



Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

Annual Report Template
Community Justice activity for period
1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018

1. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP / GROUP DETAILS

Community Justice Partnership / Group	Scottish Borders Community Justice Board
Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair	Murray Leys, Chief Social Work Officer
Community Justice Partnership / Group Coordinator	Graham Jones
Publication date of Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP)	1 st April 2017

Governance Statement	
<p>The content of this Annual Report on community justice outcomes and improvements in our area has been agreed as accurate by the Community Justice Partnership / Group and has been shared with our Community Planning Partnership through our local accountability arrangements.</p>	
Signature of Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair:	Date:
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2. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

<p>Please outline below your current governance structure for the community justice arrangements in your area</p>
<p>Community Justice within the Scottish Borders is delivered through a Community Justice Board consisting of statutory Community Justice Partners and forms part of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) structure. The Board has responsibility for delivery of the Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan as set out in the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016.</p> <p>Alignment with the CPP is through the Scottish Borders Community Plan, there are three delivery themes and Community Justice sits within Reducing Inequalities. A broad range of partners participate in delivering against this theme including the Third Sector. Planning to reduce inequality includes all the services that support a reduction in offending and re offending. The Community Justice Board initially sat as a project board however since publication of the three year plan has become a delivery board. The board meets bi-monthly and is chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer.</p>



3. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

SECTION A - National Outcomes				
Describe the progress you made in respect of the seven national outcomes, your use of the common indicators and any comments you want to highlight,				
	National Outcome	Progress Reporting	Common Indicators used	Comments
1	Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice	<p>In the early stages of developing ideas around Community Justice a Communication and Marketing Plan was developed to provide a framework for the partnership. In the initial stages of Community Justice transition it was agreed each partner would use their respective corporate digital media for the purposes of promotion rather than establishing a specific site.</p> <p>An Equality Impact Assessment accompanies the local Plan.</p> <p>Throughout the first year of the Plan a range of groups and meetings have been attended and presented to on Community Justice. These have included statutory and community partners, at formal and informal sessions. They include: the Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Scrutiny Board attended by a range of partners including Elected Members, is open to the public and media; the Learning and Skills Partnership, Community Learning and Development Strategic Partnership; Borders Supported Employment Network and Berwickshire</p>	<p>Activities carried out to engage with 'communities' as well as other relevant constituencies.</p> <p>Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision.</p> <p>Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery.</p> <p>Level of community awareness of/satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a CPO.</p> <p>Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys/citizens panels, etc.</p> <p>Perception of the local crime rate.</p>	



