

## ITEM No ...3.....

**REPORT TO:** CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 19 JANUARY 2026

**REPORT ON:** COMMUNITY JUSTICE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-25  
COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 15 - 2026

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report presents both the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) Annual Report 2024-25 (Appendix 1) and the Community Payback Order (CPO) Annual Report 2024-25 (Appendix 2) for approval by Elected Members.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the City Governance Committee note both reports and request the Executive Director to submit the next CJOIP covering the period 2026-29 in June 2026 and the next Annual Reports for the period 2025-26 in January 2027.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires defined statutory partners in local authority areas to cooperate in the preparation, implementation, review and reporting on Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans (CJOIPs). Plans must illustrate how they meet nationally determined outcomes and must be published locally.

4.2 In associated Scottish Government guidance, community justice is defined as the individuals, agencies and services that work together to support, manage and supervise people who have committed offences from the point of arrest through to prosecution, community disposal or custody until they are reintegrated into the community.

4.3 Locally, a formal Community Justice Partnership (CJP) has operated since the Act and includes senior representatives from the Local Authority, Police Scotland, Scottish Court and Tribunal Service, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Prison Service and Third Sector. Previous CJOIPs covered the periods 2017-20 and 2020-23.

### **5.0 COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-26**

5.1 Over the last 12 months, the CJP has continued to implement the plan for 2023-26. To promote an integrated approach, the partnership now reports to the Chief Officer Group for Protecting People, alongside the Children at Risk Committee, Adults at Risk Committee, Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements Strategic Oversight Group. Some key activity includes:

- The Crown Office Procurator Fiscal referred 185 people to Diversion from Prosecution schemes, compared with 164 in 2023-24 and 140 in the year before the pandemic.
- Following referral, a higher proportion of people started Diversion from Prosecution schemes, at 54% in 2024-25 compared with 49% the year before.
- A higher proportion of people also successfully completed Diversion from Prosecution schemes, with 95% in 2024-25 compared with 67% last year.
- The number of Diversion from Prosecution referrals represented 3.6% of cases reported to the Procurator Fiscal in 2024-25 as opposed to 2.9% in 2019-20.

- There was a drop in the number of Bail Supervision cases from 18 to 6 whilst Structured Deferred Sentences (SDS) reduced slightly from 96 to 87.
  - A total of 570 Community Payback Orders were imposed compared with 553 last year and 447 the year before, a significant increase over the last 3 years.
  - The number of Unpaid Work hours imposed also increased from 38,101 in 2022-23 and 43,616 in 2023-24 to 49,765 in 2024-25, a further significant increase.
  - A total of 65% of CPOs were successfully completed compared with 70% in 2023-24, equating to 334 Orders where the Order was discharged without re-sentence.
  - The Community Justice Service supported 126 short-term prisoners on a voluntary basis on release from prison compared with 139 in 2023-24 and 124 in 2022-23.
- 5.2 There has therefore continued to be a growing level of community-based interventions, particularly in relation to Diversion from Prosecution. This mirrors the findings of a Joint Review of Diversion from Prosecution published by inspectorates in February 2023, which confirmed a presumption against prosecution for children under the age of 18 years and for adults where there is an identifiable need that can be best met through diversion.
- 5.3 Over the last 12 months, Community Payback Orders both with and without Unpaid Work have also increased again as an illustration of the credibility of the sentence with the Sheriff and High Court. Over the last 5 years, the successful completion rate of CPOs has fluctuated between 65% and 70% and is attributed to services enforcing requirements where people are unable to comply. The most recently reported national average is 71%.
- 5.4 Services also worked in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, Police Scotland and Third Sector to implement the Scottish Government Early Release Scheme for Short-Term Prisoners. The scheme was introduced on an emergency basis to defensibly ease population challenges across the prison estate. In total, 43 local people with less than 180 days of sentence assessed as not posing a risk of harm to the community were released.
- 5.5 However, Bail Supervision was low and remands to custody remain high. The partnership therefore completed a self-evaluation supported by the Care Inspectorate. It identified a solution-focused culture committed to continuous improvement and strong collaboration when Bail Supervision is imposed. To increase the defensible use of Bail Supervision as an alternative to remand, areas for improvement include:
- Court engagement
  - Assessment processes
  - Training and development
  - Compliance and consequences
  - Service integration
  - Operational enhancement
- 5.6 In response, the Community Justice Service has reviewed its structure and is presently developing a specific Pre-Court Team from existing resources to be responsible for Diversion from Prosecution, Bail Supervision and Court Reports. A single team will provide a central focus for the development and implementation of a plan to address each of the areas for improvement.
- 5.7 Nationally and locally, the high level of imprisonment from remands and custodial sentences continues to inform priorities. In December 2025, the prison estate operated with a capacity of 7,900 and over 8,400 people were incarcerated. The partnership is anticipating the findings of the Commission on Penal Policy and Sentencing, which is due to make recommendations in January 2026.

## **6.0 COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS**

- 6.1 Over the last 12 months, the Community Justice Service and co-located partners have also continued to assess, supervise and support people subject to Community Payback Orders (CPOs). The Annual Report provides an overview of related activity, including the delivery of

offence-focused programmes on a 1:1 and groupwork basis and bespoke support for general health and substance use concerns.

- 6.2 The report includes details of support to vulnerable women via a Women's Team and joint work with the Women's Hub, Assist Advocacy Service for victims of domestic abuse, the Caledonian Programme for high-risk perpetrators of domestic abuse and the Bella Centre. It also provides information on Unpaid Work projects, including positive feedback from people carrying out work and the recipients.
- 6.3 In terms of outcomes, in addition to 65% of people completing CPOs successfully, the report includes several case studies which illustrate how people have benefitted from support. The service is also currently developing a process to compare levels of criminogenic need assessed before, during and after an Order ends, alongside a pre and post sentence questionnaire inviting feedback on support.
- 6.4 Going forward, following a national review of the funding formula for the Caledonian Programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse, challenges include delivering the programme with reduced funding. The service is currently carrying out an options appraisal to inform decisions on whether it could continue to be delivered in accordance with accredited standards, including with core funding. Over the next 6 months, other priorities include:
1. Work with partners to jointly implement a multi-agency hub for young people who are involved in Child Protection or Youth and Criminal Justice processes.
  2. Implement the new Pre Court Team responsible for Diversion from Prosecution, Bail Supervision and Court Reports.
  3. Work with the Scottish Prison Service and other partners to implement further emergency measures and/or new initiatives related to short and long-term prisoners.
  4. Work with national and local partners in response to the findings of the Commission on Penal Policy and Sentencing due to be published in January 2026.
  5. Collaborate with partners to develop the next CJOIP covering the period 2026-29 informed by all the above and a strategic needs assessment.

