

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD 24 AUGUST 2022

### FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY JUSTICE IN ABERDEENSHIRE – 2021/22

#### 1 Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board (IJB):**

- 1.1 Notes and considers the Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire for 2021/22, highlighting the progress that has been made collectively by the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership during the period.

#### 2 Directions

- 2.1 No direction requires to be issued to Aberdeenshire Council or NHS Grampian as a result of this report.

#### 3 Risk

- 3.1 IJB Risk 2: Poor Health and Social Care Policy alignment – the Community Justice (Scotland) Act is national legislation regarding the redesign of community justice.
- 3.2 IJB Risk 5: Risk of not fully informing, involving and engaging with our clients, the public, staff and partners – the above legislation places duties on statutory community justice partners to engage in community justice planning at a local level.

#### 4 Background

- 4.1 The Board has previously received inputs on Community Justice, including on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 when the fourth annual report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire was presented for consideration.
- 4.2 To recap, Community Justice is explained as:

*“the collection of individuals, agencies and services that work together to support, manage and supervise people who have committed offences, from the point of arrest, through prosecution, community disposal or custody and alternatives to these, until they are reintegrated into the community. Local communities and the third sector are a vital part of this process, which aims to prevent and reduce further offending and the harm that it causes, to promote desistance, social inclusion and citizenship”*

- 4.3 The model for Community Justice has been designed to deliver a community solution to achieving improved outcomes for community justice; to prevent and reduce further offending; and to support desistance. Underpinned by the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/10/contents/enacted>), the model places planning at a local level, bringing a local perspective to community justice and enabling decisions to be made by the people who know their area best. A legal duty has been placed on a set of statutory community justice partners to engage in this local planning process.

## 5 Summary

- 5.1 This is the fifth Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire – the reports on activity during previous reporting periods are available to download from the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership web page (<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/>).
- 5.2 It is a legislative requirement for the community justice statutory partners in each local area to report annually on outcome activity, and for Community Justice Scotland to publish a report setting out its assessment of performance across Scotland in relation to the achievement of the nationally determined outcomes. It is a requirement that the Annual Report takes account of the national indicators which are set out in the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement (OPI) Framework.
- 5.3 As in previous years, a template for the report has been provided by Community Justice Scotland and all annual returns must adhere to this prescribed format. There is therefore no flexibility in terms of the layout or format of the report. However, in response to requests from the Board in previous reporting periods, a more concise 'local annual report' is being developed which can be used by partners to highlight and promote the work of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership.
- 5.4 The template this year is largely the same as the one provided for use in 2020/21, with some small changes. As was the case in 2020/21, given that the Covid-19 pandemic was present for the entirety of the reporting period, and will continue to have implications for the work of community justice partners in future years, the template this year includes a section that gives Community Justice Partners the opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Partnership. This includes both challenges / negative implications and opportunities / positive implications. In addition, the template also contains a section where community justice partners are asked to provide details of any achievement(s) that partners are particularly proud of during the reporting period. This provides an opportunity for Community Justice Partners to highlight something that would likely not have happened, were it not for the existence of the Partnership. The template this year also asks Community Justice Partners to detail what work partners have taken, or intend to undertake, in order to progress the recommendations highlighted within the Community Justice Scotland 2020/21 Annual Report ([Community](#)

[Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2020-21 - Community Justice Scotland](#)). It should be noted that this report was not published until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022, and as such, the majority of this section contains information about the work that Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners plan to undertake or have begun to undertake during 2022/23.

- 5.5 As in previous years, the completed templates will form part of the wider data set from which the Community Justice Scotland annual report on outcome activity will be compiled and published in March 2023, and will thereafter be laid in the Scottish Parliament.
- 5.6 Community Justice Scotland (CJS) is in the process of reviewing the current Outcomes, Performance and Improvement (OPI) Framework for Community Justice, and while Community Justice Scotland is aware of the challenges that the current framework presents in terms of reflecting on progress, there is a statutory responsibility to have regard to the current performance indicators and include them in the annual return template. Development work on the new Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework is slightly behind schedule due to the delay in the publication of the revised National Strategy for Community Justice (now published and available via the Scottish Government website - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-strategy-community-justice-2/>), however it is anticipated that the revised Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework will be available for Autumn 2022. Arrangements for reporting period 2022/23 have still to be confirmed.
- 5.7 In terms of the priorities that have been identified for Aberdeenshire, these are set out within the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and remain as:
- Improving Community Understanding and Participation in Community Justice
  - Strategic Planning and Partnership Working
  - Effective Use of Evidence Based Interventions
    - o Early Intervention
    - o People with repeat criminal convictions, including perpetrators of domestic abuse
  - Equitable Access to Services
    - o Employment
    - o Housing
    - o Mental Health
    - o Welfare
    - o Transitions (support prior to, during and after points of transition)
- 5.8 Four additional local priority areas of Alcohol-related Offending, Women in the Justice System, Short Custodial Sentences and Unpaid Work have been in place since May 2017, following feedback from Community Justice Scotland on the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan that was received at this time.

- 5.9 Within the template, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative data and information has been used to describe the activities and progress that has been made during the reporting period by Community Justice Partners, collectively, towards these priorities and the National Outcomes for Community Justice. The full Annual Report for 2021/22 can be found at Appendix 1.
- 5.10 The Chief Officer, along with the Chief Finance Officer and the Legal Monitoring Officers within Business Services of the Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments have been incorporated within the report.

## 6 Key Achievements

### 6.1 Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops

- 6.1.1 Street Cones are a collective of creative professionals and lived experience individuals, supported by a charitable Board. Their focus is using the arts (in particular, film and theatre) to affect positive change and support vulnerable and isolated groups. Street Cones believe the arts can be used to elevate the voices of marginalised people and help to effect positive change.
- 6.1.2 Throughout 2021/22, the partnership with Street Cones helped to ensure that people from Aberdeenshire who had outstanding Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours from the Courts were able to progress through their orders, despite the restrictions that were in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the period, Street Cones delivered three modules of online, group workshops to help address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours within Aberdeenshire. Each module culminated in an online, live event with panel question and answer session, made up of a mix of professionals such as Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, and Mental Health, and people with lived experience of the justice system. In total, the three modules contributed towards 418 hours of Unpaid Work being completed.
- 6.1.3 As part of the debrief from the modules, participants were asked whether they felt they had learned anything as a result of their involvement in the Street Cones online workshops. Some of the feedback this year highlighted some of the things that individual participants felt they had gained as a result of the workshops, including increased confidence, improved reading and experience of working as part of a team:
- *“I’ve learned to challenge myself more. Don’t be so frightened going into situations I’m unsure of”.*
  - *“If you’d have said you wanted me to read something I would have said no I’m off but I just put my foot down and I did it and it’s really improved my reading so thank you so much. If it wasn’t for everyone else supporting me I would have been...Like you wouldn’t have seen but when I’m struggling with reading I feel embarrassed but everyone saying you’re doing well just pushed me on”.*

- *“All the feedback gave me a big smile on my face that we’ve done so well and done it as a team”.*

6.1.4 Moving forward, COVID recovery funding within the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service budget has been identified to secure the delivery of a further three Street Cones online Unpaid Work modules during 2022/23. Community Justice Partners are also working with Street Cones to develop a range of resources for young people around the harms associated with drug use, including exploitation, county lines and cuckooing.

## **6.2 Higher Support Needs Team**

6.2.1 The Higher Support Needs Team within the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service was set up in 2019 to support clients who found it difficult to complete the Unpaid Work aspect of their Community Payback Order. This included, but was not restricted to, people who experienced poor mental health, anxiety, and/or drug and alcohol issues. The team supports people through their Unpaid Work, but also supports them emotionally, giving advice, assistance or signposting in relation to other difficulties that they have. The Unpaid Work aspect of the Order takes place at 4 locations - an allotment, a community park, a small animal farm and an outdoor centre - all of which were selected for their therapeutic qualities and potential to impact positively on the individuals' wellbeing.

6.2.2 Ordinarily, work is carried out in small groups, which encourages positive interaction and helps to build positive relationships between individuals and the workers from the Higher Support Needs Team. More recently, due to the pandemic, work has predominately been carried out on a one-to-one basis. Towards the end of the reporting period, the team set up a group for female clients, which has proven successful, and has provided a forum for the women to advise and support each other.

6.2.3 The team will allocate people with their own projects to work on when they attend, which means that they are more able to see projects through from beginning to end. Service users are asked to attend the same day each week to help provide them with some sort of stability in their lives. The team has also been creative in finding tasks for less abled service users, who would struggle with the more physically demanding tasks.

6.2.4 The Higher Support Needs Team hold onto people through a consistent approach which continues contact throughout difficult times, so engagement is maintained and Unpaid Work hours are completed. Underlying needs are addressed through the more therapeutic nature of the placement environments and the nature of the engagement with practitioners.

6.2.5 During the reporting period, the Higher Support Needs Team has also supported individuals in activities such as cycling and walking as part of improving mental health and confidence through fitness. This approach creates opportunity for effective engagement in an informal and safe environment, contributing to improving trust in the working relationship which in turn has led to increased engagement and the completion of Unpaid Work

and Any Other Activity Hours. The outcomes which have been seen as a result of this engagement have been significant – during the period, the team have maintained contact with individuals who have been previously unable to engage with services due to the complexity of their needs. Prior to engagement with the Higher Support Needs Team, breach of Order due to non-compliance for these individuals would very often have resulted in cyclical short custodial sentences.

### **6.3 Safer in Service Days of Action**

6.3.1 Drug supply through “County Lines” and associated “cuckooing” activity continue to impact on Aberdeenshire communities, most notably within the Buchan Corner. The joint work in relation to county lines and cuckooing which began in 2018 has continued, through the Joint Cuckooing Initiative.

6.3.2 Following on from four successful joint Days of Action in December 2020, a further four Days of Action were delivered during 2021/22 (two in December 2021, two in February 2022) to address the harms caused by Serious and Organised Crime, and to provide support to vulnerable people who are being exploited and at risk of drug harm. The Days of Action involved Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Services, Children and Families Social Work, the Housing Service, and the Community Safety Team, alongside Police Scotland colleagues, including Community Policing Teams, CID and specialist units who carried out a combination of enforcement and outreach support work to demonstrate a multiagency approach to safeguard communities and individuals following enforcement activity.

6.3.3 During the February 2022 Days of Action, sixty-one visits were undertaken, with twenty-four successful contacts and thirty seven calling cards left when visits were unsuccessful. This provided increased visibility of Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, Community Safety and Drug and Alcohol services within communities. The presence of the Police pod (leading to thirty interactions with members of the community) and Community Safety visits to households (ninety-six in total) generated further discussion and information, while the joint visits engaged and re-engaged people at risk, offered fast track into treatment as required, provided access to other support services whilst the enforcement activity itself served as a disruption to those responsible for activities relating to drug supply.

6.3.4 Two further Days of Action were delivered during June 2022, however these fall out with the reporting period for this report so have not been included here. Further information on the June 2022 Days of Action can be found via the Aberdeenshire Council website (<https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/news/release.aspx?newsid=8592>)



## 7 Equalities, Staffing and Financial Implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was produced in relation to the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2016/17 and can be viewed at on the Community Justice pages of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership website (<http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/>).

***Jeff Shaw***

**Health and Social Care Partnership Manager (North)  
Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership and  
Chair of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Report prepared by Kathleen Mowat, Project Manager (Community Justice)  
12<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**Community Justice Scotland**  
**Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba**

**Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland**  
**Local Area Annual Return Template Guidance**  
**2021-22**

September 2022





<b>1) Community Justice Partnership / Group Details</b>	
Name of local authority area/s	Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership
Name and contact detail of the partnership Chair	Name: Jeff Shaw Email: <a href="mailto:jeff.shaw@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">jeff.shaw@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Telephone:
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Kathleen Mowat Email: <a href="mailto:kathleen.mowat@aberdeenshire.gov.uk">kathleen.mowat@aberdeenshire.gov.uk</a> Telephone:

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

In terms of the Section 27 duty to submit this return to Community Justice Scotland, I confirm that Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership Members have agreed this return as an accurate record. I also confirm that as part of the Section 23 duty to publish a public-facing annual report on progress towards national and local outcomes, this report will be made available on our Community Justice web page ([Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership – Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership \(ouraberdeenshire.org.uk\)](http://ouraberdeenshire.org.uk))

Date:.....

Name: Jeff Shaw – Interim Chair, Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership



### 3) Governance Arrangements

Describe your current governance structure for community justice arrangements and include links to wider community planning.

The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has representation from all statutory Community Justice Partners as well as non-statutory partners that are seen as crucial to improving community justice outcomes within Aberdeenshire, including the Department of Work and Pensions and the Third Sector Interface, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action.

The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has been meeting on a quarterly basis since February 2016 and is currently chaired by the Interim Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Manager for North Aberdeenshire. The Partnership regularly reviews progress towards the Improvement Actions set out within the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, sharing regular updates on this with Elected Members, the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board and other local stakeholders.

The Partnership reports directly to the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board on at least an annual basis. The fifth Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire was presented to the Board in August 2022 and is available to download from the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership webpage ([2020-21-Annual-Outcome-Activity-Return-Template-Aberdeenshire-Final-Web-Version.pdf](https://ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/2020-21-Annual-Outcome-Activity-Return-Template-Aberdeenshire-Final-Web-Version.pdf) ([ouraberdeenshire.org.uk](https://ouraberdeenshire.org.uk))).

Links between the Community Justice Agenda and the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) priority areas of Reducing Poverty, Connected and Cohesive Communities and Health & Wellbeing are maintained through regular engagement with the Theme Leads for each priority<sup>1</sup>. This is to both maximise opportunities for collaborative working and to reduce the potential for duplication. A number of the Statutory Community Justice Partners are already involved in supporting the LOIP priority areas and will provide updates to the Community Justice Partnership on these and other local priority areas, such as Community Safety and developments in Housing, Health and Social Care, as required.

### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

**These recommendations were published at the end of the reporting year and concern 3rd sector engagement, futures planning, and compliance with the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. Please detail what work partners have undertaken, or intend to undertake, in response to the following 2020-21 recommendations:**

<sup>1</sup> Various members of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership are also members of the 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy Group' the 'Connected and Cohesive Communities' group, and the 'HEAL Strategic Partnership Group', which oversee the ongoing development of the LOIP priority areas.



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Partnerships should build on work undertaken within the reporting period relating to third sector identification and engagement, and apply lessons learned to ensure they have established mechanisms to identify and engage with victim organisations as well.

##### a) What local strengths or recent progress relates to recommendation 1?

This section of the report relates to one of the recommendations contained within the Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2020/21, which was published by Community Justice Scotland on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and is available to download from the CJS website

[\(https://communityjustice.scot/reports\\_and\\_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/\)](https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/).

With regard to third sector identification and engagement, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) is Aberdeenshire's Third Sector Interface providing a single point of access where community groups, voluntary organisations, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and individual volunteers that make up Aberdeenshire's diverse and vibrant Third Sector can find the support and advice they need. AVA is one of the Community Planning Partners within Aberdeenshire and also represents the Third Sector on the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership. The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has good communication and engagement with AVA, with representation from AVA on both our Partnership and on some of our sub groups. During 2022/23, the Community Justice Partnership and AVA will be looking to re-establish the Community Justice Theme Forum, as a way of increasing engagement and communication between the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership and Third Sector groups and organisations with an interest in Community Justice. The Community Justice Theme Forum was initially established in 2017 but was disbanded in 2019, due to low engagement at the time, which made the forum unsustainable.

In addition to engagement through AVA, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has continued to engage with individual Third Sector organisations that operate within the Aberdeenshire area and have an interest in community justice. In the 2020/21 Annual Report, Community Justice partners referred to a new collaboration with the Glasgow-based creative arts charity, Street Cones. Throughout 2021/22, the ongoing partnership with Street Cones helped to ensure that people from Aberdeenshire who had outstanding Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours from the Courts were able to continue to progress through their orders, despite the restrictions that remained in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The relationship between Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners and Street Cones has continued to develop, with a further commitment to deliver three online unpaid work modules during 2022/23, as well as a new project for young people around the harms associated with drug use, including exploitation, county lines and cuckooing.



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

Action For Children manage the Family Centre and Help Hub at HMP & YOI Grampian, supported by the Scottish Prison Service. The Family Centre's most basic function is to provide a safe place where visitors can relax and spend time before and after a visit to the prison. It provides a one-stop-shop where visitors can access a variety of support, advice and up to date information about the prison. However, the 2021/22 period continued to be challenging in terms of supporting families affected by imprisonment. Despite hopes for stability, ongoing COVID restrictions, changes to visiting arrangements (open and virtual) and the escalating cost of living have continued to have an impact on the number of visitors accessing the Family Centre and Help Hub and utilising the in-person prison visits. Throughout the period, Action for Children had to change and adapt ways of working and thinking to ensure that they are able to provide effective and comprehensive support to families from Aberdeenshire who are affected by imprisonment. This has included practical support (including the provision of food parcels), emotional support (both in person and via the phone), activities for children, outreach support and peer support. To assist with these efforts, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership provided Action for Children with financial support through the Scottish Government COVID recovery allocation.

The Partnership continues to explore new ways to engage with local victims' organisations, however this has remained an area of challenge during 2021/22. Recent discussions have taken place with Victim Support Scotland, with a view to securing an input to the Aberdeenshire Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment.

Recommendation 3: Partnerships should undertake (or evidence the work already undertaken) to understand the future need and demand on their services: in particular, but not constrained to, recovery from the pandemic.

#### **b) What gaps or emerging changes in need and demand for services have been identified?**

This section of the report relates to one of the recommendations contained within the Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2020/21, which was published by Community Justice Scotland on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and is available to download from the CJS website

[\(https://communityjustice.scot/reports\\_and\\_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/\)](https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/).

As highlighted within the Annual Report for 2020/21, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership made a commitment to undertake a full Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire. The Partnership agreed that in so far as possible, the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment would follow the national guidance that has been developed by Community Justice Scotland

[\(https://communityjustice.scot/reports\\_and\\_stats/strategic-needs-and-strengths-assessment-guidance/\)](https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/strategic-needs-and-strengths-assessment-guidance/). This guidance explains that a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment will 'underpin understanding of both service provision and population needs in the local area and form a baseline for planning decisions and



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

measuring outcomes'. As well as using existing data and information to build a picture of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire, the SNSA will also be forward looking, taking into account any future developments that may change this picture, such as recovery from the pandemic.

An additional demand for service that has been identified for 2022/23 is how Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners will develop and implement their approach to electronic monitoring. On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act introduced electronic monitoring for use with Bail, as a new requirement within a Community Payback Order and for use with temporary releases from prison. Bail orders can contain standard conditions as well as additional conditions – referred to as special conditions – such as a condition requiring a person to adhere to a curfew, or to stay away from a specific location. From 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, special conditions such as this can now be monitored electronically. To facilitate this, Justice Social Work are required to carry out an assessment of individuals where bail has been opposed by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. In practice, around 90% of cases in Aberdeenshire where the individual is kept in Police Custody to appear in Court will involve circumstances which mean that bail is likely to be opposed, and so the introduction of electronic monitoring of bail presents an opportunity for more individuals to remain safely in the community, subject to additional monitoring. This could potentially lead to a reduction in the number of cases where an individual is remanded in custody prior to their next Court appearance. Although the current level of remand in Aberdeenshire is still lower than the Scottish average (as at July 2022), Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners are aware of the negative impact that a period of remand can have on an individual and their housing, employment, financial situation, and relationships, and have welcomed the opportunity to try and reduce use of remand where appropriate. As such, Aberdeenshire was one of the areas which was ready to 'go live' from 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. However, we are conscious that it will take some time to develop and refine our approach locally, and this will be an area of development for 2022/23.