	<p>Association for Voluntary Service.</p> <p>Community Justice Partners have contributed to the development of the Scottish Borders Community Plan in particular its focus on reducing inequalities by closing the gap between the least and most disadvantaged in our communities. An extensive consultation process has been undertaken across the Borders involving a variety of opportunities including Community Councils and local area structures. There is a direct link between the Community Plan, the Community Justice, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) local plans. The focus on inequality also reflects many of the factors affecting offending behaviour.</p> <p>Recruit with Conviction, a not- for-profit company, have been commissioned using Scottish Government transition funding to work with local partners through a number of workshop sessions. These sessions were themed for potential employers, employees and recruitment professionals on how to approach recruitment decisions when convictions are present. Recruit with Conviction also offered advice and support to attendees out with the scope of these sessions. Social media and direct approaches were made to prospective attendees supported by Elected Members who participated in the media launch. Related social media activity is as follows:</p> <p>Recruit with Conviction Workshop Session Launch</p>		
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	<p>Facebook, two likes, two shares, 2,100 potential reach.</p> <p>Employing People with Convictions Session 1, Facebook, one like, 4,100 potential reach. Twitter, two retweets, three likes, 2,000 impressions.</p> <p>Employing People with Convictions Session 2, Facebook, nine likes, one share, 4,500 potential reach. Twitter, five retweets, three likes, 2,300 impressions.</p> <p>In March 2018 a workshop was held with a range of partners to update them on the national and local Community Justice environment, reaffirm the content of the local plan and identify additional activities that support this agenda. The workshop was supported by Community Justice Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service. This represented an opportunity to broaden the target audience, identify what was working and inhibitors to reconcile issues that were still present.</p> <p>The various representatives of the Scottish Borders Third Sector Interface supported by the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum have participated in dialogue aimed at improving the synergy between what statutory and voluntary services have to offer. We are in the development stage of agreeing a process with Volunteer Centre Borders to offer volunteering as an option for people in the justice system.</p>		
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	<p>Opportunities to request the services of Unpaid Work teams are available through Scottish Borders Council (SBC) internet. These arrangements are currently under review to improve accessibility and relate the proportion of work undertaken within areas to the level of crime and inequality. A focus on how we consistently promote unpaid work projects within the wider community through beneficiary feedback and alignment with appropriate employment sectors require improved coordination. There is a recognition that individual skills can be developed and prospects improved within unpaid work.</p> <p>The partnership is assisting in the development of the 2018 Scottish Borders Household Survey, in particular there are questions around safety and unpaid work. This will inform the shaping of future arrangements and provide a baseline around community knowledge and understanding of community Justice going forward. The composition of our Citizens Panel is being enhanced and offers a further opportunity to gauge perception in a more dynamic interactive way.</p> <p>The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) are developing their approach to user voice and co-production to improve the development of services involving those in custody, staff and partners. Outcomes from this work should be felt locally over time.</p> <p>At an individual case management level, the SPS</p>		
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		<p>continue to share data (where appropriate information sharing arrangements are in place) that can help define relevant “communities”. This allows identification of circles of support available to people in custody fed locally into the Throughcare support arrangements, for example, with veterans.</p>		
2	Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way	<p>Prior to publishing the Scottish Borders plan engagement and consultation exercises were undertaken and advice sought from Positive Prison? Positive Futures...to improve our understanding of client issues. A focus group was held at HMP Edinburgh involving prisoners from the Borders.</p> <p>The Scottish Borders Plan was presented to and endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership.</p> <p>Prisoners from the Borders have been consulted on the content of a contact information resource that will be provided at the point of arrest or release.</p> <p>The Arrest Referral Scheme is currently being reviewed with NHS Lothian, Borders Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Police Scotland and commissioned service representatives to take account of local and regional custody arrangements which will ensure people held out with the local area receive appropriate contact and referral for addiction problems translating into local support. The aim is to ensure there is consistency across the regions custody facilities as people are often held out with their local area.</p>	<p>Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way.</p> <p>Partners have leveraged resource for community justice.</p> <p>Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational /professional /geographic boundaries.</p> <p>Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA.</p>	