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

## **8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 [Joint review of diversion from prosecution.](#)

Audrey May  
Executive Director of Children and Families  
Service

Glyn Lloyd  
Head of Children's and Community  
Justice Service

8 December 2025

*This page is intentionally left blank*

# COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER (CPO) ANNUAL RETURNS TEMPLATE

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2024/25**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **Dundee City Council**

TEMPLATE RETURN DATE: **Friday 31 October 2025**

Please return all completed templates to  
CJS at [CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot](mailto:CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot) and copy  
the Scottish Government at [cpo@gov.scot](mailto:cpo@gov.scot)

*This page is intentionally left blank*

## 2.0 Background

---

Under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act (2016), local authorities have a statutory duty to report on the operations of Community Payback Orders (CPO) within their area on an annual basis to Community Justice Scotland (CJS). CJS will then collate these returns and summarise them in a report which is laid before Scottish Parliament.

To assist with this reporting duty, CJS, in collaboration with representatives from Justice Social Work, the Scottish Government, and Social Work Scotland, has developed a template of questions for local areas to complete. This template is designed to support the reporting requirement.

## 3.0 Completing the template

---

Please answer the following questions contained in this year's CPO template. When answering the questions, please ensure that all case studies and feedback are anonymised. We understand that maintaining anonymity may be more challenging for some local authorities. If this applies to your area, you may provide a more general response to the questions.

Please ensure all answers are relevant to your local area within the 2024 to 2025 reporting year.

If you need any support in completing this template and or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with CJS. Contact details can be found on the title page of this form.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions in this template.

## 4.0 Questions to answer

---

### 1) Reducing risk of reoffending

In 2024-25, we had a total of 570 Community Payback Orders (CPOs) imposed by the Sheriff Court, up from 553 the previous year. To promote a focus on addressing offending behaviour and the risk of reoffending, 559 had a supervision requirement and 93 had a programme requirement.

The Justice Service also continued to deliver the Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) programme for Registered Sex Offenders and the Caledonian Programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse. In total, 14 people started the MFMC programme and 10 completed from previous cohorts. Similarly, 28 people started the Caledonian Programme and 10 completed from previous cohorts.

These accredited programmes consist of a sequential series of groupwork modules focused on understanding and addressing the underlying factors associated with offending. As such, they explore perceived, claimed and actual contributory factors whilst challenging distorted thinking, promoting victim empathy, increasing personal insight, overcoming barriers to change and improving behaviour management skills.

Offence focussed work carried out during 1:1 supervision included Consequential Thinking, Problem Solving, Pro-Social Modelling, Emotional Management and Developing Assertiveness. In addition to this, we have also been running Decider Skills both on a 1:1 basis and in a groupwork setting.

The Decider Skills programme is CBT and DBT based and focuses on mental wellbeing and emotional regulation. It is intended to be engaging, memorable and easy to use. The skills are designed to help people identify their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours and thus enable them to be more resilient, resourceful, responsible, robust and respectful. They help people monitor and manage their own mental health, improve emotional intelligence, manage distress, regulate their emotions, improve communication skills, be less impulsive and promote positive brain function, attitudes and beliefs.

The majority of staff are now trained in the Decider Skills across all teams, and the programme has also been delivered at the Women's Hub and at the Bella Community Custody Unit. The skills can also be delivered in a 1:1 setting and case managers who are trained in the Decider programme have been able to deliver them through 1:1 supervision. We have also undertaken some work with the local Sheriff Court, and this can now be undertaken as a programme requirement of a CPO.

*AA is a 34-year-old male who has been involved with criminal activity since he was 15 years old. He has had several community-based outcomes previously and has also had some custodial sentences. When he had previously been released from custody, he was unable to maintain a tenancy, unable to maintain a relationship with his family and has always reverted to using substances. He has also previously failed to engage with CPO's for the same reasons and due to the chaotic nature of his life. He was remanded in custody between July 2024 and May 2025 when he was made subject to a CPO with both a Supervision and UPW requirement.*

*On this occasion however, he has fully engaged with his CPO and has attended both supervision and UPW on a weekly basis. Offence focused work has been in regards to pro-social modelling, communication, what it means to be male, positive reinforcement and confidence building. He has also worked with Positive Steps and is now on the verge of getting his own tenancy. He has been able to rebuild a relationship with both his parents and his brother to the extent that he has been able to move back in with his parents whilst he waits for his own tenancy. He has been registered with a new GP and is now on medication to deal with his mental health issues.*

*Whilst not engaged with drug rehabilitation services, he has managed to remain drug free and has, for the first time in his life, been able to save money. He recognizes that the risks in his life have reduced dramatically, and he is able to start thinking about making plans for other areas of his life, including seeking either return to education/seek employment. He has stated that the difference this time is that he has workers that he feels are really listening to him and are helping him to see his life is a different way.*

## **2) Support for underlying needs**

Over 2024-25, there has continued to be several workers who offer co-located provision from the Justice Offices which strengthens our support pathways. This includes important services such as the Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service, Mental Health and Keep Well Nurses and Assist Advocacy for victims of domestic abuse, which continues to receive an average of 100 referrals per month.

The co-located Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service offers clearly defined pathways for information sharing, assessment and treatment, whether with or without a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO), or a drug/alcohol treatment requirement in a CPO.

Some other support to address substance use is provided by agencies including TCA and their alcohol counselling services and We are With You who provide a range of substance use support in the city.

In respect of meeting health needs, the Keep Well Nurse from the NHS Tayside Health Inclusion Nursing Team uses anticipatory health checks and/or health consultations to engage with people at this of health inequalities. The nurse engages with people as they attend appointments. In terms of activity in 2024-25:

- 114 Health Checks/ Holistic Health Assessments delivered by the nurse, in the main these were completed over two or more appointments
- 98 Health consultations with the nurse, either stand alone or, before or after health check appointments

*"I really appreciate the way you supported me during my health checks. You gave me helpful advice, listened to me, and went the extra mile. That made me feel cared for and supported, and I'm grateful for that."*

*"You have been amazing these past months; you have helped me change my life around and keep me on track with everything and you have tried to help me out with every last thing so thanks so much."*

*BB is an 18 year old young man who has been care experienced from the age of 5 years. He is diagnosed with both ADHD and Autism, both of which have had a direct impact on his offending behaviour. He is subject to a CPO with a Supervision requirement and a Programme requirement that he undertakes Decider Skills.*

*Whilst he is only 5 months into his Order, his social worker is full of praise regarding how well he is doing. He is attending weekly appointments and has never missed one appointment. He is only about a quarter of the way through the Decider Skills programme and we have had to rethink how we undertake this work with him.*

*Due to his additional needs, he is very much a visual learner using lots of storyboards and flipcharts to help him understand and learn. We use a traffic light system with him at the start of every session to pitch where he is in his “window of tolerance” and if he is at red, we use distracting techniques to help calm him (5 things he can see, 4 things he can hear, 3 things he can touch, 2 things he can smell and 1 slow breathe) before we can undertake any work.*

*He has recently indicated that he is now using this in his everyday life when he feels that he is becoming heightened. We have even managed to get him to engage with some local creative groups, which he is thoroughly enjoying and is proud to show workers things he has made.*

### **3) Unpaid work**

Throughout the 2024/25 period, the Unpaid Work Team has continued to make a significant and positive impact across the city through a wide range of community-based activities. In total, 49,765 hours have been carried out at locations and projects across the city.

