

Community Justice Scotland
Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland
Local Area Annual Return Template – Edinburgh
Reporting year April 2023 – March 2024**

April 2024

1. Background

This reporting template has been developed in discussion with community justice representatives from local areas. This template is designed to enable local areas to report on progress towards the community justice outcomes.

2. Statement of Assurance and Data Usage

The information submitted to CJS using this template will 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 Justice Partnerships should be aware that any information held by CJS is subject to statutory Freedom of Information obligations.

Completion of the template can help local partnerships to fulfil their requirements under s23 (1b) of the Act by using the developed content to inform the production of the publicly facing summary statement of annual progress.

3. General principles of the template

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

- Support CJS in developing the evidence base for local community justice activity and progress across Scotland within the reporting year
- Support CJS to comply with their duties set out in the Act, Sections 26-30
- Support local partners to comply with their local reporting requirements set out in section 23 of the Act.

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, and such community bodies other persons as partners consider appropriate. CJS expects that completion of this template will be a collaborative effort.

This template incorporates guidance to support completion, with the text *(in blue)* providing reflective prompts to consider when developing 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.

There is no expectation that areas will return substantial numerical data. It is likely that local areas will not have the national data indicators set out by the Community Justice Performance Framework at the time they are completing this template. **It is not anticipated that CJS will routinely use or refer to local level national indicator data in the context of the national outcome activity annual report.** If in developing the national report it becomes apparent that local-level data may support further analysis of particular outcomes, for example in identifying potential recommendations, exploring data outliers, or areas for further development, we expect this to be taken forward in discussion with the relevant local areas and partners.

Instead, we want partners to focus on the qualitative evidence drawn from their activity and insights about impact. Relevant local supporting evidence from the [CJS improvement tool](#) that will supplement the national indicator data has been specified under each national outcome in this template. 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.

If you have any queries about completing the template, then please email CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot.

1. Community Justice Partnership / Group Details

Name of local authority area/s	The City of Edinburgh Council
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:.....26 September 2024.....



Name :.....

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.

No change to governance arrangements

4. The year overall

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

As in previous years, the City of Edinburgh Council (the Council) welcomed the additional Scottish Government funding in 2023/24 allocated to local authorities for commissioning services to support community justice outcomes. However, the late notification of the award coupled with the short-term nature of the funding and Third Sector spend criteria continued to present challenges in relation to service planning, recruitment, roll out, and delivery of services within the required time frame. The current piecemeal funding model does not make best use of resources as procurement exercises are required annually, creating obstacles to longer term community justice planning.

During the reporting period, some Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP) meetings had lower than expected attendance due to operational pressures and in some cases the absence of key partners due to staff changes. Other challenges partners have faced are documented under the relevant priority actions below such as the withdrawal of Individual Training Account Funding negatively impacting prison leavers, and the chronic shortage of affordable/available accommodation which in some cases has prevented the delivery of high quality throughcare.

Within adult justice services, there have been challenges in returning to conducting the level of quality assurance previously undertaken pre-COVID as staff had to prioritise new ways of working. As restrictions were lifted, services emerged into a national recruitment crisis resulting in higher case loads and some managers needing to take on day to day operational activity. Although recruitment has improved somewhat, challenges remain, as not all recently recruited colleagues have justice experience, or they may be newly qualified and require support to undertake their roles.

Positives / Opportunities

Partners have continued to work collaboratively and develop smaller, focussed partnership working relationships to address specific concerns within community safety and justice. For example, partners worked together with the Lothian Association of Youth Clubs, and Places for People to agree a co-ordinated approach to engage young people during the bonfire/fireworks period in November 2023. Small grants were made available for local organisations to run community events on bonfire night to reduce the risk of harm to young

people by discouraging them from becoming involved in firework related crime and antisocial activity. A range of venues hosted diversionary activities, with those previously involved in firework related disorder and antisocial behaviour and/or on the cusp of offending behaviour being encouraged to attend. Following this exercise, it was agreed that partnership working would be expanded to include locally based community organisations to encourage more venues to participate in joint efforts to keep people safe over the firework/bonfire period in 2024.

The Scottish Government COVID recovery funding awarded during the reporting period supported the continued development and delivery of smaller Third Sector partnership projects to improve outcomes for people in the justice system for example, the Cyrenians garden project and the Women's Aid Peer Support service for women in the justice system who have been victims of domestic abuse. More information on the successful running of those projects is detailed below along with a snapshot of the positive feedback received.

A review of community justice services took place in 2023 with a new structure implemented in 2024 which provides improved co-ordination of people in the justice system and greater service integration; maximising access into trauma enhanced, gender specific groupwork and other supports within Crossroads and [Willow](#) for men and women respectively.

Priority Action One

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

Nationally determined outcome:

More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution¹

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people undertaking diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people supporting the delivery of diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.

5. What activity has taken place to increase successful completion of diversion? What impact has there been as a result?

Diversion from prosecution

Following the February 2023 publication of the [Joint review](#) of diversion from prosecution by HM Inspectorate of Prosecution in Scotland, Edinburgh's CSJP considered the report's findings and recommendations for justice partners and community justice partnerships, and reviewed them against existing practice. Table 1 below lists the recommendations for community justice and summarises activity/progress against those.

Table 1 – recommendations from Joint review of diversion from prosecution (2023)

¹ National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

Recommendation 2 - community justice partners should ensure that appropriate services and interventions are available to all those who have been assessed as suitable for diversion

Qualified social workers provide direct interventions with people referred by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and may also signpost or refer individuals to relevant community services as required. Since the joint review was published, the provision of diversion has been restructured to allow greater integration with the existing Crossroads service and Women's Justice Centre. Those existing services provide support to address the unmet needs of men and women in the justice system respectively. The move to an integrated provision (effective from April 2024) has improved access to the available range of relevant interventions around substance misuse, trauma, and mental health.

Recommendation 6 - community justice partnerships should consult with people with lived experience of diversion

Justice services have developed a standard exit questionnaire which is currently being promoted for use across all justice interventions. The format was revised to allow staff to capture and consider feedback from people who have engaged with diversion services specifically. Additionally, the Council's Quality Assurance team has provided support to staff to conduct practice evaluations and 1:1 interviews (People's Stories) with people who have used justice services. Although those evaluations/ interviews have not taken place recently due to capacity issues, it is the intention to return to their use in the coming months, increasing the opportunities to assess the impact of diversion.

Recommendation 16 - justice social work should be proactive in its efforts to engage with a person referred for assessment before concluding that they are unsuitable

Every effort is made to engage those referred for diversion in the process, including contact by letter and telephone. Where this proves unsuccessful, other available avenues within the permitted four-week timeframe for the return of the assessment report are explored for example, contacting homelessness services for potential address updates, or enlisting the support of other colleagues/partners who may be able to assist.

Additionally, people are welcome to attend their diversion appointment with a worker/family member/friend to increase the likelihood of attendance/ engagement. If staff have been unable to engage the person referred after 4 weeks, they inform the procurator fiscal (PF) that the person is unsuitable however, should there be last minute contact within the timeframe, staff will offer an appointment and request a deferment from the PF if necessary.

Recommendation 17 - justice social work should ensure that all referrals, assessments, and completion reports are tracked and submitted timeously

All diversion referrals and corresponding due dates are logged and tracked to ensure compliance with the COPFS timeframe; due dates are also entered for any agreed deferments and for progress/ completion reports. If a report cannot be submitted by the agreed date, staff write to the PF to explain why and request a deferment.

Recommendation 19 - justice social work should ensure that staff delivering diversion interventions involving domestic abuse and harmful sexual behaviour are appropriately trained/supported

Qualified justice social workers undertake all diversion work and have access to accredited training on working with domestic abuse and harmful sexual behaviour. Diversion referrals for harmful sexual behaviour are discussed with the manager of the Community Intervention Team for Sexual Offending (CISSO) and a social worker from the CISSO Team may be allocated to support/ co-work any intervention, as required. Although there is no formal system in place for discussing alleged domestic abuse offences, staff allocated to deliver the diversion may consult the Council's Domestic Abuse Services (DAS) for advice and support to inform the intervention.

Recommendation 22 - justice social work should develop/use a tool for gathering feedback from people who have been diverted and incorporate it into completion reports

As mentioned under recommendation 6 above, the recently developed exit questionnaires for people engaging with diversion are used to inform service development. Currently, feedback is not incorporated into completion reports routinely although ad hoc comments may be included. Implementing a more formal approach to including reflections from feedback received is being explored as a result of this recommendation. There is also a plan to introduce a new electronic records system to facilitate better recording and reporting which will further support this aspiration.