	<p>SBC's Homelessness and Financial Inclusion Service, SPS and Four Square have worked together during 2017/18 to successfully establish the core SHORE (Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone) 'Scottish Housing Quality Standards' on 'Housing Advice Information and Support for People In and Leaving Prison' in the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Scottish Borders housing availability falls within the categories of private, private rented or Registered Social Landlord owned. The Scottish Borders 5 year local housing strategy covers issues such as affordability, energy efficiency, homelessness and demographic need. Feedback from service users and Throughcare support suggests that anyone presenting as homeless from custody will be found accommodation.</p> <p>In recognition of the need for an integrated approach to homelessness prevention and the associated difficulties of temporary accommodation an Integrated Homelessness & Wellbeing Strategic Partnership is being established. Its purpose will be to prevent, alleviate and tackle homelessness.</p> <p>SBC's Strategic Housing Services are developing a new Communication/Information and advice strategy including advice and guidance for landlords and tenants. A new Private Sector Liaison and Enforcement Officer has been appointed. Working with Landlord Accreditation Scotland training sessions</p>		
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	<p>are being developed for delivery to private landlords across the Borders.</p> <p>A housing options protocol with Registered Social Landlords for care leavers is in place within the Scottish Borders so that young people's need for suitable housing is met in a planned sustainable way.</p> <p>SBC and Scottish Borders Housing Association supported by the Scottish Government have collaborated on a scheme to support young people transitioning to independent living through supported accommodation to reduced failed tenancies and homelessness for young people, in particular those leaving care. Initially young people have an opportunity to use a training flat. A series of self-contained flats with 24 hour transition worker support are available to allow life skills to develop within a semi controlled environment before full independence is achieved. The level of support needed is assessed with the full involvement of the young person, and support offered on a person centred basis.</p> <p>Recognising the need for consistency in domestic abuse court processes The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service prioritise domestic abuse cases when a not guilty plea is tendered. These are clustered and dates set to hear cases. A domestic abuse trials court is held twice per month in the Borders at Selkirk and Jedburgh. A domestic abuse court advocate provides additional victim services and</p>		
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	<p>a point of contact for other justice stakeholders. The advocate has been funded through Big Lottery, Scottish Government and local partnership contributions as part of the broader SBC based Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service. Work is underway to move away from short term grant funding in favour of a sustainable funding profile within a wider public protection structure. Domestic abuse staff regularly train partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Relationship building has taken place between social work, SPS and SACRO Throughcare staff to ensure the most appropriate support is provided based upon the needs of the individual being released given the variances across each scheme.</p> <p>In complying with the antisocial behaviour legislation Victim Support are commissioned to provide additional services to members of the community which cannot be realistically delivered by antisocial behaviour officers. This equates to 16 hours per week. There is an established process involving SBC, Police and Registered Social Landlords in an early intervention approach to antisocial behaviour involving options such as mediation. While the intention is always to address behaviour at an early stage there is an escalation process should informal options fail.</p> <p>There is an established Offender Management Committee as part of the Scottish Borders Multi</p>		
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		<p>Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) which is chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer providing the necessary link to Community Justice. A number of the attendees sit at both meetings.</p> <p>The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are currently working with Social Work and Youth Justice to develop a collaborative working model to support young people through a single point of contact giving relevant candidates access to diversionary opportunities.</p> <p>Individuals on Community Payback Order unpaid work requirement participate in reinstating dangerous or fallen headstones in cemeteries across the Borders. Other work involves the refurbishment and repair of unwanted bicycles which are then distributed throughout the authority to people on low incomes.</p>		
3	Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending	<p>Police recorded crime Group 1 – 5 in the Scottish Borders has shown an increase over time and these cases have been disposed of through a variety of options (Figures taken from the Police Scotland Management Information Council Area Report, the Scottish Government Experimental Statistics and direct from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service).</p> <p>Recorded 2015/16 - 2923 (55.55 detected) 2016/17 - 3053 (50.7% detected) 2017/18 - 3448 (49.4% detected)</p>	<p>Use of “other activities requirement” in Community Payback Orders.</p> <p>Effective risk management for public protection.</p> <p>Quality of Community Payback Orders and Drug Treatment Testing Orders.</p> <p>Reduce use of custodial sentences and remand,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance between community sentences relative to short 	