#### c) How has this been identified?

The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership anticipates that any gaps or emerging changes in need and demand for services will be identified through the development of the Community Justice Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment.

#### d) How will partners respond?

All statutory and non-statutory Community Justice Partners within Aberdeenshire have been asked to contribute to the development of the Aberdeenshire Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, with a good response to date. Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners will also be asked to contribute to the priority setting process once the complete Needs Assessment document has been drafted.



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

##### e) What has restricted progress in this recommendation?

The main barrier to progress in relation to the development of the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire has been access to suitable data, and partner capacity to respond to information and data requests at this time. Systems operated by Police Scotland, including their Crime Recording Systems and Incident management systems are designed around compliance with the Scottish Crime Recording standards. Although many updates to these systems enhances their recording capability, often the data suggested to be gathered, can mean complex searches only facilitated by special analytical support. Such requests are facilitated to the best of Police Scotland's ability, but the same challenges in terms of demands are true. As of 11 August 2022, North East Division went 'live', with the Unifi crime recording system, giving greater search capability. The data migration process is ongoing and implementation by mid financial year is likely to pose some data gathering challenges with data potentially having to be gathered from both platforms for this financial year.

Throughout 2021/22, Community Justice Partners had to continually adapt their approach to service delivery in response to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (including changes to COVID restrictions). Staffing levels across Community Justice Partners continued to be affected as individuals were required to isolate for periods of time following a positive COVID test result. In Winter 2021/22, Aberdeenshire experienced additional pressures as a result of the impact of Storms Arwen, Callie and Malik, with some Community Justice Partners (Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, including Criminal Justice Social Work and Unpaid Work Service) being involved in the response and recovery phases. All of this has had an impact on Community Justice Partner capacity to respond to requests for assistance in relation to the development of the Community Justice Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment and other community justice projects and activities.

Recommendation 4: Partners should note their collective statutory responsibilities under the Act to ensure that:

- all partners are aware of the statutory obligations, and that clarity and agreement is sought over partner expectations and contribution to ensuring these are met
- all national partners understand and comply with their individual responsibilities to supporting partnerships achieve their aims (section 35)

##### f) What work has been undertaken or planned to make improvements against recommendation 4?

This section of the report relates to one of the recommendations contained within the Community Justice Outcome Activity Across Scotland Annual Report 2020/21, which was published by Community Justice Scotland on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and is available to download from the CJS website

[\(https://communityjustice.scot/reports\\_and\\_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/\)](https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/community-justice-outcome-activity-across-scotland-annual-report-2020-21/).



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has continued to meet throughout 2021/22, via Microsoft Teams, and continues to progress local improvement activity as set out within our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan and associated Action Plan, the latter of which was again refreshed for 2021/22. The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership continues to experience a high level of representation and contribution from all statutory Community Justice Partners, through quarterly Partnership meetings, the various sub groups of the Partnership and/or ad hoc work that takes place out with formal meeting structures.

As a Partnership, we are fully aware of our statutory responsibilities under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. As such during 2021/22, we reviewed our current Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and published a Position Statement which explained our intention to extend our current plan until such time as the new National Community Justice Strategy and new Outcomes and Performance and Improvement Frameworks have been published. This extension allows existing, collaborative community justice improvement activity to continue, while partners await publication of the new national documentation. This extension also allows time for Community Justice Partners to develop a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice within Aberdeenshire, which will inform the development of our new Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

More recently, the Partnership experienced a number of changes in representation from Community Justice Partners and this presents an opportunity to carry out some further partnership development work during 2022/23.

#### g) What did this achieve?

The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has always experienced a high level of participation and engagement from across the range of Statutory Partners, and this has continued throughout 2021/22, in spite of the various challenges that recovery from the pandemic has presented. The development of the Position Statement during 2021/22 provided an opportunity for all partners to review and refresh their commitment and contributions to the Community Justice agenda within Aberdeenshire.

The development of the new Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for Aberdeenshire will provide another opportunity for Partners to contribute to Community Justice strategic planning and service delivery at a local level. As part of the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan development process, the Partnership will draw on the knowledge, skills and experience of all Community Justice Partners, to ensure that the plan accurately reflects our local priorities, and the actions that are required to make progress towards them.



#### 4) Progress From 2020-21 Recommendations

##### **h) In what ways did local partnership compliance to the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 change during 2020/21?**

Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership compliance did not change during 2020/21. The Partnership has continued to meet, albeit virtually through Microsoft Teams, on a quarterly basis to progress a number of projects and initiatives which support the delivery of our locally agreed priorities, and to monitor progress which is reported to Community Justice Scotland on an annual basis.

In terms of our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, as a Partnership we acknowledged the earlier feedback from Community Justice Scotland and recognised that this plan needed to be reviewed and updated. However, the new plan will need to take into account the revised National Strategy for Community Justice, and the revised National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework for Community Justice, one of which was only recently published and the other is still in the process of development. In January 2021, the Partnership presented a Position Statement to the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board which explained our intention to extend the existing Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan until such time as the new National Community Justice Strategy and National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework were published. The Partnership would use the time until these documents are available to produce a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice within Aberdeenshire, in line with guidance provided by Community Justice Scotland. This position statement was approved by the Board and shared with Community Justice Scotland on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and is available to download from the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership webpage (<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/>). The Participation Statement associated with this Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) is also available to download from the website, and will be updated to reflect the involvement of the third sector and community bodies in the development of the new plan.

Community Justice Partners in Aberdeenshire continue to work together to share information, provide each other with advice and assistance when requested, coordinate activities and fund activities together, as can be evidenced through the range of collaborative activities which are referred to throughout the following sections of this report.





<p><b>5) Covid-19 Pandemic Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic continued in 2021-22. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the Covid-19 pandemic on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services.</p>
<p><b>Challenges / Negatives</b></p>	<p><b>Positives / Opportunities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in 2020/21, much of the work of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership, as set out in the Action Plan for 2021/22, had to be put on hold due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our collaborative approach to Bail Supervision, Court Support, Custody Support, Operation Hotspur, Cuckooing Visits, Safer Streets, Warrants Nights, the Health and Justice Sub Group, the Action 15 Crisis Intervention and Support Service (Custody Hubs), the Women’s Service, Group Work, and Unpaid Work – all had to be paused, or adjusted in order to allow service delivery to continue. Some work (such as the Aberdeenshire Safer Streets Initiative, Custody Support and in-person Court Support) was only able to recommence towards the end of the reporting period.</li> <li>Access to buildings and meeting spaces has remained a challenge for many Community Justice Partners during the reporting period, particularly Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work and the Aberdeenshire Integrated Alcohol and Drug Service. This has made it difficult for face-to-face contact take place between people who have come into contact with the justice system and the workers who are trying to support them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership continued to meet online during 2021/22 and levels of engagement from partners have remained high. As in 2020/21, much of the work of the Partnership, as set out in the Action Plan, had to be put on hold due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Our collaborative approach to Bail Supervision, Court Support, Custody Support, Operation Hotspur, Cuckooing Visits, Safer Streets, Warrants Nights, the Health &amp; Justice Sub-Group, the Women’s Service, Groupwork and Unpaid Work have all been affected. However, despite this, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has still been able to deliver a number of collaborative projects over the reporting year.</li> <li>New projects and ways of working that were introduced as a result of the pandemic have continued and are now embedded into practice within Aberdeenshire. Examples of this include Aberdeenshire’s partnership with Glasgow-based charity, Street Cones; the Community Throughcare Support planning meetings to ensure that people leaving custody have access to throughcare support; and use of donated devices to help people to maintain appointments with their social worker, to access support services and to access opportunities to complete Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours online.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5) Covid-19 Pandemic Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic continued in 2021-22. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the Covid-19 pandemic on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services.</p>
<p><b>Challenges / Negatives</b></p>	<p><b>Positives / Opportunities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During 2020/21, the Courts system began to recover and return to pre-pandemic levels of business. In total, 65,297 trials were called during the period, more than double the number called during the previous year (30,217)<sup>2</sup>. The sixteen additional trial courts (including at Peterhead Sheriff Court) which were available from September 2021 as part of the recovery programme, have assisted with this. However, a large number of criminal trials still remain outstanding. This will undoubtedly have had a negative impact on victims, witnesses and perpetrators alike, as cases continue to take longer to come to court resulting in delays in receiving an outcome.</li> <li>• As other parts of the justice system reopened, direct and indirect consequences for Justice Social Work presented ongoing challenges. Increased requests for Criminal Justice Social Work Court Reports to be undertaken was a direct consequence of how the Court system has had to address the significant backlog of pending cases. Priority to process high risk casework increased assessments for domestic abuse related and sexual offending related work. This created workforce pressure, as only those practitioners accredited to undertake those assessments could carry out this work and hold these Orders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our partnership with the Third Sector has continued to develop during the reporting period. In addition to the Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops, the additional funding that was made available to the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership from the Scottish Government, to address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours, has enabled the Partnership to increase joint working with local community projects. A small number of local community projects were awarded a grant to increase their capacity to deliver unpaid work opportunities for people in the community during 2021/22, which resulted in nearly 2,000 hours of Unpaid Work being completed.</li> <li>• Pressures on the prison system with the increasing remand and sentenced prison population has influenced the investment both nationally and locally in pre-disposal support and intervention. Assessments for Bail Supervision and Structured Deferred Sentence are undertaken by an enhanced Court Support Social Work Service. This has ensured that people who are appearing from police custody have the opportunity to engage in support at the earliest point to prevent the escalation of underlying need, which if not addressed may result in higher tariff Court disposals including remand.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> [scts-quarterly-criminal-court-statistics---bulletin-q4-2021-22.pdf](https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/scts-quarterly-criminal-court-statistics---bulletin-q4-2021-22.pdf) (scotcourts.gov.uk)



<p><b>5) Covid-19 Pandemic Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic continued in 2021-22. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the Covid-19 pandemic on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services.</p>
<p><b>Challenges / Negatives</b></p>	<p><b>Positives / Opportunities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to national training to increase these competencies across the workforce has been difficult. Practitioners who are less qualified and who may not have yet developed professional resilience to manage this work are ordinarily not considered as suitable to progress through the screening and training process. Some lessons have been learned around attempts to meet demand, however, failing to adhere to the established practice of supporting the readiness of practitioners to progress in their development only when their learning and skills allow this to take place.</li> <li>• As a result of ongoing COVID restrictions, access to Courts and Custody Suites remained limited, which made it more difficult for the Court and Custody Social Workers to provide a service to people who were appearing in Court from Police custody. This also had an impact on our ability to offer interventions such as Bail Supervision and Structured Deferred Sentences, as these require a suitability assessment of the individual to take place.</li> <li>• Throughout the reporting period, all Aberdeenshire custody cases have continued to be heard in Aberdeen Sheriff Court, rather than Banff and Peterhead Sheriff Courts as would have been the case pre-COVID.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of Electronic Monitoring as part of Bail or as a requirement within a Community Payback Order presents opportunities for individuals to remain within the community, with additional monitoring, as an alternative to remand and/or a custodial sentence. Although a welcome development, the timescale for implementation presented some challenges for Community Justice Partners and has placed additional demands on Justice Social Work resources. However, the enhancement of Court Support has contributed to the readiness of Aberdeenshire to deliver assessment suitability for electronic monitoring as part of the consideration of bail conditions. As such, Aberdeenshire was ready offer assessments for Electronic Monitoring from the 'go live' date of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</li> <li>• Additionally, the relationship between the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership and Community Justice Scotland has also continued to develop throughout the year, with members of the Community Justice Scotland team having attended some of the quarterly Partnership meetings to give updates to members on topics such as Restorative Justice, Communications and Strategic Commissioning.</li> </ul>



<p><b>5) Covid-19 Pandemic Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic continued in 2021-22. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the Covid-19 pandemic on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services.</p>
<p><b>Challenges / Negatives</b></p>	<p><b>Positives / Opportunities</b></p>
<p>This has presented challenges both in terms of the provision of support to people prior and during their Court appearance, but also in terms of ensuring that people were supported to make their way home again following release from Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In August 2021, the Scottish Government published a consultation on proposals to develop a National Care Service (NCS) to deliver changes to the system of community health and social care in Scotland. The consultation included sections on Alcohol and Drugs Services, Children’s Services, Healthcare, Integration Joint Boards, Justice Social Work, Mental Health, Prisons – all of which are relevant to Community Justice. The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership developed a response to this consultation, which closed in November 2021. Overall, Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners believed the proposals within the consultation document lacked evidence as to the potential benefits and drawbacks of the proposed changes for Justice Social Work and lacked detail around the potential impact for Community Justice Partnerships and local community justice arrangements, which has created uncertainty amongst partners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners have collaborated to produce joint responses to a number of national consultations during the period, including proposals relating to the creation of a National Care Service, Bail and Release from Custody Arrangements, and the review of the National Community Justice Strategy.</li> </ul>



<p><b>5) Covid-19 Pandemic Impact</b></p>	<p>The pandemic continued in 2021-22. This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the Covid-19 pandemic on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services.</p>
<p><b>Challenges / Negatives</b></p>	<p><b>Positives / Opportunities</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership notes and welcomes the announcement made on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 that a final decision on the inclusion of Justice Social Work in the National Care Service will not be taken until further detailed consideration and evidence gathering with key partners has been carried out. However, this does still leave a level of uncertainty as to the future of Community Justice Partnerships and local community justice arrangements.</li> </ul>	

DRAFT



<p><b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b></p>	<p>This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.</p>
<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME ONE</b></p> <p><b>Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice</b></p>	<p><b>With regard to the following indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Activities carried out to engage with ‘communities’ as well as other relevant constituencies ✓</li> <li>➤ Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision ✓</li> <li>➤ Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery ✓</li> <li>➤ Level of community awareness of / satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a CPO ✓</li> <li>➤ Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys / citizens’ panels and so on ✓</li> <li>➤ Perceptions of the local crime data ✓</li> </ul>
<p><b>New activities: What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome one?</b></p>	<p><b>What was the impact of these activities?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Activities carried out to engage with ‘communities’ as well as other relevant constituencies</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision</b></li> </ul> <p>As in the previous reporting period, during 2021/22, opportunities for engagement were limited and the Partnership was not able to undertake as many engagement activities as partnership members would have liked. Opportunities for consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision also remained limited, as Community Justice Partners continued to adapt their service delivery in response to the ongoing and evolving impact of the pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Activities carried out to engage with ‘communities’ as well as other relevant constituencies</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision</b></li> </ul> <p>The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership recognises that engagement and consultation with communities is an area where further work is required if we are to collectively make an impact on community understanding and participation in community justice. In May 2022, the Partnership received an input from Community Justice Scotland on two new resources that are designed to help partners to talk about community justice.</p>



6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes	This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.
<p>However, there were still some examples of where Community Justice Partners were able to work together to improve community understanding and participation in Community Justice. In May 2021, Community Justice Partners (Criminal Justice Social Work and Substance Use Service) gave an input to the Formartine Community Planning Group Workshop on poverty and inequality. Under the theme of ‘Health and Wellbeing’, partners gave an overview of the impact of the pandemic on their area of work and the impact on the people involved, followed by a discussion session around the gaps and challenges with a view to seeking agreement on what could collectively be taken forward to address these.</p> <p>In November 2021, the 2020/21 Annual Report on Community Justice in Aberdeenshire was presented to members of the Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board, which created an opportunity to discuss and raise awareness of the work of the Partnership and Community Justice Partners during the period<sup>3</sup>. The report was subsequently endorsed by the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board and has been published on the Aberdeenshire Community Justice web page, where it is available to view and download<sup>4</sup>.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners will consider how to use the framing toolkit<sup>5</sup> to shape how they speak, write and communicate about community justice in ways that have the potential to increase public awareness and confidence in it as a sentencing option. We also hope to be able to contribute to the new national image library<sup>6</sup> with some real examples of community justice in Aberdeenshire. It is hoped that by utilising these tools and resources, the Partnership will be more able to evidence the impact of activities that have been carried out to consult with communities and others, which will in turn help to increase awareness and understanding of community justice in Aberdeenshire.</p>

<sup>3</sup> [Aberdeenshire Council - Committees and Meetings](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership – Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership \(ouraberdeenshire.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [CJS FRAMING TOOLKIT FULL VERSION \(communityjustice.scot\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Community Justice Scotland's albums | Flickr](#)



<p><b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b></p>	<p>This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery</b></p> <p>The Annual Report for 2020/21 highlights the collaborative work that Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners delivered with Glasgow-based creative arts charity, Street Cones. Street Cones are a collective of creative professionals and lived experience individuals, supported by a charitable Board. Their focus is using the arts (in particular, film and theatre) to affect positive change and support vulnerable and isolated groups. Street Cones believe the arts can be used to elevate the voices of marginalised people and help to effect positive change.</p> <p>During 2021/22, Street Cones delivered a further three modules of online, group workshops to help address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours within Aberdeenshire. Each module culminated in an online, live event with panel question and answer session, made up of a mix of professionals such as Police and Criminal Justice Social Work, and people with lived experience of the justice system. The live events were designed to give participants the opportunity to showcase the work they had been involved in, and to increase public awareness and understanding of community justice and community sentencing, and the work of community justice partners within Aberdeenshire. Two of these live events were held during 2021/22, with a further event held in May 2022. Links to the recordings of the Aberdeenshire live events, along with those from other parts of Scotland, are available to view on the Street Cones You Tube channel (<a href="#">Street Cones - YouTube</a>).</p>	<p>➤ <b>Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery</b></p> <p>The online workshops delivered by Street Cones have helped to reduce the number of outstanding Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours within Aberdeenshire. For example, Module 3, which concluded in December 2021, resulted in 94.5 Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours being completed.</p> <p>Involvement in the Street Cones workshops have had a positive impact on individuals. For example, one participant had said he was proud of his work and wanted to show his family what he'd created, and another participant had said that the workshops had improved his online confidence, which helped his studies. Further evidence of the impact of the workshops had on individual participants can be demonstrated through the feedback below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“I enjoyed the gardening and the physical stuff – some of which was hard going – but Street Cones was a reflective exercise on the position we’ve got ourselves into, that I’ve got myself in to, and why and some of the issues that were around for me. I think that in itself was the most valuable part of pulling together a script, putting together the issues, and seeing how it affected individuals”.</i></li> <li>• <i>“My unpaid work finished three and a half weeks ago and I continued with the workshop, because that’s what it meant to me. Seeing familiar faces and talking anonymously about some of your feelings without any body judging you or nobody asking any questions – because sometimes when you are doing the unpaid work, everyone kind of knows why you’re there...”</i></li> </ul>





