

**Community Justice Scotland**  
Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland  
Local Area Annual Return Template  
2022-23**

<b>1) Community Justice Partnership / Group Details</b>	
Name of local authority area/s	<i>Scottish Borders Community Justice Board</i>
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<b>2) Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair</b>
Date: 13.09.2023 Name: John Fyfe

## **Governance Arrangements**

There have been no substantive changes to governance arrangements since the previous submission.

## **Challenges / Negatives**

Awareness of the national guidelines and of diversion from prosecution more generally could be improved by better training across the diversion partner agencies. In particular, the greater use of multi-agency training would help partner agencies gain a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and facilitate communication between agencies.

Community Justice partners recognise there has been a lot of change at national level (strategy, toolkit, plan) which has impacted the work of the partnership as time is to understand and embed change.

Funding pressures across all partners impacts development opportunities.

## **Positives / Opportunities**

In June 2023 Scottish Government published a revised delivery plan. Partners have welcomed the plan which provided further clarity on the role and responsibilities of individual agencies with associated timelines.

The dedicated resource of the Community Justice Co-ordinator post has enabled the Partnership to align/supplement differing organisational policies/strategies to encompass the National Aims and Priorities within Community Justice Performance Framework.

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## **NATIONAL OUTCOME ONE**

### **Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice**

A Lived Experience Consultation exercise captured a variety of perspectives through a public consultation. People who have spent time in the justice system have been asked for their perspective and experience in accessing services.



Scottish Borders  
Community Justice Li

The Justice Social Work Service has promoted CPO: Unpaid Work through attendance at 2 Christmas markets, where in addition to selling seasonal products made by service users, with profits going to 3 charities chosen by service users, it promoted the benefits of reparative work. UPW staff and service users managed the stalls at each market location.

The Service Group Manager gave a presentation to elected members to assist in their understanding of what a CPO is and what reparative work can be undertaken and how referrals can be made to the service. Contact details were shared with all elected members and there was an increase in reparative work referrals being received via elected members on behalf of constituent groups.

Everyone who completes a CPO are asked to complete an exit questionnaire to identify strengths and weaknesses and inform service development.

Youth Justice continue to deliver Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) and are now directly involving an Education representative in the consideration of EEI for young people involved in offending behaviour and how education is addressing low level offending within schools.

The Joint Health Improvement Team (JHIT) have provided funding to the Eastlands Greenhouse Project for 2022-2023, linked into the Scottish Borders Community Food Grower's Network. This has contributed to a wider distribution of produce and relationships with new partners to including Broomlands Primary School (Kelso), Café Recharge, We Are With You and Greener Melrose Seed Exchange.

The produce has also been used to support Cooking Skills programmes for men and women. Health Improvement staff have integrated information about the NHS Borders Money Worries App within these sessions to raise awareness of local and national sources of support about Money, Health, Housing and Work.

Evaluation information is triangulated to demonstrate the collective impact of this project:

1. **Service Users** shared their insights into the development of knowledge, skills and experience, translating this learning into everyday life and being able to give something back to the community.
2. **Health Improvement staff** feedback on the direct impact for service users and themselves, reflecting on behaviour change in relation to their own food choices and distributing produce to children and families through partners.
3. **Galashiels Early Years Centre** feedback on the positive impact of having a supply of fresh produce to support their larder provision, distributing surplus food through activities and the school playground to prevent food waste and offering fresh produce as a snack for children.
4. **Action for Children** feedback on the positive impact of vegetable distribution providing insights into home cooking as a family, making the most of the produce and the produce that families enjoyed the most.

## **NATIONAL OUTCOME TWO**

### **Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way**

The delivery of MAPPA as per the National Guidance is well established and managed in the Borders. The Borders sit within the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders MAPPA Partnership. The justice service group manager along with health and police colleagues represent the authority at the MAPPA Operational Group and the Chief Social Work Officer is currently the depute chair of the MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group.

