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| Community reintegration protocol for the City of Edinburgh | |
| **Purpose**  This protocol sets out the Community Safety and Justice Partnership’s (CSJP) approach to community reintegration for people who have been released from custody (sentenced or remand) in the last 12 months and who are not subject to statutory throughcare. It also provides an overview of the supports on offer.  Voluntary throughcare is a term used to describe the suite of supports offered to eligible people to assist with their reintegration into the community after a period of custody or having served a community sentence. For those in custody, the support includes preparation for their release and planning for a successful transition to the community on liberation. People who feel that they have a stake in society and are a welcome part of their community are less likely to reoffend and more likely to realise their potential. Providing voluntary throughcare is a key part of supporting people to feel settled in their community.  **Data Sharing**  A Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) between the Council and the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) is in place. The DSA identifies people due to be liberated from custody and the Council checks this information and refers unallocated people (those who are not currently receiving any support) to Change, Grow, Live, a Third Sector organisation commissioned by the Council’s Justice Services, NHS and Midlothian Justice Services to deliver voluntary throughcare. For those who are already receiving support from an agency/organization, the Council will inform the existing provider that the individual is entitled to voluntary throughcare so that it may be offered and arranged if accepted. These arrangements allow the Council to discharge its duty to offer advice, guidance and assistance to those eligible in terms of section 27(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended by section 71 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003.  If after discussing the voluntary throughcare supports on offer, an individual would like to receive assistance, they will be asked to sign a consent form to allow the throughcare provider to share information about them with other agencies for the purposes of community reintegration. Informed consent is not necessary for recipients of statutory throughcare as this is carried out on a ‘[public task](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/public-task/)’ basis.  **Approach**  The CSJP recognises that desistance is an individualised process and that successful community reintegration is more likely to be effective where person centred interventions are developed with an individual and tailored to their specific needs. The CSJP is committed to ensuring that throughcare provision is also matched to an individual’s level of risk, ability and responsivity. The issues for which voluntary throughcare support is routinely offered alongside examples of provision are below. | |
| Issue | Example of provision |
| Mental health | Support to access appropriate treatments, therapies such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), counselling, mentoring, confidence and relationship building, self-help resources, and assistance with building positive connections and a support network in the community. |
| Physical health | For people taking medication who have been in custody, support to arrange continuity of healthcare in the community. This could include assisting with dentist or G.P registrations, organising prescriptions for medication and arranging speedy access to relevant health supports where required. Advice on nutrition, healthy eating and developing cookery skills. |
| Substance misuse | Linking individuals into community substance misuse provision to reduce harm and support stability, supporting attendance at drop ins, establishing connections with the local recovery community and accessing treatment programmes including psychological interventions for addictions. |
| Housing | Preventing homelessness on liberation from custody through supporting individuals to access stable accommodation through the Councils’ Prison Based Housing Options Officer. For people moving to unfurnished accommodation, accessing small grants or essential household packages; this could include basic furniture and essential appliances such as a kettle and bedding. |
| Resilience and motivation | Support plans to assist with developing pro-social attitudes, time management, building capacity and resilience, challenging antisocial attitudes which could lead to reoffending and linking in with mentoring services. Developing a network of positive supports within the community. |
| Financial difficulties | Addressing financial anxiety and ensuring people access the benefits to which they are entitled. Support with opening a bank account, Universal Credit and other benefit applications and accessing crisis loans/grants where applicable. Advice on budgeting and dealing with debt. |
| Education and training | Exploring options with individuals based on their interests, skills, abilities and aspirations. For example, linking in with local training programmes and apprenticeships, accessing online courses and securing financial support to undertake those. |
| Employment | Support for people who are keen to access the job market after a period of absence, accessing back to work schemes, skills development, confidence and team building, and exploring opportunities for volunteering. Assistance with job applications and creating a CV, as well as attending job fairs to research employment options. |