		<p>All Police Disposals 2015/16 - 342 2016/17 - 529</p> <p>Recorded Police Warning 2015/16 - 65 2016/17 - 411</p> <p>All COPFS Disposals (Fiscal Fine, Fiscal Fixed Penalty, Fiscal Fine with Compensation, Fiscal Compensation) 2015/16 - 422 2016/17 - 314</p> <p>% of Convictions in Court by Penalty 2015/16 - Custody 9% 2016/17 - Custody 8%</p> <p>2015/16 - Community Sentence 20% 2016/17 - Community Sentence 19%</p> <p>2015/16 - Financial Penalty 54% 2016/17 - Financial Penalty 60%</p> <p>2015/16 - Other 17% 2016/17 - Other 14%</p> <p>COPFS Disposal Data*</p> <p>Criminal Reports Received (by court)</p>	<p>custodial sentences under 1 year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded. <p>The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use (NHS Local Delivery Plan Standard).</p> <p>Numbers of police recorded warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, supervised bail, community sentences (including CPO's, DTTO's and RLO's).</p> <p>Number of short-term sentences under one year.</p>	
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		<p>Jedburgh 2016/17 - 1,308 2017/18 - 1,247</p> <p>Selkirk 2016/17 - 1,454 2017/18 - 1,407</p> <p>Disposal Data from Across the Two Courts</p> <p>No Action 2016/17 - 337 2017/18 - 361</p> <p>Direct Measures Total 2016/17 - 617 2017/18 - 369</p> <p>Court Proceedings 2016/17 Solemn - 120 Summary - 1,076 Justice of the Peace - 640 Total - 1,836</p> <p>2017/18 Solemn - 105 Summary - 1,088 Justice of the Peace - 606 Total - 1,799</p> <p>*Differences in the cases received and disposals</p>		
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		<p>differ because they may be received and marked in different years. Police disposals have attributed to the reduction in direct measures.</p> <p>The SPS provide monthly statistics on prisoner sentencing.</p> <p>SBC and Police Scotland have collaborated to provide enhanced police visibility in schools through Youth Community Beat Officers. In addition to a visible police presence themed safety inputs are delivered to pupils. This includes an annual event for all primary 7 pupils incorporating the hazards associated with alcohol and drug use. We are currently reviewing this programme. A sergeant and six constables are also funded by SBC as a Community Action Team tasked through analysis and identified constituency issues to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>The Mentors in Violence programme has been delivered to three secondary schools and the remaining secondary schools are to follow.</p> <p>A multi-agency Early and Effective Intervention Group is established and is a decision-making forum for 16 – 17 year olds in the early stages of low to moderate offending behaviour. It uses an early intervention approach to provide targeted assistance towards those vulnerable to offending and prevent escalation.</p>		
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	<p>Scottish Government transition funding has been used to deliver the Rural & Urban Training Scheme known as the Motolearn Programme. It has run over 6 sessions to support young people who require an alternative to mainstream education and development to move them away from negative behaviour which could lead to offending.</p> <p>Working in collaboration with the TD1 Youth Hub in Galashiels the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have been working with dis-enfranchised young people providing mentoring and support through participation in training drills. Young people are assigned to a Watch and work alongside a group of firefighters for 6 weeks.</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service deliver a Fire-setters Intervention and Re-education Scheme (FIReS) aimed at young people who have been involved in wilful fire-raising. Referrals are generated from various sources including, Police and Youth Justice. The aim of the scheme is to prevent further wilful fire-raising through consequential learning. In the last Fiscal year 2017/18 interventions took place with 9 young people across the Scottish Borders.</p> <p>Restorative Justice is used locally by Police Scotland for youth related offending.</p> <p>The idea of a Women's Hub in the Scottish Borders has been developed and is moving from concept to</p>		
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	<p>delivery. It will provide a range of services across statutory, third sector and commissioned to support women who find themselves in or at risk of entering the justice system with a view to improving outcomes for them and their families. A range of relevant services have committed to be involved such as Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service. The Hub will build upon ReConnect which provides support to women at risk of offending, with a focus on skills development, health, accessing universal services and coping with trauma.</p> <p>The Caledonian programme is available in the Scottish Borders for men convicted of domestic abuse, it is court mandated. There is parallel support offered to the victim and any children of the domestic abuse available where a perpetrator is participating in the programme.</p> <p>The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service have established a regional meeting structure that provides a forum to link national case marking with local court activity developing opportunities to administer justice in a way that improves the likelihood of future desistance. Specifically the use of diversion and bail supervision.</p> <p>Partners contributed to the Scottish Borders Local Licensing Forum Alcohol Profile 2016/17, a resource detailing alcohol related harm and supporting licensing decision making.</p>		
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		Alcohol Brief Interventions continue in police and social work settings.		
4	People have better access to the services they require, including welfare, health and well-being, housing and employability	<p>Rurality is a significant factor in the delivery of services across the Scottish Borders. The cost and availability of transport can be an inhibitor in relation to accommodation availability and wider service provision.</p> <p>Progress has been made between the SBC Homelessness and Financial Inclusion Service and local Registered Social Landlords about the use of SHORE standards to support development of a process that removes the need for a homeless assessment for people leaving custody.</p> <p>Homeless applications following prison release:</p> <p>2015/16 - 34 2016/17 - 27 2017/18 - 32</p> <p>The use of digital technology is being explored between SPS and SBC. It is anticipated that the use of secure Skype type resources will improve interaction with service users and address access issues relating to rurality. In addition the use of technology will create efficiency in time and financial costs. While improving the likelihood that convicted people will be better placed to comply with the</p>	<p>Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services.</p> <p>Existence of joint-working arrangements such as processes/ protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs.</p> <p>Initiatives to facilitate access to services.</p> <p>Speed of access to mental health services.</p> <p>% of people released from a custodial sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with a GP; • Have suitable accommodation; • Have had a benefits eligibility check. 	