Recommendation 23 - COPFS and justice social work should improve communication (particularly for more complex/serious cases) to support the diversion process

COPFS often contact justice staff to discuss the potential referral of cases involving an alleged sexual offence which creates good dialogue throughout the diversion process in these particular cases subsequently referred. For the most part however, communication with COPFS in practice can be challenging due to the absence of a dedicated local contact. COPFS moved from a local model to a national case marking team and while this has improved consistency in case marking across local authority areas, the dedicated PF relationship previously established which facilitated discussion on specific cases between justice services and COPFS no longer exists. Justice staff however, where required, continue to try to contact the individual PF who referred the case through emailing the generic COPFS diversion mailbox which is the prescribed method of contact. Response rates vary and receiving timeous outcomes from COPFS is particularly challenging, even after multiple requests. Work to improve both the COPFS response time and access to the referring PF is being taken forward via the Scottish Government's diversion from prosecution working group set up to address those wider recommendations that require national input and focus.

Recommendation 32 - Community justice partnerships should implement effective mechanisms to monitor the impact of diversion and outcomes for those diverted

The recently implemented exit questionnaires contribute to meeting this recommendation. Any additional partner suggestions for measuring the impact of diversion interventions will also be explored.

Data for diversions over the past 5 years is shown in table 2 below and illustrates that the conversion rate from referral/assessment to commencement of a diversion case has increased over the past two years.

Table 2 – data on diversion from prosecution 2019-2024

Year	Assessments undertaken	Cases commenced	*Cases successfully completed
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2019-20	300	285	166
2020-21	309	344	124
2021-22	437	434	170
2022-23	341	345	101
2023-24	323	358	113

* In some cases, diversion interventions will not be completed in the same year as their commencement.

The IT system used for recording information relating to diversion has presented some reporting challenges and it is due to be replaced in the next two years. This will ensure that all successful diversion completions are captured in the data, including those deferred where additional time is granted to allow the completion.

Justice services are also developing local guidance for both diversion from prosecution and bail supervision to support quality and consistency of practice in those areas.

Priority Action Two

Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs²

Local Evidence:

- There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centre for local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population

6. *What activity has taken place to support people in police custody to access support? What impact has there been as a result?*

Arrest referral

Justice services in collaboration with Midlothian Council commissions an arrest referral service operating weekly on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday afternoons in the custody suite at St Leonard's Police Station, Edinburgh. The service is delivered by Third Sector provider Change Grow Live (CGL) and is part of the Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support Service (EMORSS) delivery providing continuity of care for individuals in the justice system from point of arrest. During the hours of operation, EMORSS offers supports to people in custody and if they are interested, a follow up assessment is arranged to fully explore their needs and agree a tailored support plan. Police custody and

² National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres

NHS staff based in St Leonard's also refer individuals into the service who are then followed up by EMORSS outreach (see below for more information on this role). Supports provided include both practical and psychosocial supports as required, encompassing for example, housing, welfare, wellbeing, health, addictions, and relationship building.

During the reporting period the arrest referral service engaged with 941 individuals of whom 196 converted to full assessments at which needs were identified and additional supports provided.

Staff working in the arrest referral service have developed excellent relationships with both police custody staff and NHS colleagues based at St Leonard's which facilitates access to cells and ensures that the most vulnerable people are offered supports. The arrest referral scheme also has direct links into addictions supports via Edinburgh's four locally based community recovery hubs, three of which are delivered by CGL.

EMORSS assertive outreach

The EMORSS assertive outreach co-ordinator combines arrest referral with active outreach in the community to follow up individuals who have been in custody and are subsequently released. The service employs a harm reduction approach focussing on individuals who are hardest to reach, most at risk particularly in relation to drug related harm/overdose, and in greatest need, to encourage them to engage with supports. The co-ordinator has developed relationships with both the NHS Court Liaison and Diversion Service and court social work staff working in Edinburgh Sheriff Court, including those conducting welfare checks to ensure that people released from a court appearance without supports are aware of the weekly drop-in service available at the CGL premises in Broughton Street, central Edinburgh.

The outreach service managed 184 referrals in 2023/24 and carried out 158 home visits, with 26 individuals actively engaging with EMORSS and receiving ongoing supports.

Arrest referral and assertive outreach provisions benefit from peer support experience and both justice services and Edinburgh's Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (EADP) have funded EMORSS traineeships to enhance the peer mentor offering and ensure there is visible recovery within the service, providing further encouragement to individuals to engage with supports.

Working in partnership with NHS Lothian

NHS nurses are based at St Leonard's Police Station to support individuals in custody with their health, welfare, and medication needs. Additionally, the NHS Court Liaison and Diversion Service operates within Edinburgh Sheriff Court providing access to mental health supports to people in the justice system.

Case study: arrest referral

The case study below demonstrates the impact of the arrest referral service and collaborative working across police, NHS, and Third Sector agencies to support individuals to address their often multiple and complex needs.

Individual A started engaging with EMORSS following a manic episode whilst under the influence, that led him to police custody at St Leonard's police station in August 2023. He was seen by an EMORSS staff member at the police station and identified his main issue was related to his drinking, although he also reported some concerns around his cannabis use.

Initially he appeared to be more prepared to address his cannabis use which he successfully managed to overcome shortly after he began engaging with EMORSS. Thereafter, his engagement became less consistent, and he began missing appointments, often asking to reschedule. The EMORSS worker followed this up with a conversation with him about his ambivalence to achieve full recovery as he did not appear to be ready to address his drinking.

Individual A openly admitted that he was finding it difficult to address his drinking as most of the time he would feel in control of his alcohol intake however occasional binges were cause for concern and he acknowledged that if not addressed properly, his drinking may lead him to reoffend. He and the EMORSS worker then agreed to start having more regular consultations to build up greater motivation, focus, and commitment, with EMORSS simultaneously monitoring his drinking to identify patterns and triggers. EMORSS also explored options around recovery orientated activities and medical treatments.

Towards the end of 2023, individual A was still stuck in a cycle where he could maintain abstinence for most days of the week for a few weeks but then would relapse into more harmful patterns of drinking. He subsequently reported that he was drinking alcohol daily and his intake was gradually increasing. At that point, EMORSS agreed to make a referral to the NHS Substance Misuse Team in the North West Recovery Hub which was submitted and accepted in November 2023.

After a long wait, he was invited to an appointment for assessment by the NHS team in late February 2024. Following assessment, a clinical decision was made for him to undertake an alcohol detox prior to initiation on [Antabuse](#). He was successfully detoxed in the community at the end of March 2024 and started on [Naltrexone](#) shortly after. He is undergoing further blood tests to see whether it is clinically advisable for him to be started on Antabuse and he is currently sober and still engaging with the EMORSS service. He continues to receive support from EMORSS through the early days of his recovery, with the focus on relapse prevention.

Priority Action Three

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

Nationally determined outcome:

More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision³

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to support a high quality bail assessment.
- Referral pathways are in place that support identified needs of people on bail supervision.

³ National Indicator:

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

7. What activity has taken place to increase the use of bail, and support people to access services to address needs while on bail? What impact has there been as a result?

Bail supervision activity

Throughout 2023/24 the Court, Bail, and Diversion (CBD) Team continued to approach every individual whose bail was opposed by the Procurator Fiscal to explain the bail supervision service and request their consent to carry out an assessment so that they would be considered for bail supervision. The CBD team considered each individual's welfare, risk, and need, and aimed to complete the assessment before he/she was seen by the Sheriff to avoid delays to the process. Good working practice developed with Police Scotland ensured that the CBD team was made aware early each morning, of the identity of the individuals in custody, which enabled staff to routinely log and check justice social work systems for any concerns regarding individuals known to the justice system so they could be managed effectively without interrupting court business.

Table 3 below shows the latest data available relating to bail supervision assessments; this newly developed dataset is being collated by the Scottish Government to support the key National Strategy for Community Justice priority action to '*support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively*'. The data shows that more needs to be done to encourage the judiciary's use of bail supervision to increase the conversion rate from assessment to case commencing. This national challenge is being addressed by a Scottish Government led Strengthening Alternatives to Remand Working Group established in March 2024.

Table 3 – data on bail supervision

Year	Number of assessment reports for bail suitability submitted to the courts	Bail supervision cases commenced	Bail supervision cases successfully completed
2022/23	104	52	104
2023/24	130	44	27**

**some cases commencing in 2023/24 will not successfully complete until 2024/25; those are not captured in this figure and the data will be revised upwards in 2025

A justice services review in 2023/24 has seen the CBD team superseded by a newly established focussed Court Team from April 2024. For each person receiving a bail supervision assessment, a tailored action plan is created with the individual's agreement setting out how their identified needs will be managed. The Court Team makes every effort to obtain the reasons for bail being opposed to enable the specific concerns of the court to be addressed in the bail assessment, however this information is rarely shared. It is hoped that the aforementioned national Working Group working with the COPFS will find a resolution to this.

