

Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

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

April 2023



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

1. Background

This reporting template has been developed in discussion with community justice representatives from local areas, and is designed to support local areas in reporting to CJS on the achievement of outcomes in order that CJS is able to write its annual report to satisfy s27 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 ('the Act'). The process of requesting information from local areas through the completion of this reporting template fulfils the requirement for CJS to consult with community justice partners and stakeholders when preparing the annual report, as set out under section 27(3). Completing the template can also support local areas to make an assessment of progress towards national outcomes and prepare their own local-facing annual report, which is a statutory obligation under section 23.

Significant strategic developments took place in and around the reporting year 2022-23, namely;

1. Publication of the Scottish Government's [Vision for Justice](#) in February 2022.
2. The publication of a revised [National Strategy](#) in June 2022.
3. The review of the OPIF culminating in the publication in April 2023 of the [Community Justice Performance Framework](#) and the accompanying [Community Justice Improvement Tool](#).

These significant strategic developments had substantial implications for local areas in their delivery of their statutory obligations within community justice. Further, they had the effect of creating a de-facto transition year, where the National Strategy for Community Justice and reporting framework were not aligned. In recognition of this, we have reconsidered the scope of this template and the report it informs for the reporting period 2022-23.

CJS approached community justice coordinators and managers in March 2023 seeking volunteers to participate in the creation of the 2022-23 annual report template. CJS would like to extend thanks to those community justice partners that took the time to participate in the development group and others that provided sense-checking comments on the draft.

2. Statement of Assurance and Data Usage

The information submitted to CJS using this template will be specifically used for the purpose of fulfilling the requirement under s27 of the Act for CJS to produce a report on performance in relation to community justice outcomes across Scotland. It will also be used by CJS in its role to monitor, promote and support improvement in, and keep the Scottish Ministers informed about, performance in the provision of community justice.

In line with provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), CJS will use appropriate data to ensure that there is continuous reporting, development and progress towards the national outcomes. By providing data to CJS you are consenting to its use by CJS as indicated. Community



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Justice Partnerships should be aware that any information held by CJS is subject to statutory Freedom of Information obligations.

The template can be used by local partnerships to fulfil their requirements under s23 (1b) of the Act, when published as an appendix to a publicly facing summary statement of annual progress.

3. General principles of the template

The template and guidance have been developed using the following principles:

- Retention of the outcomes and indicators from the 2016 OPIF and previous templates, supplemented with additional guidance and direction around answering the questions.
- The template should enable a shorter return.
- Better support local partners to comply with their local reporting requirements set out in section 23 of the Act. E.g. the inclusion of local outcomes, which also support CJS to understand local issues.
- Continue to seek evidence about new collaborative activities.
- Support CJS to comply with their requirements in section 27 of the Act.



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4. How to fill in the template

The return should be completed and consulted on with partners involved in community justice in your local area. In line with the Act this includes statutory partners, third sector bodies involved in community justice in relation to the area, such community bodies in relation to the area as partners consider appropriate, and such other persons as partners consider appropriate. CJS expects that completion of this template will be a collaborative effort.

This template incorporates guidance support completion, with the text *(in blue)* providing reflective prompts to consider to develop your answer, which can be deleted and replaced with your response. These should be considered together through the development of your answer, rather than addressed individually.

In response to feedback on accessibility and in order to support our analysis, we have removed the text boxes around questions and answers.

There is no expectation that areas will return substantial numerical data. We would encourage partners to develop the response to this template in conversation with each other, and view it as an opportunity to reflect on your strengths and needs in partnership.

Where the template asks for evidence, a written response will suffice and there is no expectation that you send additional supporting documentation – if there are any aspects CJS is unclear on it will be our responsibility to request clarification where necessary.

If any response or evidence requires details about people with lived experience (e.g. evidence in respect of someone's life story) please DO NOT include any identifiable personal or sensitive information (as outlined in Schedules 2 & 3 of the Data Protection Act 1998) as CJS does not require such information. If this is unavoidable then please ensure that the data is fully anonymised.

This is the sixth iteration of the template and guidance. If you have any queries about completing the template then please email CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot.



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

1) Community Justice Partnership / Group Details	
Name of local authority area/s	The City of Edinburgh
Name and contact details of the partnership Chair	Name: Councillor Tim Pogson Email: cllr.tim.pogson@edinburgh.gov.uk Telephone: 0131 529 4164
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Suzan Ross Email: suzan.ross@edinburgh.gov.uk Telephone: 07990791548

2) Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair

Date:...21 September 2023



Name: Councillor Tim Pogson.....

.....



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3) Governance Arrangements

Last year, we asked partnerships to describe their governance structure for community justice arrangements and include links to wider community planning. Please describe any substantive changes since your previous answer.

N/a - no change to governance arrangements

4) The year overall

2022-23 saw substantial developments and change within the service delivery and strategic policy landscape. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the reporting year on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, and delivery of services.

Challenges / Negatives

The Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) facilitates partnership working however its budget is limited which in turn limits the scope of activity that partners may develop, implement, and match fund together. The CSJP also has responsibility for oversight of community safety in Edinburgh and a significant portion of the funding available is allocated to community safety projects for example, the [Risk Factory](#) and Edinburgh's Transport Marshals. Although those projects are not community justice specific, they contribute to wider crime prevention.

While any additional funding allocated to community justice is welcome, the short-term Scottish Government funding allocated to local authorities to procure Third Sector services to support COVID-19 recovery has brought challenges particularly in relation to procurement and recruitment. Developing shared activity requires time to plan, procure, and recruit staff to deliver. Time limited, annual allocation of additional funding causes difficulties in relation to initiating projects within the time frames allowed for the spend and attracting/ retaining staff on short term contracts. Recruitment and procurement costs therefore eat into the funding available which does not support best use of resources. It is also discouraging for staff to invest significant time and effort into developing projects which may not be sustainable in the longer term.

Positives / Opportunities

The publication of the new [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) (the national strategy) in June 2022 coincided with the expiry of the CSJP's Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) at the end of 2022. The CSJP therefore had an opportunity to develop a new five-year CJOIP which was fully informed by the new national strategy and aligned with its timeframes.

The CSJP also took the decision to delay publication of its new CJOIP until the Scottish Government's national strategy supporting document, the Community Justice Performance Framework (the Framework) was published in March 2023. The CSJP's Position Statement allowed partners more time to fully consider the new



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CJOIP and take account of the Framework, thus negating the need for an additional community justice local review and CJOIP revision a few months after its approval and publication.

The CSJP has a limited budget which is allocated as small grants across various projects with a requirement that any award made is match funded by partner/ partners. This arrangement supports collaborative working and planning. The CSJP spend is reviewed annually and there is opportunity in 2023/24 for partners to consider how the grant funding may support the proposed activities in the CJOIP over the next 5 years.



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This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.

NATIONAL OUTCOME ONE

Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice*

Where applicable have regard to the following indicators:

- Activities carried out to engage with 'communities' as well as other relevant constituencies
- Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision
- Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery
- Level of community awareness of / satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a CPO
- Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys / citizens' panels and so on
- Perceptions of the local crime data

*Community Justice comprises the activities, services and partners that work with and around people from the point of arrest, through the justice system and supporting their exit from justice contact and integration into their community

5) How have you engaged with partners, communities, and individuals to improve their understanding and participation in relation to community justice?

Consultation and engagement

A public consultation took place from July to September 2022 to gather feedback and opinions on Community Payback Orders (CPO). The purpose was to understand the level of public awareness and support for CPOs, unpaid work, and their perceived impact on reducing reoffending.

Similar to the previous year 2021, only 1% of respondents were unsure of the purpose of a CPO, almost 80% believed that community payback gave people the opportunity to repay the community for their crimes, and half thought that community payback helped to reduce reoffending. Feedback from the public and CPO participants help shape service improvement and the CSJP is working with communications colleagues to share stories of the positive impact of unpaid work on individuals and communities. Comments about unpaid work received from the public included:



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“They can help to put right any damage they have done with vandalism for instance, and see how much effort it is to put right. If they feel remorse for their crime it can help to make them feel they're doing something worthwhile. The other projects like refurbishing bicycles can make them more aware of other people and they can feel proud that they have done something really useful and valuable. It can give them an interest in doing similar work with the skills they have gained”

“It gives something back into the community”

“Generally think this a good scheme and the participants are well monitored”

Comments from beneficiaries of unpaid work included:

“Its good for society that people interact and when they help us, and we thank them; its good for everyone”

“In the Hope Triangle in Oxfangs - gardening maintenance work done. The work was good and really helpful”

Following feedback from participants of unpaid work, Third Sector organisation [Cyrenians](#) were commissioned to deliver a garden planning and maintenance project to include weekend provision; this ensures that people undertaking unpaid work who are employed on weekdays can complete their hours without disruption to their employment. More information about the project is detailed below under national outcome 3.

Partner engagement through CSJP

The CSJP carried out public and partner consultation as part of CJOIP development. Responses showed that there was support for services to be accessible and available at the earliest opportunity to maximise opportunities to provide support to keep people out of the justice system. There was recognition that poverty is a key driver of crime and that more needed to be done to improve access to supports for mental health, addictions, and other needs such as housing and welfare. There was also support for increasing community policing and tackling lower-level antisocial behaviour to prevent escalation to crime. Edinburgh is currently developing a new antisocial behaviour strategy for publication later this year and is consulting with partners and communities on key priority themes.

