

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS



COMMUNITY JUSTICE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2029



Working in partnership to Tackle Inequality, Prevent, and Reduce
Reoffending in the Scottish Borders





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FOREWORD

Since 2017, the local partnership has worked to embed Community Justice within and across organisational boundaries. This plan takes cognisance of the progress already made. It has been developed to focus on four National aims and thirteen Priority actions, set out in the revised national strategy. The Scottish Borders is already well placed to adjust and develop to new ways of working, while improving on the existing arrangements we have in our region.

Preventing someone entering the justice system or reducing the impact if they do, is a key consideration for all our communities across the borders. Direct measures are less impactful on people's lives, enabling supportive social structures to be maintained. This is built on having appropriate support available, that is accessible and can meet individual need. But we must also recognise that for those committing serious crimes, prison still has a role to play in protecting our communities. Irrespective of the crime committed, it is still highly likely that people will at some point be released into the community.

Community sentences, support and access to key services are essential in breaking the cycle of offending behaviour and helping to make our communities safer places to live and work. A wide range of sectors and interventions are also available to support both victims of crime and perpetrators of crime.

Community Justice brings all these component parts together and this plan sets out how all Community Justice partners will work together to further develop our approach in line with national aims and priorities as well as setting out what our local partnership seeks to achieve for the Scottish Borders.

Councillor Julie Pirone
Executive Member



COMMUNITY JUSTICE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2029

INTRODUCTION

This is the third Community Justice local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Scottish Borders since the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act) came into being. It builds upon the work already undertaken and the content of the amended National Strategy for Community Justice which was published in 2022.

The plan creates an integrated approach, focussed on prevention and early intervention, to reduce the likelihood an individual will enter or remain within the justice system. This work is in parallel to the statutory functions delivered by Justice Social Work which is an integral part of Community Justice. Locally an established Community Justice Board meets bi-monthly to further this agenda, its role being to create an environment that supports individuals who may be susceptible to or have previously offended from entering the justice system. Statutory partners have a duty to co-operate, and the Board works towards creating better outcomes for people within the justice system.

In preparing this plan, a number of national and parallel plans have been considered alongside the [Scottish Borders Council Plan 2023](#) and [Community Plan](#)

The population of Scottish Borders was 116,020 in mid-2021. This makes it a medium-sized Scottish Council Area in population terms, only with a bigger land area and a lower population density than most other Scottish Council Areas. Scottish Borders face a number of challenges due to rurality - these include geography, ageing demographic, income deprivation, fuel deprivation, digital access, poor broadband, and food security. Latest data shows there was a 4% reduction in the figure for overall crime in Scottish Borders between 2011-12 and 2020-21. The figure for Scotland was a reduction of 22%. However, in Scottish Borders between 2019-20 and 2020-21 there was an increase of 3% in the numbers of recorded crimes. The overall percentage change for Scotland during this time was 0%.

In developing this plan and to inform the Community Justice Annual Report 2023, a "Lived Experience" survey was undertaken to gauge the personal experience of those who have been affected directly or indirectly by justice services. The aim of this was to inform the continuing improvement of delivery and access to support. Community Justice Board members recognise the fundamental importance in future analysis, planning, delivery and monitoring of actions to be baselined within 'Lived Experience'.

This plan sets the local strategic direction for the next five years and will be subject to an annual review, with an assessment of progress against priority activity. Community Justice is not one dimensional, it requires the involvement of statutory and strategic partners, the third sector and communities in delivering positive outcomes.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

The Act requires a range of statutory partners to co-operate in planning how local services are delivered to support prevention and a reduction in the number of people re offending. This approach aims to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour. Partners will work with a range of individuals and organisations who have a role to play in community justice.

The [Vision for Justice in Scotland](#), states:

- Our vision is for a just, safe and resilient Scotland,
- Issues of Justice affect us all,
- Justice is the concept of fairness.

The revised [national strategy](#) and [delivery plan](#) was launched in 2022 along with a [performance framework](#) which re set the strategic direction for partnerships triggering a review of local plans.

Two key Transformational priorities apply to the approach to community justice in Scotland, these are:

- Ensure justice service embed person-centred and trauma informed practices, and,
- Work across public services to improve outcomes for individuals, focussing on prevention, and early intervention.

These four main Scottish Government documents set the strategic context and underpin this plan, alongside local information and lived experience feedback.

The national organisation, Community Justice Scotland, monitors performance across each local authority area in the achievement of [four national aims and thirteen priority actions](#). Local partnerships are required to submit and publish an annual report.

An important part of the legislation is partners **duty to cooperate**, Section 35 of the Act states, each person or group of persons representing a statutory partner must so far as reasonably practicably co-operate, in the exercise of their respective functions in relation to community justice, with each other person or group of persons falling within that group. Such co-operation may include - (a) sharing information, (b) providing advice and assistance, (c) co-ordinating activities (and seeking to prevent unnecessary duplication), (d) funding activities together.

