferment or Diversion from Prosecution. Specific offence focussed work occurs on a one-to-one basis and often involves work around understanding and controlling strong feelings, handling conflict, improving relationships, and managing impulsive behaviour. Service users are supported to collaboratively develop individual plans, informed by structured assessment tools, to identify priority areas of need which are then reviewed dependant on progress and outcomes.

Community justice partners recognise the need for services to be person centred and trauma informed. This commitment is evidenced in the fact that nearly all Fife’s social workers (and many social work assistants) have completed Enhanced Trauma Level training or are registered to do so in 2024. JSW staff employ a trauma informed approach, considering wellbeing and individual responsivity to support others to recognise the links between wellbeing and risk. Employment, leisure, and community connections are key elements of this and remain an important component of ongoing assessment and intervention.

Over this reporting period, the Service has collaborated with Fife Leisure Trust to offer Justice Service Users the opportunity to attend a block of supported gym sessions, with a 6-month gym pass provided after the sessions have ended. This initiative promotes exercise and wellbeing for all, with an emphasis on the physical, emotional, psychological, and social benefits of exercise.

JSW Groupwork Services team continue to deliver the Moving Forward: Making Changes (MF:MC) programme for men over the age of 18 who have committed sexual offences. The MF:MC programme has recently been redesigned to reflect a developing evidence base, advice from SAPOR, and evaluation recommendations and the revised programme will be called MF:2C. Four members of staff from our Groupwork team attended MF2C training in March 2024, with other staff attending the training throughout 2024. The service plans to deliver our first MF2C programme in October 2024.

Fife Justice Social Work continue to deliver the Caledonian Programmes for men who commit domestic abuse offences. The programme is delivered through effective collaboration between supervising social workers and staff in our Groupwork team. These are intense and demanding interventions which require a high level of commitment and reflection from participants as they are supported to better understand the connection between their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and to develop safer, more effective strategies in complex and challenging situations. JSW are in the process of improving how we gather feedback from men who attend the Caledonian Programme and their partners, and this has already outlined some very positive case studies.

The Groupwork team have also developed a Healthy Relationships Workbook which can be used to undertake focused work with perpetrators on a 1:1 basis. The workbook can be used as part of any community-based sentence (including Diversion and Structured Deferred Sentence) where there are concerns around the development of healthy relationships. Service wide training is being provided by the Groupwork team and the initiative increases the reach of our early intervention and preventative work.

Our Groupwork Services Team were delighted to be shortlisted as finalists in the 2023 Scottish Social Service Awards under the ‘Excellence in Justice’ category

**Service User Quote**

“For me personally, the session I found most useful was the self-talk session. Before this session, it never really occurred to me that a positive self-talk could change your whole perspective on things and change the outcome of the way you react and handle certain situations. I guess before this, I would just blow things out of proportion, and I wouldn’t take a minute to reflect on the situation. But after learning about how to change that, I can say for certain that I will continue to use this method of positive self-talk. I think from my first groupwork session to my last I have matured a whole lot. I think something switched during the father and children module, I think it made me realise what sort of dad I want to be and be someone that my son can look up to and be proud of. There is still lots of room for improvement in many aspects of my life, but I definitely feel as though I have matured a great deal and I definitely look at things differently thanks to the programme”. (Participant in Caledonian Programme)

There have been several new initiatives regarding unpaid work for women - the focus of which is to provide unpaid work opportunities which are community based, person-centred, and trauma informed. This includes a weekly sewing group which is based in Greener Kirkcaldy, which is a local community resource. At present, the group is making bonding hearts for babies in the local neonatal unit. The team have also created an excellent partnership with the Scottish Deer Centre based in the East of Fife, and Lochore Meadows Country Park based in the West of Fife. Every week the women alternate between these two locations to undertake UPW tasks at the projects.

# Service User Quote

"I started Fife Connect women’s group, and I was involved in the sewing group - making comfort heart shaped blankets for neonatal babies in the Victoria Hospital. I had never used a sewing machine before but after just a few weeks I learned well and now own my own machine and I sew at home with my daughter making hair scrunchies. I enjoyed learning a new skill and making something that was bringing comfort and bonding families with their new arrivals. I also attended the Lochore Meadows group where we litter picked and helped with maintenance around the outdoor area. I enjoyed getting out in the fresh air helping with a team of women and making a difference in an area I often take my children. I was involved in the Graces Chocolates course, and I enjoyed this as it involved a group setting in which we had to do small tasks gaining experience and knowledge in mentoring. I'm proud to have passed and received a qualification and a certificate. All of the groups I attended I found I was very well supported listened too if I had any questions or doubts and felt comfortable with staff and with other woman attending the groups I enjoyed the weekly routine and gained skills that I wouldn't have otherwise”.