A CSJP development session took place in December 2022; partners came together to discuss new and existing partnership priorities, workstreams for the year ahead, and to revisit the national strategy's requirements. Topics included an update on the justice social work trauma project, development of a citywide strategy to address street begging taking a welfare-based approach, CJOIP development and priorities, and agreeing the CSJP reporting framework for 2023.

Perceptions of crime

The latest [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#) results were published in March 2021; this social survey asks adults living in residential households across Scotland about their perceptions and experiences of crime in their local area. The latest available data from 2019/20 showed that:



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- 81% of respondents felt safe walking alone in their local area after dark (above the national average of 77%), and similar to the 2016/18 result of 82%
- 96% felt safe when alone in their home at night (same as the national average)
- 77% felt that the crime level in their local area over the last two years was either the same or less (compared with the national average of 73%)
- 57% of respondents felt confident that the police in their local area are able to prevent crime (unchanged from 2016/18 but more than the national average of 46%)
- 67% felt that police in their local area are able to solve crimes (slightly higher than the national average of 62%) and up from the 2016/18 result of 65%

Other engagement

Engagement with people using justice services has further been implemented through the revision of the initial feedback questionnaires and follow up exit questionnaires which were rolled out from November 2022 across justice social work teams providing interventions. Feedback is used to identify trends of what is working well and areas for improvement as well as informing individual case management planning and reviews.

Initial results from those questionnaires showed that respondents were confident about the requirements of their community sentence and the role of staff/agencies in supporting them. Where there was less clarity related to how personal information is used and how to make complaints/suggestions about a service; this applied to around 10% of respondents. The new questionnaires also provide opportunities for people to share how the engagement and support they received could be improved.

A snapshot of responses collated in January 2023 showed that respondents overwhelmingly had positive experiences of their interventions, and where issues were highlighted such as difficulties travelling to appointments, those have been taken on board through employing flexibility through telephone appointments and seeing people at locations in their communities. Comments from responses to the new questionnaires included:

“good to be able to have someone to talk to. I do not feel anxious or uncomfortable about coming to the office. My worker has helped me a lot since the start of the Order”

“it was helpful to be able to access other services I felt were closed off to me”

“appointment reminders were helpful”

Joint delivery

Further collaborative work has been developed with Third Sector provider Women's Aid and existing domestic abuse services (DAS) with the launch of a Peer Support Service at the beginning of March 2023. Group sessions and activities have taken place covering topics such as identifying needs, understanding boundaries, conversations about self-esteem, and sharing coping mechanisms.



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Going forward, the service will move to the next delivery stage of training and mentoring a network of peer facilitators within DAS. Those new recruits will provide support to group facilitators before graduating to co-facilitator roles and ultimately taking the lead in groups when confident to do so, embedding co-production and lived experience within DAS.



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NATIONAL OUTCOME TWO

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

Where applicable have regard to the following indicators:

- Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way
- Partners have leveraged resources for community justice
- Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational/professional /geographical boundaries
- Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA

6) How has your partnership worked to enable strategic and collaborative service planning and delivery?

Matched funding for the trauma project

Partners came together at the December 2022 CSJP meeting to consider funding for community safety and community justice projects. It was agreed that matched funding from the Council and NHS Lothian would continue to be allocated to fund a part time Specialist Clinical Psychologist post to provide oversight of psychological interventions and to further develop the trauma project so that trauma knowledge is inherent in all areas of practice.

This included development of a 4 day 'Towards Trauma Enhanced Practice' training package adapted for a blend of online and face to face delivery, and the establishment of 8 trauma informed supervision groups across DAS, Crossroads (for men), the Community Intervention Services for Sex Offenders (CISSO), and Community Intervention Teams facilitated by the Clinical Psychologist. Clinical supervision is also provided to the trauma psycho-educational course 'Survive and Thrive' facilitators.

DAS, Crossroads, and CISSO have continued to embed routine screening around trauma and mental health with the men referred to those projects, and Crossroads has delivered 3 runs of the Survive and Thrive groupwork intervention with 8 men successfully completing the programme.

Additionally, around 70 staff started the Towards Trauma Enhanced Practice training in December 2022, and Trauma Skilled Practice Level training has been rolled out to all staff involved in supporting people complete their unpaid work. Staff have also collaborated with the Scottish Government Professional Social Work Advisor: Trauma, on work to develop the training package into a national resource. Additionally, staff contributed to revisions being made to the [Caledonian](#) Men's Programme manual (domestic abuse) and the [Moving Forwards: Making Changes](#) manual (sexual offending) to make them more trauma informed/trauma responsive.

Comments from men who completed Survive and Thrive included:



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"I have learnt ways to calm - reacting loudly is not helpful and mood impacts on others"

"I felt listened to and understood by the group"

"I picked up loads about feelings and anxiety as well as understanding about shame and blame"

Partner engagement and planning

As part of CJOIP development, the CSJP considered each priority action in the national strategy and reviewed its position in relation to each activity, identifying improvement activity to support those national aspirations locally. Consequently, local improvement activity as set out in the CJOIP workstreams and local action plan has been aligned under the 4 key aims of the national strategy. Incorporating local needs into the national priority actions has helped the CSJP to plan and streamline reporting across its quarterly meetings more easily.

Going forward; there is opportunity through the CSJP for partners to consider how they may contribute additional resources to achieving the aspirations in the CJOIP and national strategy either through the contribution of matched funding for collaborative projects or through the commitment of other resources such as staff time. Proposals and applications to the CSJP for projects in 24/25 will be considered at the CSJP meeting in December 2023.

Strategic planning and collaborative working

EMORSS - the Council's justice services, NHS, Midlothian Council, and Third Sector organisation Change Grow Live (CGL) have worked together to deliver the Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support Service (EMORSS) which provides a continuum of care to those in the justice system; from point of arrest, at HMP Edinburgh for those handed a custodial sentence, and on liberation including supporting individuals to reintegrate into their communities. Support provided is holistic and person centred and can include assistance with mental health, addictions, housing, welfare and benefits, and building relationships/support networks to support desistance. Throughout 22/23 the service carried an approximate caseload of 354 people at any one time with:

- 92% of feedback submitted scoring EMORSS 8/10 or above for how they felt about the service generally, its timeliness and professionalism, and its success in meeting their needs
- 99% of cases closed after receiving psychosocial support in prison were planned closures
- 60 people in the HMP Edinburgh prison population trained in the use of naloxone

Comments from people using EMORSS included:

"bent over backwards to help me, very professional"



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"Thanks so much for everything you have done for me! Your care, kindness along with all your expertise have helped in so many ways!! So big thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have been awesome!!"

The Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (EADP) has also contributed funds to EMORSS to secure a prescriber post operating from HMP Edinburgh to focus on continuity in prescribing across community and custody. This additional resource has a focus on the remand population; a group identified by a recent NHS health needs assessment as particularly vulnerable due to uncertainty around their sentencing outcome which in some cases impacts on their ability to access the full range of supports available to those who have been sentenced.

VOW - the [VOW Project](#) is a collaborative project between Police Scotland and Third Sector organisation [Aid & Abet](#) delivered for young people aged 16 to 24 and designed to prevent them from being drawn further into the justice system. The project uses peer mentors with lived experience to overcome barriers to engagement and empower individuals to break the cycle of offending and transform their lives. Counselling and a suite of therapies are available to mitigate the impacts of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, and mental wellbeing.

A recent independent evaluation conducted showed that 100% of respondents who engaged with the VOW Project felt more resilient and that their confidence had increased. Similarly, 100% of stakeholders reported positive changes in the behaviour of the young person in their care. A case study from the project is included at section 9 below and highlights many of the difficulties faced by people accessing VOW and the long and winding journey to a more positive future.

Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

The MAPPA [annual report](#) for Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders 2022/23 is not published until October 2023 therefore feedback relating to MAPPA activity is based on the 2021/22 report.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, MAPPA practitioners continued to monitor offenders in line with their respective roles and responsibilities to protect the public from serious harm balanced against the prevailing COVID-19 health advice at that time.

Police Scotland and all 5 local authorities within Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders also continued to maintain accurate records of offenders resident in each local authority area subject to notification requirements, create risk management plans to mitigate or reduce risk, and to make enquiries where people failed to comply with the requirements placed on them including managing sex offenders whose behaviours were of concern. Those duties were carried out in partnership with all responsible authorities and '[duty to co-operate](#)' agencies.

During the reporting year, MAPPA partners held a number of online multi-agency training events. In August 2021, the MAPPA co-ordinator delivered a presentation on the work of MAPPA to staff from [Families Outside](#), a charity supporting families in



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Scotland affected by imprisonment. The aim of the training was to enhance understanding of the role of MAPPA, and the impact on families of a registered sex offender.

In March 2022, Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) commissioned an online training event to provide staff with key information relative to the findings and core learning of significant case reviews. The event was attended by staff and managers from all agencies engaged in the management of high-risk offenders. The training was delivered by a Consultant Clinical Psychologist from NHS Lothian Serious Offender Liaison Service (SOLS) who provides specialist clinical consultation, training, assessment, and clinical supervision to support the management of serious violent and sexual offenders who are managed in the community. The psychologist was supported by the MAPPA Co-ordinator. The event was well attended and received positive feedback.

In March 2022, Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders Strategic Oversight Group commissioned an online training event to update staff on the findings and core learning from local initial case reviews and case file audit undertaken over the previous year. The event was attended by staff and managers from all agencies involved in the management of registered sex offenders. The training was delivered by the Service Manager for Justice Social Work, Scottish Borders Council, and the Detective Inspector, Sexual Offences Policing Unit, 'J' Division, Police Scotland. This event was also well attended and very positive feedback was received.