The team has undertaken litter picking at numerous locations, contributing to cleaner and more welcoming public spaces. They have also actively participated in community clean-up events in areas such as Stobswell, Linlathen, and the City Centre, and remain committed to supporting similar initiatives in the future.

In addition to environmental work, the team has supported various community development projects. This includes the installation of raised beds for local initiatives and assistance with garden maintenance for vulnerable residents, sheltered housing complexes, and the Women’s Hub.

Further contributions include painting and decorating a shop unit for a local school to support a community enterprise, and reinstating fencing damaged during Storm Eowyn. The team has also carried out practical tasks such as laying slabs, preparing ground for the installation of a polytunnel, and completing additional fencing work for SAMH at the Chrysalis Garden.

Importantly, the team has provided support to ex-veterans who are unable to maintain their gardens due to physical or personal circumstances. This work has helped improve their living environments and demonstrated a compassionate approach to community service.

Additionally, the team has undertaken the decoration of several flats to assist young care leavers in establishing comfortable and welcoming homes as they transition to independent living.

#### **4) Other activity**

The service provides several online courses that can be undertaken under the banner of “other activity”. These tend to be Open Learn activity with the open University, with a focus on mental health, exercise and wellbeing, leadership, finances etc. To support their employability, people subject to Orders also have an opportunity to gain qualifications in Peer Mentoring, Personal Effectiveness and Mental Health NPA.

#### **5) Feedback**

*"Just wanted to say a big thanks to the efforts from CJ, what a difference"*

*"xxxxx at Strathmore Place and xxxxx at Strathmore Street have both been very vocal in their praise of your team"*

#### **Some feedback from service users undertaking programmes**

*"Staff make the whole process very easy and enjoyable and explain why we're doing what we're doing"*

*Nothing has made me think more about myself and my life than the Caledonian group! You and XX are genuinely the best, most understanding and comforting beings I have come across"*

#### **Some feedback from service users on CPO**

*"I just want to say thanks for everything you done for me. I appreciate the time you gave me and just wanted to say that your very easy to talk to. Can you also let XX from UPW that I think he's a good man. Thanks for being my worker."*

*"Since working with you, I feel much better. Having someone to talk to is like having a weight lifted from my shoulders. Attending supervision and unpaid work weekly has helped me establish a routine and has helped me to start attending other activities in the community. I am now getting out my house more, meeting other people and giving me a sense of purpose"*

#### **6) Benefits and challenges of other CPO requirements**

Please mark with a cross the requirements that were imposed by courts in 2024 to 2025.

Compensation requirement

Programme requirement

The service currently provides the nationally accredited Caledonian Programme for addressing domestic abuse (Caledonian delivery team) and both the MFMC programme and new MF2C programme for sexual harm (Tay Project team). There are 5 Caledonian groups being delivered across Dundee and Perth & Kinross Council.

Following a recently announced funding reduction for Caledonian for Dundee and Perth and Kinross, there are concerns about how service delivery will be met and sustained given the current demand but the service is carrying out an options appraisal to explore how the same level and quality of service can be provided in 2026-27.

In regard to the Tay Project team they are winding down the MFMC programme with the roll out of the new MF2C programme. Whilst this places some demand on the team delivering both programmes simultaneously, this is being managed with available capacity through management coordination.

Currently there are 2 MFMC groups being delivered and 1 MF2C group. This will increase to 2 MF2C groups by the end of this year and 3 in the new year with the numbers of service users requiring intervention. Alongside this the 2 MFMC groups will continue to run as they are not forecasted to complete until well into 2026.

The teams have continued to provide a high-quality service and support service users through to completion of their treatment pathways. They are actively engaged in multi-agency risk management, undertake assessments, deliver intervention work on a 1:1, 2:1 and group basis and support others with shared learning and experience. .

Both teams strive to support Justic Services in meeting their requirements to address both domestic and sexual harm within Tayside and work with other professionals on a multi-agency basis to effectively manage risk, enable positive change for service users and protect the public.

Residence requirement

Restricted movement requirement

Conduct requirement

The vast majority of our Conduct Requirements are within the Public Protection Team, where they are used in the management of Registered Sex Offenders and high risk domestic abuse cases. For RSOs, these can be wide ranging from possession/use of internet enabled devices and use of social media, to where they reside and restricting where they can go e.g. parks and schools.

These are viewed as very positive as they assist with the management of the offender, assist in any offence focussed work (when they do not reach the threshold for a programme requirement) and enable the service user to desist from committing further offences. They also enable partnership working between Justice Social Work and the Sex Offender Policing Unit, who are co-located with us.

In terms of Domestic abuse cases, these would tend to be regarding not making contact with the victim/their children and/or advising of any new relationships that they enter. One of the main challenges regarding this is that this largely is reliant on self-reporting by service users and there can be difficulties or delays in taking any actions for failure to adhere to conditions. Services therefore aim to build positive trusting relationships with service users which enable them to share information timeously.

Alcohol treatment requirement

Drug treatment requirement

Whilst numbers are low for both Drug Treatment Requirements and Alcohol Treatment Requirements, these are both viewed as assisting workers in meeting the needs of service users. Co-location with the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service offers the service a clearly defined pathway for information sharing, assessment and treatment whether with or without a DTTO or a drug/alcohol treatment requirement in a CPO. In addition to DDARS, the service also works with other support services, such as Tayside Council on Alcohol and their alcohol counselling service and We Are With You, which provides a range of substance use support across the city.

Service users have access to an app on smart phones called Dundee Recovery Road Map, which consists of details of all support services for alcohol and substance use, as well as services supporting gambling use, mental health etc. It shows where groups and services are based and their opening times. It also has details of all food banks and community food larders, with their opening times and what they will provide.

The challenges around both drug and alcohol treatment requirements are where there is a relapse and which requires input from the case manager in order to get the service user motivated again. It is often found to be helpful if we can get the service user to become involved in more community-based activities in order to enhance pro-social life and provide more structure to their day.