As part of the robust bail assessment process, the Court Team staff confirm the support of all agencies who would be involved in the individual's care before the final draft is shared with the defence agent, and collaboration with Third Sector and other partners is a key

element in preparing a workable plan. Upon the Sheriff agreeing to the bail supervision, the action plan activates, and the individual attends an appointment with Court Team staff (usually the next day) so that supports can begin immediately. Individuals are supported to comply with bail supervision conditions through being seen frequently and where safe to do so, by being visited at home. Supports for individuals are wide ranging, tailored to the specific needs of the individual, and can include for example, practical and emotional interventions including assistance with accommodation, welfare, mental health, addictions, and relationship building.

Development of a focussed Court Team

As mentioned above, a justice services review was conducted in 2023/24 which considered service provision, delivery, and best practice including how to further improve outcomes for people being supported within the justice system. As part of this review, a dedicated 'Court Team' has been created focussing on providing a Court Social Work Service which includes conducting all supervised bail and electronic monitoring assessments and providing related assessment reports.

The Court Team is looking to increase the conversion rate from supervised bail assessments to Bail Supervision Orders however, this relies upon improved communications from Procurator Fiscals and increased knowledge, confidence, and use of bail supervision by Sheriffs. Going forward, local information will be provided to Sheriffs in relation to the new Court Team which it is hoped, will encourage more referrals for bail supervision and greater use of this resource. The underuse of bail supervision has been recognised as requiring national impetus and the aforementioned Working Group is working with key partners to take this forward.

Priority Action Four

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

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

8. What activity has taken place in your area to increase the use electronic monitoring technologies? What impact has there been as a result?

Use of electronic monitoring technologies

The use of electronic monitoring (EM) technologies to support the management of people in the justice system has increased in Edinburgh over the past two years particularly in relation to employing EM as part of bail/ bail supervision, which was introduced from May 2022, recording a 57% increase in 2023/24 compared with the previous year. EM monitors and supports compliance with bail conditions put in place by the court and may be used as an alternative to remand. EM may also aid rehabilitation and/or to provide reassurance about the restriction of movement of a monitored person by imposing time and locational limitations upon them within a range of justice disposals. Examples of the increased use of EM technologies in Edinburgh are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – use of electronic monitoring technologies

	2022/23	2023/24
Electronic Monitoring (EM) as a condition of bail	75	135
Restriction of Liberty Order (RLO)	228	292
Home Detention Curfew (HDC)	20	22

A male individual subject to an RLO from Edinburgh Sheriff Court commented:

“Time keeping was hard at the beginning, but I got used to it and got myself into a good routine. Being on tag done me good and helped stop me going off the rails when my brother passed away. I feel safer having a tag, like people are looking after me. It's been a positive experience”.

eSafe

Advances in technology continue to support developments in the use of remote electronic monitoring equipment to access the internet through a variety of devices. Remote electronic monitoring of internet enabled devices can be considered where the Parole Board or Court have granted a condition or requirement to monitor an individual's electronic devices for example, within a Community Payback Order (CPO) or a Sexual Offences Prevention Order. The managed monitoring service eSafe can track an individual's use of their internet enabled

devices to detect signs of inappropriate and/or criminal behaviour; this is carried out as part of a risk management plan undertaken with the individual's knowledge, with potential offences/breaches reported to the lead agency or Police Scotland.

Priority Action 5

Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences⁴

Local Evidence

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

9. What activity has taken place that will support people serving sentences in the community to desist from offending, address their needs, and help them successfully complete their sentence? What impact has there been as a result?

Supports for people serving community sentences

A range of interventions is available to support those who are serving their sentences in the community. Examples include the services explained below:

Willow

The [Willow](#) service supports all women who are currently in contact with or have been in contact with justice services within the past 12 months. Willow was established in 2009 with the aim of providing a holistic service for the most complex women in justice services. Following a comprehensive service review of justice services in Edinburgh, Willow has expanded to include all women involved with justice services. This includes women subject to statutory orders; women subject to statutory and voluntary throughcare; women subject to supervised bail and diversion; and women involved in justice services because their partners or ex-partners are subject to a Caledonian requirement or voluntarily working with Domestic Abuse Services (DAS).

⁴ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

The Willow service has retained a model based on trauma informed principles and the research and evidence related to this population, whilst also ensuring equity of service for all women across the city and integrating a 'no wrong door' approach. Willow has also retained a multidisciplinary model, enabling women to access appropriate support at the time this is needed, in the form of a 'one stop shop' approach. For all women entering the service, regardless of the route in, they are allocated a social worker or justice worker who will support them to find out more about the service and discuss with them a holistic assessment of what they need/ want and their worries, including consideration of their physical health and mental health needs. Willow tailors its approach to assessment and support to best meet the current needs and risks of women entering the service, in order to increase each women's safety and that of the wider community within a gendered specific trauma informed service.

Dedicated provision for all women has been a vision for justice services for many years and a newly refurbished Women's Centre provides a central hub where women accessing Willow may also access a range of partner services to meet their needs. The Centre has been designed utilising trauma informed principles, creating an environment which is welcoming, respectful, and safe.

Women were asked to provide feedback about how they felt in the Centre and all of those participating stated that the changes had been positive. Women reported:

"It's more open and relaxing"

"It's very calming and comfortable"

"Lovely, safe energy here. The décor is homely and not hospital looking"

Part of a being a trauma informed service is being conscious of staff well-being and this was kept at the forefront of the building redesign. Thought was given to staff areas to support a space to share lunch, areas to be comfortable, quiet spaces for working on reports, and provision of more space for meetings, alleviating the demand for meeting rooms.

Willow continues to offer both one to one support from this building, alongside a groupwork programme facilitated by social workers, support workers, psychologists, and the health nurse from within the team, alongside partnership working including Edinburgh Community Food (ECF), Women's Aid, and EMORSS.

Women using Willow were consulted about their experiences of using the service and comments included:

"When I first came to Willow, I was anxious and did not trust any of the workers... when I came here, I was pleasantly surprised. The support they gave me was fantastic. I started to build trust again and was able to make positive changes in my life."

"Meeting the other women, talking in groups and going out and doing things with Willow I wouldn't normally think of doing or feel confident doing has really helped."

"I feel safe here."

Crossroads

Crossroads is a trauma informed service for men in the justice system who attend as part of a CPO, post custody license or voluntarily. Crossroads provides a safe and supportive environment for men and offers both 1:1 and group interventions alongside access to educational courses and other opportunities for men to improve their physical and mental health, wellbeing, and safety.

Additionally, Crossroads focuses on:

- Enhancing men's access to services and community involvement
- Reducing the risk associated with offending behaviour
- Understanding and managing difficult emotions
- Recognizing the impact of life experiences
- Making positive changes by expanding social networks through activities and relationship building
- Developing existing abilities and learning new skills
- Enhancing self-esteem and self-efficacy

Following the justice services review, Crossroads has expanded its remit to include supporting men who have received a Structured Deferred Sentence, those who are diverted from prosecution, and those subject to bail supervision thus creating a 'one stop shop' for men in the justice system. A full range of supports and interventions is delivered at Crossroads in partnership with other organisations for example, men may access nutrition and healthy eating supports from Edinburgh Community Food and can attend groupwork to address alcohol/ drug dependency delivered by EMORSS.

Cyrenians Garden Project

Justice services has continued to fund Cyrenians to deliver a garden project to allow people subject to community payback to learn new skills in the outdoors and take part in developing a community garden. Participants are supported to learn how to use garden tools and equipment safely, garden planning, maintenance, growing herbs and flowers, plant care, and landscaping including path building, garden furniture construction, and paving. The project encourages teamwork and relationship building while providing supports for mental health and other challenges participants may have.

During the reporting period, Cyrenians delivered 154 sessions, with 40 people engaged on the project and 1000 hours of community payback hours completed.

Comments from participants include:

"I was surprised at how quickly I felt at ease talking about my project ideas in the garden and sharing my music... thank you for taking time and being interested, I appreciate it."

"I've learnt skills in growing food that I would never have taken the time to learn otherwise"

"It was nice to be treated as part of a team and as an individual"

Staff observations included:

"Participant A said that he appreciated the time taken to listen to him and to signpost him to an additional service, his mood has transformed from initial agitation to being more at ease and being able to work independently."

"Participant B shared his knowledge of working on allotments and undertook additional research for the gardens out with his allocated hours; it was great to see him having the motivation to do this."