<b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b>	This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.
<p>The Aberdeenshire live events are also available via the Aberdeenshire Community Justice web page (<a href="http://ouraberdeenshire.org.uk">Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership – Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership (ouraberdeenshire.org.uk)</a>).</p>	<p><i>“So I think being online and being able to talk anonymously about your feelings and put them towards a character that’s not you is probably more help than going out and doing gardening, litter picking or working in a shop”.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Now I know kind of at least how to write a story, how to build a story. I’m quiet, I can sit on the sidelines and just watch people do things. I think I’ve learned to take part more. I can talk for Britain by the way but sometimes in situations like this I’ll have something in my head that I really want to say and I never say this but with this I’ve kind of pushed myself to say it.”.</i></li><li>• <i>“It gave me like a wake-up call. I sat at the end of the live thing and I thought ‘hold on a minute I’ve just helped make a book and then perform it, like, that’s major.’ I was proud”.</i></li></ul> <p>A link to the recordings of the live events has been added to the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Web Page and it is hoped that this will help to raise awareness of community justice, community sentencing specifically Unpaid Work and the involvement of community justice partners within Aberdeenshire.</p>



<p><b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b></p>	<p>This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery</b>  <b>Higher Support Needs Team – Community Projects</b>          During 2021/22, the Community Projects that provide placements for the Higher Support Needs Team received a small funding allocation from the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work budget (additional funding for Third Sector to help clear the backlog of outstanding Unpaid Work hours). This funding was to help create more opportunities for Unpaid Work hours to be completed, which the team were also able to assist with.</p> <p>➤ <b>Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys / citizens’ panels and so on</b>          In previous reports, reference has been made to the use of the Aberdeenshire Citizen’s Panel Survey, to consult with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision. Previous surveys have included questions to gauge current understanding of different aspects of community justice, gather views about the importance of different community justice principles and outcomes and what should be a priority for local Community Justice partners. Previous surveys have also included some questions about perceptions of the local crime rate in Aberdeenshire. The Partnership was due to use the Citizen’s Panel in November 2022 to consult with Aberdeenshire communities, as part of the development of the new Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery</b>  <b>Higher Support Needs Team – Community Projects</b>          During 2021/22, just under 2,000 hours (1,940) of Unpaid Work were completed across the four Community Projects that are utilised by the Higher Support Needs Team.</p> <p>➤ <b>Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys / citizens’ panels and so on</b>          In 2020/21, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership committed to undertake a full Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice, and this work is currently ongoing. The findings from local consultations (such as the 2019 Citizen’s Panel Survey and the 2020 Community Impact Assessment carried out by Aberdeenshire Council), along with national consultations (such as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019/20), will be used as evidence to inform this assessment process. During 2022/23, a retendering process for the Citizen’s Panel work took place and unfortunately, it was not possible to award a new contract and as a result, the Citizen’s Panel would come to an end. The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Board agreed that the Citizen’s Panel should cease following the retendering exercise and alternative models of engagement are now being explored.</p>



<p><b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b></p>	<p>This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.</p>
	<p>This means that the Partnership will no longer be able to use this method of engagement to benchmark progress towards the Community Justice Outcomes. However, the Partnership will still be able to use other mechanisms, such as Aberdeenshire Council’s Engagement HQ tool, to consult with communities and other stakeholders. This could include engagement with individuals and communities through the lives experience forum, led by the Aberdeenshire Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group.</p>
<p><b>What ongoing activities took place in relation to outcome one?</b></p>	<p><b>What was the impact of these activities?</b></p>
<p>➤ <b>Level of community awareness of / satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a CPO</b> Throughout the reporting period, Unpaid Work Teams have continued to increase visibility of the service wherever possible, for example by carrying out litter picking and weeding at various parks, riverside walks, streets, and public areas across Aberdeenshire. Some painting work has also been carried out (of railings, fences, etc.) within community spaces. The service has continued to engage with communities and community groups around potential projects where those on unpaid work could offer assistance, including work within community gardens, community parks, local community projects, and care homes (garden maintenance). The service has also been able to secure some individual placements with local charities and groups, providing more opportunities for people to complete their unpaid work within different community settings.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Level of Satisfaction with work carried out as part of a CPO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Measure Description = % of project beneficiaries who were satisfied or very satisfied with work undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 100% (20/20)</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 100% (&gt;5)</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 100% (20/20)</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 100% (21/21)</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 100% (62/62)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p><b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b></p>	<p>This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.</p>
<p>Throughout the reporting period, as was the position during 2020/21, the Service was unable to provide unpaid work opportunities in the way that it normally would. The ever-changing measures in place to manage the spread of COVID-19 did not permit the traditional model of group work parties. One-to-one outdoor placements which increased to one-to-three when safe to do so, still presented a challenge in terms of ensuring that individuals were offered sufficient opportunity to complete unpaid work hours.</p> <p>This meant that there were fewer opportunities to seek feedback from people on their satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a Community Payback Order, however twenty completed surveys were returned during the period, which is an increase in comparison to 2020/21 and is more in line with returns for previous reporting periods.</p> <p><b><u>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Exit Questionnaires</u></b></p> <p>Individuals who had completed a period of work with the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service during 2021/22 were asked the extent to which they thought that their involvement with the service had benefitted the community. Sixty people in total completed an exit questionnaire – this included 8 people who had been on Diversion from Prosecution, 24 people who had been on some form of Supervision and 28 people who had been on a period of Unpaid Work.</p>	<p>During the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95% (19/20) of project beneficiaries said they thought the Unpaid Work Service was easily contactable.</li> <li>• 100% (20/20) said they thought that the work completed was worthwhile / of benefit to the community.</li> <li>• 100% (20/20) said they thought that the type of work was a suitable 'payback' to the community.</li> <li>• 55% (11/20) who thought that the unpaid work contributed to reducing reoffending. 45% (9/20) said that they were unsure.</li> <li>• 100% said they would use the Community Payback Order Unpaid Work Service again.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Exit Questionnaires</u></b></p> <p>Of those who had completed a period of Diversion and had filled in an exit questionnaire, 50% (&lt;5/8) said they thought this had benefitted the community.</p> <p>Of those who had completed a period of Supervision and had filled in an exit questionnaire, 54% (13/24) said they thought this had benefitted the community. This is a reduction in comparison to the previous reporting period, when 80% of people said they thought that being on Supervision had benefitted the community – although it should be noted that the total number of responses received in 2020/21 was much lower than in 2021/22 (15 compared to 24).</p>



<b>6) Performance Reporting – National Outcomes</b>	This section is designed to capture the evidence and data that has been used by your partnership over the reporting period to assess progress against the national outcomes.
	Of those who had completed a period of Unpaid Work and had filled in an exit questionnaire, 82% (23/28) said that they thought this had benefitted the community. This is a reduction in comparison to the previous reporting period, when 94% of respondents said that they thought being on Unpaid Work had benefitted the community – but as above, the total number of responses received during 2020/21 was considerably lower than in 2021/22, and so care should be taken when making comparisons between the figures.

DRAFT



<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME TWO</b> Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way</p>	<p><b>Where applicable have regard to the following indicators.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way ✓</li> <li>➤ Partners have leveraged resources for community justice ✓</li> <li>➤ Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational/professional /geographical boundaries ✓</li> <li>➤ Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA ✓</li> </ul>
<p><b>What new activities in 2021-22 were driven / undertaken collectively by the community justice partners/hip in relation to outcome two?</b></p>	<p><b>What was the impact of these activities?</b></p>
<p>➤ <b>Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way</b> <b>Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire</b> As highlighted within the Annual Report for 2020/21 and further explained above, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership has made a commitment to undertake a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire. The Partnership also agreed that in so far as possible, the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment would follow the national guidance that has been developed by Community Justice Scotland (<a href="https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/strategic-needs-and-strengths-assessment-guidance/">https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/strategic-needs-and-strengths-assessment-guidance/</a>).</p>	<p>➤ <b>Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way</b> <b>Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire</b> Once complete, the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of community justice will provide a robust evidence base that will help Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners to understand the future need and demand on their services, including recovery from the pandemic. This evidence base will then be used to inform the development of the next Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for Aberdeenshire.</p>



Work on the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment has continued to progress throughout 2021/22, overseen by a small working group made up of members of the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership with an interest or skill set in relation to this piece of work. The group developed information and data request templates which have been issued to all statutory Community Justice Partners and other stakeholders, along with a service mapping questionnaire. The data and information collection process is currently ongoing.

In October 2020, Community Justice Scotland issued a positional guidance paper confirming that every local area should have an up-to-date Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP), as required by statute, and that all of these plans should be populated through the process outlined in the previously published [SNSA guidance](#). Community Justice Scotland also made a commitment to offer an on-line session for Community Justice Partnership Coordinators (or identified individuals) on strategic analysis and, in particular, inference development. In January 2022, the Project Manager (Community Justice) attended one of these training sessions delivered by Community Justice Scotland, along with a follow up session on Horizon Scanning for Community Justice Partnership Chairs and Coordinators in May 2022.

- **Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way**

#### **Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan Extension / Position Statement**

In response to feedback from Community Justice Scotland, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership acknowledged that the current Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for Aberdeenshire needed to be reviewed and updated.

- **Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way**

#### **Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan Extension / Position Statement**

The Position Statement extends the current Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for Aberdeenshire until such time as the revised National Strategy for Community Justice and the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework have been published.



<p>However, Community Justice Partners are aware that any new plan will need to take into account the revised National Strategy for Community Justice, and the revised National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework for Community Justice, both of which remained in the process of development during 2021/22. During 2021/22, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership worked together to produce a Position Statement, which explained its intention to extend the existing Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan until such time as the revised National Community Justice Strategy and National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework are published. The Partnership made a commitment within the Position Statement to use the time until these documents are available to produce a strengths and needs assessment of community justice within Aberdeenshire, in line with guidance provided by Community Justice Scotland (as described above).</p>	<p>These two new national documents, along with the evidence base provided by the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, will be essential to Community Justice Partners in the development of the new Community Justice Plan for Aberdeenshire.</p>
--	---





<p>➤ <b>Partners have leveraged resources for community justice</b></p> <p><b>County Lines / Cuckooing - Days of Action</b></p> <p>Drug supply through “County Lines” and associated “cuckooing” activity continue to impact on Aberdeenshire communities, most notably within the Buchan Corner. The joint work in relation to county lines and cuckooing which began in 2018 has continued, through the Joint Cuckooing Initiative. Following on from four successful joint Days of Action in December 2020, a further four Days of Action were delivered during 2021/22 (two in December 2021, two in February 2022) to address the harms caused by Serious and Organised Crime, and to provide support to vulnerable people who are being exploited and at risk of drug harm. The Days of Action involved Criminal Justice Social Work, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Services, Children and Families Social Work, Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service, and the Community Safety Team, alongside Police Scotland colleagues, including Community Policing Teams, CID and specialist units who carried out a combination of enforcement and outreach support work to demonstrate a multiagency approach to safeguard communities and individuals following enforcement activity.</p> <p>The Joint Cuckooing Initiative Steering Group continued to meet throughout the reporting period, with four meetings held virtually via MS Teams with representation from all of the partners listed above.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Partners have leveraged resources for community justice</b></p> <p><b>County Lines / Cuckooing - Days of Action</b></p> <p>During the February 2022 Days of Action, sixty-one visits were undertaken, with twenty-four successful contacts and thirty seven calling cards left when visits were unsuccessful. This provided increased visibility of Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, Community Safety and Drug and Alcohol services within communities. The presence of the Police pod (leading to thirty interactions with members of the community) and Community Safety Visits to households (ninety-six in total) generated further intelligence, while the joint visits engaged and re-engaged people at risk, offered fast track into treatment as required, provided access to other support services whilst the enforcement activity itself served as a disruption to those responsible for activities relating to drug supply. The strength in our Community Justice Partnership, trust and true understanding of leadership has accelerated this innovative approach whilst ensuring learning across organisations, enhanced delivery of ‘real time’ support during enforcement and breaking down of barriers in terms of information sharing. Trust developed has led to greater understanding of differing systems of work within our partnership and crucially new opportunities to overlay shared data have revealed additional opportunities to identify and support people.</p> <p>Two further Days of Action were delivered during June 2022, however these fall out with the reporting period for this report so have not been included here. Further information on the June 2022 Days of Action can be found via the Aberdeenshire Council website<sup>7</sup>.</p>
---	--

<sup>7</sup> <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/news/release.aspx?newsid=8592>



<p>➤ <b>Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational/professional /geographical boundaries</b></p> <p><b>Trauma Training</b></p> <p>Trauma training has been available through Community Justice Scotland since 2020. Aberdeenshire Justice Social Work Service has engaged in every opportunity to support staff to participate across all tiers of training. During 2021/22, thirty-nine practitioners from the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service participated in the two-day Level 3 trauma enhanced training provided by Epione Consultancy and funded through Community Justice Scotland. Community Justice Partners also participated in a one-day online training course through Epione Consultancy, 'Transforming Aberdeenshire to be Trauma Informed and Responsive'. Twenty-five participants from across the Partnership were in attendance.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational/professional /geographical boundaries</b></p> <p><b>Trauma Training</b></p> <p>Participation in the two-day trauma training has not only increased and improved practice skills of the Social Work workforce, but has also created opportunities to review, through a trauma lens, how the service operates. The Criminal Justice Social Work Service has established a Trauma-Informed Practice Group, which links in with the Aberdeenshire Trauma Informed Development Group, and is currently working to identify ways in which our policies, practices and documentation can be more trauma-informed and responsive.</p>
--	--



What ongoing activities took place in relation to outcome two?	What was the impact of these activities?
<p>➤ <b>Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way</b></p> <p><b>Whole Systems Approach</b></p> <p>The Youth Services Strategic Group oversees the partnership approach to the implementation of the Whole System Approach to Youth Justice in Aberdeenshire. The group went through some structural and staffing changes and only met once during the reporting period, to review progress and to consider next steps for the group. This review work is ongoing, however work around aspects of the whole system approach to youth justice have continued in the background.</p> <p>Previous annual reports have referred to work which was carried out locally with partners, to reinvigorate and improve processes. Three workstreams emerged from this: Supporting Local Families, Holistic Family Support and the Extension of the Whole System Approach to youth justice to age 25.</p> <p>The work of the Whole System Approach to Youth Justice within Aberdeenshire and the two projects that were developed as a result of the review now form a key part of the agenda to deliver on the Promise within Aberdeenshire. Supporting Local Families, the pilot established in Buchanhaven school is well underway and working on its first-year evaluation. As part of the delivery of the 'National Mission' aim to reduce drug harm in Scotland, a project group has been formed to look at implementing the Framework for Improving Holistic Family Support: Towards a Whole Family Approach and Family Inclusive Practice in Drug and Alcohol Services.</p>	



The group will develop targeted support for people, families, and their children most at risk of drug and alcohol related harm. A small team is being recruited and developed which brings practitioners from Adult Services and Children's Services together in one delivery system.

As explained previously within this report, the "Safer in Service" Days of Action is a partnership response which combines Community Safety, Justice Social Work, Drug and Alcohol Service, Housing, Children's Services and Police Scotland to carry out enforcement and engagement to demonstrate the whole system and a multi-agency approach to tackling the issues associated with drug related harm in communities. The criminal exploitation of young people is associated with "County Lines" and drug dealing activity. Often, these young people can find themselves involved in the adult criminal justice system facing criminal charges as a result. The partnership approach in Aberdeenshire contributes to the disruption of local networks of drug dealing and County Lines and can help to bring to the attention of services the young people who have been involved, so that they are then able to offer them the support and services that they need to try and prevent them from becoming further involved in the criminal justice system and substance use.

The Safer in Service Days of Action which took place during 2021/22 have contributed to the development of practice guidance to respond to out of area young people subject to exploitation through County Lines. Liaison with police, justice services and third sector in Merseyside is establishing an approach which may become established as a Grampian wide response.



<p>➤ <b>Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA</b></p> <p>MAPPA is the process through which Local Authorities, the Police, Prison and where appropriate the Health Services, share relevant information and work together to assess and manage the risk presented by certain groups of persons who have offended and are present in the community. This includes Registered Sex Offenders, mentally disordered Restricted Patients, and other persons managed in the community who, by reason of their conviction, pose a risk of serious harm to the public and require active multi-agency management. During the reporting period, the 2020/21 Annual Report for the Grampian Area was published, and is now available to download from the MAPPA web page on the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership website - <a href="https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/mappa/">https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/aberdeenshire-community-justice-partnership/mappa/</a></p> <p><b>Self Evaluation –</b> Throughout 2021/22, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership continued to work on its engagement with and involvement of the Third Sector, which was identified through an earlier Partnership self-assessment as an area for improvement.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA</b></p> <p>Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) remained a robust mechanism for responsible authorities to collaborate in the management of risk of serious harm. The established nature of virtual MAPPA meetings continued to increase participation across relevant agencies which increased the defensibility of risk management planning to mitigate risk.</p> <p><b>Self-Evaluation</b> During 2021/22, the Partnership continued to build positive partnerships with Third Sector organisations, including Street Cones, Action for Children, Families Outside, Apex Scotland, Victim Support Scotland, Shine Women’s Mentoring Service and a number of local Community Projects.</p>
---	---



<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME THREE</b> People have better access to the services that they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability</p>	<p><b>Where applicable have regard to the following indicators.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services ✓</li> <li>➤ Existence of joint-working arrangements such as processes / protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs ✓</li> <li>➤ Initiatives to facilitate access to services ✓</li> <li>➤ Speed of access to mental health services ✓</li> <li>➤ % of people released from a custodial sentence:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) registered with a GP</li> <li>b) have suitable accommodation</li> <li>c) have had a benefits eligibility check ✓</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Targeted interventions have been tailored for and with an individual and had a successful impact on their risk of further offending ✓</li> </ul>
<p><b>What new activities in 2021-22 were driven collectively by the community justice partnership in relation to outcome three?</b></p>	<p><b>What was the impact of these activities?</b></p>
<p>➤ <b>Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services</b> <b>Criminal Justice Employability Officer (Under 25s)</b> As a result of improved links with the Local Employability Partnership for Aberdeenshire, in March 2021, the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service secured funding that had been made available through the Scottish Government’s Young Person’s Guarantee Fund for a 1-year fixed term full time equivalent Employability Officer to support individuals who are working with the Criminal Justice Social Work Service.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services</b> <b>Criminal Justice Employability Officer (Under 25s)</b> In the period between end of June 2021 (when the worker took up post) to the end of March 2022, the Young Person’s Criminal Justice Employability Worker engaged with 28 young people under the age of 25 (ranging from age 16 to 23 years). The type of support provided varies from person to person from basic job searching skills, to CV development, to in-support work. Individuals have made progress in a variety of different areas, for example in building routines, increasing motivation and living a healthier lifestyle.</p>



The post focuses on the Under 25s age group and is based within the Criminal Justice Social Work Service, working alongside the existing dedicated Employability Officer. The purpose of the post is to work with individuals to support them to progress through the Employability Pipeline (please see the Aberdeenshire Employment Connect website for further details - <https://employmentconnect.org.uk/JOB-SEEKERS/>), which will include moving from Pre-Stage 1 onwards, but also to provide an opportunity for Unpaid Work Any Other Activity Hours to be completed. This is with a view to helping to address the existing backlog of Unpaid Work hours and manage any new hours that are awarded to people by the Courts.

The Young Person's Criminal Justice Employability Worker has also supported young people to secure places on further education courses, new learning and training courses, to obtain offers of employment, and help secure access to Individual Training Account (ITA) funding (the majority of which were CSCS Card applications).

During the reporting period, the Young Person's Criminal Justice Employability Worker approached local employers with a view to building positive relationships that can lead to job matching and finding employers that are open to employing people with convictions. As COVID restrictions began to lift across Scotland towards the end of the reporting period, face to face appointments were able to increase, which has led to an improvement in engagement levels amongst those who have struggled with phone contact, have limited IT access and need more support.