Mental health treatment requirement

## 7) Organisational improvements and ongoing challenges

As identified in last year's report, the service has continued to have a low uptake of Bail Supervision and EM Bail. In response, in March 2025 the partnership started a 12-week period of self-evaluation in collaboration with the Care Inspectorate to consider the extent to which National Priority Action 3 and 4 were being met. This consisted of multi-agency case file audits, multi-agency focus groups and evidence from the Community Justice Service and partners. Findings included:

### Strengths

- **Reflective and Solution-Focused Culture:** services are actively identifying gaps and proposing improvements.
- **Commitment to Service Development:** suggestions show a proactive approach to enhancing service delivery.
- **Awareness of Broader Systemic Issues:** recognition of prison overcrowding and its impact on compliance.

- **Focus on Collaboration:** emphasis on improving multi-agency working and communication.

### **Areas for Improvement**

1. Court Engagement
2. Assessment Process
3. Training and Development
4. Compliance and Consequences
5. Service Integration
6. Operational Enhancements

The self-evaluation found that when Bail Supervision is granted by the Sheriff Court, there is good partnership working, good communication between all services involved, good support to people subject to requirements and appropriate actions taken when there is non-compliance.

However, there is recognition that our number of bail supervision and Electronic Monitoring Bail continue to be low. Since the self-evaluation activity ended, a higher number of bail assessments are being undertaken but it is too early to have reliable evidence of the impact this will have on bail supervision numbers.

As part of the Improvement Plan, a Court Facilitating Team is being established from existing resources to undertake all new Court Reports and all Bail Assessments. This will create a single area of focus to build workforce practice and systems, including information provided to the Court; EM assessments; and enforcement.

### **8) Collaborative working across justice partnerships**

To enhance support, arrangements with Third Sector partners are particularly important and they deliver services at distinct parts of the criminal justice system and to groups with specific needs across the system. This involves a range of services provided by justice partners and as part of mainstream supports coordinated by aligned partnerships.

Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) are one of our main third sector organisations who offer a mentoring service to people who are subject to Bail, CPOs, Structured Deferred Sentences etc. Over the 2024-25 period they offered the following:  
246 appointments offered. 65% of appointments were attended, working alongside Justice Social Work to offer an added layer of support.

#### **Mentoring for women**

- **18** active clients over the period
- **33%** of referrals are Bail
- **22%** of referrals are SDS

## Mentoring for men

- **23** active clients over the period - Decrease of 21 referrals from last year
- **10%** of referrals are Bail
- **33%** of referrals are SDS

Assertive outreach was provided to tackle early resistance to engagement with CJS and other services, support appointment attendance. · Mentoring support to access essential service including GP, Dental, CMHT, and DDARS. · Relevant signposting to key agencies and services to improve life conditions and prevent further re-offending.

TCA also provide a Beyond Mentoring service, which is now available to both men and women aged 18 years + who have been involved with the Community Justice System and/or substance services. This service is designed to support people who are coming towards the end of their work with statutory services but may not yet feel ready to move on. A range of support is provided, including one-to-one support, group support, recovery groups, drop-in service and activity groups. This assists our service users in terms of maintaining structure to their days and enables them to maintain pro-social activities.

### **9) Additional information**

The Community Justice Partnership has continued to implement the CJOIP, confirm strengths, identify areas for improvement and establish key priorities. Audits of practice show key strengths, the referral and successful completion rate of Diversion from Prosecution continues to improve and targets for the engagement of short-term prisoners are being met.

However, some Serious Incident Reviews, which the service is required to carry out when a person subject to a CPO re-offends and it involves significant harm, have also highlighted some areas for improvement. This includes Case Management Plans needing to be completed within required timescales and home visits carried out in accordance with National Standards.

Whilst the local uptake of Bail Supervision remains low, the partnership has prioritised this as an area for improvement and carried out a self-evaluation with the Care Inspectorate. This is leading to the development of a pivotal Pre Court Team and an Action Plan covering 6 core areas. Implementation over the next 12 months is a key priority, alongside:

- Work with the Our Promise Partnership to implement co-located multi-disciplinary arrangements for adolescents in Youth and Adult Justice
- Work with the Scottish Prison Service to implement emergency measures and/or new initiatives related to short and long-term prisoners
- Work with Protecting People colleagues to develop coherent approaches towards Authentic Voice which have an impact on service improvement

- Work with Community Justice Teams to address the findings of Serious Incident Reviews and promote consistency of practice across the service
- Work with Community Justice Teams to develop and implement enhanced frameworks to illustrate the impact of interventions, including through LSCMI

**APPENDIX 2**

**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

*This page is intentionally left blank*

## **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.

#### 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](mailto:CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot).

## 1. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP / GROUP DETAILS

Name of local authority area/s	Dundee City Council
Name and contact details of the partnership Chair	Name: Glyn Lloyd Email: glyn.lloyd@dundeecity.gov.uk
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Neil Wallace Email: neil.wallace@dundeecity.gov.uk Telephone: 01382 435000

## 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:.....27 October 2025.....

Name:.....Glyn Lloyd.....

### **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.*

In 2024-25, the overarching Dundee Community Planning Partnership governance structure remained the same as described last year and mirrors strategic priorities outlined in the City Plan 2022-32. As such, 3 Strategic Leadership Groups (SLGs) continue to focus on the following key priorities:

- Addressing child poverty and inequalities in health and education
- Inclusive economic growth
- Tackling climate change

Under the Chief Officer Group (COG), our Protecting People governance structure has now fully transitioned to an Adults at Risk Committee and Children at Risk Committee, with both covering the scope of Violence Against Women and Suicide Prevention. Our Alcohol and Drug Partnership and MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group remain in place.

The Community Justice Partnership has continued to operate as a key statutory group and now reports directly to the COG as part of a cross-cutting Protecting People agenda. There is Community Justice representation on both Adults at Risk and Children at Risk Committee subgroups to further promote an integrated approach towards priorities.

Whilst not directly related to Community Justice, the partnership also benefits from representation at the local Our Promise Partnership. This group leads the development of support to care experienced children, young people and care leavers. Partners are aware they are disproportionately represented in the system and require additional support.

In addition, the Chief Social Work Officer attends the COG and all Protecting People groups. As Chair of the Community Justice Partnership, they routinely provide Assurance Reports to the COG. They also Chair a local CSWO Forum, which involves senior representation from all Social Work services and includes Community Justice in a general dataset.