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GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERS

Scottish Borders Community Justice Partnership has responsibility for the implementation of agreed improvement actions contained within this plan. The partnership consists of statutory and local strategic partners not specified in legislation.

Members report annually on the indicators contained within the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework in a format determined by Community Justice Scotland. In developing this plan an *Integrated Impact Assessment* has been completed.

Throughout the duration of this five year plan the content will be subject to periodically review, taking cognisance of the developing justice landscape.

STATUTORY PARTNERS

Scottish Borders Council
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
Skills Development Scotland
NHS incl. Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Scottish Prison Service
Police Scotland
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Registered Social Landlord Representation
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Borders Community Action (Third Sector Interface)

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

The 2020 – 2025 local Plan set out a series of themes for the partnership to work towards delivering. This 2024 – 2029 Plan supersedes all other local community justice plans as a consequence of a new national strategy being published.

	2020 – 2025 Theme	Current Position
0.1	Develop arrangements to incorporate lived experience into local planning.	We have completed a lived experience exercise to inform our thinking and underpin our improvement actions. This will be periodically repeated.
0.2	Provide housing support to Scottish Borders prisoners.	We have an established information sharing agreement with the Scottish Prison Service. This provides information around conviction and release dates enabling housing services to engage with prisoners prior to release. A Registered Social Landlord representative attends the partnership meetings.
0.3	Improve wellbeing and access to health services.	The partnership has used some of the Scottish Government Community Justice transition funding to appoint a Wellbeing Worker who is embedded within Justice Social Work to facilitate access to services.
0.4	Maintain the profile of Community Justice within Public Protection services.	The chair of the Community Justice Partnership is a member of the Public Protection Committee, along with a number of statutory partners.
0.5	Improve the provision of local management information.	Local management information is available from respective community justice partners. At present there is not a single document containing information across the justice journey.
0.6	Identify options to improve support offered to families affected by imprisonment.	Additional work is necessary to establish what services are currently being accessed and the support these offer. Thereafter an exercise to identify gaps will be necessary in order to develop support. The rurality of the Scottish Borders, coupled with relatively low demand can create difficulties when commissioning services not based in the local area.
0.7	Work across the third sector interface to improve the profile in supporting Community Justice.	The partnership has local engagement with third sector partners, both individually and via the Borders Community Action our third sector interface.

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PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

HOMELESSNESS SERVICE	Bail Supervision/Bail Accommodation Pilot - In partnership with Waverley Housing Association, a property has been acquired to provide bail supervision accommodation. This allows for a full assessment of a person's support needs in a managed environment and provides an alternative to remand.
HOMELESSNESS SERVICE	Sustainable Housing On Release (SHORE) - Utilising 'Ending Homelessness Together' funding, a part-time SHORE Homelessness Case officer has been appointed to support imbedding of new practices.
COMMUNITY SAFETY	A mediation service is provided by Anti-Social Behaviour officers.
COMMUNITY SAFETY	Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support Service (DAAS) - Equally Safe delivery continues with the Violence Against Women (VAW) Partnership. In October 2023 DAAS achieved SafeLives Leading Lights accreditation, only the second service in Scotland to have achieved this status.
EMPLOYABILITY	The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) facilitates widespread partnership working and third sector involvement, enabling a joined up approach to service delivery and practice across the region.
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SCOTLAND	Successful early intervention delivered by Apex in Eyemouth High School to S2/3 pupils identified as offending or at risk of offending. Continue to work with a wide range of equality partners, including the third sector, to understand and address barriers to participation in learning and work, such as poverty, discrimination, and intersectional impact. (SDS Strategic Plan 2022-27 P21)
JUSTICE AND YOUTH JUSTICE	Connections - A cognitive-behavioural groupwork programme for men, focusing on identification of problems and improved emotional regulation has been developed.
JUSTICE AND YOUTH JUSTICE	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.