NATIONAL OUTCOME THREE

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

Where applicable have regard to the following indicators:

- Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services
- Existence of joint-working arrangements such as processes / protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs
- Initiatives to facilitate access to services
- Speed of access to mental health services
- % of people released from a custodial sentence:
 - a) registered with a GP
 - b) have suitable accommodation
 - c) have had a benefits eligibility check
- Targeted interventions have been tailored for and with an individual and had a successful impact on their risk of further offending

7) What steps have you taken to improve access to services, and what impact has there been as a result?

Development of unpaid work opportunities



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Justice services further expanded the options offered to those undertaking 'other activities' as part of community payback and worked with Third Sector provider [Cyrenians](#) to set up and deliver a Community Garden Project.

Participants learn garden planning, maintenance, growing herbs and flowers, plant care, and hard landscaping such as path building, outdoor seating construction, laying slabs, gardening health and safety, and the safe use of garden tools and equipment. The focus is on smaller projects which helps engage people from start to finish as they appreciate the results of their efforts as a team. The project also discusses and provides support for mental health issues, ADHD and other challenges participants may have.

Feedback from people who have previously undertaken unpaid work showed that many participants enjoyed being outdoors; this project has improved accessibility by providing an additional opportunity for people to work in the open air and learn new skills to support their employability. Volunteering opportunities are also being developed for those who wish to continue engaging with the project on completion of their Order.

Between 1 October 22 and 31 March 23, 55 sessions took place involving 129 attendances with 16 individuals. Initial feedback has been very positive with participants engaging well and offering ideas and suggestions for the garden's improvement.

Assertive outreach

Justice partners commissioned an outreach recovery coordinator to work within EMORSS from August 2022. The worker has developed partnerships with relevant service providers and has co-ordinated all referrals received via the arrest referral route at St Leonard's police station. The focus has been on assertively engaging with those who are hard to reach and at higher risk of drug related harm and includes for example, leaving contact information when an individual is not at home and signposting family members for supports. The worker attends the weekly Community Inclusion Health Huddle (CIHH) and has worked in partnership with Police Scotland in relation to drugs raids within supported accommodation to ensure that the individuals in the accommodation are offered appropriate supports.

The service managed 159 referrals between September 22 and March 23, carried out 177 home visits, and supported an average actively engaged caseload of 25 at any one time. The outreach worker also runs a weekly drop-in session at Broughton Street.

Joint working to improve access to housing

To support embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards, a prison-based housing outreach officer has been in post at HMP Edinburgh since January 2021. This key role works collaboratively with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), and has forged close links with DWP, prison based EMORSS workers, Sacro, and a range of housing associations. The prison-based housing outreach officer works with people when they enter prison to establish if they can keep their current accommodation. Early intervention is a key priority. Where



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individuals are identified as due for liberation to Edinburgh and they are at risk of homelessness, they will be offered a homeless assessment and referred for temporary accommodation.

The housing outreach worker has developed a close partnership with [Hillcrest Futures](#); a provider of short stay residential services, short term supported accommodation, medium to long-stay within accommodation-based services, and supported transition into temporary furnished flats. It also offers outreach housing support. The partnership has been particularly useful in securing accommodation for people on bail or seeking to be released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) given that temporary accommodation addresses are unsuitable for this group.

Following the restrictions in place at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, SPS has now relaxed the appointments system to enable multiple people to be seen over one appointment session. Consequently, the outreach worker was able to hold more face-to-face appointments in the calendar year 2022/23, with 355 people supported (latest data available). 116 of the referrals had live tenancies of which 48 were maintained through joint working. The outreach worker looks to support people to sustain their accommodation where this is possible within the sentence timeframe and benefit eligibility. Feedback from SPS and other agencies on the work of the outreach worker has been positive.

Data on the percentage of households presenting as homeless in Edinburgh and stating the reason as “due to being discharged from prison”, is shown at table 1 below. The impact of embedding the SHORE standards is evident as although total homeless presentations overall increased by 39% compared with 2021/22, the rate of increase in the numbers presenting from prison was less, at 28%. The past 5 years show a 15% reduction in the numbers presenting from prison overall, however the increase in 2022/23 when compared with 2021/22 highlights the challenges faced by those seeking affordable accommodation locally. Other factors also apply however, as the housing outreach worker now records all relevant cases where an individual would present as homeless on release therefore, improved recording has revised figures upwards.

Additionally, Edinburgh’s increasing population and the removal of the local connection requirement in November 2022 may have further contributed to reversing the hitherto downward/stable trajectory.

Table 1 – Homeless presentations in Edinburgh; figures citing prison liberation as a factor (over the past 5 years)

Year	Number presenting from prison	Total homeless presentations	% from prison
2018/19	123	3368	3.7%
2019/20	101	3556	2.8%
2020/21	80	2215	3.6%
2021/22	81	2540	3.2%
2022/23	104	3542	2.9%



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Facilitating access to services

As mentioned under national outcome 1 above, peer mentoring services have been expanded to DAS. Justice services and the EADP also came together to support the funding of 2 full time recovery traineeships based within the existing EMORSS provision. The traineeships were offered to those who had personal experience of drug or alcohol misuse and had been free from illicit substances for one year and were willing to work towards an SVQ 2 in Health and Social Care. The recruits worked closely with the outreach recovery co-ordinator to provide additional support and motivation to people looking to reintegrate successfully back into their community after release from prison. One of the completed traineeships has since moved into a support worker role within EMORSS.

Additionally, the ongoing roll out of the trauma project described under national outcome 2 to further embed and develop the innovations started within groupwork services in other areas including Community Interventions Teams, Drug Treatment and Testing Order Team, the Women's Service (Willow) and the Sex and Violent Offender Liaison Officers, has supported greater accessibility and engagement with services.

The Council has been working with partners, local residents, community groups, and organisations and businesses across Edinburgh's neighbourhoods to develop and implement its [20 minute neighbourhood strategy](#). This project explores opportunities to improve the streets, public spaces, local facilities, and amenities that exist locally so that everyone can have better access to essential local services and open spaces, while enjoying excellent transport and active travel links to the rest of the city.

Travel and distance can present a barrier to the most vulnerable in society including those in the justice system, discouraging them from accessing vital services. The 20 minute neighbourhood approach which has to date identified 19 local areas for implementation, is delivering a phased roll out to help address those place based challenges and encourage citizens to engage with their communities and access universal services locally. For those accessing justice services specifically, staff employ a flexible approach including holding face to face meetings with people in their local area and conducting telephone appointments. Groupwork interventions are however, delivered centrally.

Targeted interventions

The Crossroads service for men in the justice system aims to;

- Improve men's health, wellbeing, and safety
- Enhance men's access to services and community involvement
- Reduce the risk associated with offending behaviour

Men attend Crossroads as part of their CPO or post-custodial License supervision or on a voluntary basis. The range of individual and group interventions and courses



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offered are informed by research and the service provides a safe, supportive environment to facilitate change, creating opportunities for men to consider how they can:

- Understand and manage difficult emotions
- Realise the impact of life experiences
- Make positive changes around activities and relationships
- Recognise skills and develop new abilities
- Enhance self-esteem and self-efficacy
- Expand social networks through activities
- Take care of their physical and mental health

Although many men working with Crossroads are statutory cases, engagement is a key challenge. Many have obstacles and behaviours that undermine supports and showing commitment, sticking with individuals throughout the stages of their justice journey, and employing a trauma informed approach is vital to building trust, understanding their situation, acknowledge their barriers to motivation, and to manage risk.

In 2022/23, Crossroads:

- Managed Structured Deferred Sentence cases
- Prepared Alcohol Problem Solving Court (APSC) assessments and supervised the CPOs imposed by the Court
- Developed a voluntary throughcare pathway into Crossroads interventions in partnership with EMORSS
- Worked on plans to develop a [SMART](#) recovery group
- Worked in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food on practical input to group sessions on healthy eating, including provision of food and kitchen equipment
- Developed links with partners specifically, [Access to Industry](#), [Venture Trust](#), and the [Rock Trust](#)

The service also supported people directly to:

- Register with a GP
- Improve partnership working with other agencies (mental health, addictions, and Children and Families services)
- Overcome barriers to attending hospital detoxification and rehabilitation for alcohol use
- Make greater sense of the impact of past experiences
- Promote ways of self-care
- Develop an understanding of their emotions to manage them better
- Improve family relationships
- Try effective ways of communicating and problem solving
- Overcome resistance to participating with other requirements such as the [Caledonian programme](#) and unpaid work

Examples of feedback from people using Crossroads:



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"I now try to look after myself and respond better to situations"

"there's always someone around - I feel supported by the whole team"

"I trusted the guys and the workers and felt safe"

Crossroads has faced challenges as well as opportunities as the service is part of a wider justice review and is increasing its staffing numbers and duties, specifically those relating to the further development of supervised bail and diversion from prosecution interventions.

Victims of crime

Victim Support (VS) Scotland (in Edinburgh) is a member of the CSJP and continues to provide support to victims of crime and take referrals from the Council, Police Scotland, and other agencies including self-referrals. The VS Victim's Fund relaunched in November 2022 with revised criteria to ensure that funding is directed at essentials such as alleviating food poverty and providing clothing. This ringfenced fund has been set up and funded by VS generic funding; between October 2022 and March 2023, the fund received 89 applications of which 71 were approved and £23,000 allocated. VS publicity materials have been circulated in court buildings including social work spaces, recognising that many people in the justice system have also been a victim of crime.