Justice social work services have been developed and implemented as per legislative requirements and national guidance. Most significantly, May 2022 saw the launch of new national guidance for Bail Supervision and Electronic Monitoring. The service utilised Section 27 grant funding and transformational funds to recruit 2 part time justice officers

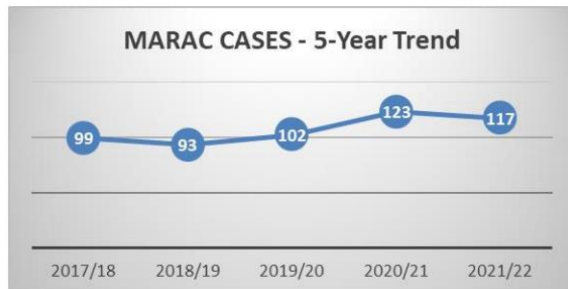
to undertake suitability assessments and case manage supervision of those subject to Bail Supervision. Following discussion with the Sheriff Clerk, service accommodation was identified at both the Borders Sheriff Courts allowing the Bail Supervision Officers to build up positive working relationships with court staff including the PF and defence agents.

The service secured a property lease from a Registered Social Landlord for a 1 bedroom flat to provide short term accommodation for those subject to bail, where a lack of accommodation might otherwise result in remand or where additional support is required. Support arrangements will be delivered in partnership with Homelessness Services, as part of an intensive support plan or to identify suitable ongoing accommodation options.

The domestic abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) supporting victims of abuse, has functioned throughout the reporting year.

The number of high risk abuse cases discussed at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference was 92, the same number of referrals as 2020/21 for the same period. Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery were up to 25 from 21, a 19% increase.

MARAC Referrals MARAC referrals have been increasing since 2017/18 and at the end of 2021/22 were 18% higher than 2017/18 levels. The trend for 2022/23 to date is upwards with a 13.8% increase in MARAC referrals from 2021/22 levels. MARAC referrals each month are currently at a level that exceeds capacity to manage the cases in a single meeting. A revised MARAC structure has been formulated and implemented and will be reviewed when it has been operating for a few months.



There has been recent input to Community Justice partners to inform them of the Youth Justice Service and its capabilities. This in turn has informed to the development of a Youth Justice Plan. This strategic plan will inform and determine service development over the coming 12 months.

All Anti-Social Behaviour Officers are now accredited Mediators and so the service has had a complete review of service delivery in the team.

An Antisocial Behaviour Partnership Working Group (ASBPWG) has been developed and meets four times per year. The diagram below illustrates how the group works.

#### ASBPWG Attendance



56 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Warning letters issued to under 18's during 2022/2023 in comparison to 146 during 2021/22. 2020-2021 recorded 185 ASB Warning Letters.

Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-26 Activity: Working with Community Justice partners and community groups to prevent and respond to incidents of Anti-social behaviour.

Key milestones:

- Continue to work within a multi-agency framework to provide preventative approaches to antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities such as “RUTS” and “Heavy Sounds.”
- Proactively target individuals responsible for antisocial behaviour in local communities and ensure full use of powers to prevent further offending such as Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- Intelligence led deployment of, for example, Community Action Teams / Community Officers to hotspot areas.
- Engage with and educate young people about the impact of antisocial behaviour on communities, for example by utilising school based officers where they exist to provide awareness inputs.

### **NATIONAL OUTCOME THREE**

#### **People have better access to the services that they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability**

Justice Social Work service extended its commission of local 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisation Works+. Throughout the reporting period Works+ worked with 34 people; assisting them to enhance their employability and training opportunities. 17 people achieved their initial goals, with 12 gaining employment: 3 engaging in volunteering and 2 taking up college places.

Delivery of the Caledonian Men's Programme was changed from a Lothians and Borders model to local provision; this removed barriers preventing attendance for some due to limited public transport.