### **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**

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

In 2024-25, the CJP continued to meet every quarter and focused on progressing the CJOIP, supported by the development of an agreed dataset and quality assurance plan. There has been a key focus on oversight of demands, capacity and performance across the system, including through comparisons with pre-pandemic data:

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Diversion referrals</b>	140	185
<b>Diversion Commenced</b>	68 (49%)	100 (54%)
<b>Bail Supervision</b>	51	6
<b>Court Reports</b>	1,435	1,368
<b>SDS</b>	Data not available	87
<b>CPO with UPW only</b>	367	342
<b>CPO with Supervision only</b>	303	393
<b>CPO with UPW/Sup</b>	136	166
<b>CPO with Sup/Prog</b>	80	61
<b>CPO with UPW/Sup/Prog</b>	37	32
<b>CPO totals</b>	923	994
<b>Voluntary resettlement</b>	174	126
<b>Long-term prisoners</b>	163	184
<b>LTP License/Parole</b>	72	83
<b>HDC assessments</b>	37	39

The volume of business has therefore largely recovered from reductions experienced when the system was required to adapt during Covid-19. In some cases, it even now exceeds pre-pandemic levels, particularly in respect of Diversion from Prosecution. Whilst data was not available in 2019-20, there has also been a steady increase in SDS over the period.

As the CJP strives to ensure people receive timely and proportionate interventions following offending or re-offending, these are important and welcome developments. It is especially noteworthy that in addition to an increase in referrals and commencements, 67% of people successfully completed a Diversion scheme last year, compared with 95% in 2024-25.

However, there have been concerns about the low use of Bail Supervision which has further declined from 51 before the pandemic to 16 last year and only 6 in 2024-25. In contrast, there has been a higher number of Custodial Remands, often for people who have not complied with bail requirements but not yet had an opportunity to experience this support.

In response, the partnership completed a self-evaluation in conjunction with the Care Inspectorate in March 2025, with a key focus on how they could maximise available alternatives to remands. The outcomes of this self-evaluation and planned improvement activities are described later in this report.

In relation to sentencing, a total of 570 new Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were imposed, up slightly from 553 the previous year. The total number of Unpaid Work hours

imposed increased significantly from 43,616 hours to 49,765 hours. The various Unpaid Work projects are also described later in this report.

A total of 65% of all CPOs were successfully completed compared with 70% the previous year. This equates to 334 Orders and self-evaluation has indicated that following attempts to engage with other people subject to Orders, they were unable to comply with requirements. The teams therefore applied enforcement measures in accordance with National Standards.

Whilst there continued to be a low use of CPOs with a Drug Treatment Requirement or a Drug Treatment Testing Order (DTTO), self-evaluation also showed that co-located Social Work and NHS Tayside teams applied appropriate assessment thresholds, concluding that CPOs with a Supervision requirement was sufficient to support rehabilitation.

In terms of community-based programmes for people presenting a higher risk of harm to others, the Community Justice Service continued to deliver the Moving Forward Making Changes programme for Registered Sex Offenders across Tayside and the Caledonian Programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse in Dundee and Perth and Kinross.

In total, 14 people started the MFMC programme and 10 completed from previous cohorts. A further 28 people started the Caledonian Programme and 10 completed from previous cohorts. The successful completion rate for the MFMC remained high at 90% and for Caledonian 70%.

Further into the system, support was provided to 126 short-term prisoners on their release to the community, compared with 139 last year. This included support to prisoners who were released from prison as part of the Scottish Government Early Release Scheme (ERS), triggered due to growing pressures on the prison population.

Partners responded flexibly to the ERS to contribute towards Governor veto decisions on people not considered suitable for release due to concerns about risks of harm and then to coordinate support immediately upon the return of others to the local community. In total, 43 people were released as part of the scheme.

Overall, levels of individual community-based support therefore increased across the criminal justice system, from Diversion from Prosecution through to post-custodial supervision. The exception to this was Bail Supervision, which was evaluated with the Care Inspectorate and has led to the development of an Improvement Plan.

### **Positives / Opportunities**

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

#### **5.0**

The Care Inspectorate supported self-evaluation of alternatives to custodial remands and the partnership coordination of the ERS both involved services working together to provide and improve support people at different stages of the system. The former has led to an Improvement Plan, which is currently being implemented with a focus on:

1. Court Engagement
2. Assessment Processes
3. Training and Development

4. Compliance and Consequences
5. Service Integration
6. Operational Enhancements

The CJP has implemented Care and Justice (Scotland) Act 2024 requirements relating to the custodial remand of 16–17-year-olds, who are now remanded to Secure Care instead of prison at HMP Polmont. To date 4 young people have been remanded on this basis and are supported on the basis they are now legally defined as care experienced.

In relation to young people, the CJP also contributed towards the planned development of a co-located multi-disciplinary hub for vulnerable adolescents involved in either Child Protection and/or Youth and Adult Justice processes. This will include Care Leavers up to age 26 years, with the new facility scheduled to open in March 2026.

Going forward, the CJP and Our Promise Partnership will jointly coordinate a self-evaluation of support to young people before, during and after remands to Secure Care to inform practice improvements in 2025-26. This will include a focus on information sharing; multi-agency planning; support; engagement; and the views of young people.

In terms of responding to the views of families, the ADP commissioned Scottish Families to conduct a feasibility study on the support required by families and friends supporting vulnerable people, including those in the justice system. This will inform a partnership action plan, and all frontline staff will receive training on Family Inclusive Practice.

### **Third Sector Partners**

To enhance support, Third Sector partners delivered services at distinct parts of the criminal justice system and to groups with specific needs. This involved a range of existing and new services delivered by 'justice' partners and as part of mainstream supports coordinated by aligned partnerships. From arrest to sentence, it included:

### **Police Custody**

From the point of arrest, between April 2024 and March 2025 an Arrest Referral Service offered an assessment to 1,714 people in Police Custody. In total, 188 accepted and were provided with support. At the point an assessment is offered, people are typically in crisis and advised that they can return to the CARS service following their release from Court.

Direct support is offered to assist with issues such as substance use, mental health, housing and welfare rights. People are also sign-posted to relevant organisations. Where others are already receiving support from organisations, such as the Community Justice Service, appropriate information is shared.

### **Bail Supervision and Enhanced Support**

Following appearance in the Sheriff Court, Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) provided mentoring to 88 individuals subject to Bail Supervision, CPOs and Structured Deferred Sentences. This support was offered as an alternative to custody, typically for acquisitive offences committed by people with a substance use problem and chaotic lifestyle.

Individual and groupwork support from TCA included substance use, welfare rights, accommodation, relationships and mental health. In total, combining the completion rates for

young people, adult males and adult females, a lower completion rate for Bail supervision was seen this year. This is being addressed via the Improvement Plan.