People who have accessed the service have expressed a gratitude for the support received with one individual in particular who was supported to receive additional benefits commenting that the increase would change their life.



<p>➤ <b>Existence of joint-working arrangements such as processes / protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b></p> <p><b>Throughcare Planning Arrangements</b></p> <p>The Annual Report for 2020/21 highlighted the collaborative work that had been taken forward by Community Justice Partners in relation to planning for Emergency Early Release from custody, including the Virtual 'Throughcare / Virtual Court' meetings. These meetings were initially held on a weekly basis, to ensure that everyone coming out of prison over the following 12-week period was offered a throughcare service and relevant support, tailored to their individual needs. Although Emergency Early Release has now come to an end, Aberdeenshire's virtual throughcare meetings continue to be held, now on a monthly basis, to assist those partners that offer throughcare to plan and prepare for people being released from custody, ensuring that everyone is offered a throughcare service. The meetings are regularly attended by Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work (including the Support Workers who offer transitions / throughcare support), Aberdeenshire Housing Service, Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Services and the SHINE Mentoring Service, delivered to those in Aberdeenshire by Turning Point Scotland. Planning also takes in those that are in HMP &amp; YOI Grampian as well as other parts of the prison estate, using e-mail a prisoner and the information available through the regular information from the Scottish Prison Service on admissions, releases and transfers.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Existence of joint-working arrangements such as processes / protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b></p> <p><b>Throughcare Planning Arrangements</b></p> <p>The additional monthly joint throughcare planning meetings ensure that partner agencies are organised and well prepared to provide support to those who were being released from custody. There is a positive team around the process, with everyone signed up to the same outcomes. By continuing to meet on a monthly basis, good working relationships have continued to develop between the partners, which supports information sharing, allowing partners to adapt how services are delivered and respond quickly any issues that have emerged. This in turn ensures that services, including housing, health and social care (including substance use), are in place for people prior to their release from custody, which is in line with SHORE standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>% of Aberdeenshire people released from a custodial sentence from HMP Grampian who:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>(a) registered with a GP</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 45.5%</li><li>- 2020/21 = 33%</li><li>- 2019/20 = 47%</li></ul></li><li><b>(b) have suitable accommodation</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 99%</li><li>- 2020/21 = 90%</li><li>- 2019/20 = 68%</li></ul></li><li><b>(c) have had a benefits eligibility check</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 73.7%</li><li>- 2020/21 = 27%</li><li>- 2019/20 = 75%</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
--	--





<p>➤ <b>Speed of access to mental health services</b> <b>Action 15 of the National Mental Health Strategy – Police Custody Settings</b></p> <p>Action 15 of the National Mental Health Strategy<sup>8</sup> aims to increase the workforce to give access to dedicated mental health professionals to all Accident and Emergency services, all GP practices, every police station custody suite, and prisons. Previous Annual Reports have explained how Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners have been involved in the development of a dedicated out of hours service to support both Fraserburgh Custody Suite and Fraserburgh Minor Injuries Unit, as part of the Aberdeenshire approach to the implementation of Action 15. The primary focus of this work has been to provide an out of hours service for those who are experiencing distress and are at risk of coming into contact with the justice system as a result. Prior to 2021/22, no equivalent service was available for people from Aberdeenshire who were being held in custody at Kittybrewster Custody Suite in Aberdeen.</p> <p>There are challenges associated with offering an equivalent service to the one that is available from Fraserburgh, most notably the smaller number of people from the Central and South Aberdeenshire areas who are held in custody to appear in Court the next day, with no clear peak time of day or day of the week where this service would be required to operate. Availability of funding has also been a barrier.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Speed of access to mental health services</b> <b>Action 15 of the National Mental Health Strategy – Police Custody Settings</b></p> <p>Since taking up post in December 2021, the Criminal Justice Social Worker for Court and Custody Support (Kittybrewster) has provided an offer of support to 9 individuals who were held in custody to appear in Aberdeen Sheriff Court, with 2 accepting the offer of follow up support. The type of support provided has included low level mental health support, support to access and attend GP appointments, support with housing, and signposting to other services that are more suited to individual needs.</p> <p>The impact of this support can be demonstrated through the following case example which involved a young male, Peter, who had been arrested in relation to road traffic offences and detained in Police Custody overnight to appear in Court the next day.</p> <p>The Court and Custody Social Worker met with Peter in the Court cells after identifying him from the court list as someone who may require some additional support, as he had never been in custody before. It was noted that there may also be some support required with housing, as the offence had involved his partner and child and that as a result, if given bail then this may include conditions preventing him from returning to address he normally shared with them. On discussing the circumstances leading to the offence, it became apparent that Peter was anxious and upset about the whole situation.</p>
--	--

<sup>8</sup> [Mental%20Health%20Strategy%202017-2027%20-%20gov.scot%20\(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/mental-health-strategy-2017-2027)



In early 2021/22, an application for funding was submitted to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Action 15 Project Group with a proposal to employ a Social Worker on a fixed term basis to provide next day, follow up support to people from Aberdeenshire who had been arrested and taken to Kittybrewster Custody Suite in Aberdeen, and were experiencing distress as a result. The application for funding was approved and the worker took up post in early December 2021.

The post is based within the South Criminal Justice Social Work team works alongside the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Court Social Worker for Aberdeen Sheriff Court and the Structured Deferred Sentence Social Worker. The post mirrors aspects of the North Aberdeenshire Court Support Social Worker around providing follow up support to people who require it, particularly in relation to low level mental health support and interventions. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, the worker has not been able to physically access Kittybrewster Custody Centre, however the service and supports are instead provided from Aberdeen Sheriff Court, with follow up virtual and in person support provided to people within the community following release from Court, as required.

Peter explained to the worker that he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder which included panic attacks and that he had experienced one of these attacks prior to the offence. The Court and Custody Support Social Worker spoke with Peter about how she could offer him support which might help him with his mental health, which Peter was grateful for, explaining that he had been wanting to reach out for support for a while but was never confident enough to go through with it.

Peter was bailed on standard and special bail conditions which stated that he must not enter his home address or approach his partner or daughter. Peter was very upset about these conditions, but the Court and Custody Social Worker explained to him that she would be there to support him through this time and answer any questions that he may have. The Court and Custody Social Worker was then able to work with colleagues in Housing to identify alternative accommodation for Peter. As this was not going to be available until the next day, Peter was provided with a bus fare to get to his friend's house, where he could stay overnight until the property was ready for him to move in to.

The Social Worker provided follow up support the next day via a phone call, which included agreeing how to progress further support in relation to his mental health. Peter and the Court and Custody Social Worker agreed that this would take the form of weekly phone contact where Peter would be able to speak about what he feels he needs the most support with and what she could possibly do to assist with this.



Through the appointments with the Court and Custody Support Social Worker, Peter has been able to start dealing with various aspects of his mental health. The social worker helped Peter to make an appointment at the doctor to speak about different options that might be able to relieve some of his anxiety symptoms. Peter was grateful for the support with this as this was never something he felt confident enough to do on his own. Peter now has regular appointments with his doctor to keep track of his mental health concerns. The Court and Custody Support Social Worker also provided Peter with self-referral details for Penumbra, which will allow him the opportunity to have some one-to-one support and counselling.

Peter feels like court support has benefited him in many ways as even having someone to speak to on a weekly basis and having someone there for extra support has boosted his mood and confidence.

It remains the ambition of Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners to offer an equitable Action 15 service to those from Aberdeenshire who are being held at police custody centres, regardless of whether this is Fraserburgh or Kittybrewster. Although priorities for the next Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan are still to be determined, it is likely that access to services, including mental health services, will feature.



<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b> <b>Action 15 Occupational Therapy Service</b> As explained above, Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy aims to increase the workforce to give access to dedicated mental health professionals to all Accident and Emergency services, all GP practices, every police station custody suite, and prisons.</p> <p>Occupational therapy is a science degree-based, health and social care profession, regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council. Occupational therapy aims to improve health and wellbeing through enabling participation in meaningful occupation (the activities, roles and routines of everyday life). Occupational therapists recognise that engagement in meaningful occupation such as work and leisure activities, home management and family roles or participating in the wider community, provide a sense of identity, belonging, meaning, purpose and structure. These factors are vital for positive health and wellbeing. Occupational therapists are already established in many statutory mental health services and the profession has been identified as one of the five key professions for mental health<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>The Occupational Therapy service at HMP Grampian has been in operation since January 2015, consisting of a part-time Band 7 Occupational Therapist. The service is available to remand, short term, long term and life prisoners whose ability to participate in meaningful everyday occupations creates problems in relation to their health, prevents progression through the prison system or creates barriers to successful community reintegration.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b> <b>Action 15 Occupational Therapy Service</b> There is a significant role for Occupational Therapy in contributing to rehabilitation for those experiencing addiction problems and those within the criminal justice system. It is widely known that people who have come into contact with the justice system are often affected by mental health and mental wellbeing issues. Various needs analyses have highlighted high levels of mental health need within the justice population, including anxiety and depression, suicide attempts and self-harm. There was also a high prevalence of childhood traumatic experiences, illicit drug use, complex and co-morbid mental health and substance use problems.</p> <p>Occupational Therapy provision can provide alternative and complimentary interventions to address mental health and wellbeing that contribute to the improvement of peoples' functioning, so that they are better able to engage with the opportunities that are presented to them in terms of their recovery and progression. Occupational Therapy assessment better informs case management approaches, so that an individual is supported in a way which is more person centred around their needs and so reduces the possibility that lack of engagement or noncompliance is misinterpreted as intentional.</p>
--	---

<sup>9</sup> [Getting-my-life-back\\_WalesENG.pdf \(rcot.co.uk\)](https://www.rcot.co.uk/sites/default/files/Getting-my-life-back_WalesENG.pdf) - [https://www.rcot.co.uk/sites/default/files/Getting-my-life-back\\_WalesENG.pdf](https://www.rcot.co.uk/sites/default/files/Getting-my-life-back_WalesENG.pdf)



Those seen by the service often present with health comorbidities, are seen by multiple services and their needs span primary, secondary and at times, tertiary care. Many present with mental health problems which do not meet the criteria for secondary specialist mental health services.

As part of the approach to the implementation of Action 15 within Aberdeenshire, funding was secured to increase resource and therefore access to the Occupational Therapy service at HMP Grampian. To ensure equity of access to services within both custody and community settings, a proposal was developed that would enable community justice partners to also provide an Occupational Therapy service to people within the community who have either come into contact with the justice system and/or are working with the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service. Two temporary Band 7 Occupational Therapist posts have been recruited, to work with the Criminal Justice Social Work Service and the H&SCP Alcohol and Drug Service to design and deliver a test of change to evidence added value and impact of an Occupational Therapist in these settings. This test will involve the delivery of occupation centred assessment and treatment to an agreed number of individuals, underpinned by a public health perspective and a person centred, populations-based approach.

The Occupational Therapists based within the Criminal Justice Social Work and Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service took up post in March 2022 and are currently working to design and deliver the test of change. One of the first tasks of the Criminal Justice Occupational Therapist since coming into post has been to develop a survey of the Criminal Justice workforce, to gather evidence of current understanding of Occupational Therapy and how it may benefit people within the justice system, and contribute to overall service delivery. As part of the test of change, robust data gathering and outcome measures aligned to an occupation focussed model will be expected. An evaluative report will also be produced which will detail the test of change findings including how any future posts require to be positioned and designed in order to result in a sustainable improvement to criminal justice services. Further information on the test of change will be available for the next annual reporting period.



What ongoing activities took place in relation to outcome three?	What was the impact of these activities?
<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services - Employability Criminal Justice Employability Service – Over 25s</b></p> <p>The Criminal Justice Employability Service continued to provide support to people who have been referred to the service from within the Criminal Justice Social Work fieldwork and Unpaid Work teams. The Employability Service (consisting of one full time worker for individuals aged over 25 years) continues to see people on a one-to-one basis, with employability support tailored to meet individual needs and designed to help people progress along the employability pipeline.</p> <p>The Employability Service also and works in partnership with employment agencies, training providers and social enterprises, to identify opportunities for people to participate in. The support offered ranges from initial assessment, CV creation and job searching, extending to ‘in work’ support and aftercare once employment has been found. It is recognised that some people may have significant underlying health and wellbeing issues, often linked to substance use, that require to be addressed before they are able to achieve work readiness. This approach can be evidenced through the following example which involved an individual who had difficulties with alcohol, who identified that they needed help to address the problem. Although they had requested referral to the Employability Service, as they were desperate to regain some stability and structure to their daily life, the individual accepted that the condition presented a significant barrier to their engagement with services and supports. To overcome this, the Employability Service supported them to access appropriate alcohol support services.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services - Employability Criminal Justice Employability Service – Over 25s</b></p> <p>During the reporting period, 60 individuals were supported by the Criminal Justice Employability Service, including fifty-two new referrals. In some cases, where individuals have or have had significant underlying health and wellbeing issues, progress has been measured by small successes, such as the introduction of structure and routine into previously chaotic lifestyles.</p> <p>Having a dedicated employability resource within the Criminal Justice Service has enabled existing links with partner organisations, including social enterprises, employment agencies and training providers to be strengthened. This collaborative approach has improved service delivery and provided more equitable access to services for individuals being supported by Criminal Justice Social Work.</p> <p>The impact of the Employability Service can be demonstrated through the following case example. An individual with additional support needs was supported by the Criminal Justice Employability Service to sustain part time employment at a recycling facility. Due to this, their confidence and capabilities increased to the extent that they requested to work additional days at the premises. This employment also helped them to overcome the social isolation they had previously experienced.</p>



Once the situation improves, they will be further supported to progress onto employability related activities.

These achievements are reflected in some comments made in their periodic Support and Progress review relating to changed behaviour to which he answered, "*Changed my thinking about myself, changed my attitude towards others*" and "*Got a new job giving something back to the community*". Regarding their views on offending, they explained that ongoing support had raised their awareness of "*greater responsibility*".

DRAFT



➤ **Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services**

**Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Women's Service**

The Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Women's Service continues to support women from across the North Aberdeenshire area, however as in the previous reporting period, the way that the service operates has been affected by the pandemic. In March 2020, the Women's Service had to stop all drop-in groups that were previously running in Peterhead (King Street Resource Centre) and Fraserburgh, and these groups were not able to resume before the end of the reporting period. The Women's Service will continue to look at ways to reopen the women's group, as discussions with the women who have previously used the service have highlighted the need for the group and that it is missed. Although the Women's Group was not able to resume during the reporting period, the Women's Service has still continued to support women who have been involved in offending behaviour to attend court and appointments with other services including medical, mental health and substance use appointments.

➤ **Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services**

**Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Women's Service**

The positive impact of having a dedicated Women's Service within Criminal Justice Social Work can be demonstrated through the following case example, where one of the Women's Criminal Justice Social Workers had taken over a case involving a female service user from another member of the team in early 2022. The female had not engaged well with the worker previously - she had significant anxiety about leaving the home due to her offence and COVID and she had become quite isolated, but she was engaging well with the Higher Support Needs Team to complete her Unpaid Work. The Women's Social Worker was able to develop a positive relationship with the female, and her engagement improved as a result. This appeared to also contribute to her confidence increasing and ability to engage in the community as she pushed herself to attend appointments at the Social Work office. Her resilience has improved and she is now able to address tasks on her own, for example, trying to resolve issues with her landlord and having the confidence to do this. She also had a good understanding of how to manage her anxiety and identified strategies herself such as grounding techniques, etc. that worked for her.





➤ **Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services**

**Housing First**

Previous Annual Reports have referred to the Aberdeenshire Housing First Pilot, which was introduced in July 2017 by Aberdeenshire Council. The pilot was introduced before Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) Recommendations were developed and the wider Pathfinder schemes were introduced across cities in Scotland. The pathfinder schemes ran for three years and when the funding for these came to an end in September 2021, Aberdeenshire made the decision to expand their Housing First Scheme to accommodate those who had been supported via the Pathfinder Schemes.

During 2021 the Housing First Scheme expanded and now includes one Senior Housing Officer and eight full-time equivalent Housing First Workers. The team is overseen by the Housing Manager and Team Leader for Support and Housing First. As part of the expansion of the scheme, a Link Worker for Mental Health has been added to the Support Team and one of the Housing First Workers carries a reduced caseload to allow them to remain as the link person to substance use services and carry out naloxone training for all Housing staff. Due to the success of these posts, in March 2022, additional funding was obtained via the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities team to fund another part-time Mental Health Link Worker for up to three years.

➤ **Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services**

**Housing First**

In June 2022, the Aberdeenshire Council Housing Service produced an Outcomes Report on the Aberdeenshire Housing First Programme, covering the period between November 2020 and November 2021.

Criminal Justice data provided for the report shows that 80% (66) of the people on the housing first programme were open to Criminal Justice Services prior to commencing the programme. As of November 2021, only 56% (37) of the client base were open to Criminal Justice services. Twelve people open to the Housing First Service were also open to intensive criminal justice support and workers from both services work in partnership to provide the intense support required for these individuals.

Evidence collected shows that 44% (36) of Housing First clients had had prison admissions prior to being supported by Housing First. As of November 2021 70% (57) of people on the Housing First programme had not had a prison admission. The total prison admissions of the client base prior to Housing First was 105 and as at November 2021, this reduced to only 44 prison admissions for Housing First clients. Some of these admissions were also for historic offences committed prior to being support via Housing First. The Annual cost reported in Audit of Scottish Prison Service 2018/2019 was £35,601 annual cost per prisoner, therefore it shows that by having a Housing First Scheme this produces significant savings to the Criminal Justice System.



Housing First in Aberdeenshire benefits from a multi-agency commitment to the agenda, illustrated by the variety of resources that have been made available, which includes funding from the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership alongside the provision of direct contacts and support from a number of partners including the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service, Department of Work and Pensions, Social Work Services, Housing Associations across Aberdeenshire, and Turning Point Scotland. This helps service users to access housing and provides appropriate wrap around support in accordance with their individually assessed needs. Referrals to the project can be made by any of the services included in the Housing First Project Group.

Information collated from a survey of nine participants of the Housing First Scheme between January and March 2020 evidenced that six of the respondents were homeless and in temporary accommodation prior to joining the Housing First programme and two had come from prison, with only one already residing in their own tenancy. Over half had not held a tenancy in the last two years and seven had previously held tenancies which had failed. 100% of respondents said their access to services had improved and their use of substances had decreased. The main reason respondents felt they had been able to sustain their tenancies was that they moved completely away from the previous area they stayed and had been given a fresh start. The comments received in relation to their support and support worker have been excellent with some examples being

*“She has just been brilliant – I have had lots of other workers before, but she does so much more” and “since I started with Housing First this is the first time I have had a purpose in life and something to look forward to”.*

Over the course of the project, from 1st April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, the project has had 96 clients with varying levels of support need, 72 were active as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, with 24 now in the step-down phase for a variety of reasons but are able to be given support should they require it. Of the 24 step-down clients, 16 are still occupying their tenancies and managing well, 1 is living with a partner, 2 returned to live with parents, 1 has a long term prison sentence over 5 years, 1 had abandoned their tenancy, 1 has had to present as homeless again due to safety issues, 1 has lost contact and 1 is in private rented accommodation.