New activities include liaison with the Procurator Fiscal have improved. An example the impact of this was the diversion from prosecution of a care experienced young person who was due to appear in court. A conviction would have resulted in the individual losing his

job. The Youth Justice Team have developed group work programmes in 2 separate geographical areas to tackle specific co-accused offending behaviour. This helps target specific locally based challenges in terms of anti-social behaviour.

Skills Development Scotland continue to be involved in local EEI and the Information Sharing Protocol and local joint plan with Youth Justice has recently been updated and agreed. Youth Justice are actively engaged with the Adult Justice, Scottish Prison Service and Homelessness Service developing the Shore Standards.

Youth Justice were directly involved in coordinating a Secure Care event for managers across the partnership to raise awareness and improve practice in relation to young people who are at risk of secure care, in secure care or who have recently left secure care.

Skills Development Scotland piloted an Adviser presence in DWP Galashiels one day per week. This was continued following evaluation which showed high engagement levels and a positive partnership approach. Many customers have referenced lived experience with the justice system and adviser provides a tailored support to each case and referrals as appropriate.

The Young Persons Guarantee Partnership jointly produced an interactive leaflet detailing all the employability support/options available to 16-24 year olds in the Borders. This was shared with SPS with an ask to share with young people being released to signpost to local support.

### **Sustainable Housing On Release (SHORE)**

The Borders SHORE working group was reconvened in 2022/2023. The working group includes representatives from Homelessness, Registered Social Landlords, Justice Service, Youth Justice, Scottish Prison Service and Housing Support.

The aim of the working group is to improve housing outcomes for people leaving prison regardless of their housing status and how long they have been in prison or young offenders, by working in a collaborative way that allows for dynamic involvement across a range of stakeholders.

Key achievements from the group include the following;

- Development of the information sharing protocol, to allow sharing of information from the Scottish Prison Service weekly reports with the four local RSL's to promote homeless prevention activities. It is anticipated that the new information protocol will become operational in 2023/2024.
- Developing a shared understanding of homelessness prevention activities when a tenant is incarcerated to ensure a consistent approach and support the no wrong door initiative.
- In partnership with Waverly housing, a property was acquired to provide bail supervision and home leave accommodation. The yearlong pilot will operate during 2023/2024 and will allow for a full assessment of a person's housing and support needs in a managed environment and provide an alternative to remand.
- Utilising 'Ending Homelessness Together' funding, a part-time SHORE Homelessness Case officer was appointed, for a period of 12 months, to support imbedding of new practices.

### **Housing First**

Housing First provides general settled housing as a first response for people with complex needs, recognising that a safe and secure home is the best base for recovery, it offers personalised, open-ended, flexible support for people to end their experience of homelessness and address wider needs.

Scottish Borders Council in partnership with Berwickshire Housing Association, Eildon Housing Association, Scottish Borders Housing Association, Waverley Housing and Cyrenians launched the Scottish Borders Housing First pilot in October of 2021. The pilot is funded for 2 years from monies received from the Scottish Governments 'Ending Homelessness Together' funds and aims to provide housing and support to 30 households over the two year period.

From October 2021 to March 2023, 15 people received Housing First Support and 10 Housing First tenancies have commenced. 14 (93%) of the people supported have a known offending history to varying degree. To 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, 10 Housing First tenancies have commenced, since its inception, and is making a significant contribution to helping to keep vulnerable people safe.

No. of statutory homeless applications opened where the last settled address was recorded as Prison:

2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/2022	2022/2023
28	35	21	23	25

Housing outcomes of statutory homeless applications: (as at 25.05.23)

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
RSL Tenancy	12	16	10	7	0
Custody	8	12	3	5	6
PRS	0	1	0	1	0
Lost Contact	6	4	4	5	2
Friends/Family	0	1	0	0	1
Returned to last settled	1	1	1	0	0
Deceased	0	0	2	1	0
Supported Accommodation	0	0	1	0	0
Withdrew application	1	0	0	2	1
No recourse/ineligible	0	0	0	0	2
Cases that remain open at time of reporting	0	0	0	2	13

An updated Alcohol Profile provided to Licensing Board highlighting alcohol related harm in Borders and to support decision making.