The short case study below illustrates VS activity and partnership working with the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

VS in Edinburgh supported Lauren, who got in touch with the service as she had been cited to attend court as a witness after several adjournments of a trial. Lauren had been a victim of domestic abuse and had expressed that she was feeling extremely nervous about the prospect of attending court, particularly that she might break down while giving her evidence.*

Staff in the VS community based and court based services worked together to provide assistance in a range of ways before court and on the day of the trial, arranging for a court familiarization visit of the court in advance for Lauren and her sister who was in attendance with her for support. Lauren found this useful as it allowed her to see what the building looked like and understand where she would enter on the day of the trial. Lauren also had questions about the practicalities of attending court including the special measures that she would be entitled to on the day to provide evidence as well as help with the cost of travel. VS supported her to explore this further and connected her with the relevant staff in the COPFS to answer her additional questions.

On the day of the trial, VS supporters met Lauren at the court, and were alongside her while she gave her evidence. After the trial concluded, the local community service provided her with information on community services she thought she might find beneficial and gave her the option of accessing emotional or practical follow up



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support at any time in future if required. Lauren let VS know that she was extremely grateful for all the support that had been provided.

**Name has been changed for confidentiality*

NATIONAL OUTCOME FOUR

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

Where applicable have regard to the following indicators:

- Use of 'other activities requirements' in CPOs
- Effective risk management for public protection
- Quality of CPOs and DTTOs
- Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:
 - a) Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year
 - b) Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded
- The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use [NHS Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standard]
- Number of Police Recorded Warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, supervised bail, community sentences (including CPOs , DTTOs and RLOs)
- Number of short-term sentences under one year

8) What changes have been made to community justice arrangements to enable desistance, reduce reoffending, and promote integration, and what impact has there been as a result?

Development of other activities - CPOs

As mentioned under national outcome 3 above, a new garden design and maintenance service was commissioned in 2022/23, expanding the range of options available to CPO participants seeking to take up the offer of engaging with other activities. Third Sector organisation Cyrenians deliver the project which includes garden planning/maintenance and other landscaping activities. The outdoor activities operate all year round, weather permitting. During the winter months, during bad weather, indoor activities to support the garden are carried out within the project's workshops and greenhouses for example, planting and nurturing seedlings, repairing garden furniture and garden rubbish clearance.

Feedback from participants in the garden project included an individual who initially commented:

"at the beginning I had no hope and might as well go to prison because it would be over and done with quicker" and who now has good attendance and works well with the team.



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Additionally, a bike mechanic was commissioned from the Bike Station to support the Brake the Cycle Project which provides training on bike maintenance and repair to people undertaking unpaid work. The qualified bike mechanic assisted with the practical skills bike workshop and delivered training to upskill the project's staff to carry out final bike safety checks prior to the bikes being donated to community/ youth groups and charitable organisations that support healthy living and provide a means of low-cost sustainable transport to those experiencing poverty.

Quality of CPOs

Feedback from people completing CPOs was overwhelmingly positive and comments about participating in unpaid work included:

"to be honest, I always enjoyed myself with the stuff. Going out and learning new things all the time, plus they're always understanding when I've had problems. The social worker is helping me with many things; my vote is 10/10"

"I like the comfortable environment in which I can work in peace and get on with everyone"

"work in the fresh air and gardening is really nice. You can get some skills and learn from your supervisor about the job"

Other developments

From May 2022, electronic monitoring (EM) options were introduced as part of bail/bail supervision. EM monitors and supports compliance with bail conditions put in place by the court and can be used as an alternative to remand. EM can provide reassurance about the restriction of movement of a monitored person by imposing time and locational limitations upon them. It can also be used to help those subject to EM as part of bail to avoid people and/or places that might be detrimental to them. In the reporting year, Edinburgh Sheriff Court made 74 bail EM orders while Edinburgh High Court made one order.

Crossroads service which supports men in the justice system formed a partnership arrangement with Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) to incorporate nutrition advice into group sessions. ECF delivered practical input through the provision of food and kitchen equipment and provided advice on the benefits of healthy eating, cooking on a budget, and preparing food with limited kitchen facilities. The sessions were delivered in a supportive, positive social environment to help increase men's confidence around food and cooking.

A Women's Justice Centre has been developed which will provide a gender specific and trauma informed space for all women accessing justice services. This new facility will enable all women being supported by justice services to benefit from the collective resources and expertise of different organisations/services, whilst maintaining each team's focus for intervention. A collaborative partnership approach to working with women has been further developed and enhanced and the women using the centre will be actively involved in its continuous development.



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As mentioned above at national outcome one, a new initiative has been developed with Women's Aid to enhance the peer support element within DAS. The service will continue to be developed throughout 2023/24 providing opportunities for women with lived experience of domestic abuse and the justice system to share their stories and support other women experiencing domestic abuse. The women will be involved in shaping the supports provided.

Reconviction rates

Although the number of people convicted of an offence who then go on to commit further crime and be reconvicted has reduced in Edinburgh according to the most recent data available, the rates of reconviction have edged upwards as shown in table 2 below. Overall however, Edinburgh's figures remain slightly lower than the national picture (shown in brackets next to the reconviction rate). Before making available the 2019/20 reconviction rates, the Scottish Government is exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this data given the significant disruption to court business during that period.

Table 2 – reconviction rates in Edinburgh from 2016/17 to 2018/19

Year	Number of people who committed offence(s)	Reconviction rate – local/national	Average number of reconvictions per person already convicted
2016/17	2378	24.6 (27.2)	0.43
2017/18	2143	25.8 (26.3)	0.44
2018/19	1873	27.3 (28.3)	0.53

Local prison data for remand

Snapshots of prison figures for males on remand with an Edinburgh postcode across the prison estate including HMP Edinburgh over the past 5 years, are shown in table 3 below. Prison numbers can be broken down by status (remand, sentence length) across the estate for those with an Edinburgh postcode however, a further breakdown showing this information by individual prison is currently unavailable.

Table 3 also shows that the number of males with an Edinburgh postcode on remand across the estate has increased by 51% overall in the past 5 years with April 2023 recording the highest number during the period. The increase in the remand population over the past 3 years may be in part due to more cases being processed through the court system as efforts are ongoing to clear the backlog accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 3 – SPS prison data snapshots including remand (males)

<u>Males</u>	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2023



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Total number of males with an Edinburgh postcode in prison across the prison estate, including HMP Edinburgh	501	560	551	574	578
Number of males with an Edinburgh postcode on remand across the prison estate including HMP Edinburgh	107	88	140	148	162

Snapshots of prison figures for females on remand with an Edinburgh postcode across the prison estate including HMP Edinburgh over the past 5 years are shown in table 4 below.

Table 4 also shows that the number of females with an Edinburgh postcode on remand across the estate has increased by 80% overall in the past 5 years with April 2023 recording the highest number during the period. As mentioned above, the increase may in part be as a result of more cases being processed during this time.

Table 4 – SPS prison data snapshots including remand (females)

Females	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2023
Total number of females with an Edinburgh postcode in prison across the prison estate, including HMP Edinburgh	23	27	25	18	25
Number of females with an Edinburgh postcode on remand across the prison estate including HMP Edinburgh	5	8	7	6	9

Presumption against short sentences

The presumption against short sentences (PASS) was originally introduced by the Scottish Government in 2011; it stated that a court must not pass a sentence of imprisonment for a term of 3 months or less unless it considers that no other method of dealing with the person is appropriate. In June 2019, the Scottish Government approved an extension of the presumption to apply to sentences of 12 months or less to apply to all offences committed on or after 4 July 2019. The PASS is intended to help break the cycle of offending behaviour by encouraging greater use of community sentences and a shift away from the disruption of short-term custody.

The Scottish Government has begun monitoring the impact of the PASS. [National data](#) collated which covers charges disposed of in Scotland's courts showed that of the 7224 people given a custodial sentence nationally in 2020/21 (latest figures available), 5438 (75%) received a sentence of 1 year and under. It is worth noting however, that the impact of COVID-19 on court business has made it difficult to separate the effects of the pandemic from the effects of the PASS and it will not be possible to assess longer term trends until the court cases backlog has been fully cleared.

Table 5 below shows a snapshot of local prison data for short term sentences passed for males. Of the 416 men with an Edinburgh postcode who had been sentenced and were in custody across the prison estate, 23 in prison on April 2023



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had received a sentence of 1 year and under, representing 6%. 29% of men had received a sentence of between 1 and 4 years, and the remaining 65% had received a long-term sentence of over 4 years. Data for short term sentences under 1 year prior to 2021 is unavailable.

Table 5 – SPS prison data snapshots; short term sentences (males)

<u>Males</u>	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2023
Total number of males with an Edinburgh postcode serving short term sentences of under 1 year across the prison estate	n/a	n/a	20	29	23

Table 6 below shows a snapshot of local prison data for females serving short term sentences of 1 year and under. Of the 16 women with an Edinburgh postcode who had been sentenced and were in custody across the prison estate, 3 in prison on April 2023 had received a sentence of 1 year and under, representing 19%. 31% had received a sentence of between 1 and 4 years and the remaining 50% had received a long-term sentence of over 4 years.