**Prison Discharge Protocol / Case Management Board**

Six weeks prior to release from HMP YOI Grampian, people who have been serving a sentence are discussed at the Case Management Board (CMB). Planning also takes in those that are in other parts of the prison estate, using e-mail a prisoner and the information available through the regular information from the Scottish Prison Service on admissions, releases and transfers. Partner organisations including the Department for Work and Pensions, third sector providers, Criminal Justice Social Work, Housing services and community-based Alcohol and Drug services attend the meeting each week and plans to ensure housing, throughcare support and substance use support are agreed and arranged for all of those being released. Any relevant information about individuals' risks and triggers, and any significant events the individual has experienced while in this period of custody is shared with community justice partners prior to their release, to enable partners to develop the most appropriate support plans. This can include information about periods of time being managed under Talk to Me suicide prevention strategy (TTM), management of offenders at risk due to any substance (MORS), or removal from association (R95), experiencing bereavement issues, or having a warrant aggravation.

Overall, although limited in places, the data on the Housing First Programme shows that being part of the programme has had an overall positive impact on participants outcomes with improvements in health and well-being, and decreases in substance use, criminal activities, admission to prison and increased tenancy sustainment. Through effective partnership working, and a focus on the individual needs of clients, the positive changes being evidenced will have an impact in savings to all services, and the ability to direct resources effectively.

**Prison Discharge Protocol / Case Management Board**

The benefits of the Case Management Board process are that it allows HMP & YOI Grampian and other agencies to share and promote best practice across partners to encourage high level service delivery. In addition, it contributes to partners' ongoing community development aims that support the reintegration of individuals leaving custody and ensure that the Scottish Prison Service are updated on throughcare caseloads via community partners.



Community based assertive outreach teams, such as the Aberdeenshire Responsive Intervention Engagement Service (ARIES), now attend the weekly Case Management Board and this allows them to identify 'persons of concern' (people who have previously not engaged well with support services) to be identified prior to release. This continues to allow Substance Use Services, Mental Health Services and other applicable throughcare supports to be identified and established prior to release, and beyond.

### **Family Centre and Help Hub**

Action For Children continue to manage the Family Centre and Help Hub at HMP & YOI Grampian, supported by the Scottish Prison Service. The Family Centre's most basic function is to provide a safe place where visitors can relax and spend time before and after a visit to the prison. It provides a one-stop-shop where visitors can access a variety of support, advice and up to date information about the prison.

As highlighted above, the 2021/22 period continued to be challenging in terms of supporting families affected by imprisonment. Despite hopes for stability, ongoing COVID restrictions, changes to visiting arrangements (open and virtual) and the escalating cost of living continued to have an impact on the number of visitors accessing the Family Centre and Help Hub and utilising the in-person prison visits. Throughout the period, Action for Children had to change and adapt ways of working and thinking to ensure that they are able to provide effective and comprehensive support to families from Aberdeenshire who were affected by imprisonment. This included practical support (including the provision of food

### **Family Centre and Help Hub**

In response to the changing COVID restrictions and resulting changes to visiting arrangements, Action for Children were required to adapt ways of working and thinking to provide effective and comprehensive support to families to enable positive outcomes to be achieved.

The majority of families supported during 2021 lived within the Aberdeenshire area – this is a change from previous years, when the majority of families were from the Aberdeen City area. Action for Children have continued to maintain, support and further develop relationships with Aberdeenshire families, both in the Family Centre and Help Hub and within their communities. During the period, Action for Children continued to provide first-hand accurate information to families and maintained relationships through regular welfare calls and outreach visits and assisted families accordingly.



parcels), emotional support (both in person and via the phone), activities for children, outreach support and peer support. To assist with these efforts, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership provided Action for Children with additional financial support through the Scottish Government COVID recovery allocation.

The Prison continued to support family contact by having visit sessions available to those in custody and their families and loved ones. The current visit timetable provides plenty of scope for visits which has not raised any complaints from visitors or those in custody. The reduced sessions are seen as a quieter visit session than pre COVID where the visit room was extremely busy. The Scottish Prison Service continues to monitor feedback from those that use the visit sessions.

Following the positive and encouraging feedback received following about the children's outdoor event in June 2021 for Father's Day, Action for Children advocated for similar events to be held as an alternative to the regular children's visits which would have been held prior to COVID. Subsequent Back to School, Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas children's events were held, each event was organised very carefully, adhering to rigorous risk assessments, rules, and compliance procedures.

This year (2022) has seen Action for Children and the Prison increase the amount of outdoor events available to families. Feedback from all involved has been very encouraging and supportive

In addition, Action for Children organised monthly adult peer support group sessions in response to an increasing number of concerns raised by families due to them suffering from loneliness, mental health issues and a general feeling of a lack of understanding and support available to them within the community. At the time when most of the restrictions were being eased, it felt to most of them that they are the only ones facing such severe restrictions and after almost two years of limited contacts with their loved ones in prison it was taking its toll on their mental health and general wellbeing.

Through working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeen Foyer, six Aberdeenshire families were supported to build on their employability skills. As an outcome of the Focus Groups organised with prisoners, action for Children promoted a competition for them to design an outdoor sign for the Family Centre and Help Hub. The aim was to educate both prisoners and visitors about the full range of services available and to improve the visibility of the Family Centre and Help Hub.



➤ **Initiatives to facilitate access to services**

**Action 15 Fraserburgh Custody Centre (Mental Health)**

As highlighted above, Action 15 of the Mental Health Strategy aims to increase the workforce to give access to dedicated mental health professionals to all Accident and Emergency services, all GP practices, every police station custody suite, and prisons. Aberdeenshire has one Police Custody Suite located within its geographical area, within the town of Fraserburgh in North Aberdeenshire. Individuals from the Central and South Aberdeenshire areas would ordinarily be taken to Kittybrewster Custody Centre which is within the Aberdeen City Local Authority area.

Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners were initially involved in the development of a dedicated out of hours service to support Fraserburgh Custody Suite and Fraserburgh Minor Injuries Unit, through Action 15 of the National Mental Health Strategy. The primary focus of this work is to provide an out of hours service for those who are experiencing distress and are at risk of coming into contact with the justice system as a result. The Crisis Intervention Service was launched in July 2021 and the team, consisting of one full time Band 7 Mental Health Nurse, two full time Crisis Intervention Practitioners (one Band 6 Mental Health Nurse and one Social Worker), is now delivering an operational service from their base at Fraserburgh Police Office.

Pathways for referral into the service have been established with Fraserburgh Custody Centre, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and the Minor Injuries Units at Fraserburgh and Peterhead.

➤ **Initiatives to facilitate access to services**

**Action 15 Fraserburgh Custody Centre (Mental Health)**

Since going live in August 2021, the Crisis Intervention Team have engaged with 155 individuals who required support in relation to their mental health. This included 71 VPD referrals, 46 people who were seen on scene with Police, 21 individuals who were in custody, 10 people who were referred from the Minor Injuries Units and 7 who were referred from the Scottish Ambulance Service. There were also a number of opt in letters issued which were not responded to.

The impact of the service can be demonstrated through the following case examples. An individual had been had been detained at Fraserburgh Custody Centre and was seeking help for their mental health. The Crisis Intervention Team visited promptly after talking to his Criminal Justice Social Worker, and were able to reduce the individuals' anxiety and stress from an 8 to 1 by taking the time to listen, offer advice, signposting and reassurance. They had been taken into custody for a matter that was going to be sorted out by Social Work the next day. The team were able to make the individual aware of the plan which in turn, significantly reduced their anxiety (an 8 being really stressed and anxious to 1 having very little to no anxiety present).

A further example involves a situation where the team received a call from Police stating that an individual would require a mental health assessment. Police had called NHS 24 and were waiting for a return telephone call. The Crisis Intervention Team drove through to see the individual, completed their assessment and deemed the individual too unwell.



The Crisis Intervention Team are mobile and respond to the scene of incidents of distress identified by Police in attendance within the North Aberdeenshire area. This provides a greater person-centred response to distress often reducing the requirements for Police to utilise powers under the Mental Health Act, a process of arrest, by its very nature can create additional distress or aggressive response. Although Officers are trauma-informed, and are skilled in de-escalation, application of the Mental Health Act can still lead to increased aggression, disorder and offending.

The team will undertake initial assessments and also deliver appropriate short-term interventions for individuals across the North Aberdeenshire area and can accept referrals from Kittybrewster Custody Suite for people who reside within the North Aberdeenshire area. The team also screen Vulnerable Person Disclosures for North and Central Aberdeenshire, offering opt-in support.

The Team contacted colleagues at the unscheduled care team based at the Royal Cornhill Hospital to seek further urgent mental health assessment. The Crisis Intervention Team were able to give a hand over of the patient and the unscheduled care team were able to agree to an assessment. The Crisis Intervention Team reiterated their assessment findings to the Police, who were then able to take the individual to Hospital. The individual was indeed very unwell and was detained under the Mental Health Act for admission to an adult acute ward. The Crisis Intervention Team were able to relay this information to Police. In this example, the Crisis Intervention Team were able to provide quick, effective care that allowed the person to get the mental health care and treatment that they needed much quicker than if the Crisis Intervention Team had not been involved, which in turn freed up Police resources to deal with other incidents.

To further develop the service, a tabletop exercise will be arranged with partners during 2022/23 to identify good practice examples, highlight any gaps in provision and explore service expansion. Opportunities to establish referral pathways with Community Mental Health Teams and General Practitioners, Out of Hours Social Work and the G-MED service will also be explored. Community Justice Partners would also like to review the current opt-in service option, to ensure that this is the most effective service delivery model for this client group.



<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b> <b>Action 15 HMP Grampian (Mental Health)</b> A number of posts have been created that will increase access to mental health services for people within HMP &amp; YOI Grampian. These posts, which have been funded through Action 15 funding, include two full time and one part time Assistant Psychologists (mental health, older adults and neuropsychology), a full time Healthcare Support Worker, and a part-time Occupational Therapist, as well as access to a neuropsychologist and a clinical psychologist. The support that is available through these posts can be accessed by anyone within HMP &amp; YOI Grampian, not just those from within the Aberdeenshire area.</p> <p>➤ <b>Targeted interventions have been tailored for and with an individual and had a successful impact on their risk of further offending</b> <b>Diversion from Prosecution</b> For most of the reporting period, the number of cases referred for Diversion from Prosecution continued to operate through telephone contact and email correspondence as standard, rather than face-to face contact, though this remained an option depending on the risk and vulnerability of the individual. With clients' consent, email addresses were obtained, so that appropriate literature, worksheets and information booklets could be sent on for their reading, bearing in mind any difficulties that individuals may have with reading. The next phone appointment would then explore what they had learned.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Initiatives to facilitate access to services</b> <b>Action 15 HMP Grampian (Mental Health)</b> The creation of the additional posts for HMP &amp; YOI Grampian recognises the common characteristics of many people within the prison population (trauma history, cognitive impairment, impact of substance misuse, socio-economic determinants) and will provide a holistic and targeted service. The desired outcome is to contribute to the improvement of peoples' functioning, so that they are able to better engage with the opportunities which prison presents in terms of recovery and progression. This should then contribute to improved longer term and sustained positive outcomes in the transition out of prison and integration into communities. The majority of these posts are currently funded on a temporary basis, however opportunities to secure permanent funding will be further explored during 2022/23.</p> <p>➤ <b>Targeted interventions have been tailored for and with an individual and had a successful impact on their risk of further offending</b> <b>Diversion from Prosecution</b> As in the previous reporting period, the service continued to see a more diverse range of referrals coming through for Diversion from Prosecution, including some more serious offences, which means that Community Justice Partners are able to offer this intervention to more people. To support this, the Diversion Social Worker has worked to source support from more agencies to fulfil elements of diversionary work, such as the Aberdeenshire Youth Services Social Work Team, Community Substance Use Service, Apex Scotland, Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service for young people, and Street Cones.</p>
--	--





<p>This follow up contact also provided an opportunity to get an update on their situation and how they were coping with the COVID 19 measures that were in place at the time. As COVID restrictions began to relax, face to face delivery of diversionary work resumed, although telephone appointments were still provided where required (for example, where individuals were unable to attend office appointments due to employment commitments). Throughout the period, the service has found that a mixture of face-to-face and phone appointments has continued to work well for people and typically fit in well with their existing commitments.</p> <p>As in the previous reporting period, the service continued to see a more diverse range of referrals coming through for Diversion from Prosecution, including some more serious offences, which means that Community Justice Partners are able to offer this intervention to more people. To support this, the Diversion Social Worker has worked to source support from more agencies to fulfil elements of diversionary work, such as the Aberdeenshire Youth Services Social Work Team, Community Substance Use Service, Apex Scotland, Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service for young people, and Street Cones. In addition, where a young person is already on a Diversion and commits a further offence it is now possible, through discussions with the Youth Justice Management Unit, for this new offence to be worked alongside their existing offence, rather than reporting to the Procurator Fiscal. The impact of this is that the diversion period extends beyond the typical twelve-week timeframe, however the Diversion can still be completed within the timescale recommended in national guidance (6 months). This is a positive development.</p>	<p>In addition, where a young person is already on a Diversion and commits a further offence it is now possible, through discussions with the Youth Justice Management Unit, for this new offence to be worked alongside their existing offence, rather than reporting to the Procurator Fiscal. The impact of this is that the diversion period extends beyond the typical twelve-week timeframe, however the Diversion can still be completed within the timescale recommended in national guidance (6 months). This is a positive development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Number of Fiscal Diversions (16 and 17 year olds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 58 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 47 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 33 referrals, 22 commenced</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 20 referrals, 24 commenced</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 20 referrals, 16 cases commenced</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Total Number of Fiscal Diversions (All ages) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 180 referrals, 180 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 137 referrals, 112 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 117 referrals, 89 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 108 referrals, 89 cases commenced</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 75 referrals, 61 cases commenced</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	---



<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME FOUR</b> Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending</p>	<p><b>Where applicable have regard to the following indicators.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use of 'other activities requirements' in CPOs ✓</li> <li>➤ Effective risk management for public protection ✓</li> <li>➤ Quality of CPOs and DTTOs ✓</li> <li>➤ Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year</li> <li>b) Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded ✓</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use [NHS Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standard] ✓</li> <li>➤ Number of Police Recorded Warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, supervised bail, community sentences (including CPOs , DTTOs and RLOs ) ✓</li> <li>➤ Number of short-term sentences under one year ✓</li> </ul>
<p><b>What new activities in 2021-22 were driven collectively by the community justice partnership in relation to outcome four?</b></p>	<p><b>What was the impact of these activities?</b></p>
<p>➤ <b>Use of 'other activities requirements' in CPOs</b> During the reporting period, the use of the 'Any Other Activity' component of an Unpaid Work Requirement within a Community Payback Order remained crucial in the completion of unpaid work hours, especially given increasing numbers. A variety of virtual employability programmes, as well as one-to-one programmes delivered to meet individual needs, have contributed towards the completion of Any Other Activity hours. This has included referrals to the Aberdeen Foyer Reach Programme and Open Learn from the Open University, and also engagement with the Aberdeenshire Health &amp; Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Use of 'other activities requirements' in CPOs</b> The use of the 'Any Other Activity' component of an Unpaid Work Requirement within a Community Payback Order remained crucial in the completion of unpaid work hours given increasing numbers. In total, 9,607 Any Other Activity Hours were completed across Aberdeenshire during the period.</p>



The Higher Support Needs Team has also supported individuals in activities such as cycling and walking as part of improving mental health and confidence through fitness. This approach creates opportunity for effective engagement in an informal and safe environment, contributing to improving trust in the working relationship which in turn has led to increased engagement and the completion of Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity Hours.

### **Street Cones**

The Annual Report for 2020/21 highlighted the work that had been achieved through Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership's collaboration with Glasgow-based charitable organisation, Street Cones. Throughout 2021/22, this partnership with Street Cones helped to ensure that people from Aberdeenshire who had outstanding Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity hours from the Courts were able to progress through their orders, despite the restrictions that were in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As highlighted above, during 2021/22, Street Cones delivered a further three modules of online, group workshops to help address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours within Aberdeenshire. Each module culminated in an online, live event with panel question and answer session, made up of a mix of professionals such as Police, Criminal Justice Social Work, and Mental Health, and people with lived experience of the justice system. In total, the three modules contributed towards 418 hours of Unpaid Work being completed.

### **Street Cones**

Module 2 took place between June and September 2021 with two 2-hour sessions taking place per week for twelve weeks. In total, this module enabled 167.5 hours of Unpaid Work to be completed by the participants involved (8 individuals).

Module 3 took place between September and December 2021, again workshops were held twice per week for two hours at a time. This module enabled 94.5 hours of Unpaid Work to be completed by the participants involved (7 individuals).

Module 4 took place between January and March 2022, with a final readthrough of the script that had been produced by participants held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. This module enabled a further 156 hours of Unpaid Work to be completed by the participants involved (11 individuals).

The relationship between Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partners and Street Cones has continued to develop, with a further commitment to deliver three online unpaid work modules during 2022/23, as well as a new project for young people around the harms associated with drug use, including exploitation, county lines and cuckooing.



- **Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:**  
**(a) Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year**  
**(b) Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded**

**Electronic Monitoring**

Although out with the reporting period, Aberdeenshire was one of the areas that was able to offer Electronic Monitoring of Bail and Electronic Monitoring as part of a Community Payback Order from when these new provisions came into effect on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership will be able to provide an update in relation to how this progressed during 2022/23 within the next Annual Report on Community Justice. Please also see above regarding the Action 15 Kittybrewster Social Worker post and how this assisted with the offer of Bail Supervision (below) which can help to reduce the proportion of people who are appearing from custody who are remanded.

- **Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:**  
**(a) Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year**  
**(b) Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded**

**Electronic Monitoring**

The availability of Electronic Monitoring as part of Bail and/or as a requirement within a Community Payback Order (at first disposal rather than following a breach of an existing Order) provides additional options for Community Justice Partners to manage and monitor those serving all or part of their sentence within the community. This can in turn support rehabilitation, for example by enabling people remain with their families, and to continue in their employment or education. Electronic monitoring could also be a powerful tool in monitoring people who have a background of committing crimes at certain times, and are given a curfew to remain at a specific location for a set period of time. By electronically monitoring compliance with the curfew, the person is able to remain safely in the community during periods when the apparent risk of offending is reduced.