An Addiction Worker Trainee Post was provided and supported by Scottish Drugs Forum in Borders. 330 people attended 25 training courses over 2022-23 and 108 people completed e-learning provided by Scottish Drugs Forum.



2699 people who were drinking above the low risk guidelines had a brief intervention with a trained professional.

524 people started treatment for their drug or alcohol use and 99.6% started within three weeks of referral.

124 people received a rapid emergency response following a near fatal overdose with 89% contacted by the assertive outreach team within 48 hours. 19% (28) of resupplies of naloxone were used in an emergency.

An audit of alcohol specific deaths for 2021 has commenced. Entry routes into Residential Rehabilitation reviewed alongside increased funding which has resulted in 5 people were supported to attend.

Implementation of medication assisted treatment standards 1 - 5 and work progressing with standards 6-10.

Recovery Coaching Scotland has provided self coaching courses with referrals open to drug and alcohol services. Borders Lived Experience Forum has provided formal feedback on the Residential Rehab Pathway, Injecting Equipment Provision Leaflet, ADP Strategic Plan and Scottish Government Alcohol Marketing Consultation. Borders Engagement Group met weekly and provided samples of drugs to WEDINOS Service for testing to generate local drug trend information. The group has also provided feedback for ADP partners on their experiences which have been shared with relevant services. 122 referrals to the dedicated Children and Families support service Action for Children Chimes Service. We Are With You provided support for 77 adults impacted by a loved one's substance use. Information on support for family members made more accessible highlighting both local and national support. s.

A recent report issued by the Care Inspectorate in relation to our We Are With You service in Borders following an unannounced visit in August 2023. Although the report is titled Housing Support Service this is for the commissioned alcohol and drugs recovery service due to the options available for registrations.

Key messages:

- There was overwhelming positive feedback from people who had or were using the service
- People were central to tailoring their support to meet their outcomes, they felt listened to and not judged
- There was very good communication with external agencies to provide a holistic approach to people's recovery
- The service and organisation had a very positive culture of reflection and continual improvement

In evaluating quality, the inspectorate uses a six point scale where 1 is unsatisfactory and 6 is excellent and rated We Are With You as follows:

- How well do we support people's wellbeing? 6 - Excellent
- How good is our leadership? 5 - Very Good
- How good is our staff team? 5 - Very Good
- How well is our care and support planned? 6 - Excellent



## NATIONAL OUTCOME FOUR

### Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending

There is strong support for diversion from prosecution among those agencies involved in the diversion process. The use of diversion has risen in recent years and the diversion partner agencies are keen to extend its use further, in line with the government's national strategy for community justice. The publication of national guidelines on diversion has been a significant milestone.

As outlined above. DTTO numbers are beginning to increase, and "buy in" is being noted. Increased numbers of men, appear to be engaging with and completing the men's programme.

Percentage of:

Drug treatment and testing orders (DTTO) successfully completed: Scottish Borders

Year	successfully completed	number of DTTO ended in year minus those who were transferred out of area
2015-16	40%	10
2016-17	54%	13
2017-18	33%	6
2018-19	67%	9
2019-20	44%	9
2020-21	80%	5
2021-22	67%	3

Bail Supervision and electronic monitoring, new to service and will require further monitoring. Early indicators suggest this is being utilised by the courts. High remand numbers, make it difficult to interpret any difference /impact this has made.

During 2022/2023 109 Bail supervision assessments. 59 suitable candidates and 46 orders imposed.

In terms of diversion, Youth Justice have continued to receive consistent requests from the PF for diversion from prosecution. These have included referrals for more serious offences such as sexual offending. As a result, Youth Justice are working on how to include better risk assessment and analysis within the diversion template.

Recent benchmarking information in relation to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards has assessed Borders as provisional green on standards 1-5, amber on standard 8 and provisional amber on standards 6,7,9 & 10. Provisional status is assigned when there is insufficient experiential data to triangulate numerical and process data for a standard.