Table 6 – SPS prison data snapshots; short term sentences (females)

<u>Females</u>	April 2019	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2023
Total number of females with an Edinburgh postcode serving short term sentences of under 1 year across the prison estate	n/a	n/a	0	1	3

Custody versus community sentences

Table 7 below shows the custodial and community sentences handed down for individuals in Edinburgh for whom justice social work prepared a social work report. The case outcomes data shows that 82% of men and 92% of women received a community sentence.

Table 7 – Justice social work reports; cases main outcome 2022/23 (source justice social work data)

	Male	Female	Total
Custody	141	10	151
Community sentence	660	111	771
Total	<u>801</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>922</u>

Access to mental health services

The Scottish Government's target for accessing NHS Scotland's psychological therapies is to achieve a maximum wait of 18 weeks from a patient's referral to treatment for at least 90% of patients. Psychological therapies refer to a range of interventions, based on psychological concepts and theory, which are designed to



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help people understand and make changes to their thinking, behaviour, and relationships in order to relieve distress and to improve functioning. The standard applies specifically to psychological therapies for treatment of a mental illness or disorder.

Table 8 below shows NHS Lothian data relating to adults starting psychological therapies and the number and percentage commencing treatment within the target wait time. The data shows that the proportion of people starting therapy within the target time of 18 weeks has remained fairly stable over the past 4 years, averaging 79% locally (80.5% nationally) and reflecting the significant demand pressures on healthcare generally.

The data does not however capture the range of routine trauma informed psychological interventions and supports delivered to those in the justice system locally for example, at the Women's Justice Centre/Willow, Crossroads, DAS, EMORSS, and CISSO.

Table 8 – numbers and % of adults who started psychological therapies treatment over the past 4 years (source [Public Health Scotland](#))

	April 19 to Mar 20	Number and % seen within 18 weeks	April 20 to Mar 21	Number and % seen within 18 weeks	April 21 to Mar 22	Number and % seen within 18 weeks	April 22 to Mar 23	Number and % seen within 18 weeks
NHS Lothian	13,331	10,553 = 79.2%	13,979	11,081 = 79.3%	15,134	11,870 = 78.5%	14,058	11,050 78.6%
National	70,834	55,717 = 78.7%	60,891	47,497 = 78%	76,260	64,410 = 84.5%	74,663	60,253 80.7%

Developments in risk management

MAPPA brings together professionals from Police Scotland, social work, housing, NHS Lothian, and the SPS in Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders. These agencies are known as the 'responsible authorities'.

Due to ongoing development in the use of remote electronic monitoring equipment and advances in technology, the internet can be accessed through a variety of devices. The monitoring of devices is the responsibility of the MAPPA 'responsible authority'. Where the Parole Board or Court have granted a condition or requirement to monitor an offender's electronic devices for example within a CPO or a Sexual Offences Prevention Order, 10 remote electronic monitoring of their internet enabled devices can be considered.

eSafe is a managed monitoring service that tracks the individual's use of their I.T. devices to detect signs of inappropriate and/or criminal behaviour. eSafe is only deployed in cases where it is an agreed strategy of the risk management plan. In all cases, installation and monitoring are undertaken with the knowledge of the individual being monitored. Where there is an initial detection of a potential offence or breach of the order then the lead agency will be informed. If there are concerns relative to imminent or ongoing contact offending or any concerns relative to a



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suicide risk or serious self-harm, eSafe will notify the police via the 999 system. Police Scotland and all five local authorities within Edinburgh, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders continue to develop their use of remote electronic monitoring software.



NATIONAL OUTCOME FIVE

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME SIX

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

NATIONAL OUTCOME SEVEN

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

Have regard to the following indicator:

- Individuals have made progress against the outcome

9) What mechanisms and arrangements enable your area to understand progress for people against these outcomes?

Services delivering interventions to respond to the needs of people in the justice system routinely collate feedback which includes:

- Entry and exit questionnaires to gather opinion and narrative from people using services and gauge impact of specific interventions
- Anonymous feedback opportunities through surveys/questionnaires
- More in depth analysis through case studies
- Peer support input to encourage feedback and co-production
- Staff feedback for example, observations on an individual's progress and comments made to staff
- One to one interviews, including People's Stories
- Practice evaluations/internal audits
- External review; Care Inspectorate evaluations

Local area narrative is considered alongside local data for example, from the social work aggregate report, from statistics/key performance indicator information collated as part of service level agreements with Third Sector partners involved in justice service delivery, and from service specific data on numbers accessing and completing particular interventions.

Local justice services recognise that many people in the justice system are vulnerable, having multiple and complex needs therefore, there is an emphasis on applying a 'one person, one plan' model where a lead person/agency will have responsibility for taking a holistic approach to co-ordinate interventions tailored to each individual's specific needs and aspirations. This approach is supported by robust information sharing protocols across justice services and negates the requirement for individuals to repeatedly explain their circumstances to different



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professionals/agencies, ensuring continuity of care. Examples of data/narrative collated for the needs highlighted under national outcomes 5 to 7 are below.

Housing

Housing is considered key to an individual's stability; arrest referral and welfare check services at St Leonard's Police Station and Edinburgh Sheriff Court (ESC) respectively are delivered at the entry point to the justice system and appropriate supports/referrals followed up to secure housing where applicable. As a part of embedding the SHORE standards mentioned under national outcome 3, the prison-based housing officer considers the housing circumstances of each individual entering custody to prevent homelessness on liberation.

Partners measure outcomes for individuals using their preferred outcome tool for example EMORSS which delivers the arrest referral scheme, collates information on housing circumstance using the Recovery Outcome Web. Other service providers such as Shine use the Justice Outcome Star, Women's Aid use the Empowerment Star, and the Council's justice services use an amalgamation of those across all interventions.

Over a 3-month period between November 22 and January 23, staff collated feedback on housing matters from people accessing justice services; results at table 9 below showed that 85% of respondents gave a positive review of the housing support provided. Reasons for negative feedback are always considered as part of ongoing service development/ improvement.

Table 9 - justice services feedback on housing support provided

Housing	Support needed	Support not needed	Housing support helpful	Housing support not forthcoming/helpful
(59 respondents)	20	39	17 (85%)	3 (15%)

Finance

Person centred interventions routinely consider financial circumstances of individuals in the justice system including supporting them to access welfare and benefits to which they are entitled. Partners work together to facilitate this access for example, the DWP works with SPS and attends at HMP Edinburgh to provide advice to people on their entitlements prior to liberation, recognising that for some people, poverty may trigger reoffending.

Feedback from people using services:

"Some days to give me a bit of motivation – like telling me when I've got appointments and stuff because I struggle with that... She helped me with a doctor, and she helped me with going for my PIP (Personal Independent Payment) interview...She's been to court with me as well – because I struggle to do things on my own." From woman supported by Shine.



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“The service user was met by his worker at the gate on the day of his release. The worker accompanied him to his appointments to get his prescription and to find housing at The Access Place in Edinburgh. The worker provided the service user with a liberation pack at the community office in Broughton Street and helped him call Universal Credit and PIP to get his benefits back in order.” Taken from EMORSS case study.

In 2022, justice services partnered with Cyrenians to fund 2 community pantries and bring affordable food to those experiencing poverty; the membership-based pantries offer a unique low-cost way for people to access a variety of chilled and fresh foods. Pantries operate alongside existing community supports, addressing food insecurity, providing information on food preparation and storage while creating opportunities for social interaction around cooking and recipes.

“It helps me get items to make a meal. My partner is in jail and most of my money goes to him and bills and rent.” From St Brides Pantry member.

“I am claiming Universal Credit, but I am paying off various debts by monthly instalments plus DWP deductions. Anything that helps me make my benefits last is much appreciated.” From St Brides Pantry member.

Physical and mental health

Police Scotland, NHS, the Third Sector, and the Council's justice services work together to support people in the justice system access healthcare where required. At point of entry to the justice system, justice services deliver welfare checks to those in ESC awaiting a court appearance, while EMORSS offers an arrest referral service to those in the cells at St Leonards Police Station including follow up assistance through its outreach service to access healthcare and addictions support. NHS nurses also have a presence in custody settings at St Leonards and ESC for those who need follow up health interventions. The [National Police Care Network](#) continues to implement steps towards achieving delivery of good quality health and social care services in police and prison custody for example, rolling out training to custody nurses and police staff in relation to general healthcare and mental health.

In relation to mental health, findings from justice services routine screening around trauma and mental health showed that 4 out of 5 service users reported clinically significant levels of anxiety and depression, and within groupwork services 4 out of 5 people described post traumatic symptoms indicative of significant levels of distress and impairment. Consequently, mental health supports are a key area of focus within the person-centred interventions mentioned throughout this document and delivered by a range of providers including the Council's justice services, EMORSS, Women's Aid, Sacro, and Cyrenians.

Progress is measured using outcome tools and gathering feedback from those using the services. Additionally, trauma enhanced practices continued to be rolled out across justice services; the Council employs a full-time dedicated trauma lead officer to support this work. In relation to mental health interventions, comments from men working with the Crossroads men's service included:



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"I understand what has happened to me more and I can see a way ahead"

"After the course, I realise the importance of looking after myself"

Addictions

The Alcohol Problem Solving Court (APSC) provides a targeted intervention for men who frequently appear in court for alcohol related offences whereby a fast-track assessment with an alcohol focus, alongside the immediate offer of engagement with substance misuse services is provided; referrals are made by Sheriffs. Crossroads is the key partner for conducting assessments and managing cases referred by the APSC and Crossroads and EMORSS have developed a partnership approach to actively support people subject to a CPO with an alcohol treatment requirement to complete their Order. This partnership has led to a more responsive and accessible service with quicker assessments and supports and which yields better court and health outcomes for those with severe and problematic alcohol addiction.