"After completing his work with the project, Participant C invited his partner and child to visit the garden to show them what he had achieved during his time with Cyrenians, including creating a bird feeding station and landscaping a new shady garden area."

CPO Connect

The CPO Connect programme facilitated by the Wise Group, delivered flexible live sessions online to people wishing to participate in ‘other activities’ as part of their CPO. A range of topics were available with examples shown in table 5 below:

Table 5 – examples of CPO Connect content in 2023/24

Topic	Content	Learning Outcome
Emotional and physical wellbeing	Explore how emotional and physical wellbeing improves overall health. Discover the importance of positive thinking and relaxation techniques.	Learn how to look after your emotional and physical wellbeing better. Learn how to implement relaxation techniques.
Food and Mood	Understand the importance of fuelling your body with the right food. Learn the link between the food we eat and our mood.	Develop practical knowledge of cooking and menu ideas and the importance of eating well for physical and mental wellbeing.
Benefits and Budgeting	Benefits overview and benefit maximisation. Energy advice. Budgeting skills. Accessing bank accounts and credit unions accounts.	Understand the financial support you may be entitled to and how to access this.

Each individual engaging with the programme received 1:1 support to ensure they had all the help they needed to access the online sessions. Sessions were available at evenings and weekends to ensure availability for all those interested.

During the reporting period, 117 sessions were delivered with 45 people attending across the topics offered and 186 hours of ‘other activity’ completed.

Feedback from participants included:

“I learned about my way of thinking about certain situations. Learning about not to make a mountain out of a mole hill over small situations.”

“Learned the importance of seeking support when needed and where to look for it.”

Community Intervention Services for Sex Offenders (CISSO)

Under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), agencies across Edinburgh, the Lothians, and the Scottish Borders work together to manage individuals who present the highest risk of harm to communities. CISSO continued to support partner agencies in the risk management of people with convictions for sexual offences through the delivery of community-based group treatment programmes and individual interventions, addressing the behaviour and attitudes associated with sexual offending. In 2022/23 (latest MAPPA data available), CISSO received 101-referrals, resulting in 70-people receiving a service. Service development included the reintroduction of a ‘CISSO link person’, where a CISSO worker would regularly be based within a locality office, to support individuals and liaise with staff in East Lothian, the Scottish Borders, and Midlothian.

Group-based interventions continued to be delivered in central Edinburgh including lower-intensity interventions for men whose offending was technology mediated, as well as Survive and Thrive, for men with interpersonal trauma; this psychoeducational intervention, looks to increase understanding of how past interpersonal trauma can impact on current functioning, and practical strategies to help people to manage this impact more effectively.

On 31 March 2023, 81 Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO) were in place in Edinburgh/Lothians. SOPOs (granted by the Court) place conditions on an individual’s

behaviour, providing a power of arrest if breached thus enhancing the police role in their management. SOPOs may contain positive obligations as well as prohibitions and for some their existence is sufficient to provide structure to their daily life, through which they may avoid further offending.

Priority Action 6

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

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

10. What activity has taken place to make restorative justice available to people and support them to access it, and what impact has there been as a result?

Edinburgh's Young People's Service has been working with registered charity [includem](#) exploring opportunities for restorative justice with young people under 18; this work is related to includem's bid to the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. Progress has been reported to Community Justice Scotland's restorative justice project.

Priority Action Seven

Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence⁵

Local Evidence

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

11. What activity has taken place to support people to access health and social care support after release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

⁵ National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

Healthcare from custody to community

Key services listed are expanded upon below:

- Gate pick-ups from prison on day of release
- 'One stop shop' the Access Place
- Funded posts in HMP Edinburgh to support healthcare from custody to community

Extensive partnership working between NHS Lothian and EMORSS (Third Sector) facilitated by the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) ensures that people in HMP Edinburgh receive the healthcare supports they need. Specifically, justice services funds EMORSS to deliver voluntary throughcare to support individuals navigate their transition from custody to community. This includes offering gate pick-ups from the prison estate so that individuals who need additional supports for example, to access healthcare or register with a GP on release can be encouraged and accompanied to do so on the day they leave custody. 26 gate pick-ups took place in the reporting period.

Feedback from those accessing the service included:

"I've been given a chance to get the help that I needed and accepted that I had a problem with alcohol."

"I got help with bus pass, GP and AA encouragement, recovery and emotional support"

EMORSS may also accompany individuals to the 'one shop stop' Access Practice based in central Edinburgh which offers a multi-disciplinary primary healthcare service to people aged 16 and over who are experiencing homelessness/ in temporary accommodation or who have additional needs.

The service delivers high quality co-ordinated care for people who have multiple and complex needs to support them improve their health, maximise life opportunities, increase hope and move on into communities where they are active citizens. 'Complex needs' are identified as persistent, problematic and interrelated health and social care needs affecting a person's life including mental, psychological and physical health needs and drug and alcohol recovery needs, including underlying adverse childhood experiences or experiences of trauma. They may also have had sporadic and inconsistent contact with services or been serially excluded from services.

Community justice partners have recognised that the remand population are particularly vulnerable in relation to accessing healthcare as their release from custody may be unexpected and unplanned. It is also recognised that continuity of medication particularly in relation to therapies for drugs dependency is key to an individual's stability and successful treatment programme when moving from custody to community. The EADP has provided funding for a throughcare nurse based in HMP Edinburgh to provide healthcare to the remand population with a focus on custody to community medication continuity. The throughcare nurse works alongside a dedicated EMORSS worker who compliments the delivery of healthcare with psychosocial and other practical supports according to each individual's need.

The EADP is currently developing Edinburgh's 2024-27 drug and alcohol strategy which proposes to continue its partnership working with EMORSS and support delivery of the [MAT](#)

[standards](#) and throughcare health services. It also proposes to review with national and local partners, the Prison to Rehab Pathway to consider how it could be improved. Below is a case study illustrating effective partnership working employed across SPS, NHS, EMORSS, and the Prison to Rehab Pathway to improve outcomes for an individual in the justice system.

Case study; Prison to Rehab Pathway

Individual B is a 36-year-old male who referred himself into the EMORSS service in March 2023 whilst in custody at HMP Edinburgh. He accessed the service presenting with issues around substance misuse and mental health (PTSD, trauma, anxiety) and was using substances to help him cope. The EMORSS worker and B worked together on a support plan to help address these presenting issues and made referrals to other appropriate services to support him with his mental health and to access Opiate Replacement Therapy to help manage his substance misuse.

Individual B attended other support groups on offer whilst in custody namely, Cocaine Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and Recovery Coaching Scotland, as well as SMART recovery meetings run by EMORSS. He attended meetings with EMORSS every two weeks to support his past and current substance misuse, working on motivation, how to manage triggers, urges, and relapse prevention. He was prescribed 60ml Methadone and wanted to work on being stable without using other illicit substances on the prison halls.

Individual B had received a sentence and had a liberation date in May 2024. His EMORSS worker discussed options with him for 'The Prison to Rehab' scheme and completed some work around getting ready for Rehab and being stable on his medication without using other substances. The meetings covered motivational interventions, relapse prevention, and also discussions around reducing his prescription of Methadone to meet the requirements for getting into Rehab. The reduction process was supported by the NHS Addictions team.

The referral for Rehab was completed by the EMORSS worker and B attended two separate video meetings from custody with the Lothians and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme (LEAP) whereby it was explained what would be expected of him whilst residing there. They described the process including attending group meetings, working on substance use to becoming abstinent, working with different therapists for mental health issues, and being able to access aftercare support after completing 12 weeks of therapy within the rehab setting.

LEAP asked if B would be able to leave custody earlier than his liberation date as there was a space available, and discussions took place around applying for a Home Detention Curfew (HDC) to allow him to leave custody earlier than his liberation date in May. Prior to the HDC application being submitted, justice social work assessed any risks. Other considerations were also addressed such as B's accommodation which needed to be suitable for a detection box to be fitted to comply with the HDC tag, and a curfew set so that he would be where he was required to be (for compliance) at the right times.

The service user was assessed as suitable for HDC and was released to Rehab with his tag fitted in January 2024.

When meeting with B for his 6-week review in LEAP, he was pleased to be able to say that he was completely abstinent from all his prescription medication and illicit substances and was doing well, attending his support groups in LEAP and in the community.

Accessing healthcare after custody via community supports

In addition to EMORSS, a range of services facilitate access to healthcare in the community for those leaving custody for example, Willow for women and Crossroads for men provide access to an NHS nurse and both work in partnership with Edinburgh Community Food to deliver educational sessions on healthy eating, nutrition, and the relationship between food and mental health. Health, wellbeing and recovery groupwork sessions also take place routinely. Mentoring services Shine, and New Routes for women and men respectively provide 1:1 supports for individuals to address their needs on release from custody which includes being supported to access GP and other health/social care services.