In 2022-23 the Local Delivery Plan Standard for 90% of clients to start drug or alcohol treatment within three weeks of referral was met with 99% (524 referrals of 526) starting treatment within three weeks.

Justice settings are also required to deliver on MAT and although Borders is not one of the MAT Implementation Support Team (MIST) pilot areas we continue to ensure close working across partners including HMP Edinburgh. A product of the discussions relating to MAT implementation was the production of a Liberation Pack available for Prison staff to ensure they are aware of services and supports available in Borders. This is hosted on the ADP website to ensure it is kept current and up to date.

JSW colleagues continue to deliver Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABI) and during 2022-23 performed 92 ABIs. 46 ABIs were delivered in Custody Suites (including St Leonards). The Early Effective Intervention (EEI) group comprising partners from Youth Justice, Police Scotland, SDS and NHS has continued to meet on a 4-weekly basis, new chair appointed. The aim is to support young people, 16–17-year-old, who have been charged by the Police, helping to prevent future offending/charges being taken further. The agencies involved provide appropriate interventions which will support that young person's behaviour and well-being. Over the reporting period the partnership has between 2 and 6 referrals per month.

Following a successful pilot, a yearlong early intervention programme was delivered in Eyemouth High School for academic year 22/23 jointly funded by the CJ Partnership, SDS, Eyemouth High School and match funded by APEX. The APEX RE: SET programme was an early intervention initiative addressing issues surrounding offending within the community aimed at young people in S2/3 identified as currently offending or at risk of offending. The pupils involved were referred from wider partners, including Police Scotland and Social Work, and faced several multiple complex barriers including neglect, family imprisonment, addiction issues, sexual and domestic abuse, unemployment and trauma. All of which significantly impact their ability to cope with the school day and resulting in an escalation of challenging behaviours within the school setting and also in the community. A Personal Development Mentor was on site for 1 day per week and delivered a series of 1:1 engagement. Programme focus was on achieving an individual's potential, actions and consequences of offending behaviour including statistics, causes and implications. Outcomes measured through Webmb were positive as well as anecdotal feedback from the school and participating pupils. Given the rurality of the region and 1 day per week delivery, difficulties were encountered when trying to backfill the post and it was deemed an untenable model going forward. SDS Area Manager presented to the Headteachers meeting in March 23 and identified appetite to grow the programme across more schools to make it more sustainable. APEX have not been able to commit to the programme for start of the new academic year following changes at a senior level in the organisation, funding pressures and a new model being piloted in another local authority. However, they are committed to review at the start of 2024.

## Court Disposals

The table below shows the disposals of cases that have gone to court between 2019/20 and 2021. Current data relating to 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures show all charges resulting in custodial disposals. In the terminology used in the table the “summary court” doesn’t have a jury. The “solemn court” does have a jury and deals with more serious crimes.

	2019/20			2020/21			2021/22	2022/23	
	Total Prosecuted	Not Guilty	Guilty	Total Prosecuted	Not Guilty	Guilty	Custodial Disposals at Charge Level		Custodial Disposals at Charge Level
Sheriff Solemn	61	8	53	26	0	26			
Sheriff Summary	893	92	801	496	43	453			
Justice of the Peace	511	26	485	150	16	134			
<b>Total</b>	<b>1465</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>140</b>	

## Community Disposals

The table below shows the disposals made by the Procurator Fiscal before a case goes to court, between 2019/20 and 2021. Current data relating to 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures show disposals at charge level, not accused level by community disposal group. The fiscal fines can either be a set figure for a particular offence or they set a tariff. They can also give compensation to the victim.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Fiscal Combined Fine with Compensation (COMB)	21	33		
Fiscal Compensation (Comp)	9	16		
Fiscal Fine (COFF)	114	105		
Fiscal Fixed Penalty	129	185		
Recorded Police Warning (RPW)	1	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>296</b>

## Number of diversion from prosecution:

## Scottish Borders

Year	assessments undertaken	cases commenced	cases successfully completed
2015-16	50	36	36
2016-17	60	39	42
2017-18	12	6	11
2018-19	12	6	7
2019-20	22	8	4
2020-21	43	24	18
2021-22	74	37	36

Borders saw a decrease in referrals from 2021/22. 80 referrals to 60 referrals in 2022/2023. From those referrals 54 assessments and 26 diversions commenced. 23 of 26 completed with only 2 requiring further action.