NHS / ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP	NHS Borders have created a “Liberation Pack” given to prisoners normally resident in Scottish Borders on their release. The pack gives information on drug and alcohol services and support available in the Scottish Borders including housing support, recovery and advocacy as well as NHS services.
NHS / ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP	<p>The Borders Engagement Group has been developed. It is a weekly group for people who are actively using substances and is facilitated by Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) and local addiction services staff who have lived experience. Justice Social Work is represented on the Steering Group which responds to concerns raised and feeds back to group members via the ‘You Said, We Did’ document.</p> <p>“To truly improve health and reduce socio-economic and health inequalities, not only do we need to provide high quality health and social care, but we need to consider and work to address the societal, economic, cultural, commercial, and environmental context in which we live. As such it is essential that the Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Partnership works with communities across the Scottish Borders, along with its delivery partners and Community Planning Partners to demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing for the people of the Scottish Borders. (The Scottish Borders Health and Social Care Strategic Framework 2023-26 P11)</p> <p>Reducing health inequalities is one of NHS Borders “Organisational Objectives and Priorities”. Specifically, NHS Borders should “Work with partners and the public to create services, environments and communities that support people to be healthy, safe and promote physical and mental health and wellbeing. Enable people to choose positive health behaviours through lifestyle change and support them to improve their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Focus work and services on reducing inequalities, in particular within the most deprived communities of the Scottish Borders.” (NHS Borders Annual Report 2021-22)</p>
SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE	Sustainable Housing On Release (SHORE) - An information sharing protocol has been adopted between the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and Scottish Borders Council and has improved information sharing arrangements contributing to the aspirations of SHORE. The protocol promotes earlier intervention, both in terms of the prevention and resolution of homelessness. This results in weekly contact with prisoners to assess and finalise their housing status prior to release to prevent homelessness.
POLICE SCOTLAND	Partners are supported to deliver local initiatives such as “Westdrive” “Tomorrows Drivers” and the “Border Union Schools Day”. These collaborative educational inputs promote road safety.

<p>POLICE SCOTLAND</p>	<p>We support the rollout of Naloxone to all officers within Lothians and Scottish Borders. With partners, we identify all non-fatal overdoses and signpost the support pathways that are available.</p> <p>Police Scotland has people and communities at the heart of its vision for a better society, and will continue to provide modern, visible and accessible policing to local communities, supplemented with new support services that adapt and respond to societal shifts. (The Lothian and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-26 P3)</p> <p>Police Scotland are committed to working with partners to ensure that people get the right help at the right time.</p> <p>The majority of reported incidents are non-criminal. We respond to support vulnerable individuals more than ever before and we expect this demand to increase. We will work with partner agencies to ensure that the right response is provided by the right service at the right time. (The Lothian and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-26, P13)</p>
<p>SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE</p>	<p>We continue to be an active member of the Scottish Borders Safer Communities team and carry out a range of preventative and intervention activities. This will include addressing social issues such as, reducing Domestic Abuse, identifying those at risk from Drugs and Alcohol, Frailty and Dementia.</p>
<p>SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE</p>	<p>We continue our involvement as an integral component of Scottish Borders Community Planning and championing an effective partnership approach to risk reduction, including education and awareness programmes aimed at high-risk groups within our communities.</p>



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UNDERSTANDING THE SCOTTISH BORDERS: JUSTICE DEMAND

DEMOGRAPHICS

The population of Scottish Borders was 116,020 in mid-2021. This makes it a medium-sized Scottish Council Area in population terms, only with a bigger land area and a lower population density than most other Scottish Council Areas. The population of the Scottish Borders increased by an above-average 8.5% between 2001 and 2021.

Females made up 51.3% of the Scottish Borders population in 2021, similar to Scotland as a whole.

The 45-64s age group made up an above-average 30.2% of the Scottish Borders population in 2021. The 16-24 age group made up a below average 8.7%.

The number of people within the 25-44 age group fell by 22.9% in Scottish Borders between 2001 and 2021.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is Scottish Government's standard approach to identifying areas of multiple deprivation. It does this by comparing every neighbourhood in Scotland against each other, in terms of how relatively more or less deprived they are than each other. There are 6,976 of these neighbourhoods, called Data Zones, in Scotland, 143 of them are in the Scottish Borders.


The Scottish Borders face a number of unique challenges due to rurality - these include geography, ageing demographic, income deprivation, fuel deprivation, digital access, poor broadband, and food security. **(SBC, Anti-Poverty Strategy 2021)**

12.6% children live in low-income families in the Scottish Borders, although there are 10 Intermediate Zones with more than 15%.

9.5% of the Scottish Borders population is income deprived, although there are 12 Intermediate Zones with more than 10%.

8.7% of the people of working age are employment deprived, although there are 12 Intermediate Zones with more than 10%.

In January 2020 there were 17 Foodbanks / Fareshare Partners across the Scottish Borders. By July 2020 there were 40. All services report increased demand.



ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE TO SCOTTISH NATIONAL OUTCOMES AND SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL PLAN 2023

The positioning of community justice within the Scottish Borders is in accordance with the National Strategy for Community Justice and the Scottish Borders Plan published in 2023. [Scottish Borders Council Plan 2023](#)

CHALLENGES

The Council has a 10 year vision to deal with the many national and local challenges which are felt by its citizens.

“Some of these challenges are global or national, such as the mutually reinforcing climate and nature emergencies, the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, record levels of inflation, spiralling levels of poverty, the legacy of a two-year pandemic, and a confluence of exceptionally difficult labour market and trading conditions. Others are more closely linked to our region: low economic growth and pay, challenges surrounding transport and infrastructure, and an aging population which will put additional pressure on our public services. All challenges are, ultimately, local. All will be felt and experienced in our communities. (The challenges) are complex. They require concerted and sustained action, not just by the Council, but by our partners, businesses and communities.”