Priority Action Eight

Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence⁶

Local Evidence

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

12. What activity has taken place to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

Prison based housing support

As part of its commitment to embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards, Edinburgh continues to fund a Prison Outreach Officer based in HMP Edinburgh. This full-time post focusses solely on supporting people in custody and those being liberated, with their accommodation needs. A data sharing agreement between SPS and the Council facilitates timely information sharing between partners so that people scheduled for release from prison are actively encouraged to take up the appointments offered to discuss their housing and to help prevent homelessness presentations. For those in custody who have accommodation, the Prison Outreach Officer will support them sustain their housing where this is possible within their sentence timeframe and benefit eligibility.

⁶ National Indicator:
Number of:

- homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

Table 6 below shows that the number of people supported by this service increased in 2023/24 when compared with the previous year.

Table 6 – Prison Outreach Officer activity

Prison based Housing Outreach Officer activity	2022/23	2023/24
Referrals	355	391
Tenancies maintained	48	45
Tenancies terminated	9	18
Bed spaces requested	41	73

The data shows that the number of tenancies terminated doubled in 2023/24; in some cases, those in prison whose sentence and benefit eligibility meant their tenancy could not be sustained, preferred to rely upon legislation in place at the time which placed restrictions on evictions, and subsequently lost their accommodation due to being in rent arrears.

The Prison Outreach Officer has developed good working relationships with staff across the prison estate ensuring that people returning to Edinburgh from other prisons or who have decided to relocate to Edinburgh are supported with their accommodation needs. Additionally, the Officer has developed closer working relationships with prison-based staff in NHS Psychology to raise awareness of the housing outreach supports available and excellent prison-based partnership working exists between staff in EMORSS, DWP, SPS, and the Council's justice services.

Challenges and homelessness

The Council declared a Housing Emergency in November 2023 citing significant pressures on the housing market including homelessness rates and housing costs. The acute shortage of affordable housing/ bed spaces presents a significant challenge to delivering SHORE which remains aspirational. Table 6 above shows that requests for temporary accommodation increased by 78% in 2023/24 compared with the previous year. Most prison leavers are unsuitable for 'tourist accommodation' and some have been banned from certain B&Bs/ accommodation providers further reducing their options. In some cases, therefore, people have had to be signposted to Streetwork/ Simon Community for out of hours/ emergency supports which are unavailable until the end of the working day. EMORSS staff supporting prison leavers via gate pick-ups have also highlighted instances of people being unable to access follow up temporary accommodation despite engaging with the Prison Outreach Officer prior to release. Supported hostel accommodation for individuals is provided by housing partner Hillcrest Futures with demand for spaces exceeding capacity.

Table 7 below shows data on the % of households presenting as homeless and stating the reason as "due to being discharged from prison"

Table 7 – homelessness data including homeless presentations following release from prison

Year	Total homeless presentations	Homeless presentations following prison release	% of homeless presentations citing prison release as reason
2019/20	3556	101	2.8%
2020/21	2215	80	3.6%
2021/22	2540	81	3.2%
2022/23	3542	104	2.9%
2023/24	3871	108	2.8%

Although homeless presentations overall have increased by 9% over the past 5 years and the numbers presenting from prison have increased by 7% during the same period, the % of homeless presentations citing prison release as a reason for homelessness remained the same as in 2019/20.

The accommodation challenges experienced by prison leavers also extend to those who are being supported in the community. For example, housing remains a key issue for many women accessing Willow particularly as there is limited gender specific provision across the City. Building and developing relationships with key housing providers alongside relevant training and development will be a focus for Willow in 2024/25.

Work is ongoing to explore ways to accurately measure tenancy sustainability for people accessing social housing following prison release. Individuals are likely to spend significant time in temporary accommodation before being offered a secure tenancy therefore gathering this information requires tracking an individual's housing progress potentially over a number of years. It is hoped that that further information on this can be provided in future annual returns.

Priority Action Nine

Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment⁷

Local Evidence

⁷ National Indicator:
Percentage of:

- those in employability services with convictions

- Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports:
 - i. local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions
 - ii. local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support
 - iii. local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions.
- Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support:
 - i. at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO
 - ii. following release from custody.

13. What activity has taken place to support people to access employability support, and what impact had there been as a result?

Encompass; Access to Industry

[Joined Up for Jobs](#) is Edinburgh's jobs strategy which is a partnership of key agencies working together to support more people into employment. Key third sector partner Access to Industry (AI) manages and delivers the Encompass project; an education, training and employability service for people in Edinburgh living with complex needs including homelessness, and those moving on from past offending behaviour. AI works with justice social work, SPS staff in HMP Edinburgh, NHS Lothian's Orchard Clinic and Edinburgh's local recovery hubs in supporting those furthest removed from the labour market to build their skills, gain access to opportunities and, where appropriate, move into employment.

AI offers one-to-one support, so that participants can establish a positive, consistent relationship with one worker. Participants work through personal development action plans and progress is regularly reviewed to ensure they receive the maximum benefit, with all support and training delivered in a safe and supportive environment. Bespoke, skill-based training is delivered in outreach locations and via the AI in-house Community College. A wide range of employability opportunities where participants gain qualifications in core communication, IT, and employability skills, as well as access to work placements and volunteering are offered. For those who prefer to work outdoors, AI offers individuals opportunities to learn gardening skills in its community garden based in the city centre's Canongate. AI courses/ activities may be accessed as part of community payback 'other activities' where individuals receive accreditation towards their required CPO hours.

During the reporting period AI actively supported 267 people, 51 of whom disclosed having a criminal conviction. 105 of those supported moved on to positive destinations either through accessing further education, training, volunteering or paid employment. AI also has a regular presence in HMP Edinburgh a few days per week to support those being liberated to Edinburgh, with employment and training opportunities. Additionally, AI has contributed to Edinburgh's Capital City Partnership co-ordinated 'Untapped Workforce' events delivered to employers to share knowledge and ideas in relation to assisting more people with

convictions into employment. AI also offers regular training sessions to other support agencies, employers, and partners on disclosures and recruiting people with convictions.

Challenges

In previous years AI has supported individuals in HMP Edinburgh to access Individual Training Account (ITA) funding to enable them to obtain the Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) qualification prior to their liberation. This Scottish Government funding has been withdrawn and AI is having to explore other possible avenues of support from partners such as DWP to continue this valuable provision that supports people with convictions into employment.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Community justice partner and universal service provider SDS have a centrally based premises at Shandwick Place in Edinburgh where anyone can access training and employment support. SDS has produced a liberation pack specifically for those leaving prison to encourage them to engage with the service and meet up with an SDS adviser or access their online resources.

EMORSS traineeships

Justice services and EADP have worked together with CGL to fund two traineeship posts within existing EMORSS provision; the traineeships provide opportunities for those with lived experience to access formally funded SVQs in Health and Social Care alongside 1:1 employability mentoring. During the reporting period a recruit completed her traineeship and was successful in securing a support worker role within EMORSS, bringing visible recovery into the service and motivation to those settling into the community after prison.

Cyrenians garden project

The Cyrenians garden project offers employability support to people serving a community sentence through teaching practical application in gardening and landscaping alongside transferable skills such as team building, relationship building, health and safety, and mental wellbeing. Participants also have the opportunity to volunteer with the project after completing their sentence should they wish to do so, ensuring people who may not be work ready can engage in meaningful activity.

CPO Connect

As part of the CPO Connect programme mentioned above under Priority Action 5, flexible virtual sessions with specific input on supporting individuals to become more confident to enter the job market were delivered. The topics in table 8 below focussed on employability and encouraging participants into the workplace. During the reporting period, six people selected and attended those focussed sessions.

Table 8 – examples of CPO Connect employability related content in 2023/24

Topic	Content	Learning Outcome
Preparing your CV and Job searching	How to design and write your C.V; what content to include; how to regularly update your C.V; ten tips for a great C.V; sourcing job opportunities and best practice when applying for jobs.	To be confident and equipped to design, prepare and write a great CV. How and where to search, apply and source job opportunities to give you the

		best chance of employment success.
Interview and Presentations Skills	Preparing for an interview; conducting yourself at an interview; top-ten tips for interview success; how to present yourself in a confident way, how to present or pitch yourself or an idea.	To be confident and equipped to prepare for and conduct yourself at an interview; to be able to present and pitch yourself confidently. To help and assist you in yourself awareness and confidence.
Work Readiness	How to prepare for getting back into work, getting settled into work life & dealing with work issues & work life balance.	Feel suitably prepared for work life. To understand and deal with going into employment, integrating into a new job and balancing work and life.