There are opportunities for people to be referred and linked directly into community-based addiction support from the entry point of the justice system during arrest referral or welfare check appointments in custody. Four substance misuse recovery hubs are located across Edinburgh; those one-stop shops are run by a team of staff from the voluntary sector, NHS Lothian, and social work, and offer a full range of drug and alcohol treatments and support services for addictions.

The local hubs host regular drop-in sessions where individuals can attend without appointments to access advice and information to support recovery. The hubs, in line with the development of the [Medication Assisted Treatment \(MAT\) standards](#), are available for those who need to access immediate drug/alcohol medical interventions such as Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) or alcohol detoxification treatment. Peer volunteers further support people accessing the hubs ensuring that recovery is visible within the addictions services.

EMORSS delivers arrest referral locally in addition to providing psychosocial supports to those in HMP Edinburgh who are receiving NHS treatment for addictions. Within the prison, 100% of people referred to EMORSS for drug/alcohol treatment support accessed appropriate treatments within the 3-week [HEAT A11](#) waiting times targets*

**The Scottish Government set a national [HEAT Target](#) (Health improvement, Efficiency, Access, Treatment) for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times. This target stated that by March 2013, 90% of people who need help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than 3 weeks from referral received to appropriate drug or alcohol treatment that supports their recovery.*

EMORSS also provides holistic voluntary throughcare, which includes specific supports for addiction recovery where required. Additionally, EMORSS delivers training on naloxone administration and during the reporting period, worked with NHS Lothian to set up and implement a naloxone provision service in the community from its Broughton Street hub.



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Analysis of reporting in 2022/23 across the different elements of EMORSS; community provision, prison treatment, and throughcare, showed that for drug and alcohol issues:

- 32% reported an improvement
- 67% reported their issues had remained the same

Underlying those statistics are the challenges faced by people in the justice system many of whom have multiple and complex needs that cannot be resolved swiftly; in many cases, people will make repeated attempts to turn their lives around before being able to make positive changes towards living crime free lives.

“life saving, life changing, (worker) took me from a place of crushing despair and mistrust of the system to a place of hope with the space to heal and rebuild. Thank you!” Feedback from an individual supported by EMORSS.

“That connectivity into services like alcohol, drugs services, mental health services, housing support and health... that’s core to what we try and do...”
Comment from Shine staff member.

The [Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership](#) (EADP) oversees the development and implementation of the alcohol and drug strategy for Edinburgh and is a partnership between the Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the Third Sector, and those with lived experience of addiction and recovery. The EADP members work to create an environment where citizens have a healthy attitude towards drinking alcohol and where recovery from problem alcohol or drug use is a reality.

Education/ employment and leisure

A range of options to suit all needs and abilities exist for those in the justice system who feel ready to access educational, employment, and leisure opportunities. Examples are below:

CPOs with unpaid work provide the opportunity for participants to learn new skills alongside others in a supportive environment. In 2022, unpaid work options were expanded to include the Cyrenians garden project which teaches garden maintenance, teamwork, planning, landscaping, and other garden related activity. The creative skills learned can be applied in a workplace setting should individuals decide to pursue employment or further education. Cyrenians is also exploring volunteering opportunities for those who have completed their Orders and wish to continue working with the project.

The CPO unpaid workshop Brake the Cycle teaches participants bike maintenance, bike safety checks, and teamwork, combining practical and organisational skills which can be transferred to practical application in the workplace should individuals wish to do so. People completing a CPO also have the opportunity to choose additional activities to support them to live lives free from offending for example, learning new practical skills, focussing on personal development, goal setting, and CV writing.



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The [Willow](#) service which works with women in the justice system has partnered with ECF to introduce nutritional guidance and health eating discussions into its programme of supports. Group nutrition inputs are held weekly along with 1:1 nutrition sessions to offer specific, individual guidance. Topics covered include, basic food preparation, hygiene, food storage, and understanding the relationship between nutrition, health, and wellbeing. The approach reduces isolation and helps to break down barriers the women may have through facilitating social eating. The programme offers pathways into volunteering for the women and the skills acquired are transferrable to a workplace setting.

Further developments in this area include exploring opportunities for Skills Development Scotland to provide support to DWP work coaches during their weekly visits to HMP Edinburgh to provide advice and information on career/ employment/ volunteering opportunities where individuals are interested in pursuing those options on liberation. Additionally, SPS is looking to improve its strategic approach to employability and learning support for those leaving custody and this work will be progressed in 2023/24.

In 2022/23, [Apex](#) delivered an employability service to around 200 people exiting the justice system in Edinburgh. Of those assisted, around 120 with convictions were supported to undertake qualifications such as Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) which enables people to work in the construction industry, food hygiene certificate, and UK Cleaning Professionals Academic Service (UKCPAS) for those who wish to work in either catering or cleaning. Additionally, Apex provided training to the Council and other agencies on employing people with convictions.

Apex also operates a successful social enterprise cleaning company which employed around 50 people nationally in 2022/23, 70% of whom had a previous criminal conviction. Additionally, Apex delivered a service for people with convictions for sexual offences, helping them to safely secure appropriate employment.

[Encompass](#) delivered by Access to Industry is an education, training, and employability service for people in Edinburgh living with complex needs, including those moving on from offending behaviour. It helps those furthest removed from the labour market to build their skills, gain access to opportunities and where appropriate, move into employment. The Service offers 1:1 caseworker support, so that participants can establish a positive, consistent relationship with one worker. Participants work through personal development action plans with regular progress reviews to ensure that they are getting the maximum benefit. All supports and training are delivered in a safe and supportive environment.

Encompass also offers bespoke, skill-based training delivered in outreach locations and via Access to Industry's in-house Community College which offers a wide range of employability opportunities, including supportive work placements and volunteering. Participants gain qualifications in core communication and employability skills.

Volunteering



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[Volunteer Edinburgh](#) supports those who experience the greatest health inequalities and personal barriers to get involved in volunteering. Volunteering brings benefits to individuals, organisations and the wider community as well as demonstrating positive outcomes for health, wellbeing, and employability. Anecdotal feedback highlights that it plays a powerful role in improving skills and confidence, building positive work behaviours, developing new connections, and giving opportunities for a 'fresh start'.

For people with experience of the justice system however, access to volunteering opportunities can be challenging for example, due to:

- Additional support needs of individuals e.g. poor literacy, mental illness, learning disabilities
- Difficulty in navigating systems to identify types of work an individual is permitted to do
- Reluctance or inability of organisations to engage people with offending backgrounds; a high percentage of volunteer roles take place in settings with children and/or vulnerable adults present and for this reason opportunities for people with convictions for sexual offences are limited
- limited capacity or confidence to provide sufficiently supervised and supported volunteer opportunities
- Concerns about risk assessment/management
- Potential for reputational damage should a volunteer's background become publicly known

Despite the challenges however, some individuals are supported by Volunteer Edinburgh's Health and Employability services while larger numbers are engaged through the Volunteer Hub at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital where longstanding effective relationships with the Orchard Clinic (medium secure unit) enable people with forensic mental health issues to engage in in-patient volunteer roles and help them prepare for community volunteering.

Volunteer Edinburgh is also working with organisations/employers to build their skills and capacity to engage volunteers who have additional support needs including providing training, resources, and peer support.

Relationships

During the reporting period, justice services funded and continues to fund a Travel Service to transport eligible Edinburgh based passengers to Scottish prisons to visit their loved ones. Providing this service encourages relatives to maintain contact and relationships with family and friends, recognising that positive social networks are often key to good mental health and wellbeing as well as being a motivator to desistance.

The service, managed by Sacro, recruits and co-ordinates a team of volunteer drivers to provide free personalised transport to those who may find it difficult to make the journey to their destination prison. This could be due to the remote location of some prisons, cost, lack of availability of public transport, age and/or disability,



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infirmary, and the potential challenges of transporting children on lengthy multi-stage journeys. Numbers supported are shown at table 10 below.

Table 10 – Travel Service trips to Scottish prisons over the past 4 years

Travel Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Number of trips to Scottish prisons	246	0	41	102
Number of passengers supported**	454	0	57	188

** the figures represent the total supports delivered (some passengers travelled multiple times)

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the Travel Service in 2020/21 due to the suspension of prison visits and social distancing requirements within personal vehicles and between members of different households. The service resumed operation in the latter part of 2021.

Service impact is measured with passengers in relation to:

- Positive relationships maintained
- Improved quality of life

The Travel Service has consistently delivered 100% success rate in those areas and feedback from those who have used the service included:

"I want to thank you so much for how much you have helped me, please pass a message onto 'Driver T' that she was absolutely amazing! Thanks so much for your services"

"It was good to see him again, we had a good chat" Comment from passenger who had not seen his grandfather for 3 years

"Driver T was absolutely excellent. I didn't ever feel that I had to speak. With my anxiety it is unusual for me to feel so safe with someone. I don't think you guys know what it is that you actually do for folk. You don't get enough credit. Your support means the absolute world to us and it made all the difference."

In 2022, the justice services and Women's Aid partnership to deliver peer support within DAS to women in the justice system developed a programme of activity to engage women. This includes closed group sessions within a safe, supportive environment and group discussions on lived experiences, understanding the dynamics of domestic abuse, breaking down isolation, supporting others while maintaining self-care. and safeguarding. The peer support model supports women to develop positive relationships with their mentor and with each other. A participant supported by the project commented:

"the group is lovely, atmosphere is very relaxing and friendly. I am happy about everything and grateful"

Other services such as EMORSS and Crossroads also focus on improving relationships with family (where required) and on building positive social networks.