## **Imprisonment**

Following the imprisonment of a significant relative, Families Outside supported a total of 25 families. This support included advice on criminal justice processes alongside wider welfare support. It was delivered alongside support provided directly to prisoners by Scottish Prison Service staff, other Third Sector agencies, NHS Tayside and Justice Social Work.

## **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<sup>1</sup>

### **Local Evidence**

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

## **5. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO INCREASE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF DIVERSION? WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

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

---

<sup>1</sup> National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

- *Any other partners as relevant*

As a further illustration of the local increase in Diversion from Prosecution referrals, in the reporting year 2019-20 2.9% of all cases reported to the Procurator Fiscal were referred to the Community Justice Service, compared with 3.6% in 2024-25. The current projection in 2025-26 sits at 4.2%, compared with a national average of 3.9%.

The local 95% successful completion rate also compares favourably with the national average indicated in the joint thematic review of Diversion from Prosecution published in March 2023. This noted that from the sample of cases examined, 90% of people completed schemes successfully.

Going forward, the CJP will implement new national Diversion from Prosecution Guidelines in 2025-26. These have been developed in response to the findings of the review and are due to be published in late 2025. A key priority to ascertain the views of people delivering and subject to Diversion from Prosecution to inform further improvements has been agreed.

## **6.0 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<sup>2</sup>

### **Local Evidence:**

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

## **6. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN POLICE CUSTODY TO ACCESS SUPPORT? WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

- *Police Scotland*
- *Local Authority*
- *Justice Social Work*
- *Third Sector*

---

<sup>2</sup> National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres

- *Health*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

The CJP and ADP have committed to shared priorities to manage, commission and/or coordinate support to people with substance use problems across the criminal justice system without stigmatising them over offending. Over this reporting period and at different stages of the system, this has included the following interventions and support:

- ✓ At the point of arrest, the Arrest Referral Project provided a comprehensive needs assessment for 1714 individuals and subsequent direct support to 188.
- ✓ These and other people involved in the criminal justice system also benefitted from improved performance related to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards
- ✓ Local compliance with MAT Standards includes none on a waiting list for support following initial assessment and 91.3% in individualised treatment for over 6 months
- ✓ Partnership teams have been prioritised to receive training in Trauma Informed Practice, with 89% of the workforce now having received at least Level 1 training

The partnership also continues to focus on improving access to gender informed support for vulnerable women as both perpetrators and victims of crime. This currently involves several initiatives providing support to women with often multiple and complex needs, including the following:

- ✓ Allocation of Whole Family Wellbeing Funding to a Tayside Council on Alcohol Birch Programme for women who have experienced the removal of more than 1 child from their care. A significant number of these women have been or are involved in the criminal justice system for acquisitive offending associated with substance use
- ✓ Co-located Community Justice Women's Team, NHS Tayside Keep Well Service and Court Advocacy Service (ASSIST) to provide or coordinate direct support to women across the criminal justice system. This also often involves substance use support, with underpinning trauma associated with both child and adult adverse experiences

### **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<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> National Indicator:

Number of:

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

## Local Evidence

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

### **7. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO INCREASE THE USE OF BAIL, AND SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ACCESS SERVICES TO ADDRESS NEEDS WHILE ON BAIL? WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

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

Over the period, TCA provided mentoring to people subject to both Bail Supervision and Structured Deferred Sentences. In total, 246 appointments offered and 65% of appointments were attended, with mentors working alongside the Community Justice Service to offer an added layer of support.

#### **Mentoring for women**

- **18** active clients over the period
- **33%** of referrals are Bail
- **22%** of referrals are SDS

#### **Mentoring for men**

- **23** active clients over the period
- **10%** of referrals are Bail
- **33%** of referrals are SDS

Assertive outreach was provided in response to low engagement with other services and mentors also provided support to access essential services including GP, Dentists and the

Community Mental Health Team. Relevant signposting to key agencies and services to improve life conditions and prevent further re-offending.

### **Self-Evaluation**

In March 2025, the partnership started a 12-week period of self-evaluation in conjunction with the Care Inspectorate to consider the extent to which National Priority Action 3 and 4 were being met. This consisted of multi-agency case file audits, multi-agency focus groups and evidence from the Community Justice Service and partners. Findings included:

### **Strengths**

- **Reflective and Solution-Focused Culture:** services are actively identifying gaps and proposing improvements.
- **Commitment to Service Development:** suggestions show a proactive approach to enhancing service delivery.
- **Awareness of Broader Systemic Issues:** recognition of prison overcrowding and its impact on compliance.
- **Focus on Collaboration:** emphasis on improving multi-agency working and communication.

### **Areas for Improvement**

1. Court Engagement
2. Assessment Process
3. Training and Development
4. Compliance and Consequences
5. Service Integration
6. Operational Enhancements

The self-evaluation found that when Bail Supervision is granted by the Sheriff Court, there is good partnership working, good communication between all services involved, good support to people subject to requirements and appropriate actions taken when there is non-compliance.

However, there is recognition that our number of bail supervision and Electronic Monitoring Bail continue to be low. Since the self-evaluation activity ended, a higher number of bail assessments are being undertaken but it is too early to have reliable evidence of the impact this will have on bail supervision numbers.

As part of the Improvement Plan, a Court Facilitating Team is being established from existing resources to undertaking all new Court Reports and all Bail Assessments. This will create a single area of focus to build workforce practice and systems, including information provided to the Court; EM assessments; and enforcement.

## 7.0 PRIORITY ACTION FOUR

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

**No nationally determined outcome.**

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

## 8. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE IN YOUR AREA TO INCREASE THE USE ELECTRONIC MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES? WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?

*This priority action was identified by Scottish Government as requiring nationally-driven actions as set out by the community justice strategy delivery plan. Given this is a developing area that does not have a national outcome set by the National Strategy and Performance Framework, there is no statutory obligation to report on progress and CJS do not expect many local areas to have driven priority activity in relation to progressing it as part of their community justice duties. However, we recognise that some local areas, for example those involved with any pilot projects, may have information that is relevant and useful to share with CJS and others. If relevant, please use this question to inform us about any significant local activity to undertaken progress this area, and any associated impact.*

We recognise that our figures regarding Bail Supervision and EM Bail remain low and have recently completed the self-evaluation in this regards which started in March 2025. Please see answer to priority action area 3 for details.

## 8.0 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 sentences<sup>4</sup>

### Local Evidence

- Availability of local programmes to support desistance from domestic abuse and sexual offending.

---

<sup>4</sup> National Indicator:

Percentage of:

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

- 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 regarding supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement.