	<p>requirements of community disposals and Throughcare licenses by reducing barriers associated with rurality including limited public transport and cost. Resulting in fewer breach reports and increased risk of prison sentence. If successful the ability to participate and access services will be available on an equitable basis.</p> <p>Discussion has been held between SFRS and Throughcare Support Officers within Polmont YOI to develop links at a local level. It is hoped this will increase opportunities for young people on liberation and assist in achieving a positive outcome. This initiative links with the development of a single point of contact via the “Opportunities for All” group.</p> <p>The SFRS work closely with Criminal Justice Social Work to impart home fire safety education to relevant candidates who are subject to community based sentences.</p> <p>Citizens from the Scottish Borders are dispersed across the prison estate. SPS have an established Throughcare footprint and good local relationships have been developed. Service user experience is being obtained to better understand the custody/community transition. The process and format of sharing this information is currently under consideration. This will be important information not just for the local partnership but also in providing context for strategic decision making such as the</p>		
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		<p>Scottish Government Health and Justice Board, and impact of universal credit on individuals.</p> <p>A programme of development and training is delivered by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership. The training is delivered by various agencies across a range of topics broadening knowledge and understanding among practitioners.</p>		
5	<p>Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety being addressed</p>	<p>A successful bid was made to the European Structural Fund to develop a Right Track Employability Support project aimed at those people furthest from the employment market including the justice system. The focus is on the active inclusion of people subject to voluntary or statutory Throughcare by Criminal Justice Social Work, in order to improve their employability.</p> <p>The Scottish Borders has been identified as one of a limited number of areas to establish a trial Distress Brief Interventions process to support people in distress, an approach that emerged from the Scottish Governments Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Strategies. Work has commenced to provide training to front line staff and at this point all public facing police officers have been trained.</p> <p>The Scottish Borders Community Plan has identified a number of outcomes which correlate to Community Justice; positive and sustained destinations for looked after and accommodated children; higher levels of</p>	<p>Individual have made progress against the outcome.</p>	



		attainment particularly those living in poverty; improved health and mental health.		
6	People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities	<p>The partnership have accessed resources developed by the charity Families Outside to better understand family impact and provide education staff with material that would be useful should they have a child with a parent in custody or wider justice system.</p> <p>SFRS continue to engage with Live Borders utilising each other's facilities to promote community safety, health and well-being information.</p> <p>Unpaid work teams form part of the Scottish Borders resilient communities resource. The service supports the protection of communities through for example sand bag filling during periods of flooding, path clearing and other functions.</p> <p>The Community Learning and Development service have provided support to three adults who have been involved in the justice system. Two required literacy support and the other numeracy.</p>	Individuals have made progress against the outcome.	
7	Individuals resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced	Through the Greenhouse Project the NHS Healthy Living Network accesses fresh produce through work undertaken around food and health with Reconnect and Unpaid Work attendees. This includes healthy eating and food safety qualifications. Excess produce is distributed to residents in local sheltered housing complexes.	Individuals have made progress against the outcome.	



		<p>NHS Public Health produced a 'Six Ways to be Well in the Borders' which has been co-produced and used to target specific groups who may be susceptible to poor health.</p> <p>Within the SPS estate 8 behavioural treatment programmes are delivered which Scottish Borders can access, this includes the cognitive-behavioural programme for Sex Offenders, Moving Forward Making Changes.</p> <p>A Wellbeing college has been commissioned by Mental Health services and will support recovery from mental health issues through offering educational courses, training and building peer support. Eligible students include people with an offending history and addiction issues.</p>		
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SECTION B - Local Priorities

1. Local Priorities: *What* were your local priorities for 2017/18? (please list below)

The Community Justice partnership did not identify any local priorities through the needs assessment and instead focussed on the common outcomes which provided a sufficiency for the partnership to work towards based upon available evidence.