The Council is “focused on delivering outcomes through working in partnership. No one organisation can do it alone. To improve lives, we must work together”. **(SBC PLAN 2023 P8)**

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CRIME STATISTICS

Total crime in the Scottish Borders recorded by Police Scotland during 2022 – 2023 was **3429 (Group 1 – 5)**. This was a decrease of **3.2%** on last year to date. ¹

A breakdown is as follows:

Crime Type	5 Year Average	22/23	Per 10,000 Population	National Figures per 10,000 Population	Detection Rate
Group 1 Non Sexual Crimes of Violence	116	175	15	126	57
Group 2 Sexual Crimes	247	253	22	27	58
Group 3 Dishonesty	1400	1350	117	169	27
Group 4 Fire-Raising, malicious Mischief, etc.	860	759	66	79	31
Group 5 Other (Pre active) Crimes	920	892	77	108	96
Group 6 Miscellaneous Offences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and public order offences Environmental offences Licensing offences Wildlife offences Other miscellaneous offences (supporting documents) http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781805259688	2170	2314	200	23	70
Group 7 Offences Relating to Motor Vehicles	1619	1771	153	199	86

¹ Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board 28th June 2023.



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THE JUSTICE JOURNEY

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM USERS

Those who go through the criminal justice system in Scotland can find the experience complicated, lengthy and traumatic but also a positive and beneficial experience for their future. Community Justice attempts to mitigate contributory factors to people's offending and support them to address needs and behaviour change whilst navigating [Scotland's Justice System](#).

On 1st April 2024, there are 102 prisoners within the Scottish Prison Service estate from the Scottish Borders. Of this number 4 are female, 5 are male prisoners who are classified as Young Offenders. The remainder being adult males. The breakdown of sentences at a given point in time, including the previous 4 years is as follows:

Sentence	Number of Prisoners
Remand	29
Less than 3 months	1
3 months less than 6 months	5
6 months and less than 2 years	9
2 years and less than 4 years	15
4 Years and over	43

Sentence	04/2020	04/2021	04/2022	04/2023	04/2024
Prisoners Total	47	65	85	87	102
Female	3	2	2	2	4
Remand	10	25	18	24	29
3 months less than 6 months	1	0	2	2	5
6 months and less than 2 years	7	10	12	12	9
2 years and less than 4 years	4	6	13	12	15
4 years and over	24	22	38	36	43

SCOTTISH COURTS AND TRIBUNALS SERVICE

The justice system is fundamental to ensuring we live in safe, inclusive and thriving communities. It supports the rule of law and our democracy and is a core part of our public services. Dignity and compassion can only be guaranteed if, when violated, there is an independent judiciary and a system which enables wrongdoing to be addressed and the rights of individuals to be upheld. Access to justice and the principle of open justice underpins open and transparent government. While the ability to fulfil our civic rights and respect for the rule of law remain an absolute constant, SCTS must transform to meet the needs of people in today's society. This includes ensuring we deliver person-centred services and embed trauma-informed practices. **(Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service Corporate Plan 2023-2026 P14)**

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

It is also essential to recognise the victims of crime. Section 2 of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out the standards of service that victims and witnesses should expect. A number of community justice partners contribute, as set out in the [Standards of Service for Witnesses 2023-2024](#).

Victim Support Scotland have a pivotal role in supporting victims as set out in the [VSS Strategy 2021 - 2026](#). The strategy sets out how they will support people affected by crime.

The **Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill** is currently out for consultation and aims to "improve the experiences of victims and witnesses within Scotland's justice system – in particular, the victims of sexual crime.

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LIVED EXPERIENCE

In April 2023, a survey was undertaken to gauge the personal experience of those who have been affected directly or indirectly by justice services. The aim of this was to inform the continuing improvement of delivery and access to support services.

There were 44 consented responses, over half are serving a custodial sentence or are on remand. A number are subject to a Community Payback Order, or Bail Supervision and/or Electronic Monitoring. Parents/Carers/Partners also participated alongside respondents who identify as victims and/ or survivors of crime.

Overall, the data reveals a diverse range of individuals involved in the criminal justice system and helps provide a comprehensive understanding of the participant's experiences within the context of the criminal justice system.

The survey covered the subject areas of:


Housing - Overall, based on the data, the majority (56%) of respondents noted the importance of support to maintain stable housing, however only 16% noted that it had been easy to access this support during the last 18 months.

Financial Management - Overall the analysis suggests that a significant portion of the surveyed individuals consider support in managing finances as important and that they had found easy access to this support, where required, during the past 18 months.

Alcohol Use Whilst 36% of respondents considered support as very important, a quarter of respondents noted they had no need for support regarding alcohol; of those who noted alcohol support as important, the majority noted easy access to support.