Case study; sustaining employment

The case study below illustrates effective partnership working between Willow (services for women in the justice system) and Access to Industry to support an individual sustain her employment as she navigated the justice system.

Emma (not her real name) appeared in Court in relation to a first offence, having had no contact with justice services previously. She presented as very fearful and nervous about the court process and uncertain about the support Willow would provide.

The allocated social worker was able to utilise skills and knowledge around trauma informed practice to support Emma to build trust in the workers at Willow and feel safe whilst she was at the Women's Centre. The social worker reflected that this approach supported positive engagement and over time, Emma became more confident and comfortable opening up about her circumstances and what had led her to offending. This space allowed her to explore her emotions and build confidence.

Additionally, the justice support worker worked alongside partner agency Access to Industry, to support meaningful occupation. Emma was supported to access advice and support in relation to sustaining employment despite having a criminal conviction. The outcome of this support meant she has been able to retain her employment and explore alternative opportunities for the future.

Following completion of her Structured Deferred Sentence, the conviction was dealt with by admonition and Emma has not been involved in any further offending. She has chosen to continue to access support from the Willow service, which is an option available for all women if there is deemed to be a focus for support. Her confidence and wellbeing have visibly grown since working with Willow which she refers to as her "safe space" and believes she has greatly benefited from the support she has received.

Case study; employment and training

The case study below is a letter from an individual who received support from AI and shows how successful partnership working across agencies to provide a range of supports to people in the justice system can lead to positive outcomes.

"Hi, good to hear from you. I'm doing good thanks.

Was meaning to tell you that following an interview, I was accepted on to the course I mentioned at Edinburgh College. I was delighted, as there were 40 applicants for 20 places. The course started four weeks ago, although we've only completed 3 classes as there was a mid-term break and this Thursday coming is industrial action. So back next week.

Love the creative stuff, I facilitated a session as well. It's inspired me to join another group with a tutor. Very experienced people in the group.

As you know I'm working full time with Employer A as a Key Worker. It's a fantastic organisation to work for, I'm going on lots of training courses over the next few months and as a relative new person, I've got a 'buddy' from another part of the organisation, a senior manager who I'm meeting for the first time this week.

And I'm still working very hard on my recovery, and the 12 step programme with my sponsor and because I work at different times, I can do all my AA meetings, still averaging 18 per week. I was 16 months sober on Sunday. A few of us friends from the fellowship are off abroad soon for a week and I'll also be attending an AA convention. I'm also meeting my therapist once a week for my grief/trauma counselling which I've been doing since July. This really helps me to try and come to terms with my loss and also compliments my other interests as I'm learning from an excellent and experienced therapist.

So, a lot has happened over the last 12 months since I left LEAP, and I'd like to thank you all, as you've been a huge part of my recovery journey.*

Hope you're well and we'll have a catch up when I'm in your office if you're available.

Cheers"

**Lothian and Edinburgh Abstinence Programme*

Priority Action Ten

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

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence⁸

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences.
- Proportion of people liberated from short term custody:
 - i. made aware of support
 - ii. accepting support offer
 - iii. with a co-ordinated pre-release plan in place.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people accessing voluntary throughcare to support improvement.

⁸ National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of community justice partners in delivering voluntary throughcare to support the needs of people leaving short term custody.

14. What activity has taken place to support people to access voluntary throughcare? What impact had there been as a result?

EMORSS voluntary throughcare

EMORSS delivered by Third Sector partner CGL provides voluntary throughcare to people being released to Edinburgh on behalf of justice services. Individuals due for release are identified both through the prison information system (PR2) and via justice social work as part of its data sharing agreement with SPS. Individuals are pro-actively contacted 4 months prior to their liberation date and where possible support is offered face to face. The voluntary throughcare offering encompasses prison-based holistic supports within HMP Edinburgh and HMYOI Polmont, to put in place a co-ordinated pre-release plan for each individual. For those travelling to Edinburgh after release from other establishments, telephone appointments are offered. Most individuals received supports for several months prior to release, with 38% of those receiving voluntary throughcare being on remand. Support activity includes ensuring relevant appointments are made with support agencies according to need including for example, GP/ health services, DWP for welfare/ benefits, and housing support. Gate pick-ups are also offered to all being liberated to provide additional support during the transition from custody to community.

Support continues after liberation to assist individuals to continue to address their unmet needs while successfully reintegrating into their community. EMORSS encourages individuals to link into the range of holistic supports available at Crossroads and Willow while also continuing to provide psychosocial and practical 1:1 assistance including specialist help for addictions and recovery. A dedicated EMORSS staff member also supports SMART recovery and groupwork delivered within Crossroads and Willow to men and women respectively.

EMORSS routinely gathers feedback from individuals in receipt of voluntary throughcare and uses the Recovery Outcome Web (ROW) tool to measure progress towards outcomes. Feedback from 150 responses considered is shown in table 9 below.

Table 9 - voluntary throughcare outcomes 2023/24

Outcome	Progress	Number supported and %
Drug/Alcohol Use	Improved	27 (18%)
	Same	120 (80%)
	Worse	3 (2%)
Offending Behaviour	Improved	35 (23%)
	Same	115 (77%)
	Worse	0
Physical/ Mental Health	Improved	23 (16%)
	Same	122 (81%)
	Worse	5 (3%)
Family/	Improved	26 (17%)

Relationships	Same	117 (78%)
	Worse	7 (5%)
Housing	Improved	28 (19%)
	Same	117 (78%)
	Worse	5 (3%)

Many people in the justice system have experienced significant disadvantage in their lives, have multiple and complex needs, and face considerable challenges in turning their lives around. Many also make repeated attempts to make positive changes before they succeed and the proportion of people reporting improved outcomes reflects this. For example, a snapshot from 2023, of the demographic being supported at Willow revealed:

- 65% experienced childhood sexual abuse
- 71% experienced childhood emotional abuse or neglect
- 74% experienced domestic abuse in adulthood
- 96% identified as having a problematic family of origin
- 100% identified as having alcohol or drug problems

Comments on the EMORSS service included:

“He (EMORSS worker) was very professional and understanding. So, it’s thanks to his support that I’ve managed to get into rehab so thank you!”

“My caseworker fought my corner with housing, benefits, employment, volunteering, and development. I will always be so grateful for his presence in my journey”

“My worker was very supportive and listened without judgement”

“I’ve been given a chance to get the help that I needed and accepted that I had a problem with alcohol”

Liberation packs

Liberation packs are offered to individuals being released from prison who are in greatest need for example, those without settled accommodation and/or basic essentials. EMORSS has received excellent feedback from those benefiting from the packs which include backpack, mobile phone, hat, gloves, wipes, torch, diary, a list of useful numbers, deodorant, toothbrush, and water bottle/ flask. 67 packs were issued in 2023/24.

Partnership working

EMORSS has developed working relationships with agencies locally that can contribute to voluntary throughcare provision for example, Crisis Skylight, and Shelter for housing/ homelessness, Crossroads for men, Willow for women, Shine mentoring for women, and CHAI for financial inclusion. Since August 2023, CHAI has also hosted a weekly slot at CGL’s central Edinburgh premises so that individuals working with EMORSS can receive income maximisation and other financial advice in the community. 51 appointments were held during the reporting period.

EMORSS has continued to attend fortnightly Women’s Throughcare Meetings with the Willow service and Access to Industry (partner delivering Shine mentoring for women) to formulate pre-release planning and engagement with women due to be liberated to

Edinburgh. This partnership arrangement facilitates information sharing for the purposes of managing risk and responding to need, while maximising opportunities for women to access support with the most appropriate lead agency taking the lead in co-ordinating supports for each woman. This approach reduces the likelihood of women falling through the gaps between services or being overwhelmed with too many interventions and provides a co-ordinated pathway of support. Following a review of this composite model and the positive evaluation from both the women involved and staff, it is the intention to work towards developing a similar voluntary throughcare collaborative practice model (where numbers allow) for men in the justice system being released from custody.

Case study; voluntary throughcare

Individual C is a 35-year-old man who was referred into the service after being remanded in custody at HMP Edinburgh. He was assessed there by the EMORSS prison team in mid-February 2024 where he advised that he had to attend court at the end of the month. He was advised to get in touch with the community team if he was released from court. C was released on bail, and he reached out to the EMORSS community team the following day and was offered an appointment that same day with the worker he was subsequently allocated.

Individual C advised that he was struggling with substance use, had mental health difficulties, was homeless, and needed support to get back on his benefits. He explained that he had bail conditions not to approach his ex-partner and was finding this difficult as his ex-partner continued to contact him. In the first instance, he was supported to claim appropriate benefits until he felt fit enough to return to work, and was given a follow-up appointment to discuss and agree a support plan.