There continues to be cross partnership working between Justice Social Work and community justice partners to ensure that individuals receive the support they need. Examples of this include:

* Referrals to Addiction Services in respect of drug / alcohol assessment and support.
* Referrals to non-statutory agencies such as DAPL (Drug, Alcohol and Psychotherapies Limited) for substance use counselling. DAPL counselling staff are qualified in a range of disciplines including CBT, Person Centred Counselling and Art Therapy.
* Referrals to Sam’s Fife who offer a mental health drop in 7 days per week.
* Our Groupwork team deliver a Road Traffic Group which includes input from various statutory and third-party providers.
* Money management advice can assist with a Compensation requirement as well as general financial support which is often done in conjunction with agencies such Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF).

# Priority Action 6

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

**No nationally determined outcome.**

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

# 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?

While there is a commitment to delivering RJ within Fife, there has not been a focus area within the CJ working group arena, with locally partners waiting on direction nationally. There is a great deal of’ restorative practice’ used daily by CJ partners within Justice Social Work, FC Education and as part of the activity SACRO deliver with young people.

# 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 sentence[[5]](#footnote-6)

**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.

# 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?

Many of our female service users have experienced complex trauma and associated mental health issues. Justice Social Works Women’s Justice Teams have a dedicated NHS Team comprising of a Mental Health Nurse, Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Psychologist. The benefits of this holistic approach have been significant in addressing underlying needs for women involved in the justice system. The NHS team provides direct service user support, consultation, and training for the wider team. The team are in the midst of an evaluation of their partnership -using both quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate the multidisciplinary and multi-agency support the team provides. The result from this evaluation, including feedback from those who use our services, will support our continued commitment to learning and development.

As well as clinical work, the NHS Team also supports the Women’s Justice Teams with Service improvement. The teams have recently taken part in a Trauma Informed Practice Audit, using the Quality Standards for Fife, developed by Fife Trauma Training Collaborative. Feedback is that reflecting on achievements as a Service has been a rewarding experience as well as offering the opportunity to understand where there might be scope for improvement and further development. Following on from the audit, the team aims to implement an action plan which will support the continued development towards having a trauma informed Service, as well as sharing the process of completing the audit with the wider Service and beyond.

Housing staff assess individuals returning to tenancies, offering housing support andor referrals to public and private agencies.

# 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 sentence[[6]](#footnote-7)

**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

# 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?

Fife Council’s Public Protection Team (Housing) work closely with all partner agencies (SPS, JSW, health & Social Care, SACRO and other Housing Providers) to ensure that everyone who is liberated and wishes to return to Fife, is offered accommodation. The preference is for prisoners to return to their existing homes/tenancies whenever possible but otherwise they are offered some form of Temporary Accommodation if presenting as Homeless on release. Over the past year we provided temporary accommodation to 224 prisoners (both MAPPA managed and Mainstream) on release.

As Fife is currently going through a Housing Emergency, we have a distinct lack of accommodation to be offered, therefore a minority of mainstream offenders are being offered shared accommodation, while waiting on secure accommodation.

We are currently in the process of trying to find alternative solutions to improve this situation. As a result of regular meetings with all of our partners and with the approval of the Ending Homeless Together Board, we are in the process of undertaking a pilot project with HMP Perth to work with offenders on admission, to try to find them secure accommodation on release. It is hoped that the Pilot Project will prevent released prisoners presenting as homeless and entering Temporary accommodation

# 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 employment[[7]](#footnote-8)

**Local Evidence**

* Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports:
	1. local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions
	2. local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support
	3. 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:
	1. at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO
	2. following release from custody.

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

Employability provision is currently commissioned via Opportunities Fife with a number of providers across Fife who either knowingly or unknowingly support those with an offending history. Unfortunately, there is no current markers on their statistics regards offence history wither this be current or historic offending histories so true numbers are unknown. Disclosure of offending is purely a voluntary measure although some people do self-disclose especially if they perceive it themselves to be a barrier.