Substance Use - Overall, the survey results suggest there is variability in how respondents perceive the importance of support and ease of access when it comes to reducing or managing drug use. While a significant portion rated support as highly important and found ease of access to be high, there were others who indicated they had found support limited.

Mental Health - The majority of respondents (66%) noted that they found support as important. While 18% of respondents noted they did not find it easy to access support, 20% believed that the access to support was easy.



Training and Education - 43% of respondents noted the importance of support there were varied opinions regarding the ease of access to such support.

Employment - the respondents placed high importance on helping them find employment whereas they found access to this support was not easy.

Parenting Skills - respondents placed high importance on support to improve family life and parenting skills however the majority did not find it easy to access this support.

The experiences shared highlight the importance of accessible and comprehensive support systems, including self-referral options, timely updates, and clear information provision to address the needs of individuals in different situations, and emphasise the importance of different forms of support in addressing specific needs and challenges. Support related to substance misuse, supervision, rehabilitation, education, housing and mental health are mentioned as particularly helpful. The experiences shared indicate that tailored comprehensive support services, along with timely access to resources, play a significant role in individuals' progress, recovery and overall well-being.

In addition to the areas noted above which highlight improvements are required in respect of ease of access, further areas for improvement noted by participants included transportation access, support for single fathers, post-prison adjustment and reintegration, communication and support for abuse survivors, building trust with professionals, tailoring services to specific offences and ensuring consistent and personalised support for care leavers. Addressing these areas can enhance the effectiveness and relevance of support services, leading to better outcomes for individuals' seeking support.

Further feedback was obtained from service users sentenced to Community Payback Orders as part of our Community Payback Annual Report 2022-23. This was from service users sentenced to Supervision and Unpaid Work.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2029

NATIONAL AIMS, PRIORITY ACTIONS, INDICATORS

NATIONAL AIM 1

Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity.

PRIORITY 1

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Number of diversions from prosecution:

- i) Assessments undertaken;
- ii) Cases commenced;
- iii) Cases successfully completed.

LOCAL INDICATORS

- Targeted use of the funded Scottish Borders Community Action Teams to hotspot areas, as identified through partnership meetings and analysis of information.
- Support Live Borders in the delivery of "Borders Blue Zone" with the aim of providing youths with health beneficial and peer engagement activities.
- Work with Scottish Borders Council Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to identify those involved in ASB and work collaboratively to implement preventative measures.
- 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.
- The Lothian and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan Police Plan 2023-26 has been developed not only through consideration and assessment of police information and data, but in assessing the views provided by local people and partners via engagement and completion of the 'Your Police' online survey. This approach ensures that we are best placed to tackle emerging trends and problems across the Division, whilst underlining commitment to dealing with the issues which matter most to our local communities and stakeholders.
- Aligning and embedding principles and practice within the development of **Scottish Borders Delivery Plan 2024-26 Children and Young People in Conflict with the Law.**

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

- Mechanisms from Local management information is available from respective community justice partners. At present there is not a single document containing information across the justice journey.
- Mechanisms are in place to 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.
- Mechanisms are in place to 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.
- The Justice Service employs a Wellbeing Officer who works with service users across the service, to support health and wellbeing. This includes delivering tailored wellbeing sessions, including counselling and confidence building, or providing signposting to other support services. The Wellbeing Officer has created links and referral pathways with a number of mental health support services, dental health, Joint Health Improvement Team, wellbeing cafes and a number of community gardens, thus providing both direct support and a broader wellbeing focus to improved mental health.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
1.1	Arrest referral service offered is comprehensive and accessible: Partners will review their current screening and referral processes. The review will be completed between June and September 2024 and a paper including any recommendations for improvement will be produced by December 2024. Partner insights will be used to determine whether review findings and recommendations are appropriate, meaningful, and feasible to implement.	Justice Services /PS/NHS (ADP)/ Third Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers seen. • % seen accepting assessment. • Referrals from Police Scotland custody hub. • % of cases where participants feel their needs have been met. 	January 2025 January 2025 January 2025 January 2025		

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
1.2	Diversion from prosecution continues to develop and offer a range of effective interventions to suit all needs and abilities.	Justice Services/ specific third sector/CJ partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of diversion assessments. • Number of diversion cases commencing. • Number of successful (completed) diversions. • Quality of diversion interventions. • Feedback from exit questionnaires. 	April 2025 April 2025 April 2025 April 2025 April 2025	74 37 36	
1.3	Local management information is available from respective community justice partners evidencing key justice journey base points.	CJ Partners		Review April 2025		

PRIORITY ACTION 2

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.

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

- i) Proportion of people in custody that were offered support and declined.
- ii) Offered support and accepted.
- iii) Recorded as n/a.