C initially struggled to make it to appointments he was given due to several instances of breaking his bail by contacting his ex-partner and being arrested as a result. His EMORSS worker continued to encourage him to stop responding to his ex-partner who kept contacting him by phone and text. It was eventually agreed that C would be given a phone and a new SIM card to ensure that his ex-partner could not contact him, and he would be unable to contact her.

After being given the phone, C attended all his appointments. A support plan was created to support him to address his substance use, offending behaviour, and mental health difficulties and it was agreed he would attend a 1:1 session at least every two weeks.

Subsequently, C was supported to identify recovery activities he would like to take part in. He expressed an interest in attending the Recovery Café near his temporary accommodation and was supported to do so. He was also keen to go fishing and was supported to link in with the fishing group organised by Edinburgh Recovery Activities and Cyrenians. He was also referred to receive a Community Access Programme card for Edinburgh Leisure to enable him to go to the gym for a nominal charge.

Priority Action Eleven

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

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

Local evidence:

- Mechanisms are in place to support engagement in each local authority, specifically:
 - a community justice outcomes improvement plan (CJOIP)
 - a participation statement
 - an annual report on progress towards nationally and locally determined outcomes.
- Mechanisms are in place to support an effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives within Community Justice Partnerships.
- Evidence of mechanisms to engage non-statutory partners in strategic planning
- Use of the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with focus on Leadership and Direction

15. How has your partnership worked to develop local leadership and enhance strategic planning and collaboration? What impact had there been as a result?

Edinburgh's CSJP is the strategic group responsible for oversight of community justice and community safety arrangements in Edinburgh. The Partnership co-ordinates a multi-agency response through contributing to activities to support reducing reoffending and tackling anti-social behaviour as set out in both the [Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan](#) and the Community Safety Strategy. The CSJP receives partner updates quarterly on developments and progress locally in community justice and community safety and agrees the draft local Community Justice Outcome Activity Report annually. The CSJP is a sub-group of the [Edinburgh Partnership](#); Edinburgh's overarching community planning partnership, which drives Edinburgh's [Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#) and endorses the Activity Report.

The CSJP holds an annual development day to reflect on its work over the year, agree key work themes, and plan for the forthcoming year including incorporating any changes to future direction. The most recent development session held in April 2024 discussed key topics currently relevant for Edinburgh including the draft Drug and Alcohol Partnership Strategy 2024-27, the Street Begging Strategy, Police Scotland's approach to Serious and Organised Crime in Edinburgh north, and the use of Firework Control Zones as a tool to manage antisocial behaviour and reduce bonfire/firework related crime and harm around the bonfire period. Subsequent meetings will include follow up discussion on allocation of the CSJP's small budget, self-evaluation tools in community justice, and key themes in the new Community Safety Strategy currently being developed.

The CSJP's membership consists of representation from both national agencies and local partners as well as Third Sector interface organisation Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), and Third Sector providers involved in community justice delivery locally for example Sacro. Victims and witnesses of crime are also represented by Victim Support.

Considerable partnership activity has taken place as part of arrangements between key community justice partners to deliver a range of services locally for people in the justice system post custody or serving community sentences. During the reporting period, for example, justice services worked collaboratively with Third Sector providers including:

- Cyrenians to deliver its garden project,
- Women's Aid to develop and deliver a peer mentoring project for women in the justice system impacted by domestic abuse,
- Edinburgh Community Food supporting Willow and Crossroads attendees through cooking skills and nutritional education, and
- CGL, EADP, and others to support people via throughcare to address their needs and rehabilitate successfully into their communities.

The projects listed above are explained further under the priority actions within this document. Strategic planning and collaborative working have also taken place with neighbouring local authorities and statutory partners for example, Police Scotland and SPS under MAPPA.

Similarly, joint planning and collaboration with NHS Lothian is evident in the provision of a nurse based at the Willow women's service of which an important part is the ability to offer a comprehensive and holistic assessment of individual women's needs and respond to these through a multi-disciplinary team. All women accessing Willow have the opportunity to meet with the Willow nurse at the early stages of their involvement or at any point in their journey and the nurse is able to work with women to respond to immediate physical health needs as well as support their engagement with community-based supports. It is well known that women within the justice system have difficulty building trust with professionals and struggle to navigate the complex systems that exist in relation to accessing support and treatment, with the consequences being that they can often neglect their physical wellbeing due to finding it so difficult to attend appointments or advocate for their needs. The case study below provides an example of a woman who was subject to a 12-month CPO accessing Willow and evidences the impact of having a nurse embedded within the service.

Case study; Willow and NHS collaborative working

Nina (not her real name) met with the Willow nurse as part of her assessment and through this process it became evident that she had a number of health concerns, including a diagnosis for Hypertension. Nina receives a prescription to manage this but is required to attend at the GP multiple times a week to have her blood pressure reviewed, which Nina had reported she was struggling to do. The nurse was able to utilise the time within the appointment to measure vital signs: blood pressure, blood oxygen, respiration rate, heart rate and temperature. The Willow nurse was able to contact the GP surgery and following a discussion with the GP practice nurse over the phone, adjust the dose for the blood pressure medication. The nurse also utilised the appointment to provide education about the benefits of healthy eating and physical movement and activity. Nina also had the opportunity to join a cooking group (offered to all women accessing Willow) and to discuss patterns of eating with

the nutritionist from Edinburgh Community Food, which supports the holistic approach embedded within the Willow service.

Priority Action Twelve

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

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

16. How has your partnership worked to understand and incorporate the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families into partnership planning and implementation? *What impact has there been as a result?*

Community justice partners regularly collate feedback from people being supported to inform service planning, development, and delivery. For example, it was clear from feedback received as part of consultations relating to CPOs, that people undertaking unpaid work appreciated the opportunity to work outdoors. It is also evident that charities and community organisations appreciate work carried out by unpaid work teams and this feedback has influenced both unpaid work projects and led to the commissioning of a gardening programme enabling people to complete their community payback hours outdoors. The positive impact of community justice activity is apparent from feedback received, some of which is cited in the additional information below.

Feedback from people accessing justice services supports

Feedback is sought routinely from people in the justice system both at different stages of their justice journey and across the range of interventions in place to support successful rehabilitation. For example, the Council's justice services, uses entry and exit questionnaires encouraging those accessing services to provide honest feedback on their experiences of the supports they have received. There are also ample opportunities for people to suggest how services could be improved and what they feel could be done better. Examples of feedback included:

"When I have been feeling down, I have had a person to bring me back up, even throughout all this, and every time we have contact my worker just always says she is proud of me and that's just kept me going" – woman supported by Willow

"My help from A (worker) at CGL was life changing. Honest chats helped me look on my life from a different side. My goal now is to become a CGL worker and help people in need as I was. Thanks to the service, I didn't feel alone" - male supported by EMORSS

"I worked well within a group and got on well with others. Coming here has given me great support and made me realise that I do not wish to be involved in criminal behaviour going forward" – male completing unpaid work as part of a CPO

Two Cyrenians food pantries operate in Edinburgh, one in the north and another in the west of the City, to help address food poverty. The pantries serve the most vulnerable in the community and access is based on need. Feedback included:

“I am on carers allowance, and I don’t have much money so this really helps me with everyday items” – Cyrenians St Brides food pantry user

“I have been in Edinburgh since September 2022 from Ukraine. I am studying and volunteering at the pantry. Working here gives me the opportunity to speak to people and improve my English, while using my free time to help people helps me to feel like I am giving something back to the community” – Hibs pantry volunteer

Peer mentoring and support

Domestic Abuse Services (DAS) and Third Sector provider Women's Aid have worked collaboratively to develop and deliver a new Peer Support Service which has been in place since March 2023. The Service supports women in the justice system who are domestic abuse survivors through engaging them in a programme of activity, facilitated by those with lived experience, within a safe, supportive environment.

The programme includes group sessions, discussions on lived experiences, understanding domestic abuse dynamics, self-esteem and self-care, breaking down isolation, coping mechanisms, and supporting others. To embed co-production and lived experience within the provision, further development of the programme aims to provide opportunities for the women survivors to train to become peer mentors whereby they may, when confident to do so, use their experiences to support others accessing DAS. As the Service develops, women are being encouraged to lead discussions within the monthly social discussion groups held. Feedback from women on the programme included:

“I was looking for so long for women with similar experiences; I was very cut off from my friends and family and anyone I met I felt judged by, I was desperately looking until I came to these groups. After attending the sessions, I feel like I have a first aid kit for my soul”

“Thank you so much for the invite to the absolutely wonderful group social today. I absolutely loved it and I really cannot begin to express how much I needed it today. It was a firm reminder that I’m not alone and if these other strong, brave women can get through (you included in that) then so can I”

“I’ve met some truly amazing, strong, inspirational women. This group is not just a group to me, it’s been a lifeline”

Peer mentoring is also an integral part of Third Sector provider CGL’s approach to supporting people in the justice system with specialist support available to those with an alcohol and/or drugs dependency. EMORSS uses lived experience to further motivate recovery, encourage desistance, and build resilience. The EMORSS traineeships enable those with lived experience to become fully trained in supporting others and provide opportunities for paid employment to those successfully completing the programme.