One of the largest adult providers is BRAG Enterprises who is a third sector provider that works with anyone 19+. They also act as the lead partner in the Fife Employment and Training Consortium. They say that, many of their referrals come through Justice Social Work. They also receive referrals from DWP work coaches or through partner organisations, Sacro and occasionally NHS. Some of the clients are supported fully byBRAG as a registration and other are only passed for specialist support via a personal involvement request called a PIL.

# 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 sentence[[8]](#footnote-9)

**Local Evidence**

* Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences.
* Proportion of people liberated from short term custody:
	1. made aware of support
	2. accepting support offer
	3. 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.

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

The challenges faced by people leaving custody have long been recognised, and these have been exacerbated in recent times by the impact of the Covid pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Fife Council’s Justice Social Work Throughcare teams have always offered guidance and support to service users (in addition to statutory supervision of licences). However, it was determined that this required to be bolstered to ensure people were consistently receiving focused and individualised welfare support, which would hopefully increase the likelihood of positive engagement whilst reducing overall levels of risk. Two additional Social Work Assistants were recruited to support delivery of the service, which was officially launched in April 2023.

Since April 2023, 80 men have received or are receiving support across the two Throughcare teams. The support offered covers a range of issues relating to the individual’s welfare needs under six main areas including accommodation, finances, health, substance use, support networks and education / employment. Our recent review of the Service has informed us that 12 men have required support beyond the first review stage at 12 weeks post release, and that support has lasted between 5 weeks and 8 months, depending on individual needs.

The teams are continually measuring progress by recording levels of need in the 6 key areas at the outset of support, and again when the intensive post release support comes to an end. Finances and accommodation are among the needs most frequently identified and also where greatest improvements have been seen (improvements in 69% and 65% of cases respectively). The team are aiming to refine outcome tools in the second year of the service to make it more sensitive to improvements which may be more incremental than are reflected by the current tool.

# 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

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

The Community Justice Working Group met on a quarterly basis throughout this reporting period. All meetings were well attended and generated useful and thought-provoking discussion. As previously reported much of the community justice activity in FIfe takes place outwith the CJ working group environment, however there is no doubt the group provides an effective mechanism to raise awareness, build local relationships and facilitate local improvement activity.

The CJ Working Group is also the avenue through which the local community justice strategic lead, facilitates the relationship between local and national CJ.

The local CJ lead participates in all appropriate national groups/meetings and has a productive and supportive relationship with CJ Improvement Lead.

# 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.

# 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?*

While there is some local activity to ensure the voices of those with lived experience are incorporated into service design and delivery, particularly so within Justice Social Work and Violence against Women activity, this remains a priority action – reflected as in a joint outcome within the local VAW Delivery Plan.

Families Outside are active community justice partners both in their individual service activity supporting local families and as partners on the working group.

# 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 justice[[9]](#footnote-10)

**Local Evidence**

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

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

While all local partners acknowledge the need to address stigma and work to encourage others to ‘think with community justice in mind’, much if the front facing community activity is led by Justice Social Work, in particular through their use of ‘X’. This is a successful social media page, used regularly to raise awareness of local unpaid work projects of particular interest to the community. These posts receive positive feedback and help to increase public knowledge around the benefits of community sentences. Justice Social Work also work closely with the Council’s communication team to further raise awareness both internally and externally regarding unpaid work projects and the positive impact of the work undertaken.

Other partners have also facilitated ways to improve awareness of key community justice issues, an example being a partnership visit to Perth Prison, organised by Opportunities Fife (local employability partnership).

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

There is a local commitment to publish a revised Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan by the end of 2024, the priority actions identified in this will influence the future workstreams of local partners.

In addition to this, a key step over the next six months is the pilot of local ‘Liberation Meetings’. Led by Fife Alcohol and Drug Partnership, these weekly meetings will bring together local Housing, Justice Social Work, SACRO, Addiction Services, Pheonix Futures and Safer Communities services to discuss all individuals being liberated from Perth Prison (following a short-term sentence), with the view to ensuring they are supported on release.

1. National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

• assessments undertaken

• cases commenced

• cases successfully completed [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. National Indicator:

Number of referrals from custody centres [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. National Indicator:

Number of:

• assessment reports for bail suitability

• bail supervision cases commenced

• bail supervision cases completed [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. National Indicator:

Percentage of:

• community payback orders successfully completed

• drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

• custody to community [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. National Indicator:

Number of:

• homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. National Indicator:

Percentage of:

• those in employability services with convictions [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. National Indicator:

Number of:

• voluntary throughcare cases commenced [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. 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 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)