Percentage of:

Community payback orders (CPO) successfully completed: Scottish Borders

Year	successfully completed	number of CPO ended in year minus those who were transferred out of area
2015-16	62%	213
2016-17	57%	207
2017-18	58%	221
2018-19	64%	223
2019-20	71%	203
2020-21	75%	101
2021-22	58%	177

Number of:

Voluntary throughcare cases commenced: Scottish Borders

Year	cases commenced
2015-16	41
2016-17	44
2017-18	34
2018-19	12
2019-20	15
2020-21	9
2021-22	17

The figures below illustrate the prisoner population from the Scottish Borders at the end of the reporting period.

Prison Population	04/22	04/21	04/22
Prisoners Total	85	65	85
Female	2	2	2
Remand	21	25	18
3 mths less than 6 mths	1	0	2
6 mths less than 2 yrs.	17	10	12
2 – 4 yrs.	15	6	13
4 years and over	31	22	38

## Police Direct Measures

The data supplied has been taken from information held on the Criminal History System (CHS) and is accurate as of April 20, 2023. Recorded Police Warnings (RPW) and Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices (ASB FPN) are just two of a range of disposal options available to the Police in relation to lower level offending. These schemes are intended to have a positive impact on individuals by providing an intervention mechanism that is timely, justifiable to the crime or incident under review. These figures do not include direct measures issued in respect of Road Traffic Offences are not available at local council level as this geographical data is not collected as part of the CHS data. For note, these data have been published as experimental statistics and are Police Scotland Management information. They are not official statistics.

**Table 2.6.1**  
**Number of Recorded Police Warnings - Police Scotland (The Lothians and Scottish Borders)**  
*By type of offence; 2021/22 - 2022/23 (year-to-date to end of Q4).*

Type of Offence	Financial Year		Change	
	2021/22	2022/23	No.	%
<b>Recorded Police Warnings</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Theft (by shoplifting)	27	45	18	66.7
Theft (other)	43	42	- 1	- 2.3
Vandalism	43	45	2	4.7
Misuse of Drugs	168	213	45	26.8
Assault (non-injury)	148	167	19	12.8
Breach of the Peace <sup>1</sup>	326	265	- 61	- 18.7
Urinating <sup>2</sup>	51	26	- 25	- 49.0
Licensing Offences <sup>3</sup>	7	6	- 1	- 14.3
Coronavirus (Restrictions)	-	-	x	x
Other	113	127	14	12.4

**Table 2.6.2**  
**Number of Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Notices - Police Scotland (The Lothians and Scottish Borders)**  
*By type of offence; 2021/22 - 2022/23 (year-to-date to end of Q4).*

Type of Offence	Financial Year		Change	
	2021/22	2022/23	No.	%
<b>Police Penalty Notices</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>- 9</b>	<b>- 11.1</b>
Vandalism	2	3	1	50.0
Breach of the Peace <sup>5</sup>	31	27	- 4	- 12.9
Urinating <sup>2</sup>	18	23	5	27.8
Licensing Offences <sup>3</sup>	5	4	- 1	- 20.0
Noise Nuisance <sup>4</sup>	1	-	- 1	- 100.0
Coronavirus (Restrictions)	13	-	x	x
Other	11	15	4	36.4

## **NATIONAL OUTCOME FIVE**

**Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety, being addressed.**

Community Justice partners routinely use local data to fully understand our communities and populations. Through analysis of local community justice needs and strengths assessments we can identify and continuously develop the needs and gaps in services. We are making progress in targeting support towards early intervention and prevention. Partners set challenging targets that are both realistic and ambitious.