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[Families Outside](#) is a national charity providing support and advice to families affected by imprisonment through direct 1:1 support, helpline, and groupwork. In 2022/23, Families Outside in Edinburgh provided support to an average of 66 cases impacting a total of 149 family members. It evaluated its support services success using the 3 measurable outcomes shown at table 11 below and based on feedback from families who engaged.

Table 11 - outcomes based on feedback from families supported by Families Outside (2022/23)

Families are included and engaged - they understand process, are aware of available support, and are consulted	88%
Families are connected - they have visits and physical contact or indirect contact	22%
Families are safe and well - we prevent harm, and support wellbeing and positive outcomes	46%

Comments from families supported included:

“J (worker) made it possible for me to see my son”

“I’d like to thank you for your understanding and support, I very much appreciate your time given on this and P (individual in prison) has asked that I give you his thanks and appreciation as well. We still have good and bad days”

Resilience/ attitudes to offending

Targeted support for those in the justice system delivered by EMORSS considers attitudes to offending behaviour as part of outcome measurement using the Recovery Outcome Web (ROW) tool. Table 12 below shows the results of feedback taken from people at each of the 3 elements of the justice system. The data shows that around 70% of those who engaged with EMORSS across the 3 areas of the justice system (some people may engage with only one or 2 elements) stated that their attitude to offending had not changed; this proportion is significant and not only highlights the challenges facing services supporting the most vulnerable but demonstrates the difficulties those in the justice system face aspiring to a realistic expectation of being able to live a life without crime. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that a significant number overall (27%), reported an improved attitude to offending.

Table 12 – attitudes to offending behaviour across the justice system (source EMORSS data 2022/23)

Offending behaviour		Arrest referral/ Community e.g. outreach work	Prison (HMP Edinburgh and HMYOI Polmont)	Voluntary throughcare	Total
	Improved	27 (28%)	54 (26%)	34 (28%)	115 (27%)
	Same	69 (70%)	150 (73%)	85 (70%)	304 (71%)
	Worse	2 (2%)	2 (1%)	3 (2%)	7 (2%)
Number of responses		98	206	122	426



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As part of the holistic 'one person one plan' supports delivered to people in the justice system, EMORSS and other services continue to expand their peer mentoring offering to further encourage resilience and desistance and challenge attitudes to offending.

Attitudes to offending are routinely addressed as part of the holistic approach to supporting individuals for example, those receiving a Structured Deferred Sentence have the opportunity for a defined period, to address their mental health and other factors which may have led to their offending prior to sentencing. 7 men who received this disposal in 2022/23 were supported by the Crossroads men's service.

To address behaviour and attitudes to sexual offending, CISSO has supported the risk management of partner agencies through delivering community-based treatment programmes and individual interventions. In 2022, the project also delivered an adapted group for men with enhanced learning needs. The interventions are delivered in a newly refurbished and modernised group room, creating a safer, more welcoming environment for the participants. Feedback from those using the building has been very positive.



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If available, provide one or more supporting case studies, lived experience narrative or other information to demonstrate activity and impact relating to the objectives reflected by person-centred outcomes 5, 6 and 7.

The case studies below demonstrate community justice in action to address need and support people to:

- achieve stability or abstinence from problematic substance use
- improve relationships and develop positive social networks
- understand their goals and aspirations and work towards those
- improve their mental and physical health
- turn their lives around
- engage with supports to improve skills and life chances including training and employment opportunities
- work towards living crime free lives

VOW Project

The [VOW Project](#) (the Project) is a Police Scotland initiative delivered in Edinburgh in partnership with [Aid & Abet](#) supporting young people aged between 16 to 24 years who have been involved in the justice system. The Project is delivered by police officers working alongside peer mentors with lived experience of prison, trauma, and addiction who provide assistance to participants to reduce their offending; offering support, and signposting to appropriate partner agencies, both statutory and Third Sector. The Project is entirely voluntary and person centred, using tailored plans created with the young person to suit their needs.

VOW Project case study

Ryan* was raised in poverty in a socially deprived area of Edinburgh with he and his three siblings receiving support from social services since early childhood. Ryan still lived at home and pressures on household finances meant material goods were scarce and food options often limited.

Ryan struggled in mainstream school and at 12 years of age, was excluded from high school and went on to attend a school specifically for children with behavioural issues.

Over the course of a few years, Ryan accumulated 137 criminal charges making him one of Edinburgh's most prolific juvenile offenders.

The Project began working with Ryan when he was aged 17, after one of the police officers in the VOW team noticed that he had been arrested. The officer remembered Ryan as a first-year pupil who had been excluded from the school where she had worked as a school link police officer.

The officer and a peer mentor approached Ryan and remembering the police officer from years before, Ryan opened up about his life and the various struggles he endured on a daily basis. Ryan was honest about his involvement in criminality and



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his previous convictions, saying he was fearful he was going to be sent to prison. He wanted to live a better life but felt as though he had never been given a chance to *“just get out of the bit”*. Ryan openly spoke about his illicit drug use; street Valium was hugely problematic for him and he smoked cannabis nightly to reduce his stress and anxiety and to help him sleep.

Ryan was later remanded to HMYOI Polmont and stated that he would appreciate a visit from VOW whilst on remand. During the Polmont visit, Ryan looked agitated and anxious. He admitted he had stopped eating and was not sleeping well. He also mentioned his mum’s poor health and how he was upset not to be at home helping to look after her. Ryan said prison *“wasn’t for him”* and that he was keen to work with VOW to take steps to ensure he turned his life around and did not return to custody.

Ryan was released from prison several weeks later and VOW supported him to engage with his justice social worker within the Young People’s Service to work on his care plan. Over the following months, the Project continued to build a trusting relationship with Ryan, listening to his wants and needs and providing guidance and support through the difficult times.

The team supported Ryan to do a work placement with All Cleaned Up (partner agency) and to study through Action for Children (Cashback partner) towards getting his Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) health and safety card.

An Edinburgh Leisure Gym pass was acquired by the Project for Ryan and the team visited him and his family on a weekly basis, assisting with food parcels and understanding that at that particular time, Ryan was very vulnerable and needed intensive support.

Several weeks after signing up to VOW, Ryan was arrested for a breach of bail and sent back to prison. He was distraught at this but two positives resulted from his second remand; Ryan received a formal diagnosis of ADHD, and he was subsequently prescribed the appropriate medication to help with this.

The team thereafter linked in with Ryan’s allocated social worker and asked that a referral be made to the Adolescent Substance Misuse Team in order that Ryan could be supported regarding potential drugs misuse upon release.

A big trigger point for Ryan was not being permitted to see his young child due to his criminal history and he trusted the team enough to speak about what was a very emotive subject from him. The Project assisted with this by providing a progress report to social services. This, along with Ryan’s hard work and positive lifestyle choices resulted in he and his mum being allowed access to his child on a regular basis.

Through continued support and encouragement, Ryan’s confidence grew and he attended his various appointments often being transported to and from these by the team. He regularly scored 50/50 in his mock CSCS tests and managed his daily life better by making more positive choices.



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Ryan's communication skills and ability to build trusting, appropriate relationships improved significantly and in turn his feelings of self-esteem and self-worth also improved.

Since his second remand Ryan has not returned to prison and his criminal activity has ceased. He is now a positive role model for his younger brother and is working towards being the best father he can be.

In February 2022, the VOW Project was contacted by a partner agency, Story Contracting, and advised of a position available for a young person who had criminal convictions and wanted to take part in a 5 week work placement in railway construction. This position would involve completing various courses including the CSCS health and safety ticket.

The team explained details of the opportunity to Ryan and his response was extremely enthusiastic. He stated, *"this is amazing, I've never been given a chance like this before. Other folk get chances but not me. I'm definitely interested, thank you!"*

Ryan was offered an interview and the team assisted by providing some possible questions/interview scenarios and ensuring that he had appropriate clothing to wear. The team took Ryan to the interview, which was out with the Edinburgh area, stopping briefly for food on route in a bid to help calm his nerves and anxiety.

Ryan was absolutely delighted to be offered the position and felt his increased confidence and communication skills helped him immeasurably. He said *"I would never have got this if it hadn't been for you. I start next week and the wages are great!"*

Ryan appreciated the scale of the opportunity being provided to him by the construction company and it was made clear during the interview process that if he showed up on time, worked hard and provided negative drugs tests, there was a good chance the company would provide him with a 4-year apprenticeship. This would involve college attendance, working towards various qualifications and secure, well-paid employment for the future. Essentially a chance in life!

Ryan started the job recently and slotted in well with the construction team. His time keeping was exemplary and he tried hard to wean himself off cannabis, despite having smoked it since an early age.

Ryan failed the initial drugs test which was expected and met with the site manager to discuss the importance of passing a further drugs test the following week. Despite this heightening his anxiety and him being unsure as to whether he could manage this, Ryan spoke to the team, particularly the peer mentor who provided advice and reassurance.

Ryan ultimately was faced with conflicting needs, his wellbeing and future and his drug use; happily, he passed the second drugs test.



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Story Contracting has confirmed that an apprenticeship is now open to him. Ryan is over the moon about this and seems to understand the massive benefits an apprenticeship will bring.