LOCAL INDICATORS

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- There is an effective relationship between Community Justice Partners, alcohol and drug partnerships (ADP) and police custody centre for local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
2.1	Ensure Trauma informed knowledge and practice is inherent in all areas of justice practice.	CJ partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff trained in bespoke Trauma Informed Practice .• Feedback from practice evaluations and people using services.	April 2025 April 2025		

NATIONAL AIM 2

Ensure that robust and high quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland.

PRIORITY ACTION 3

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision.

NATIONAL INDICATORS:

Number of:

- i. Assessments reports for bail suitability.
- ii. Bail supervision cases commenced.
- iii. Bail supervision cases completed.

LOCAL INDICATORS

- Since the launch of the new National Guidance for Bail Supervision in May 2022, the Borders Bail Supervision service has successfully developed, facilitated by 2 dedicated part-time Justice Officers. Since May 2022, 109 assessments have been completed with 46 Bail Supervision Orders being imposed.
- In March 2023 agreement was reached with a registered social landlord to provide 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 and will include daily visit as part of an intensive support plan or to identify suitable ongoing accommodation options.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- 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.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
3.1	Bail supervision service delivered continues to be responsive, flexible, and effective.	Bail and Diversion Team/ Justice services/ Quality Assurance/ Court/CJ partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of successful (completed) bail supervisions. • Number of bail cases using electronic monitoring. • Exit questionnaires inform planning and delivery of diversion interventions. 	April 2025 April 2025 April 2025		
3.2	Bail supervision assessments continue to be tailored and based on up to date, accurate information.	COPFS/ Court, Bail and Diversion Team/ local justice teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cases where bail opposed info. is shared. • Number of bail assessments. • Number of bail supervision cases commencing. • Practice evaluations. 	April 2025 April 2025 April 2025 April 2025	109 46	



PRIORITY ACTION 4

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

No national outcome.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

N/A

LOCAL INDICATORS

- Since the launch of the new National Guidance for Bail Supervision in May 2022, the Borders Bail Supervision service has successfully developed, facilitated by 2 dedicated part-time Justice Officers. Since May 2022, 109 assessments have been completed with 46 Bail Supervision Orders being imposed.
- In March 2023 agreement was reached with a registered social landlord to provide 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 and will include daily visit as part of an intensive support plan or to identify suitable ongoing accommodation options.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

Local indicators will be developed following completion of Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment.

PRIORITY ACTION 5

Ensure 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.

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Percentage of:

- Community payback orders successfully completed.
- Drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed.

Number of:

- Community sentences compared to other disposals.

LOCAL INDICATORS

- A DTTO review was undertaken in the latter part of 2021. This evidenced weaknesses in existing service delivery rendering it unable to achieve positive outcomes for individuals and unable to meet court expectations. In doing so, the pre-existing financial partnership with NHS Borders - Addiction Service; to prescribe substitute medications ended. The new service commenced February 22. The Justice Service took ownership for court assessments, testing and non-medical treatment, targeted at assisting stability and enhancing recovery outcomes. By incorporating the Outcomes Star; needs identification tool, areas of unmet need can be recognised, agreed and prioritised within personal plans. Co-delivery with the Addiction Service remains, as the prescribing service for substitute medications, delivered in line with MAT standards. The DTTO service focus is on stability and recovery, as opposed to elimination. The service considers all aspects of drug use and is no longer opiate specific.
- Public Protection: The PPC is committed to embedding the Safe and Together agenda across services and agencies, and a dedicated short life Oversight Group leads on this development work.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

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

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
5.1	Community sentence interventions are holistic, address unmet practical needs and provide access to therapeutic interventions	Justice Services/ ADP/Third sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % participants reporting improved practical circumstances. • % participants reporting improved mental health and wellbeing. • % CPO successfully completed. 	April 2025 April 2025 April 2025	58	
5.2	Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) interventions remain holistic and effective	DTTO Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % participants successfully completing DTTO. • % DTTO participants no longer on prescription/detoxed. 	April 2025 April 2025	67	

PRIORITY ACTION 6

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

No National Outcome.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

N/A

LOCAL INDICATORS

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

To be developed.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
6.1	Continue to monitor progress of Restorative Justice Developments nationally.	Community Justice Coordinator	To be confirmed	Ongoing		
6.2	Continue to monitor progress of Restorative Justice Developments locally.	Community Justice Coordinator	To be confirmed	Ongoing		

NATIONAL AIM 3

Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence.

PRIORITY ACTION 7

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.

NATIONAL OUTCOME

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

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- Custody to community.
- Community to custody.