By developing and consistently using reliable mechanisms and processes to report on person-centred outcomes, we are improving trends in the wellbeing and life chances of people with living experience of community justice

## **NATIONAL OUTCOME SIX**

**People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities.**

## **NATIONAL OUTCOME SEVEN**

**Individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced.**

JSW: Use of Risk and needs assessment tools. LSCMI: Outcomes Star and other national assessment tools. Case management seeks to engage to meet identified areas of need by signposting to statutory and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, e.g., health, Works+, housing, community learning and development, all of which will engage with people to develop areas of need and build on strengths.

Exit questionnaire, at point of completion. No information is gathered beyond completion. Where an Outcomes Star is undertaken there will be a journey between the initial graph and identification of areas of need and the closing graph.

There have been developments in the links between Youth Justice and the School Nursing Service. This has started the dialogue in terms of what the School Nursing Service can provide for young people involved in offending behaviour. Examples include speech, language and communication support, general health issues, etc.

The team is involved in ensuring financial maximisation for care leavers (reminding young people of their eligibility to receive community charge discount). This approach to benefits advice and guidance is equally applicable to young people involved in offending behaviour. Similarly, available support for care experienced young people in terms of housing, education and employment are mirrored for those involved in offending.

### **Case Study**

Youth Justice worked with a 17 year old young person who was charged with several road traffic offences. In all likelihood if prosecuted in court this would have led to the young person losing their driving licence. Intervention to the Procurator Fiscal resulted in agreement to divert the young person who successfully engaged with his worker and



programme of work. This has enabled the young person to continue to work in the agricultural industry which would not have been possible if they had lost their driving licence in any court disposal.

Borders Engagement Group is a weekly group for people who are actively using substances. It is facilitated by Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) and local addiction services staff who have lived experience. A Management Group for the Engagement Group receives feedback from attendees via the SDF facilitator and seeks to provide a route to escalate/resolve/discuss issues raised. Membership of the group includes representation from Justice Social Work (JSW) to ensure a clear route for any escalation of concerns. Most recently our JSW and SDF colleague were able to meet to clarify concerns raised by a group member. The BEG is felt to be an important way of ensuring our services provide appropriate help and feedback from the BEG is also provided to the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board.

In recognition of the impact of trauma, SDS have developed an approach based on the national NHS/NES trauma training framework to support practitioners to better understand and use the trauma informed practice approach. Local teams completed 2 online modules followed by 2 half day sessions - Promoting Children and Young People's Mental Health and Preventing Self-Harm and Suicide - which were co-delivered by the local management team and NHS colleagues.

**Look ahead with the new National Strategy, Community Justice Performance Framework and Community Justice Improvement Tool. Please tell us what the next steps are for your partnership in light of these significant developments.**

The new Scottish Borders Youth Justice Plan will be significant in informing the overall direction of developments locally.

EEl procedures are being revised locally to ensure that they are aligned to the EEl Core Elements Framework.

Opportunities in the strategic and operational emphasis on youth justice within the Promise. Also, the development of a local plan aligned to the Scottish Youth Justice Strategy.

Barriers / risks predominantly relate to the potential for staff shortages and extended staff vacancies and their impact on any developmental agenda.

The approach to Whole Systems Approach needs to continue to be considered. Currently care experienced young people leaving custody can be offered voluntary through care by their pathway coordinator rather than the Justice Team where there is an existing relationship. There is a need to identify other opportunities to extend these types of approaches where appropriate.

Given turnover of key members of the partnership and a changing policy landscape e.g., new delivery plan, pressure on department budgets, skills review, it has been agreed that a reset workshop would be the natural next step for the partnership. The intention is that new participants would be clear on joint priorities and play an active role going forward to ensure that the next iteration of the plan is delivered