Prior to signing up to VOW, Ryan was a prolific criminal who often committed crime to obtain money in order to eat and consume drugs. His criminality had an impact on the local community but through working with VOW, the peer mentors and other partner agencies, he now understands the impact his behaviour had on others, not least his own family and siblings. Ryan's younger brother upon seeing how the Project was of benefit, asked if he could become involved and the team have subsequently been supporting him too. Seeing her two youngest sons doing well, has positively impacted on Ryan's mum who struggles daily with her physical and mental health.

Ryan told the team that he intended to help support his family financially as the day-to-day basics were sometimes unaffordable to them.

The local community has also benefitted from Ryan's positive decision making, as he is no longer a career criminal in the vicinity and through his employment, is helping to build and maintain a new public transport infrastructure.

Ryan has not committed an offence for several months which is a marked improvement to where he was prior to working with VOW. He is clear that he does not want to return to his previous unhealthy, criminal lifestyle and wants to build a relationship with his young child and be a great dad.

He hopes to have his own house and car in future and possibly run his own business; through his hard work, all of this is achievable.

He is free from illicit drugs and acknowledges that he has a different perception of the police and justice system than he did prior to signing up to the Project and he now takes responsibility for his own actions.

In addition to all of the above, Ryan agreed to participate in a documentary which was screened on national television. He spoke confidently and clearly about working with VOW and how his life had significantly improved because of the support he had received through the Project and also because of the effort he had put in.

Ryan now has an opportunity to have a positive future and so far, is grabbing this with both hands!

**Name changed for confidentiality reasons*

EMORSS

EMORSS delivered by CGL and described under national outcome 2 above, supports people in the justice system from point of arrest to address needs for example, mental and physical health and wellbeing, addictions, financial difficulties through facilitating access to welfare and benefits, housing issues, and to address their offending. In partnership with the NHS in HMP Edinburgh, EMORSS also provides psychosocial support to people receiving treatment for addictions as well as



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delivering voluntary throughcare on behalf of the Council to those being released from custody. Voluntary throughcare includes transition planning to support people at key transitions points in their lives when they are at their most vulnerable for example, on liberation from prison, and gate pick-ups are offered to support individuals manage this. EMORSS continues to support people released from prison who are eligible for voluntary throughcare to successfully reintegrate into their communities and achieve stability in their lives as well as exploring education, training, and employment options tailored to the individual.

EMORSS case study

Emma* began working with EMORSS in July 2021 shortly after entering prison. With around a year before she was due to be liberated, she wanted to initially focus the support around better understanding her previous pattern of substance use. Over the following few sessions, Emma began to reflect that she had developed a dependency on alcohol and crack cocaine as a way to cope with family bereavement and the impact of having been involved in a violent relationship.

The EMORSS worker and Emma began to work together on recognising both her motivation and ability to remain substance free by focussing on what was most important to her and reflecting on strengthening her existing coping strategies as well as developing new ones. During this period, Emma was supported to refer into and begin work with prison psychology and psychiatry and she was subsequently diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder (EUPD).

Emma reflected that this work helped her understand herself better and access medication best suited to manage her symptoms. She also started to attend SMART recovery meetings facilitated by EMORSS within the prison before then getting involved in other mutual support meetings within the prison recovery café.

While not from Edinburgh, prior to liberation Emma was supported to link in with the Council's housing options team who agreed to accommodate her after her release. She was liberated in July 2022 and as she was unfamiliar with Edinburgh, took up the offer of gate pick up support on the day of her release. She was supported by her EMORSS worker to attend the job centre to set up benefits, attend a housing appointment to secure temporary accommodation, and present at the Access Place to ensure continuity in her prescribed medication.

In partnership with [Shine](#), EMORSS supported Emma to maintain her temporary accommodation, apply for further relevant benefits, attend recovery meetings in the community, and start to attend training courses with [Access to Industry](#). She was then supported to move from hostel accommodation to supported accommodation with Hillcrest Futures and further supported to access financial assistance through the Scottish Welfare Fund to help with this transition.

At this point, Emma had been substance free for 4 months after liberation. Unfortunately, she relapsed shortly after her move and engaged less and less with all services and supports including her Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN), Shine,



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and EMORSS. As a result, she had a non-fatal overdose in January 2023 and subsequently in February, due to her involvement in some incidents, was asked to leave her supported accommodation. During this period, when Emma was able to engage, support was mostly focussed on her personal safety and ensuring she was able to access food through assisting her to attend foodbanks and having harm reduction conversations to reduce her risk of using illicit drugs.

Working in partnership with the Shine women's mentoring service, EMORSS was able to secure alternative temporary accommodation which met Emma's needs and supported her to re-engage with the Access Place to restart on her mental health medication. This helped to stabilise Emma's mental health, as well as support her away from using substances daily back into recovery. At the time of writing, Emma had been substance free for 6 weeks and with this stability had been attending appointments around her mental health, had re-engaged with psychology, had reinstated her attendance at recovery meetings and had been supported to attend Street Fit Scotland exercise sessions to improve her physical and mental health. She was also accepted onto an Open University Access Course.

**Name changed for confidentiality reasons*



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

Community justice partners developed a revised CJOIP which was approved at Edinburgh's CSJP in May 2023 with the agreed workstreams:

- Employing effective intervention at the earliest opportunity to address need
- Having established pathways into trauma informed services
- Delivering improved community supports to reduce reoffending

Every year in December, the CSJP holds a development session where partners come together to discuss in more detail, work for the year ahead, challenges, matched funding proposals/agreements, the priority areas of the CJOIP, and the key focus areas for community safety. In December 2023, partners will also agree a reporting schedule setting out the topics for discussion and monitoring at the 2024 CSJP meetings.

Topics likely to be reported to the CSJP under the workstreams mentioned above are:

- Further developments within the court, bail and diversion service
- Update on the roll out and embedding of the trauma project in justice services and other Council areas
- The expansion of peer mentoring within justice services

From December 2023, the CSJP will also begin inviting guest speakers who work across different parts of the justice system to deliver short inputs to partners about their work. Speakers will share information about their role in supporting people in the justice system including what works well, and highlight challenges faced in delivering better outcomes for people. Improving partner knowledge of justice interventions will create opportunities for closer partnership working and problem solving, ensuring the strategic and operational elements of justice interventions complement each other.

The CSJP brings the cross section of community justice partners together to share ideas, contribute to improvement activities and where possible, bring resources (financial or staffing) to proposed activities. The CSJP workstreams fully align with the new national strategy; its publication is a further opportunity for partners to refocus efforts on the priority actions and consider areas of strength and those where local improvements are needed.

Local strengths

The national strategy highlights the use of diversions as a community justice intervention. Following the February 2023 publication of the [Joint review](#) of diversion from prosecution by HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland, justice services considered its current performance and procedure in light of the recommendations made for partnerships and justice services. A summary of findings was reported to the CSJP in May 2023 with the court bail and diversion team scoring highly against



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the recommendations. For example, recently developed entry and exit questionnaires allow for direct feedback from people who have engaged with the diversion service to be considered for future developments. Additionally, staff are proactive at getting people to engage with the intervention with the conversion rate from referral for diversion to cases commenced showing 100% over the past five years.

Similarly, improvements have been made to justice entry point services through the recruitment of an assertive outreach worker to follow up cases picked up in custody through arrest referral. The role is described under national outcome 3 above.

A successful partnership model of accessible, flexible, responsive, seamless throughcare for women has been developed with the Council's justice services, Shine, CGL, and Willow with a focus on women serving short term sentences and/or on remand, a population with a high prevalence of multiple and complex needs.

A key principle of the model is the presumption that each woman would benefit from all 4 services and that they would be able to access the full range of assistance from all 4 through a single point of access. Services agree a single shared plan around each woman. The model involves both reaching into women while they are in prison and reaching out to them on release including those on remand; facilitated by the Data Sharing Agreement between the Council and SPS.

An evaluation of this composite in/outreach model was conducted in September 2022 by a psychological therapist based at the Willow service. This preliminary evaluation reviewed how the model worked in practice and conducted interviews with staff supporting the women; although the women's voices were not captured in the initial review, this would be the aspiration for subsequent evaluations. The review found that the service was more 'joined up', there was a shared understanding of goals and resources, and supports provided were more coherent and efficient. There was also less overlap and duplication and a more comprehensive wraparound support package provided for each woman with the model being successful in being able to identify and proactively offer a collective service to meet women's needs holistically.

The model is a work in progress and will continue to develop. Recommendations from the evaluation included establishing an evaluation form for women to share their experience, measuring the impact of the model on staff wellbeing and workload, and within the process giving the women the option to opt out of the model.

Staff comments on the model included:

"So, we put the women in the middle and ask, how best can we support these women? And what is it that we're doing and pulled all our resources together"

"we're all seen as part of one plan, then I think it is more seamless"

Local challenges

Challenges relating to short term funding are highlighted at the start of this document on page 6. There have also been significant recruitment challenges in some areas,



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and specifically within NHS Lothian which has impacted on front line service provision requiring projects delivered jointly with justice services to be either scaled back or postponed.

Additionally, the lack of affordable housing in Edinburgh presents a challenge to fully embedding the SHORE standards, a key priority action under the national strategy.

The identification and provision of Home Office approved accommodation for people who have no recourse to public funds and are subject to both Immigration Bail and statutory supervision is subject to checks/approval and delay. This impacts on justice partner's individual and collective ability to manage risk in the community; a key priority action under the national strategy.