<p><b>Structured Deferred Sentences</b></p> <p>The 2020/21 Annual Report explained that the additional funding from the Scottish Government that was made available during the period had increased Criminal Justice Social Work capacity to offer Structured Deferred Sentences in an equitable way across the whole of Aberdeenshire. The funding was used to develop local practice guidance and assessment documentation for use by Criminal Justice Social Workers when preparing Criminal Justice Social Work Reports. Structured Deferred Sentences are now available within Aberdeenshire to divert individuals from the Criminal Justice System, whilst assisting those with underlying problems or chaotic lifestyles that result in offending behaviour. A Structured Deferred Sentence provides an alternative to those with a higher risk/need level and who require or would benefit from Social Work support.</p> <p>When an individual is assessed for a Structured Deferred Sentence, an action plan is completed prior to sentencing and is submitted to the Court alongside the Criminal Justice Social Work Report. This is completed jointly with the service user and goals are set by the service user focusing on any issues which may increase their risk of reoffending. On most occasions, this will involve a referral to other services. Work as part of a Structured Deferred Sentence typically involves a combination of practical and therapeutic support. It initially focuses on welfare needs in order to achieve stability and positive change in the individual's life, before proceeding to offence-focused work.</p>	<p><b>Structured Deferred Sentences</b></p> <p>During 2021/22, Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work put into practice the new guidance and documentation that had been developed and as a result, twenty-three Structured Deferred Sentences were imposed for twenty individuals.</p> <p>The impact of having a Structured Deferred Sentence available as a sentencing option can be demonstrated through the following case example. This example involved an individual who had never come to the attention of Courts of Police previously but had been charged with being in possession of a bladed article. The individual was supported through their Structured Deferred Sentence to engage in regular offence focussed work, with additional support provided to address practical issues in their life. The individual was motivated to find work, and therefore was referred to the Criminal Justice Employability Service and has been meeting with Employability Workers as part of their Structured Deferred Sentence. The Structured Deferred Sentence has provided a flexible approach to the individual's needs, addressing their offending behaviour whilst also addressing their practical needs to reduce their likelihood of re-offending.</p> <p>A further example involves an individual who had come to the attention of the Court and Police due to their lifestyle which involved using alcohol and substances regularly. The intensity of the Structured Deferred Sentence was utilised to support the individual to engage with the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service. They met with the Structured Deferred Sentence worker and the Community Alcohol and Drug Service and engaged well with the service, managing to maintain a level of stability in the community.</p>
--	--



	<p>Towards the end of their order, it was evident the individual was doing better however would benefit from continuing support in certain areas. The individual had recently also got their own tenancy, and therefore a further period of three-month Structured Deferred Sentence was recommended to support them with the transition to independent living. This flexibility that is available through a Structured Deferred Sentence has been particularly useful in relation to working with individuals who have complex and/or multiple needs.</p>
--	--

DRAFT



What ongoing activities took place in relation to outcome four?	What was the impact of these activities?
<p>➤ <b>Effective risk management for public protection</b>  <b>Joint Sex Offender Project (JSOP) – Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) and Caledonian Programmes</b>            As measures to manage the pandemic changed so too did the ability to deliver groupwork for domestic abuse related offending and sexual offending. Intermittent delivery of groupwork for Caledonian System and Moving Forward: Making Changes Programme Requirements was possible but interrupted by the changing response to managing the pandemic. New ways of working virtually when safe to do so had become embedded in delivery, so change from face to face groupwork delivery to virtual one to one delivery was experienced by both workers and service users as having less of an impact. The effectiveness of face to face group work as an approach remains key to effective service delivery.</p>	<p>➤ <b>Effective risk management for public protection</b>  <b>Joint Sex Offender Project (JSOP) – Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) and Caledonian Programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number of individuals with a Programme Requirement as part of a Community Payback Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 49</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 51</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 134</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 104</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 97</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Number of Programme Requirements as part of a CPO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 49</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 54</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 142</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 109</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 100</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Number of Programme Requirements (Moving Forward Making Changes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 14</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 13</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 46</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 40</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 31</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Number of Programme Requirements (Caledonian Group Work)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021/22 = 30</li> <li>- 2020/21 = 31</li> <li>- 2019/20 = 48</li> <li>- 2018/19 = 32</li> <li>- 2017/18 = 35</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<p>➤ <b>Quality of CPOs – Exit Questionnaires</b> <b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Exit Questionnaires</b></p> <p>As highlighted in previous reports, individuals who have come to the end of their time working with the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service are asked to complete an Exit Questionnaire. In previous years, the questionnaires had been redesigned to ensure that feedback was captured that could help evidence progress towards both the structural and person-centric National Outcomes for Community Justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Number of Programme Requirements (Caledonian Respect)</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = &gt;5</li><li>- 2020/21 = &gt;5</li><li>- 2019/20 = 21</li><li>- 2018/19 = 16</li><li>- 2017/18 = 15</li></ul></li></ul> <p>➤ <b>Quality of CPOs – Exit Questionnaires</b> <b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Exit Questionnaires</b></p> <p><u>Local Measure Description =</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• % of people who said that they got good support from their supervisor during Supervision.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 100% (24/24)</li><li>- 2020/21 = 100% (15/15)</li><li>- 2019/20 = 99% (68/69)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><u>Local Measure Description =</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• % of people who said that their progress was regularly reviewed as part of their Supervision Plan.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 100% (24/24)</li><li>- 2020/21 = 100% (15/15)</li><li>- 2019/20 = 96% (63/69)</li></ul></li></ul> <p><u>Local Measure Description =</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• % of people who said that they thought Supervision / Supervision and Unpaid Work had helped them to stop or reduce offending.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 96% (23/24)</li><li>- 2020/21 = 87% (13/16)</li><li>- 2019/20 = 91% (63/69)</li></ul></li></ul>
---	--





- Local Measure Description = Breach rate for CPOs

- 2021/22 = 8% (39/485)
- 2020/21 = 15.13% (51/337)
- 2019/20 = 20.3% (134/660)
- 2018/19 = 28.6% (165/577)
- 2017/18 = 29%

Breach rates remained lower than average during the reporting period. This could be due to a number of factors, such as the continuation of phone / virtual appointments in addition to face-to-face appointments, which led to increased levels of engagement and reduced the likelihood of orders being breached for non-compliance. Changes to the service delivery model for Unpaid Work, to include options for home working tasks and online activity such as the Street Cones workshops provided more opportunity for people to complete Unpaid Work Hours. This provided an alternative to the traditional model of Unpaid Work delivered in community settings, which people may not have felt comfortable with, given the ongoing presence of COVID infections within the community at the time. Criminal Justice Social Workers were also mindful of the Court backlog and would look at ways to engage or re-engage with service users wherever possible, as an alternative to submitting a breach report.

- Local Measure Description = % successful completions (CPOs)

- 2021/22 = 76% (89/117)
- 2020/21 = 78% (183/233)
- 2019/20 = 98% (349/356)
- 2018/19 = 94.4% (337/357)
- 2017/18 = 66%



The number of successful completions during 2021/22 was lower than in previous reporting periods. This may have been due to a number of factors, but is most likely to be associated with the pandemic. Legislation that was brought in during 2020 in response to the pandemic meant that individuals were given longer to complete their Community Payback Order. The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020<sup>10</sup> extended the time limit for the completion of all existing unpaid work or other activity requirements within Community Payback Orders by 12 months. In practice, this meant that whatever specified period was imposed by the court for completion of an Unpaid Work or Other Activity Requirement in an individual order, the new end date was pushed back by 12 months. A restriction was also placed on Courts to ensure that any new Unpaid Work or Other Activity Requirements had a time limit of at least 12 months from the date they were imposed. In addition to people being given longer to complete their orders, the impact of the pandemic meant that Programme Requirements could not be delivered in the usual way – for example, group work was unable to take place for much of 2020/21, which has continued to have an impact on service delivery during 2021/22. All of this will undoubtedly have had an impact on the number of orders that were successfully completed during the reporting period.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2020/7/introduction>

- **Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:**
  - a) **Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year**
  - b) **Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded**

**Intensive Interventions Service**

The Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Intensive Interventions Service was established in 2017 to provide better support to those who present both a high risk of harm and a high risk of reoffending, including areas of health, housing and employability. The service aims remain the same - to carry out frequent contact and provide bespoke intervention and support particular to the needs of each individual to try and break the cycle of offending and reoffending. This is with a view to helping the individual to achieve a level of stability that would evidence an ability to remain within the community on a community-based disposal as an alternative to remand and/or custody. During the period, the service was able to support individuals who have been subject to a range of community-based disposals as an alternative to custody, including Community Payback Orders with Supervision and/or Unpaid Work Requirements, Supervised Release Orders and None-harassment Orders.

- **Reduced use of custodial sentences and remand:**
  - c) **Balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under one year**
  - d) **Proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded**

**Intensive Interventions Service**

During the period, the service has supported clients with mental health issues, crisis intervention, relationships, and addictions. These areas were critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, where clients had reduced levels of support and supervision. There is also data to suggest an increased risk of domestic incidents, therefore it has been essential to utilise and coordinate support from partner agencies such as Housing, Police Scotland and community-based Substance and Mental Health services. During the period and in response to COVID restrictions, individuals have been offered a combination of face to face and remote support where required.



### Supervised Bail (Bail Supervision)

Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service continues to provide a Bail Supervision Service for anyone from the area who is appearing in Court from Police Custody or following a period of remand, who is assessed as suitable for this intervention. The assessment of suitability will be carried out by the Court and Custody Social Workers who ordinarily would be based at Aberdeen, Banff and Peterhead Sheriff Courts. Since the start of the pandemic, Aberdeenshire custodies are no longer being held in Banff or Peterhead, all custodies are instead taken through to Aberdeen Sheriff Court for their cases to be heard there. This has had, and continues to have, an impact on our ability to offer a bail supervision service.

Despite this, communication and working relationships between the Court and Custody Social Workers, Defence Agents and Procurator Fiscals have continued to improve during the reporting period, which has made it easier to identify individuals requiring a bail supervision assessment and also when gathering relevant information to inform the assessment.

A considerable number of individuals during the period were appearing in Court for domestic-related offending and other violent offences. Due to the nature of such offending, these individuals were often deemed unsuitable for bail supervision, due to potential risks to the victim of their crime(s).

Also during the period, a number of individuals were appearing in Court for violent offences with underlying substance misuse difficulties, with concerns relating to their own vulnerabilities in the community and the risk they pose to others when under the influence. Bail Supervision was often assessed as unsuitable in these cases, due to wider public protection concerns.

### Supervised Bail (Bail Supervision)

- Number of Supervised Bail
  - 2021/22 = 2
  - 2020/21 = 2
  - 2019/20 = 17
  - 2018/19 = 9
  - 2017/18 = 1

The pandemic and the ongoing restrictions that were in place throughout 2021/22 in response to this has had a significant impact on our ability to offer a Bail Supervision service. For much of the reporting year, Court and Custody Social Workers were unable to access people within the Police Custody or Court cells, which limited our ability to carry out an assessment of suitability for Bail Supervision. As restrictions began to lift and Court buildings reopened, Court and Custody Social Workers have been able to resume face to face visits to people within the Court cells, and have been able to be present within the Court building prior to and at the time when the individual is appearing before the Sheriff. Although only two Bail Supervision Orders were imposed for individuals during the period, fourteen individuals were assessed for suitability, which is an increase in comparison to the previous reporting period (8).



<p>➤ <b>The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use [NHS Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standard]</b></p> <p><b>Operation Hotspur</b></p> <p>The Community Justice Substance Misuse Worker based within the Criminal Justice Social Work Service has helped to facilitate earlier access to services for people who have come into contact with the justice system. This has included the continued delivery of Operation Hotspur, a joint initiative with Police Scotland, which is designed to improve access to substance use services for people who have had contact with the Police as a result (directly or indirectly) of their alcohol and/or substance use. As with so many things during the reporting period, the delivery of Operation Hotspur was negatively affected by the pandemic.</p>	<p>➤ <b>The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use [NHS Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standard]</b></p> <p><b>Operation Hotspur</b></p> <p>During the reporting period, 43 individuals were referred to Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Services through Operation Hotspur. Of these referrals, 22 were in relation to drugs, 20 were in relation to alcohol, and one referral was in relation to both alcohol and drugs. In total, ten individuals engaged with alcohol and drug services as a result of the Operation Hotspur referral, eleven were already open to the Community Substance Misuse Service and nine decided they no longer wanted a service or failed to engage with the service. Of the remaining referrals, some were from out of area and so were referred elsewhere, some were referred to other services more suited to their individual needs and others were serving a period of remand so did not require a community-based service at that time.</p> <p>Changes to staffing during early 2022 has impacted on the delivery of this initiative, however going forward, the ongoing developments within the Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service as part of the implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards will ensure that anyone who comes into contact with the justice system is able to access the services that they need, when they need them.</p>
--	---



**Aberdeenshire Safer Streets**

Previous reports have referred to the Aberdeenshire Safer Streets initiative, a joint initiative between Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service and Police Scotland, which began in 2015. The purpose of the initiative is to provide high visibility joint patrols to identify those who are suspected to be involved in antisocial behaviour, disorder or violence, and to work in partnership to divert people from crime and disorder and minimise the effects of excessive alcohol consumption.

The teams involved can provide advice, guidance and support to individuals displaying vulnerabilities and can provide referral on for follow up contact from support services, where required. The initiative allows for arrest referral work to take place where people have been held in police custody. 'Safe and Well' checks are also carried out for Criminal Justice and Alcohol and Drug Service users who are identified as vulnerable due to a range of factors, which could include alcohol and/or substance use, relationship issues including domestic abuse, transitioning from custody to community, etc. This provides a further opportunity to enhance existing support and increase visibility of partnership working.

The Aberdeenshire Safer Streets programme provides an increased presence and visibility of services within Aberdeenshire town centres, which acts as a deterrent to individuals who may otherwise have become involved in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour, and also provides reassurance to those who are out and about enjoying the night-time economy within the towns.

**Aberdeenshire Safer Streets**

Unfortunately, this initiative was again affected by the pandemic, however some Safer Streets activity was able to take place in the run up to the festive period 2021 and again once COVID restrictions began to relax at the end of March 2022.

During December 2021, teams from Police Scotland and Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work and the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Service took part in the joint 'Festive Safer Streets Initiative' within the towns of Fraserburgh, Inverurie and Peterhead. These are the areas which have previously been identified through analysis by the community safety team as experiencing higher levels of antisocial behaviour, such as damage, disturbance, drinking in public, drugs / substance misuse and public nuisance. The initiative took place across two weekends and involved a mix of high visibility patrols within the town centres, licensed premises checks (where COVID restrictions allowed), welfare checks to existing Criminal Justice Social Work and Alcohol and Drug Service users, and bail compliance checks. These Safer Streets activities provide an opportunity for Criminal Justice and Alcohol and Drug Services to see and offer support and assistance to vulnerable individuals out with normal working hours, as well as providing a visible presence within communities through interaction with the night-time economy, allowing opportunities to engage and diffuse potential situations before they escalate, leading to increased feelings of safety and wellbeing.

As a result of the activities during the festive period, 9 joint visits to vulnerable adults were undertaken, 22 bail checks were completed, 6 joint visits were undertaken (including 3 in Police custody), 46 Licensed Premises checks were completed.



Communities had become used to seeing workers from the Criminal Justice Social Work and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Services out patrolling with Police, with individuals commenting on this and providing mainly positive feedback.

Three people were charged with offences (possession of drugs) and four referrals were made for support to substance use / mental health services.

Further joint Safer Streets activity involving officers from Police Scotland DAVRU and Criminal Justice Social Work and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership Alcohol and Drug Services took place over a weekend in March 2022, again within the towns of Fraserburgh, Inverurie and Peterhead. In addition, two targeted Warrants Nights also took place during March 2022, specifically aimed at targeting individuals who have outstanding Warrants, including those related to offences of a domestic nature. The warrants nights provide an opportunity to engage with individuals at an earlier stage and hopefully begin the process of engagement prior to conviction and sentence through the Court. As a result of these joint activities:

- 5 x Warrant Apprehensions took place
- 25 x Safe and Well checks were carried out
- 25 x Bail checks were carried out
- 37 x Joint Licensed premises checks were conducted
- 5 x Referrals were made for support
- 4 x people were charged in relation to offences - 3 x Breach of Curfew, 1 x Concerned in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine.
- Social Media releases issued over the weekend.

Further joint activity is planned for Summer 2022 as part of the Games and Shows Initiative, to incorporate Alcohol and Drug Services. As this activity falls out with the current reporting period, an overview will instead be included in the Annual Report for 2022/23.



### Alcohol Brief Interventions

Throughout the reporting period, Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) continued to be carried out in wider settings, such as Criminal Justice Social Work. This includes the Drug and Alcohol Section within Criminal Justice Social Work Court Reports, Bail Supervision Assessments, Custody Assessments, and Unpaid Work Assessments. In total, during 2021/22, 812 ABIs were carried out within the Criminal Justice Social Work setting. This is an increase in the number of ABIs that were carried out when compared to the previous two reporting periods, which is seen as an achievement, especially given the constraints that the service was working under at the time.

### Alcohol Brief Interventions

- ABIs carried out in wider settings\* - Social Work Criminal Justice
  - 2021/22 = 812
  - 2020/21 = 432
  - 2019/20 = 623

The Alcohol Brief Intervention guidance on delivery in Criminal Justice settings ([Alcohol+Brief+Interventions+National+Guidance+2019-2020.pdf](#)) explains that screening and alcohol brief interventions that target those in justice settings have the potential not only to help with the reduction of reoffending, but also health inequalities that some individuals face, given that alcohol related harm is disproportionately higher in those from more deprived areas. The impact of delivering Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) in the justice setting not only allows for identification of problematic drinking but also the wider impacts this may be having on the persons' lifestyle and wellbeing. Undertaking ABIs allows quick access to support for problematic drinking as well as the opportunity to discuss how alcohol use has played a part in the individual being in the justice system. It allows for a discussion on how this could be prevented in the future and informs on tools and tips that can be used to control alcohol intake. Effective ABI delivery results in individuals taking responsibility to make changes to their drinking.





<p>➤ <b>Number of Police Recorded Warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, community sentences (including CPOs, DTTOs and RLOs)</b></p>	<p>➤ <b>Number of Police Recorded Warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, community sentences (including CPOs, DTTOs and RLOs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Total Number of Recorded Police Warnings (No. of Crimefiles)</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 768</li><li>- 2020/21 = 765</li><li>- 2019/20 = 981</li><li>- 2018/19 = 904</li><li>- 2017/18 = 843</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Total Number of EEI Diversions (No. of Persons)</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 205</li><li>- 2020/21 = 115</li><li>- 2019/20 = 173</li><li>- 2018/19 = 180</li><li>- 2017/18 = 243</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Total Number of Community Payback Orders</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 485</li><li>- 2020/21 = 325</li><li>- 2019/20 = 660</li><li>- 2018/19 = 577</li><li>- 2017/18 = 693</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Total Number of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 13</li><li>- 2020/21 = 13</li><li>- 2019/20 = 25</li><li>- 2018/19 = 11</li><li>- 2017/18 = 15</li></ul></li></ul>
---	--



<p>➤ <b>Number of short-term sentences under one year Higher Support Needs Team</b></p> <p>The Higher Support Needs Team within the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service was set up in 2019 to support clients who found it difficult to complete the Unpaid Work aspect of their Community Payback Order. This included, but was not restricted to, people who experienced poor mental health, anxiety, and/or drugs and alcohol issues. The team supports people through their Unpaid Work, but also supports them emotionally, giving advice, assistance or signposting in relation to other difficulties that they have. The Unpaid Work aspect of the Order takes place at 4 locations - an allotment, a community park, a small animal farm and an outdoor centre - all of which were selected for their therapeutic qualities and potential to impact positively on the individuals' wellbeing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Total Number of Restriction of Liberty Orders</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 58</li><li>- 2020/21 = 38</li><li>- 2019/20 = 47</li><li>- 2018/19 = 27</li><li>- 2017/18 = 31</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Total Number of Fiscal Work Orders</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = &gt;5</li><li>- 2020/21 = 12</li><li>- 2019/20 = 12</li><li>- 2018/19 = 56</li><li>- 2017/18 = 50</li></ul></li></ul> <p>➤ <b>Number of short-term sentences under one year Higher Support Needs Team</b></p> <p>The Higher Support Needs Team hold onto people through a consistent approach which maintains contact throughout difficult times, so engagement is maintained and Unpaid Work hours are completed. Underlying needs are addressed through the more therapeutic nature of the placement environment and the nature of the engagement with practitioners.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Higher Support Needs Team has supported individuals in activities such as cycling and walking as part of improving mental health and confidence through fitness. This approach creates opportunity for effective engagement in an informal and safe environment, contributing to improving trust in the working relationship which in turn has led to increased engagement and the completion of Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity Hours.</p>
--	--



<p>The Higher Support Needs Team allocate people with their own projects to work on when they attend, which means that they are more able to see projects through from beginning to end. Service users are asked to attend the same day each week to help provide them with some sort of stability in their lives. The team has also been creative in finding tasks for less able service users, who would struggle with the more physically demanding tasks.</p> <p>Ordinarily, work is carried out in small groups, which encourages positive interaction and helps to build positive relationships between individuals and the workers from Higher Support Needs Team (HSNT). More laterally, due to the pandemic, work has predominately been carried out on a one-to-one basis. Towards the end of the reporting period, the team set up a group for female clients, which has proven successful, and has provided a forum for the women to advise and support each other.</p>	<p>The outcomes which have been seen as a result of this engagement have been significant – during the period, the team have maintained contact with individuals who have been previously unable to engage with services due to the complexity of their needs. Breach of Order due to non-compliance for these individuals would very often have resulted in cyclical short custodial sentences.</p> <p>People in service have presented multiple and more complex issues, in response, the team provide a period of ‘aftercare’, which people attend on a purely voluntary basis, to provide continuity of support. This has been particularly important during the reporting period, when many universal support services were limited in availability due to the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p><u>Local Measure Description -</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People receiving a short custodial sentence by local authority where the offender lives (<u>Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings in Scotland</u>) (0-12 Months)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2020/21 = To Follow</li><li>- 2019/20 = 195 (84%)</li><li>- 2018/19 = 211 (82%)</li><li>- 2017/18 = 188 (82%)</li></ul></li></ul>
---	--



**Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker**

The Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service continues to employ one full time, dedicated Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker, who works with those young people within the North Aberdeenshire area who are entering or are already involved with the criminal justice system who display higher levels of need and risk.