2. Local Priorities: *How* did you identify each of your priorities?

The partnership used a needs assessment in conjunction with engagement and consultation exercises to identify gaps in service provision. The assessment exercise focussed upon factors affecting criminal behaviour around crime and detections, housing, health, education and training, etc.

The Criminal Justice Social Work Level of Service Case Management Inventory, exit questionnaires, and SPS survey results have all helped inform the plan. Our partnership analyst also produced a persistent offender profile.



A summary of this information is contained within the local plan. In addition to the identification of need the partnership also confirmed what activity was being delivered across the partnership which aligned to each of the Common Community Justice Outcomes.

On the basis of this assessment the community justice partners agreed that during the first cycle of the plan common outcomes would be the priority. This was confirmed through engagement and consultation exercises.

3. Local Priorities: How did you measure each priority?

Working within and across organisational boundaries has been challenging in developing suitable data sets. The Scottish Government experimental justice statistics have been helpful in understanding the flow through the justice system however these figures are produced some months after year end resulting in less agile decision making and response. Ideally this information could be developed and released on a more frequent basis, potentially quarterly in the way Police Scotland release crime information. Information held by partners becomes available at different points and varies between quarterly and annual reporting, financial and calendar year. This becomes problematic when trying to identify trends to support commissioning and allocation of resource.

4. Local Priorities: What progress did you make in relation to each priority?

Outlined under each common outcome.

5. Local Priorities: What are the areas you need to make progress on going forward?

The partnership has made progress against our agreed plan though a number of our actions remain to be completed. In particular it is recognised that more work is required on those outcomes which are person-centric. We await the information sharing agreement to access personalised data from the SPS on the local prison population to improve the synergy between functions.

We also recognise the relationship between training within custody, experience gained through unpaid work and follow on opportunities provided in formal educational settings can assist people in becoming work ready. Community benefits offer an opportunity to convert training to real work experience and potentially employment.

Integration and employability is a long standing challenge and greater use of social media to promote the quality of unpaid work activity could go some way to changing attitudes and influence decisions.

SECTION C - Good Practice

Please outline *what went well* for you in terms of community justice in your area

The establishment of the Community Justice Board with broad representation and consistent meeting attendance has helped move the



agenda forward. A number of attendees also sit on groups which have an overlap in areas of activity giving breadth to perspective.

Our workshop events had good attendance and offered an opportunity to hear national developments and contribute to local delivery.

We are working with colleagues across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Scottish Borders to ensure equity in provision of arrest referral services across the Region. This has required willingness from a range of partners not generally based within the Scottish Borders.

SECTION D - Challenges

Please outline what were the challenges for your partnership/group in terms of community justice in your area **and** identify any you see going forward

Rurality is a significant consideration when planning services in the Scottish Borders where approximately 30% of people live in areas with fewer than 500 inhabitants, Scottish Borders is the fourth most sparsely populated area in Scotland. This has an effect on the transport infrastructure, associated additional cost and viability of certain service delivery models, in particular those that are commissioned given there is a relatively small number of people given a custodial or community based sentence.

Anonymity for those people leaving the justice system can be difficult in rural communities and an additional barrier to accessing employment, the Borders is no exception. The main employment sectors in the Borders are agriculture, wholesale/retail, health, public sector, and manufacturing. The positioning of suitable housing in relation to suitable employment opportunities can be difficult to achieve.

Availability of current justice management information was an issue for the partnership. While some information was readily available other components were not creating gaps in overall understanding (specified at Section B.3). The introduction of GDPR creates an additional framework to comply with.

SECTION E - Additional Information

Please add any additional information that you think appropriate in the context of your annual report

Looking ahead the Scottish Borders is projected to show an increase in the number of retired residents and a fall in the number of children and working age people. This demographic change will have an influence upon future service profile and demand.





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