**9. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE THAT WILL SUPPORT PEOPLE SERVING SENTENCES IN THE COMMUNITY TO DESIST FROM OFFENDING, ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS, AND HELP THEM SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THEIR SENTENCE? WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

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

The successful completion rates of people subject Diversion from Prosecution, Bail Supervision and CPOs, alongside positive feedback from those engaging with support, indicates the effectiveness of many community justice interventions with a population which typically has multiple complex needs. Feedback includes:

*“You helped me reduce my cannabis use, get out of bed and stay out of trouble”*

*“It’s been great to talk to a third party, away from family and friends”*

*“You have been a great support for me”*

Whilst the successful completion of CPOs reduced by 5%, services are required to apply a defensible balance between engagement, community safety, enforcement and credibility. Where people do not comply with a community sentence, teams are required to apply breach procedures in accordance with National Standards.

To enhance engagement and effectiveness, most Community Justice Service teams are now trained in the Decider Skills Programme. They have also received training in Trauma Informed Practice, Motivational Interviewing and Child and Adult Support and Protection.

Over the period, the Unpaid Work Team has continued to make a significant and positive impact across the city through a wide range of community-based activities, including community clean-up events in areas such as Stobswell, Linlathen and the City Centre.

In addition to environmental work, the team has supported various community development projects. This includes the installation of raised beds for local initiatives and assistance with garden maintenance for vulnerable residents, sheltered housing complexes, and the Women's Hub.

Further contributions include painting and decorating a shop unit for a local school to support a community enterprise, and reinstating fencing damaged during Storm Eowyn. The team has also carried out practical tasks such as laying slabs, preparing ground for the installation of a polytunnel and completing additional fencing work.

Importantly, the team has provided support to ex-veterans who are unable to maintain their gardens due to physical or personal circumstances. This work has helped improve their living environments and demonstrated a compassionate approach to community service.

As of the 31 March 2025, there were **443** Registered Sex Offenders managed in Tayside. This is a decrease of **44** on the previous year. Of the **443**, there were **144 (32%)** on Statutory supervision managed by Community Justice Social Work. The numbers managed in each local authority area are:

<b>ANGUS</b>	<b>113</b> (an increase of <b>5</b> from the previous year)
<b>DUNDEE</b>	<b>185</b> (an increase of <b>20</b> from the previous year)
<b>PERTH &amp; KINROSS</b>	<b>145</b> (an increase of <b>19</b> from the previous year)

Category 3 offenders continue to be managed under MAPPA and in this year there have been **2** individuals considered and managed by the responsible authorities.

Over the year 2024-25, the partnership has undertaken work across the 3 Local Authority areas in relation to training new Chairs. Workshops occurred in each of the local authority areas with frontline staff in the Police Sex Offender Policing Units and the Public Protection teams in Community Justice services.

Case file auditing has continued, with the most recent showing that 87% of CJSW reports and LSCMI assessments being rated as either very good or excellent. Of the files audited, they all had a case management plan, with 50% being rated as excellent and 50% being rated as very good.

In addition to case file auditing, we have also undertaken 2 other audits for specific areas, with one being the quality of TARL (Throughcare Assessment for Release on Licence) reports and one regarding risk assessment and risk analysis within CJSW reports.

The quality of TARL reports was found to be very good, with clear evidence of co-working with PBSW to undertake the assessment. In terms of CJSW reports, it was

found that risk assessment tools (LSCMI, SARAV3, RM2k etc.) were being used appropriately and formed the basis of the recommendations made to the Court.

The revised Outcome and Improvement plan outlines how the series of case file audits will continue and will provide valuable information on the quality and impact of support. Audits will also focus on unmet need, service user feedback and outcomes. The LSCMI risk scoring will also inform evaluation of effectiveness.

## **9.0 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?**

*This priority action was identified by Scottish Government as requiring nationally-driven actions as set out by the community justice strategy delivery plan. Given this is a developing area that does not have a national outcome set by the National Strategy and Performance Framework, there is no statutory obligation to report on progress. CJS do not expect many local areas to have driven priority activity in relation to progressing it as part of their community justice duties. However, we recognise that some local areas, for example those involved with RJ pilot projects or who commission their own RJ services locally, may have information that is relevant and useful to share with CJS and others. If relevant, please use this question to inform us about any significant local activity to undertaken progress this area, and any associated impact.*

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

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

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

In 2024-25, the partnership continued to explore opportunities to implement Restorative Justice approaches. The partnership is conscious of research which suggests that RJ approaches can prove effective for both the perpetrator of an offence and the victim. When broadly defined, this can include:

- Offender/victim mediation
- Letters of apology
- Reparative work
- Other victim-centred approaches which seek to mend the harm caused by crime.

Going forward, in 2025-26 the partnership will engage with national and local partners to explore opportunities to develop and improve approaches towards restorative justice. As this may also have resource implications, any approach will need to be progressed in the context of available capacity.

### **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<sup>[1]</sup>

#### **Local Evidence**

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

### **3. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ACCESS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUPPORT AFTER RELEASE FROM PRISON, AND WHAT IMPACT HAD THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Prison Service*

- *Health*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Local authority*
- *Third Sector*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

The establishment of referral pathways and information-sharing arrangements has significantly improved timely access to health and social care supports. Pre-release assessments and personalised care plans ensure that individuals receive the necessary services immediately upon release, minimizing gaps in care.

The Positive Pathways Prison Liberation Project, delivered as part of the larger Positive Steps outreach team, was designed to provide intensive, immediate support to individuals upon release from prison, ensuring access to essential health and social care services through strong partnership working and information sharing.

Last year, 44 individuals were supported directly into a tenancy with wraparound care and 94 others received crisis support, including rapid links to essential health services. This support is targeted at short-term prisoners to reduce the risk of re-offending, the risk of substance use overdose and the risk of the revolving door syndrome.

**Key activities undertaken include:**

- Gate pick-ups and immediate wraparound support to ensure individuals were not lost to services upon liberation.
- Supported access to GPs, dentists, mental health services, substance use support, and benefits as part of a holistic throughcare model.
- Referral pathways and holistic, trauma-informed and gender specific handovers with key health and social care partners, including:
  - NHS services
  - DDARS, TCA, and We Are with You
  - Homelessness and housing services
  - Mental health and primary care teams
- Health and social care considerations are embedded in release planning through partnership with HMP Perth and the Community Justice Service.

The national indicator identifies the number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatment from custody to community. In 2024-25, Dundee Drug Support Services (DDARS) had 725 referrals, of which 88 (12%) were coded from custody. This almost matched the figure of 11% from previous year. There were also 225 prison/court referrals in the same period.