Interventions and approaches are evidence-based in terms of how best to engage young people, with a more intensive and outreach-based approach being used where necessary.

The service experienced some staffing changes during the reporting period, with the new Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker taking up post from October 2021.

The majority of young people who worked with the dedicated Young Person's Service during the period were subject to Community Payback Orders (including Supervision and Unpaid Work), in some cases the young people were subject to multiple orders, with some subject to curfews via an electronic tag. Other young people worked with the service as part of a Diversion from Prosecution.

Young people can be referred to the service for a range of issues, the most common type of offences being assaults, serious assaults and/or domestic offences. During the period, the age of those involved with the service ranged from 16 to 23 years, a number of whom are care experienced. Many of the young people who work with the service have experienced trauma in their lives, and have had and continue to have a number of issues to overcome as a result, including substance use, mental health issues, lack of coping skills, and difficulty managing relationships (including how to manage endings).

**Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker**

Building and maintaining positive relationships with young people who are involved with the criminal justice system through one to one, person-centred support can help to prevent further offending behaviour.

The Young people's Service continues to support the implementation of the Whole System Approach to Youth Justice in Aberdeenshire by:

- Providing opportunities for Diversion from Prosecution, where the needs and risks of the young person can be addressed out with the courts system;
- Providing alternatives to secure care and custody where young people's risks and needs can be managed in the community, for example through Bail Supervision;
- Supporting young people to aid their understanding of the court processes and advising decision makers of community options;
- Providing throughcare support in reintegration and transition back to the community from secure care and custody;
- Encouraging cases to be dealt with through the Children's Hearings System rather than an adult court and supporting partners to manage any risks associated with this. (Although it should be noted that this has remained an area of challenge during the reporting period).



Use of MCAT has been a particular issue amongst this group of young people during the last year, which has led to other issues associated with the come down from this drug, such as inability to sleep and the resulting impact of this on their mental health and general wellbeing.

In addition, the young people who are referred to the service often struggle to hold down employment, struggle to manage the requirements that are placed on them through the welfare system (resulting in fines and sanctions) and difficulty in accessing health services.

The impact of the dedicated Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker post is that there is someone available within the service who has the time and capacity (or 'stickability') to chase up those young people who have higher support needs. The worker has the time to do this and is able to be available to the young people when they need them. As a result, engagement with the service is generally good, and young people will get back to the worker on the phone following any missed appointments. The majority of young people will be seen face to face, although phone contact will also be used to check in with them as required.

Access to phones has been an issue for some of the young people during the period, and so Criminal Justice Social Work have been able to provide them with some of the devices that were made available to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership through the Klondyke funding.

During the period, the Young Person's Criminal Justice Social Worker has supported young people who are open to the service to access other services, such as health (via GPs, Minor Injury Unit and Royal Cornhill Hospital in Aberdeen), employability services and third sector services (including the Venture Trust). The Young Person's Worker will also link in with other services who can help to ensure that each young person's needs are being met – this includes the Aberdeenshire Youth Services Team within Children and Families Social Work, the Young Person's Court Support Worker, the dedicated Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Worker for Under 25s, the Higher Support Needs Team and also Support Workers from within the mainstream Criminal Justice Social Work Service.



<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME FIVE</b> Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety, being addressed.</p>	<p><b>Have regard to the following indicator.</b> ➤ Individuals have made progress against the outcome</p>
<p><b>How do partners measure outcome five for individuals?</b></p>	<p><b>If this information has been collated, what does it show?</b></p>
<p><b><u>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service – Exit Questionnaires</u></b> Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice offer a questionnaire to service users to complete at the end of their time working with the service, so that valuable qualitative data can be collected on their experience of completing their Orders. The exit questionnaires are used to capture feedback that can help to evidence progress towards both the structural and person-centric national outcomes for community justice. Information is also collected from individual placements and beneficiaries to complete the picture. People are offered a range of methods to complete the questionnaire, concluding electronically using Microsoft Forms, face to face or by telephone, or completing the questionnaire by hand.</p> <p><b>Diversion from Prosecution</b> During the period, eight individuals completed an exit questionnaire following a period of time working with Criminal Justice Social Work as part of a Diversion from Prosecution. Although there has been an increase in the number of questionnaires completed in comparison to 2020/21, the total number is still considerably less than the figure for 2019/20. This does allow for any firm conclusions to be drawn from the results, and runs the risk of identifying individual service users. It also does not allow for any real comparison to be made to previous reporting periods, when a much higher number of surveys were completed.</p>	<p><b>Diversion from Prosecution</b> In future years, the Partnership would like to return to the position where we are able to evidence the impact that Diversion has had on individuals through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of people who had identified difficulties before or during <b>Diversion</b> and at the end of <b>Diversion</b> the issue had improved.</li> <li>• % of people who felt that <b>Diversion</b> had improved their life chances.</li> </ul>



This is something that the service will continue to work on during 2022/23, along with exploring alternative mechanisms for gathering input and feedback from the people who come into contact with our services.

### Supervision

During the period, 24 individuals completed an exit questionnaire following a period of supervision as part of a Community Payback Order or other statutory requirement. This is more than in the previous reporting period (15), but still considerably less than in 2019/20, when feedback was obtained from 69 individuals. This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

Similar to the previous reporting period, the most frequently reported issues from people on some sort of Supervision who had completed an exit questionnaire included Mental Health (13), Confidence (11) and Self Esteem (11). The tables opposite evidence the number of individuals who reported that at the end of the period of Supervision, the issues they had previously experienced had improved.

*NB: 'Education & Training' and 'Employment' were recorded as 'Education & Employment' until 2019/20.*

### Supervision

- Local Measure Description = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Supervision** and at the end of **Supervision** the issue had improved
- **Alcohol**
  - 2021/22 = 100% (5/5)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (7/7)
  - 2019/20 = 100% (24/24)
  - 2018/19 = 85.7%
  - 2017/18 = 75%
- **Confidence**
  - 2021/22 = 73% (8/11)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (5/5)
  - 2019/20 = 94% (29/31)
  - 2018/19 = /
  - 2017/18 = /
- **Coping Skills**
  - 2021/22 = 63% (5/8)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (8/8)
  - 2019/20 = 92% (35/38)
  - 2018/19 = 85.2% (23/27)
  - 2017/18 = 86%
- **Drugs**
  - 2021/22 = 100% (7/7)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (5/5)
  - 2019/20 = 84% (16/19)
  - 2018/19 = 87.5% (21/24)
  - 2017/18 = 100%



- Local Measure Descriptor = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Supervision** and at the end of **Supervision**, the issue had improved.
- **Education & Training**
  - 2021/22 = 0% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 90% (9/10)
  - 2018/29 = 63%
  - 2017/18 = 50%
- **Employment**
  - 2021/22 = 33% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 89% (16/18)
  - 2018/19 = 63.2% (12/19)
  - 2017/18 = 50%
- **Housing**
  - 2021/22 = 67% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 50% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 71% (10/14)
  - 2018/19 = 75% (12/16)
  - 2017/18 = 86%
- **Mental Health**
  - 2021/22 = 46% (6/13)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (6/6)
  - 2019/20 = 74% (20/27)
  - 2018/19 = 73.5% (25/34)
  - 2017/18 = 67%



- Local Measure Descriptor = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Supervision** and at the end of **Supervision**, the issue had improved.
- Money Issues
  - 2021/22 = 60% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 80% (>5)
  - 2019/10 = 75% (21/28)
  - 2018/19 = 68.2%
  - 2017/18 = 57%
- Physical Health
  - 2021/22 = 50% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 50% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 63% (10/16)
  - 2018/19 = 56% (14/25)
  - 2017/18 = 60%
- Self-Esteem
  - 2021/22 = 55% (6/11)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (6/6)
  - 2019/20 = 85% (23/27)
  - 2018/19 = 80% (24/30)
  - 2017/18 = 89%
- Views about Offending
  - 2021/22 = 100% (5/5)
  - 2020/21 = /
  - 2019/2- = /
  - 2018/19 = /
  - 2017/18 = /

**Unpaid Work**

During the period, 28 individuals (23 male, 5 female) completed an exit questionnaire following a period of Unpaid Work as part of a Community Payback Order. This is an increase in comparison to the previous reporting period, but is significantly fewer than 2019/20, when feedback was obtained from 54 individuals. This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

As in the previous reporting periods, Mental Health (10) and Money Issues (9) featured as some of the most frequently reported issues from people on Unpaid Work. Additional issues reported as being an issue for people on Unpaid Work included Coping Skills (10) and Confidence (9), which is perhaps not surprising given what we know about the impact that the pandemic has had on people.

*NB: 'Education & Training' and 'Employment' were recorded as 'Education & Employment' until 2019/20.*

**Unpaid Work**

- Local Measure Description = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Unpaid Work** and at the end of **Unpaid Work** the issue had improved
- **Alcohol**
  - 2021/22 = 63% (5/8)
  - 2020/21 = 83% (5/6)
  - 2019/20 = 64% (9/14)
  - 2018/19 = 85.7% (24/28)
  - 2017/18 = 75%
- **Confidence**
  - 2021/22 = 56% (5/9)
  - 2020/21 = 75% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 75% (9/12)
  - 2018/19 = /
  - 2017/18 = /
- **Coping Skills**
  - 2021/22 = 60% (6/10)
  - 2020/21 = 75% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 73% (8/11)
  - 2018/19 = 85.2% (23/27)
  - 2017/18 = 86%
- **Drugs**
  - 2021/22 = 67% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 67% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 91% (10/11)
  - 2018/19 = 87.5% (21/24)
  - 2017/18 = 100%



- Local Measure Description = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Unpaid Work** and at the end of **Unpaid Work** the issue had improved
- **Education & Training**
  - 2021/22 = 60% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 67% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 100% (>5)
  - 2018/19 = 63.2% (12/19)
  - 2017/18 = 50%
- **Employment**
  - 2021/22 = 29% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 75% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 80% (8/10)
  - 2018/19 = 63.2% (12/19)
  - 2017/18 = 50%
- **Housing**
  - 2021/22 = 67% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (5/5)
  - 2019/20 = 67% (>5)
  - 2018/19 = 75% (12/16)
  - 2017/18 = 86%
- **Mental Health**
  - 2021/22 = 60% (6/10)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (8/8)
  - 2019/20 = 80% (12/15)
  - 2018/19 = 73.5% (25/34)
  - 2017/18 = 67%

- Local Measure Description = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during **Unpaid Work** and at the end of **Unpaid Work** the issue had improved
- **Money Issues**
  - 2021/22 = 56% (5/9)
  - 2020/21 = 83% (5/6)
  - 2019/20 = 56% (5/9)
  - 2018/19 = 68.2% (15/22)
  - 2017/18 = 57%
- **Personal Relationships**
  - 2021/22 = 100% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 67% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 75% (6/8)
  - 2018/19 = 79.3% (23/29)
  - 2017/18 = 70%
- **Physical Health**
  - 2021/22 = 20% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 75% (>5)
  - 2019/20 = 80% (>5)
  - 2018/19 = 56% (14/25)
  - 2017/18 = 60%
- **Self Esteem**
  - 2021/22 = 33% (>5)
  - 2020/21 = 100% (6/6)
  - 2019/20 = 43% (>5/7)
  - 2018/19 = 80% (24/30)
  - 2017/18 = 89%

<p><b>Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops</b> During 2021/22, Street Cones delivered a further three modules of online, group workshops to help address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours within Aberdeenshire. At the end of each module, a debrief was held with participants, which provided an opportunity for them to give feedback on how they had found the Street Cones experience. The debrief for Module 4 took place in April 2022 participants were encouraged to reflect on the process of writing the script, and on what they had gained from their time in Street Cones workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Measure Description = % of people who had identified difficulties before or during <b>Unpaid Work</b> and at the end of <b>Unpaid Work</b> the issue had improved</li><li>• <b><u>Views about Offending</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2021/22 = 100% (&gt;5)</li><li>- 2020/21 = 100% (&gt;5)</li><li>- 2019/20 = 92% (11/12)</li><li>- 2018/19 = /</li><li>- 2017/18 = /</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops</b> The Module 4 Evaluation produced by Street Cones highlights the following in relation to improved confidence: <i>'Taking part in the workshops increased participants' confidence in different ways: one participant said they had 'learned to take part more' rather than sitting on the side lines, while another mentioned again that it had helped to improve his reading. All three mentioned that they felt more confident in expressing themselves'.</i></p>
---	--



<b>If available, provide a supporting case study or other information to demonstrate activity and impact relating to outcome five.</b>	
<p><b>Higher Support Needs Team Case Example.</b> James is an extremely vulnerable individual who resides on his own. He has been in prison several times over the past few years. He would have learning difficulties and as a result has often been taken advantage of by so called friends who would exploit his vulnerability and often obtain money from him to source drugs. Due to his lifestyle, this led him to commit crime. As a result of this, he received a Community Payback Order with an Unpaid Work Requirement.</p> <p>On initially being referred to the Higher Support needs Team, James had support from his Social Worker and from other services but was not really engaging well with them. It was felt that due to his lack of engagement and vulnerability, he would be better placed with the Higher Support Needs Team to support him through his hours.</p> <p>Several meetings were held with James prior to him working with the team. This was to ensure that the correct measures could be put in place to support him. James engaged with the team well and was extremely open with them about his life and his offending history and what he struggled with in life. It quickly became apparent that he had no real structure or routine to his life and felt he had no purpose.</p>	<p><b>Higher Support Needs Team Case Example.</b> The team assisted in helping James to arrange appointments with the relevant services and accompanying him to these appointments. Due to him having a learning difficulty, James often had problems understanding what was being asked of him and the advice that was being given. By having a second person there a better understanding was obtained which helped assist him in the long term. This also helped him to build better relationships with these services. As a result, he now regularly attends appointments with Substance Use Services, Housing Services and the Job Centre. Prior to the involvement of the team this was extremely sporadic.</p> <p>Another issue James had was managing his finances. Any benefits he obtained often went on drugs or the money was stolen from him by so called friends. He had no idea how to budget and was in arrears with gas and electric companies. He often had no money to buy food.</p> <p>The team contacted the relevant gas and electric companies on his behalf so that plans were put in place for James to start paying off his debt at a suitable rate ensuring that his gas and electric supplies were not cut off. He has been given plans on how to budget his benefits when he receives them. Instead of his priority to go and buy drugs, he now buys food and tops up his gas and electric first. James also has various health issues, so the team also make sure that he attends regular Doctor appointments. He has also recently joined a local gym and his health seems to be benefitting from this.</p>



To give him some structure the team agreed to work with him twice a week and gave him projects to work on that he was interested in. This was to give him confidence to belief in himself and to provide him job satisfaction to help build his confidence. From working alongside him, the team learned that James was very good with his hands and excellent at building items with wood. Over the weeks and months that he worked with the team, James became more and more open about areas of his life that he struggled with. This included engaging with substance use services to assist with his drug issues, engaging with housing, and the Job Centre, help with his finances and his general health.

James completed his Unpaid Work hours a few months ago. He has helped with projects giving something back to the community and he feels very proud of what he has achieved. He has now become part of the aftercare service that the team provide. James feels this gives him routine and stability in his life. Since working with the team, he has not committed any crime and often can be heard giving advice to other service users. He feels if he had not received the support of the team, he would still be committing crime and would have end up in prison.



### **Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Over 25s Service - Case Example**

The following is an example of how collaboration between partner agencies can address underlying need and improve life chances. The Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service worked with an individual who was recovering from drug addiction and had entered into the rehabilitation process. He identified support was needed to help improve his skills and confidence so he could progress into employment and lead a more meaningful life. The Employability Service assisted the individual to create a CV and provided support to help him search for jobs, and at the same time arranged for other services to provide further support. As a result, he successfully re-introduced long term stability and structure into his daily life. This led to enthusiastic participation in online confidence building and educational training courses. One of the agencies involved invited him to an interview for a job helping others in a similar situation to his own. He was successful and offered the position. Another agency also approached him to become a peer mentor and work with some of their own clients.