Support for families

Eligible Edinburgh residents are supported to maintain relationships with their relatives/ loved ones in Scottish prisons through the justice services funded Travel Service delivered by Sacro. The service recruits and manages a team of volunteer drivers, co-ordinating free personalised transport to prison visitors who may find it difficult to travel for example due to

vulnerability and/or the remote location of their destination prison. Age, disability, infirmity, cost, availability of public transport, and other challenges such as taking children on lengthy journeys may impact on an individual or family's ability to maintain contact with their loved ones in prison. Facilitating prison visits, therefore is key to supporting those in prison to maintain their family and social networks; this can have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing as well as providing motivation to desist from offending. Sacro routinely invites people using the service to feed back on their experience and comments demonstrating positive impact included:

"Yeah, it was great, driver was very nice, my 22-month-old screamed most of the way back but apart from that all went great, thanks!"

"I was really nervous, but M (driver) made me so comfortable and put me at ease"

"The visit went well, and A (driver) was really nice"

Numbers supported by the Travel Service are shown at table 10 below.

Table 10 – Travel Service trips to Scottish prisons over the past 5 years

Travel Service	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of trips to Scottish prisons	246	0	41	102	128
Number of passengers supported***	454	0	57	188	197

***figures represent the total supports delivered (some passengers may have travelled more than once)

In July 2023, Sacro began to gather additional information on the demographics of those using the Travel Service; between July 2023 and March 24, 79 children with an average age of 8 have been part of the passenger journeys to visit loved ones.

Victims of crime

Victim and witnesses to crime in Edinburgh can access emotional and practical support from CSJP member Victim Support (VS). Referrals into VS come from a range of sources including the Council's justice services, Family and Household Support Service (dealing with neighbour disputes and antisocial behaviour), Police Scotland, and self-referrals. Individuals may access supports suited to their circumstance and this can include accompanied court familiarisation visits for those who are anxious about giving evidence in court, in court support when giving evidence, telephone/ web-based support, and 1:1 emotional assistance to move on from a crime.

Many people charged with offences have themselves been victims of crime; to ensure VS supports are available to all, VS materials are visible within court buildings and training has been delivered to social workers and other relevant staff to highlight the supports VS can provide. VS in Edinburgh is also a member of the Scottish Government led [Victims Taskforce](#) which aims to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the experiences of victims and witnesses navigating the justice system while ensuring a fair justice system for those accused of crime.

VS's Emergency Assistance Fund (ringfenced VS generic funding) which is accessed via application, provides financial support for essentials to the most vulnerable victims of crime. The fund may also support practical adjustments to enhance safety for victims of domestic abuse for example, installing a doorbell camera, or supplying a personal safety alarm.

During the reporting period, 337 Edinburgh applications were received of which 240 were approved for support.

Priority Action Thirteen

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

Nationally determined outcome:

More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice⁹

Local Evidence

- Community justice partner contribution to joint activity across policy areas to tackle stigma.

17. What partnership-driven activity has taken place to improve understanding of and confidence in community justice across the workforce and local community?

Encouraging confidence in community justice

Sharing comments from people using community justice services, gathering staff feedback, and reviewing case studies which demonstrate partnership working and positive outcomes are a key part of community justice communication activity. The public facing CPO annual report is also a key element of sharing with the public and partners, the range of community justice activity that has taken place by those undertaking unpaid work in the community. This CPO report is an opportunity to set out the work done through various community projects to improve local communities and to share feedback from the beneficiaries of unpaid work. Examples of unpaid work activity that have taken place recently and been publicised through the report included:

Duddingston Kirk – whereby an area of decking was fitted, paving was laid for the Kirk café, and new fencing erected.

Nelson Monument – overgrown trees around the monument were pruned, with litter picking and weeding carried out to tidy up the vicinity.

Inverleith Park – the Friends of Inverleith Group were supported with graffiti removal, painting park gates, composting, applying woodchip to park areas, weed removal, and clearing pathways around the pond to make access easier for park visitors.

Saughtonhall Community Association Grounds – weeding, fixing fencing, litter picking, and cutting back overgrown trees took place.

⁹ National Indicator:

Percentage of people who agree that:

- people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

The examples above highlighting the tangible community benefits to Edinburgh citizens and help increase public confidence in and support for community sentences. A public consultation for partners, staff, and the general public was conducted in the summer of 2023 to gauge the level of public awareness and support for unpaid work as an alternative to custody including the perceived impact on offending. Public awareness of CPOs and unpaid work remains high with over 97% of respondents stating they either fully or partly understood the purpose of a community disposal. Feedback also showed a 7% increase from 77% in 2022 to 83% in 2023 in public support for community payback as a tool allowing people to pay back to the community for crimes. Comments from a range of respondents included:

“Far better to live at home and give back to society rather than have to pay to keep people in prison where I believe they might learn to be better criminals” member of the public response.

“It makes the perpetrators aware of the effect of the actions and publicly restoring the damages serves as an example for the perpetrator and others tempted to follow the wrong path” member of the public response.

“Being out in the fresh air completing a meaningful task must be better than a custodial sentence or a fine and perhaps give individuals a different experience from what they are used to” member of the public response.

“If used rightly, community payback could give people the chance to make restitution for their crimes and to develop a better understanding of the consequences of their actions” member of the public response.

“We have engaged with community payback for several years now. In the last year the team has dug deep trenches for drainage pipes, erected a deer fence which was in uncultivated and overgrown land as well as help to build stairs and decking. The volunteers who help in the garden could not have done these jobs” feedback from community garden in east of Edinburgh.

“We have had unpaid work teams working with us in our community garden for at least 7 years. They have moved soil, plants, built planters from wood, brick and stone. Built other outdoor structures, painted wooden structures. Tidied and sorted garden equipment, carried water, spread woodchip and compost. Basically, we couldn’t do what we do without them” feedback from community garden in south-west of Edinburgh.

“Getting to socialise with different people, learning new skills and using tools and equipment that I have never used before” individual undertaking unpaid work.

“I am grateful to staff for their remarkable patience, support and empathy. I have learned that there is good in everyone” individual undertaking unpaid work.

“Community payback/ unpaid work offers a credible, robust alternative to a prison sentence combining reparation for crimes committed with supporting those in the justice system to desist from offending and make positive contributions to society; it’s also a good way for people to learn new skills, work as part of a team, and be part of making visible improvements to local communities” staff member feedback.

Community garden projects maintained by people undertaking unpaid work contribute to community amenity while also providing volunteering opportunities for those who have

completed their community sentences and would like to undertake meaningful activity for example, to support their desistance and/or as a stepping stone to employment. Both Third Sector providers Cyrenians and Access to Industry (AI) manage community gardens which provide supports, volunteering pathways, and facilities for people in the justice system. The improvements to communities made by the existence of well-kept community gardens, encourage public confidence in community justice.

To encourage employer confidence, AI has developed a myth busting programme answering the concerns of employers around employing people with convictions. This educational programme continues to be offered and has been delivered to potential employers, staff working in support services, and to people with convictions providing advice and best practice on the disclosure system and how it applies to the jobs market.

Highlighting support for people in prison

A short [STV report](#) broadcast at the 6pm primetime slot on 18 April 24 highlighted the key supports for people in prison and their loved ones provided by the Council funded Travel Service described under Priority Action 12 above. The report brought together the reflections of the Service's longest standing passenger and Donald, a volunteer driver. The report also contained input from Families Outside as a referring organisation. The Council's media team worked with both Sacro and STV to create the short film to raise awareness amongst the public on what the Travel Service can offer.

18. Look ahead for your local area. Please tell us what the next steps are for your partnership.

The Partnership leadership is reviewing attendance and meeting format, ensuring that the right people are round the table at partnership meetings. In the coming year, the Partnership's intends to continue to hold meetings quarterly, focusing on agreed community safety and community justice priorities and receiving update reports on key themes in those areas. The Partnership is also reviewing the outcomes of discussions from a recent development day which considered the central community safety/ community justice issues impacting Edinburgh and which will inform the Partnership's direction going forward; this may include undertaking a self-evaluation exercise with partners to support Partnership focus and improvement.