LOCAL INDICATORS

NHS Borders - have created a “Liberation Pack” - however this is directed at prisoners being liberated from HMP Edinburgh and so those liberated from other HMP’s are currently missed. Extension of Pack to all prisoners liberated to Scottish Borders.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

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

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
7.1	Promote effective communication between partners to ensure that individuals have access to the relevant support and assistance on leaving custody and can maintain stable accommodation. Engage with public health partners to identify health inequalities for individuals involved in the justice system and explore multi-agency solutions.	CJ Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual evaluation report. 	April 2025		

PRIORITY ACTION 8

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.

NATIONAL OUTCOME

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

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Number of homelessness applications where prison is last known address.

LOCAL INDICATORS

- **SHORE** - During 2022/2023 a multi-agency SHORE working Group was established and work began on developing processes around admission into custody. The group will consider what actions can be taken prior to custody and around bail. This is a challenging area that is not covered in the SHORE standards; however, the working group were keen to explore what could be done to improve housing and support outcomes at this time.
- **HOUSING - 2.1** - Conduct an evaluation of prevention and early intervention activities, across SBC, RSLs, Health and Social Care Partnership aimed at improving tenancy sustainment in a consistent way.
- **HOUSING - 2.5** - Review and evaluate the operation of SHORE implementation.
- **HOUSING - 2.7** - Review the delivery of services, develop housing and support pathways for the following groups, with the aim of preventing or alleviating homelessness for.
 - (b) - Individuals being discharged from hospital or other institutions.
 - (e) - Individuals with an offending history.
- **HOUSING** - Additional staff hours have been dedicated to finalising a "SHORE PATHWAY". This will be embedded in operation of the Homelessness team.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

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

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
8.1	Ensuring SHORE standards are fully embedded	Housing partners/ SPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications - homeless presentations citing prison release. 	April 2025	20	

PRIORITY ACTION 9

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.

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Participation in an employment programme percentage of people with convictions.

LOCAL INDICATORS

- **Skills Development Scotland** continuation of locally led projects and services.
- **No One Left Behind** Supporting people to reach a positive destination Stage 1 engaged with 43 people Stage 2 engaged with 30 people Stage 3 engaged with 23 people Stage 4 engaged with 28 people.
- **Parental Employability Service** Supports parents by providing one-to-one employability support PES has worked with 31 parents and nine parents have received SQA qualifications moving them towards their chosen goals.
- **Employment Support Service** Supports people of working age with additional barriers find and sustain paid employment Engaged with 99 people, 19 of which have secured paid employment Job Creation Scheme Scottish Government fully funded programme to help the long-term unemployed get back into work There have been 24 new posts created in the Scottish Borders.
- **Kickstart Scheme** Scottish Borders Council functioned as a gateway organisation for the Department of Work and Pensions Kickstart Scheme providing funding for 16-24 year-olds in receipt of Universal Credit, who were at risk of long-term unemployment This intervention supported employers to create 80 Kickstart Scheme places which in turn led to 25 permanent job roles.
- **LEP (Local Employability Partnership)**. Reviewing current provision against demand, LEP will have a basis to identify gaps in employability support/programmes. With a refocus and format, five themed groups, including Transitions at all stages/levels will focus on a new vision and encourage widespread partnership working. Programme developments and opportunities will be explored with local community groups.
- **Youth Justice** – Future education work with young people to make them aware of rights regarding disclosure of convictions and employment.
- **Youth Justice** – Future education work with CJ partnership organisations to inform of legislation / rights regarding disclosure of convictions and employment.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership and Community Justice Partnership supports:

- i. Local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions.
- ii. Local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support.
- iii. Local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions.

Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support:

- i. At commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO.
- ii. Following release from custody.

Improvement Action	Year 1 - Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
9.1	Community and custody support include clear employability pathways for people with convictions to access employment, volunteering, training, and educational opportunities. Streamline and improve existing employability pathway supports for those in the justice system	SPS/ Skills Development Scotland/ Third Sector/ CSJP members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number moving into employment after custody. • Number moving into voluntary work after custody. • Number in work, training, or education 6 months after sentence end (custodial and community). 	<p>April 2025</p> <p>April 2025</p> <p>April 2025</p>		

PRIORITY ACTION 10

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

More people access voluntary throughcare following a short-term prison sentence.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Number of voluntary throughcare cases commenced.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- 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 community justice in delivering voluntary throughcare to short term custody.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
10.1	Voluntary throughcare provides a continuum of support from custody to community and delivers improved outcomes for individuals. Improve co-ordination and joint working across different throughcare providers.	Justice Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % throughcare users reporting improved circumstances. • Average number of people engaged 6 months after liberation. 	April 2025 April 2025		
10.2	Voluntary throughcare continues to be accessible and flexible at key transition points.	Justice Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people accessing throughcare supports (assessments). 	April 2025		
10.3	Voluntary throughcare provision is integrated with women's and men's justice services.	Justice Services		Review April 2025		

NATIONAL AIM 4

Strengthen the leadership, engagement and partnership working of local and national justice partners.