A Keep Well Nurse from the NHS Tayside Health Inclusion Nursing Team is co-located with within Justice Social Work uses anticipatory health checks and/or health consultations to engage with people at this of health inequalities. The nurse engages with people as they attend appointments. In terms of activity in 2024-25:

- 114 Health Checks/ Holistic Health Assessments delivered by the nurse, in the main these were completed over two or more appointments

- 98 Health consultations with the nurse, either stand alone or, before or after health check appointments

A recent service user commented that "I really appreciate the way you supported me during my health checks. You gave me helpful advice, listened to me, and went the extra mile. That made me feel cared for and supported, and I'm grateful for that."

Another commented that "you have been amazing these past months; you have helped me change my life around and keep me on track with everything and you have tried to help me out with every last thing so thanks so much.

## **10.0 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<sup>5</sup>

### **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

## **11. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ACCESS SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM PRISON, AND WHAT IMPACT HAD THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

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

---

<sup>5</sup> National Indicator:  
Number of:

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

- *Third Sector*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

Housing services have officers attending the prisons on a regular basis to provide advice and support to people who have a tenancy when they go into prison and to look at options on how we prevent homelessness, in line with the new requirements of 'Ask and Act' in the Housing Scotland Bill.

In the last reporting year 2024-25 there were 74 homeless applications where prison was the last known address. In 2023-24 we had 83 homeless applications and 91 the previous year. The total therefore continues to decrease from previous years.

To build on this progress and to fully adopt the requirements set out in the SHORE standards, the housing service in partnership with CJSW and Employability services are implementing a dedicated resource to provide a holistic, wrap around service that will enhance pathways to broader support and prevent homelessness in late Autumn 2025.

Positive Pathways Housing with Support strives to support the SHORE standards. The service can provide up to 35 tenancies annually, with Positive Steps furnishing these properties. In the 2024-25 period a total of 9 tenancies were supported.

The support helps to prevent repeated cycles of incarceration and homelessness where the crisis intervention service supporting individuals to develop essential life skills needed for independent living.

In respect of short-term prisoners, a Positive Steps Connections initiative helps people who have experienced imprisonment and provided support to 328 people, an increase on last year's figure of 250. A key part of this has been to ensure that the SHORE standards are met as to their accommodation or tenancy needs and those at risk of overdose are provided with targeted support.

## **11.0 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<sup>6</sup>

### **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

---

<sup>6</sup> National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- those in employability services 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.

**12. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ACCESS EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT, AND WHAT IMPACT HAD THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

- *Local Authority employability services*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Third Sector*
- *Scottish Prison Service*
- *Scottish Courts and Tribunals Services*
- *Any other partners as relevant*

Over the year 2024/25, we have worked with Adult Employability Services and Access to Industry to assist us to work with service users towards moving into employment. We have also continued to use Venture Trust, which provides support through community and outdoor personal development programmes and outdoor therapy services.

**12.0 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<sup>7</sup>

**Local Evidence**

---

<sup>7</sup> National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

- 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.

**13. WHAT ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO ACCESS VOLUNTARY THROUGH CARE? WHAT IMPACT HAD THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

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

The number of voluntary throughcare cases commenced for 2024/25 was 126, a slight decrease from the previous year where the number of cases was 139. This meant the % of adult short-term prisoners commencing Voluntary Assistance was 79%, so the local target of 70% was achieved.

We continue to work with our partner agencies and third sector to provide Voluntary Throughcare to those people released from short-term custodial sentences to assist them to re-establish themselves in the community. This can be from the direct provision of support (e.g. provision of housing through Positive Steps Connections or DCC Housing), through to signposting people to where they can get support to meet their needs.

Having co-located Health services (DDARS, Keep-Well Nurse etc) helps to both strengthen and quicken our ability to meet the needs of these service users and enable their safe return to be living in their communities. The service liaises with HMP Perth to plan for all those prisoners due for release.

**13.0 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

**14. HOW HAS YOUR PARTNERSHIP WORKED TO DEVELOP LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND ENHANCE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COLLABORATION? WHAT IMPACT HAD THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?**

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

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

Please see above.

**14.0 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.

**15. HOW HAS YOUR PARTNERSHIP WORKED TO UNDERSTAND AND INCORPORATE THE VOICES OF VICTIMS OF CRIME, SURVIVORS, THOSE WITH**

## **LIVED EXPERIENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES INTO PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION? *WHAT IMPACT HAS THERE BEEN AS A RESULT?***

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

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

A partnership subgroup with a range of key partners has been established this period to allow progression of key actions within the CJOIP to:

- Connect with ongoing Protecting People arrangements and utilise key recommendations from the Authentic Voice Research Report and ADP Lived Experience Plans.
- This will support an Action Plan to be progressed jointly with a Protecting People Engagement and Participation sub-group of the revised Committee structure, which includes Community Justice representation.

### **15.0 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<sup>8</sup>

#### **Local Evidence**

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

### **16. WHAT PARTNERSHIP-DRIVEN ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF AND CONFIDENCE IN COMMUNITY JUSTICE ACROSS THE WORKFORCE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

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

---

<sup>8</sup> 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

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

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

The CJP now has a strong presence in and contribution towards various inter-connected governance arrangements across the city, including the COG, Children at Risk Committee, Adults at Risk Committee and ADP. Increasingly, there is an integrated approach towards people who present a risk of harm to others, from others or to themselves.

This is enabling the Protecting People Team to develop coherent cross-cutting sub-groups for performance management, workforce development and lived experience. Each of these groups have developed clear terms of reference and action plans over the last 12 months and Community Justice will continue to inform and be informed by developments.

#### **17. LOOK AHEAD FOR YOUR LOCAL AREA. PLEASE TELL US WHAT THE NEXT STEPS ARE FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP.**

*Reflective questions to consider in developing your answer:*

*What are the next steps for your partnership?*

*What opportunities are there?*

*What barriers and/or risks?*

The CJP has continued to implement the CJOIP, confirm strengths, identify areas for improvement and establish key priorities. Audits of practice show key strengths, the referral and successful completion rate of Diversion from Prosecution continues to improve and targets for the engagement of short-term prisoners are being met.

Whilst the local uptake of Bail Supervision remains low, the partnership has prioritised this as an area for improvement and carried out a self-evaluation with the Care Inspectorate. This is leading to the development of a pivotal Pre Court Team and an Action Plan covering 6 core areas. Implementation over the next 12 months is a key priority, alongside:

- Work with the Our Promise Partnership to implement co-located multi-disciplinary arrangements for vulnerable adolescents involved in Youth and Adult Justice
- Work with the Scottish Prison Service to implement emergency measures and/or new initiatives related to short and long-term prisoners
- Work with Protecting People colleagues to develop coherent approaches towards Authentic Voice which have a demonstrable impact on service improvement
- Work with Community Justice Teams to develop and implement enhanced frameworks to illustrate the impact of interventions, including through LSCMI

*This page is intentionally left blank*