PRIORITY ACTION 11

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

NATIONAL OUTCOMES

No National Outcomes.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

N/A

LOCAL INDICATORS

- Awareness of the national guidelines and of diversion from prosecution can be improved by 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. There is a recognition that Funding pressures across all partners impacts development opportunities.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- Mechanisms are in place to support 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 and improvement activity.
- Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded.
- Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
11.1	The partnership will implement and prioritise the actions that will be taken throughout the 5 year plan using the Performance Framework and OPIF which will formulate, and quality assure all partnership actions.	CJ Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Outcomes Performance Improvement Framework (OPIF) and Performance Framework to quality assure the 5-year CJOIP. 	Review April 2025		
11.2	Consult and engage with local communities on Community Justice priorities, educating communities on the Community Justice landscape in the Scottish Borders.	CJ Partners/ Third Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation exercise. 	April 2025		

PRIORITY ACTION 12

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

No National Outcome.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

N/A

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- Ensure the voices of individuals with lived experience are effectively incorporated and embedded into Community justice locally. Identify options to identify and improve support offered to families affected by imprisonment.
- Identify options to identify and improve support offered to families affected by imprisonment. establish what services are currently being accessed and the support these offer. Thereafter an exercise to identify gaps will be necessary in order to develop support. The rurality of the Scottish Borders, coupled with relatively low demand can create difficulties when commissioning services not based in the local area.

- Improvements are required in respect of ease of access for support. Further areas for improvement noted by participants within the lived experience survey included transportation access, greater ease of access to improve family life and parenting skills support for single fathers, post-prison adjustment and reintegration, communication and support for abuse survivors, building trust with professionals, tailoring services to specific offences and ensuring consistent and personalised support for care leavers.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
12.1	Ensure the voices of individuals with lived experience are effectively incorporated and embedded into Community justice locally.	CJ Partners/ third sector/ participants affect by Justice services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived Experience Consultation. 	April 2025		
12.2	Identify options to identify and improve support offered to families affected by imprisonment. establish what services are currently being accessed and the support these offer. Thereafter an exercise to identify gaps will be necessary in order to develop support. The rurality of the Scottish Borders, coupled with a relatively low demand can create difficulties when commissioning services not based in the local area.	CJ Partners/ third sector/ participants affect by Justice services		Review April 2025		
12.3	Implement improvements in respect of ease of access for support. Further areas for improvement noted by participants within the lived experience survey included transportation access, support for single fathers, post-prison adjustment and reintegration, communication and support for abuse survivors, building trust with professionals, tailoring services to specific offences and ensuring consistent and personalised support for care leavers.	CJ Partners/ third sector/ participants affect by Justice services		Review April 2025		



PRIORITY ACTION 13

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME

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




NATIONAL INDICATORS

Percentage of individuals who agree should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT ACTION

- Community justice partner contribution to joint activity across policy areas to tackle stigma
- Impact of activities undertaken to improve understanding and confidence across the workforce and community.

Improvement Action	Year 1 – Improvement Action	Who	How Impact will be assessed	Timescale	Baseline / Target	Status
13.1	CJP communications deliver clear and effective messages highlighting the benefits of community justice interventions	CJP Communications / Justice services (Community Payback Order (CPO) annual consultation results)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of campaigns to highlight community justice activity.• % respondent support for community payback in reducing reoffending.	Review April 2025 Review April 2025		

STATUS KEY:	
	Red Status – overdue OR timescale to be advised
	Amber Status - <2 weeks to timescale
	Green Status – complete

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

In the preparation of this Plan all statutory Community Justice partners have collaborated in its development. Both at bi-monthly partnership meetings, through the provision of material and consultation on specific stages of its development. The partnership also made further links with the third sector interface in the Scottish Borders to involve their network in future improvement actions.

A literary review was undertaken involving parallel plans belonging to statutory partners and other sources, including statistical information.

Community Justice Scotland were consulted on the structure and content at a number of stages and feedback gained is reflected in the Plan.

A “Lived Experience” survey was undertaken in 2023 to gauge the personal experience of those who have been affected directly or indirectly by justice services. The aim of this was to inform the continuing improvement delivery and accessibility of support services. Significant results have been incorporated into this Plan to inform the current Community Justice picture in the Scottish Borders and to influence future outcomes to be achieved. Furthermore, participants and partners, through a network of communications from supportive /hosting organisations had the opportunity to be consulted on the final analysis of the consultation. Community Justice Board members recognise the fundamental importance in future analysis, planning, delivery and monitoring of future actions to be baselined within ‘Lived Experience.’

A wider consultation involving members of the Community Planning Partnership was also undertaken.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2024 - 2029

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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	By Whom	Reason
0.1	07/03/24	Mandi Wright	Final draft of new CJOIP.
0.2	01/04/24	Mandi Wright	Amended final draft of CJOIP
0.3			
0.4			
0.5			



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