### **Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Over 25s Service - Case Example**

As part of the Employability Service ongoing evaluation and service improvement process, the individual completed a 'Progress and Achievement' questionnaire. In this he identified as an achievement, *'I have had opportunities for work that I would not have had before.'* He also documented that receiving support has improved the following issues:

- *Drugs - 'I no longer use drugs'*
- *Views on Offending - 'I no longer offend or wish to break the law'*
- *Reduced Offending - 'Since I have been engaging I have not offended because I have had the help to use my time for other activities'*
- *Changed my Thinking - 'I no longer take drugs in the community making it safer for others and children'.*





<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME SIX</b> People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities</p>	<p><b>Have regard to the following indicator.</b> ➤ Individuals have made progress against the outcome</p>
<p><b>Providing evidence on person centric outcomes has been challenging for most areas.</b> <b>How do partners measure outcome six for individuals?</b></p>	<p><b>If this information has been collated, what does it show?</b></p>
<p><b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service - Exit Questionnaires</b> As explained above, the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service exit questionnaires are used to capture feedback from service users that can help to evidence progress towards both the structural and person-centric national outcomes for community justice.</p> <p><b>Diversion</b> During 2020/21, as in the previous reporting period, only a small number of Diversion Exit Questionnaires (8) were completed. This does not allow for any firm conclusions to be drawn from the feedback, and runs the risk of identifying individual service users. It also does not allow for any real comparison to be made to previous reporting periods, when a much higher number of surveys were completed (e.g. 25 in 2019/20).</p>	<p><b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service - Exit Questionnaires</b></p> <p><b>Diversion</b> In future years, the Partnership would like to return to the position where we are able to evidence the impact that Diversion has had on individuals through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of people who had been on <b>Diversion</b> who said that they knew how to find out more about what is available to them in their community and how to get involved in any activities that interest them.</li> <li>• % of people who had been on <b>Diversion</b> who feel more able to make constructive use of their time.</li> </ul>



**Supervision**

During 2021/22, 24 people completed an exit questionnaire following a period of working with Criminal Justice Social Work on a Supervision Requirement as part of a Community Payback Order or other statutory requirements. This is an increase in comparison to the previous reporting period (15), but is still considerably fewer responses than in 2019/20, when information was available from 69 individuals. This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

**Unpaid Work**

During the period, 28 individuals (23 male, 5 female) completed an exit questionnaire following a period of Unpaid Work as part of a Community Payback Order. A further 14 completed an exit questionnaire who had been working with Criminal Justice Social Work as part of Supervision and Unpaid Work combined. The figures below include those who were on a Combined Order (e.g. Supervision and Unpaid Work). Although there has been an increase in comparison to 2020/21, fewer responses were received than in 2019/20, when feedback was obtained from 54 individuals. This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

**Supervision**

Local Measure Description =

- % of people who had been on **Supervision** who said that they knew how to find out more about what is available to them in their community and how to get involved in any activities that interest them.
- 2021/22 = 71% (17/24)
- 2020/21 = 80% (12/15)
- 2019/20 = 65% (45/69)

Local Measure Description =

- % of people who had been on **Supervision** who feel more able to make constructive use of their time.
- 2021/22 = 75% (18/24)
- 2020/21 = 67% (10/15)
- 2019/20 = 74% (51/69)

**Unpaid Work**

Local Measure Description =

- % of people who said that the experience of Unpaid Work had helped them to learn about working as part of a team.
- 2021/22 = 60% (25/42)
- 2020/21 = 38% (8/21)
- 2019/20 = 67% (36/54)

Local Measure Description =

- % of people who said that they had developed new skills while on Unpaid Work.
- 2021/22 = 36% (15/42)
- 2020/21 = 43% (9/21)
- 2019/20 = 33% (18/54)



<p><b>Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops</b> During 2021/22, Street Cones delivered a further three modules of online, group workshops to help address the backlog of Unpaid Work hours within Aberdeenshire. At the end of each module, a debrief was held with participants, which provided an opportunity for them to give feedback on how they had found the Street Cones experience. The debrief for Module 4 took place in April 2022 participants were encouraged to reflect on the process of writing the script, and on what they had gained from their time in Street Cones workshops.</p>	<p><u>Local Measure Description =</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• % of people who said that being on Unpaid Work had helped them to further develop skills that they already had.</li><li>- 2021/22 = 36% (15/42)</li><li>- 2020/21 = 33% (7/21)</li><li>- 2019/20 = 46% (25/54)</li></ul> <p><b>Street Cones Online Unpaid Work Workshops</b> As part of the debrief, participants were asked whether they felt they had learned anything as a result of their involvement in the Street Cones online workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>“Aye. I’ve learned to challenge myself more. Don’t be so frightened going into situations I’m unsure of”.</i></li><li>• <i>“If you’d have said you wanted me to read something I would have said no I’m off but I just put my foot down and I did it and it’s really improved my reading so thank you so much. If it wasn’t for everyone else supporting me I would have been...Like you wouldn’t have seen but when I’m struggling with reading I feel embarrassed but everyone saying you’re doing well just pushed me on”.</i></li><li>• <i>“All the feedback gave me a big smile on my face that we’ve done so well and done it as a team”.</i></li></ul>
---	--



<p><b>If available, provide a supporting case study or other information to demonstrate activity and impact relating to outcome six.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service (Over 25s) Case Example</b> To help overcome barriers to employment and promote greater inclusion, the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service continues working in partnership with employment agencies, training providers and social enterprises. However, in some cases a more holistic approach is required to support people who are not yet ‘work ready’, to address any underlying issues and help equip them with the skills to eventually progress into employment.</p> <p>An example of this can be demonstrated through the case of a male who suffered from lack of confidence and low self-esteem which stemmed from being constantly ridiculed and bullied while at school. This led to him confining himself at home and having very little social interaction. His confidence was further eroded through not being able to read or write very well.</p> <p>The Employability Service arranged for the male to attend adult learning sessions run by Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development Service, to help him with his literacies.</p>	<p><b>Criminal Justice Social Work Employability Service (Over 25s) Case Example</b> Through engagement with the Employability Service and the adult learning sessions, the individuals’ confidence increased and this inspired him to commence working towards a formal SVQ Level 3 Literacies qualification. His self-esteem also improved and he started attending a local Men’s Shed for companionship and to gain practical skills which he intends to use to benefit the wider community.</p> <p>As part of the Employability Service ongoing evaluation and service improvement process, he completed a Progress and Achievement Questionnaire. In this he identified as an achievement, <i>‘Getting my first certificate and help and support in everyday life skills’</i>.</p> <p>He also documented that receiving support has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>‘Changed my thinking – am thinking in a more positive way in my life which has benefited me for the future.’</i></li> <li>• <i>‘Changed my behaviour – I used to think I can’t do anything positive in my life, but deep down I can.’</i></li> <li>• <i>‘Benefitted the community – by doing right and not committing any more offences, in the town I live in or any town.’</i></li> </ul> <p>In the any other comments section he documented, <i>‘Everything is straight forward for me now and am looking for a better future.’</i></p>



**Criminal Justice Social Work Women's Service Case Example**

Anna came to the attention of the Women's Service after receiving a charge relating to intent to supply Class A drugs. Anna had previously had a stable lifestyle, where she attended college, had a career and a positive relationship. This relationship broke down due to the stress of finding it difficult to have children together. Anna's mental health deteriorated following this break up and she began to use substances. This also resulted in loss of employment.

Anna began a new relationship with a Liverpoolian male who was involved in drug dealing. This relationship was characterised by drug use, emotional abuse and domestic abuse and subsequently resulted in Anna being involved in the supply of class A drugs, for which she was made subject to a Community Payback Order with Unpaid Work and Supervision.

Anna at first found it difficult to engage with her Order due to her chaotic lifestyle, drug use and fear of repercussion from her partner. Through building trust and a positive working relationship with the Women's Service she was able to overcome these barriers and utilise the support available.

**Criminal Justice Social Work Women's Service Case Example**

The Women's Service supported Anna to complete her Unpaid work hours through various activities and would help to transport her to and from these, given the risks she faced in the community. Anna was anxious about attending appointments at the office due to being involved with dangerous individuals in the community, therefore supervision appointments were a mixture of home visits, video calls and often going a drive out with the town. These appointments allowed the worker to explore Anna's need's further and she was supported with addressing her substance use, housing and safety issues and domestic abuse. After building trust with these services, Anna was able to attend substance use appointments herself. Anna was also supported with moving home, provided with alarms and had a marker on her address, which she used on a number of occasions when she felt unsafe. Anna also found out she was pregnant and so she was supported by the Women's Service to attend midwife appointments, helped to move to more stable and safe accommodation and to engage with Children and Families Social Work.

Anna stopped using all substances when she found out she was pregnant, she fully engaged with all supporting services and her baby was born healthy and returned home to her care. During this time Anna successfully completed her Community Payback Order. Throughout the duration of the Order Anna made many significant changes to her life and has managed to maintain these since the birth of her child, with Children and Families Social Work closing her to their service. She developed positive relationships with her workers and has not reoffended or used substances since.



**Higher Support Needs Team Example**

Sandra is a female who, as a result of a gambling addiction, committed an offence involving a large amount of money. Sandra was later convicted at Court and received a Community Payback Order with a Supervision Requirement and an Unpaid Work Requirement. This was Sandra's first offence.

Sandra was introduced to the Higher Support Needs Team by her Social Worker, who believed she would benefit from their support as she had become very introverted following the realisation that what she had done had a negative effect on her and her family. She was extremely embarrassed by this, which had a detrimental effect on her mental health. This also had a negative effect on her general health and anxiety levels, as she found it difficult to go out and engage with other people. On initially working with Sandra, the team found her to be very guarded, she was extremely quiet and would not speak about her conviction and what had led her to committing the crime. She also found it difficult to engage with other service users. Gradually, over a period of time and by spending time with Sandra working on projects she started to open up and trust the team.

Sandra disclosed that at the time offences were committed she was at a very low point in her life, due to circumstances beyond her control. She found a new interest on the internet (online gambling). This made her feel good, which led to her developing an addiction for it, which in turn cost her a lot of money. To fund this addiction, Sandra had come up with a scheme to obtain money by unlawful means. At the time she knew it was wrong and it was always her intention to pay the

**Higher Support Needs Team Example**

Sandra believed she would never work again as no one would trust her. She now found it difficult to make friends in case they found out about her past, resulting in her becoming very isolated.

As Sandra built positive relationships with the team, she started to trust herself to be more open with other people. The team paired her up with another female service user, who also had addiction issues, but of a different nature. Through working alongside each other, they started supporting each other and gave each other help and put strategies in place when they were struggling with day-to-day issues. They became a great support to each other, and both really benefitted from building a positive relationship.

As Sandra worked through her Unpaid Work hours and gained confidence in herself, she started to think about gaining employment. She believed that no one would give her a chance due to her conviction. The team encouraged Sandra to look at alternatives to employment first prior to trying to gain employment. With the support of the team Sandra undertook some online Care courses through a local College. Sandra was encouraged to try and undertake some voluntary work to see how she felt working in a new environment with people she did not know. She was quite resistant about this to begin with but with encouragement and support she decided to give it a try. Sandra approached a local charity shop and offered to help as a volunteer. It was felt that she was better being open about her conviction to begin with. The Manager at the shop was appreciative of the fact that she had been open and honest with her and decided to give her a trial. Sandra now



money back. On speaking with her, it was apparent that she was extremely ashamed about what she had done.

volunteers three days a week at the shop. She feels that this has helped her get routine back in her life and is now more confident in herself and dealing with people. Having gained confidence by working at the charity shop, Sandra felt that she was ready for paid employment. The team helped her throughout this process and as a result Sandra has now gained part time employment. Sandra believes if it were not for the help and encouragement of the team she would be stuck at home and would have become even more isolated. She continues to work at the charity shop and has now been in paid employment for several months. By gaining confidence in herself she has also been able to open up to her family about why she did what she did, and they are now very supportive of her. Her relationship with them has gone from strength to strength. She has also recently befriended a neighbour whose husband died a short time ago and they regularly go to the gym together, which is something she would never have considered doing in the past. Sandra has completed the Unpaid Work part of her order but keeps in touch with the team and gives them regular updates on how she is getting on. She is very appreciative of the support she received and has said to the team and believes help she got from the team has put her life back on track.



<p><b>NATIONAL OUTCOME SEVEN</b> Individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced</p>	<p><b>Have regard to the following indicator.</b> ➤ Individuals have made progress against the outcome</p>
<p><b>Providing evidence on person centric outcomes has been challenging for most areas.</b> <b>How do partners measure outcome six for individuals?</b></p>	<p><b>If this information has been collated, what does it show?</b></p>
<p><b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service - Exit Questionnaires</b> As explained above, the Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service exit questionnaires are used to capture feedback from service users that can help to evidence progress towards both the structural and person-centric national outcomes for community justice.</p> <p><b>Diversion</b> During 2021/22, only a small number of Diversion Exit Questionnaires (8) were completed. This does allow for any firm conclusions to be drawn from the feedback, and runs the risk of identifying individual service users. It also does not allow for any real comparison to be made to previous reporting period, when a much higher number of surveys were completed (for example, 2019/20 when 25 responses were received).</p>	<p><b>Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work Service - Exit Questionnaires</b></p> <p><b>Diversion</b> In future years, the Partnership would like to return to the position where we are able to evidence the impact that Diversion has had on individuals through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of people who said they thought that being on <b>Diversion</b> had changed their thinking.</li> <li>• % of people who said they thought that being on <b>Diversion</b> had changed their behaviour.</li> <li>• % of people who said they felt more able to deal with setbacks and make decisions about their own life and the things that affect them (following a period of <b>Diversion</b>).</li> <li>• % of people who said that being on <b>Diversion</b> has helped them to stop or reduce offending.</li> </ul>





### Supervision

During 2021/22, 24 people completed an exit questionnaire following a period of working with Criminal Justice Social Work on a Supervision Requirement as part of a Community Payback Order or other statutory requirements. Although this is an increase in comparison to responses received during 2020/21, it is still considerably fewer responses than were received in previous reporting periods (for example in 2019/20 when feedback was provided from 69 individuals). This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

### Supervision

Local Measure Description:

- % of people who said they thought that being on **Supervision** had changed their thinking.
  - 2021/22 = 67% (16/24)
  - 2020/21 = 67% (10/15)
  - 2019/20 = 81% (56/69)

Local Measure Description:

- % of people who said they thought that being on **Supervision** had changed their behaviour.
  - 2021/22 = 75% (18/24)
  - 2020/21 = 67% (10/15)
  - 2019/20 = 75% (52/69)

Local Measure Description:

- % of people who said they felt more able to deal with setbacks and make decisions about their own life and the things that affect them (following a period of **Supervision**).
  - 2021/22 = 67% (16/24)
  - 2020/21 = 74% (11/15)
  - 2019/20 = 81% (56/69)

Local Measure Description:

- % of people who said that **Supervision** has helped them to stop or reduce offending
  - 2021/22 = 96% (23/24)
  - 2020/21 = 87% (13/15)
  - 2019/20 = 91% (63/69)



### Unpaid Work

During the period, 28 individuals (23 male, 5 female) completed an exit questionnaire following a period of Unpaid Work as part of a Community Payback Order. Although this is an increase in comparison to the number of responses received the previous year, this is significantly fewer than in 2019/20, when feedback was obtained from 54 individuals. This should be taken into consideration when comparing figures from 2021/22 with those from previous reporting periods.

### Unpaid Work

#### Local Measure Description

- % of people who said they thought that being on **Unpaid Work** had changed their thinking.
  - 2021/22 = 89% (25/28)
  - 2020/21 = 63% (10/16)
  - 2019/20 = 72% (39/54)

#### Local Measure Description

- % of people who said they thought that being on **Unpaid Work** had changed their behaviour.
  - 2021/22 = 100% (28/28)
  - 2020/21 = 81% (13/16)
  - 2019/20 = 65% (35/54)

#### Local Measure Description

- % of people who said that **Unpaid Work** has helped them to stop or reduce offending.
  - 2021/22 = 82% (23/28)
  - 2020/21 = 81% (13/16)
  - 2019/20 = 85% (46/54)



<p><b>If available, provide a supporting case study or other information to demonstrate activity and impact relating to outcome seven.</b></p>	
<p><b>Women's Service Case Example</b> A recent example from the Criminal Justice Social Work Women's Service relates to Outcomes 5, 6, and 7. One of the Women's Criminal Justice Social Workers recently worked with a young female who they had previously supported in a previous role within Children's Services Social Work. The young woman was in a relationship which wasn't positive for her, and her friendships weren't good associations either.</p>	<p><b>Women's Service Case Example</b> With the help of the Women's Worker, the young woman was able to report domestic abuse to the Police. The worker was also able to support her with safety planning, and monitor this, which evidences progress towards Outcome 5, 'Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety, being addressed'.  As she moved away from the relationship, her relationship with her family thereafter improved, she began attending college more regularly and got a part time job (outcome 6). This evidences progress towards Outcome 6, 'People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities'.  Her circumstances overall now appear to have improved, she is no longer associating with people who aren't positive for her, she engaged well in the offence focused work and anger management and she has stated she no longer wants to be involved in any trouble, so hopefully this input may serve as a deterrent for further reoffending (outcome 7). This evidences progress towards Outcome 7, 'Individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced'.</p>



### Higher Support Needs Team Case Example

Laura is a female who had been in an abusive relationship with her partner for many years and found it extremely difficult to break away from him. She would often take the blame for any domestic related offences involving the couple. During this relationship, she became addicted to illegal substances as a coping mechanism. She also has children who were in care for several years, mainly due to the abusive relationship and her drug addiction. Her main goal in life was to get her children back.

Laura started working with the Higher Support Needs team due to having been in Court for offences relation to her relationship and received a Community Payback Order with an Unpaid Work Requirement as part of her sentence. Her life was quite erratic at this time and lacked routine and she found it difficult to engage with services.

When Laura started working with the team she was still in a relationship with her partner. From the information she told the team about her relationship it was obvious that the reason her children were in care were primarily because of the abuse they had witnessed. Laura was aware of this but felt she could not break away from this relationship as she felt guilty. Over time, the more she spoke about the relationship, the more the team were able to highlight to her that the relationship was wrong for her and her children. She gradually acknowledged this and with support was able to take back some control resulting in her ending the relationship.

### Higher Support Needs Team Case Example

Laura became a stronger person when the relationship ended and felt in a better position to deal with her addiction to illegal substances. With help and support from the team, she was encouraged to attend substance use appointments. Over time with support and encouragement she has been able to stop using illegal substances and now only uses medication that is prescribed to her. This has also helped her in her day-to-day life, and she has also disassociated herself with those whom she would consider as being friends but were only part of her life to sell her illegal substances. The team realised that Laura had no real friends or role model to help her move her life forward. It was agreed with her that she would work alongside another service user who had been in a similar situation to Laura but had moved on with their life. From this relationship she obtained more help and advice to move forward.

Over a period of several months, Laura became more confident in herself. She now had a network of people around her to support with her addiction and regular advice on how to deal with her ex-partner. She felt better in herself than she had in years and felt her life was going in the right direction that now was the time to make attempts to get her children returned to her. She was aware that this would not be easy. Over a period of time, she had regular appointments and made positive relationships with other services in relation to her children returning home. She was given advice on how best to present herself while engaging with these services.

As a result of the changes she had made in her life it was agreed that it would be beneficial for all for her children to return to her. This happened several months ago.



For Laura this has been challenging but she continues to have and engage with the network of support around her and feels she copes well. She knows that if she is struggling, she can ask for help or advice. She is totally focused on her children and providing the best life she can for them. She still attends Unpaid Work with the Higher Support Needs Team on a regular basis and feels she has really benefitted from working with them and the support and advice she has received.

Laura is now more resilient and is reaping the results of the changes she has made to her life. She feels if she had not received support from the team, she would still be in an abusive relationship and her children would still be in care.

DRAFT



7) If you have identified other local community justice activities and outcomes which go beyond the national outcomes, then record them here.	Local outcomes
Please describe the activity	Then describe the impact
<p>During 2021, “National Drugs Mission” additional funding was received by the Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership which initiated the Drug and Alcohol Service, alongside partners, to plan a response to meet the recommendations of the National Mission and implement the new standards of delivery of drug and alcohol services. The aim of the National Mission is to improve and save lives of people who use drugs and their loved ones. Aberdeenshire has not been untouched by the harm which drugs and alcohol can have on individuals, families and communities. The continued national response to the public health crisis related to increasing drug related harm and drug related deaths was, therefore, very much experienced at a local level and combines the influence to practice and service developments throughout the year.</p>	<p>The delivery of the ten new Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards<sup>11</sup> is at the centre of the National Mission aims with the first five standards expected to be in place by 31/03/23. The planning and preparation for the resign of services to deliver on these new standards has been at the centre of the work of the service. The Safer in Service ‘Days of Action’ help partners to meet Medication Assisted Treatment Standard 3, Assertive Outreach and Anticipatory Care, by bringing support to those most vulnerable and at risk. This is achieved through outreach visits offering the support of services designed to keep them safer and reduce the risk of exploitation and drug related overdoses and deaths. This approach is developing as an established response to drug harm and is informed by a cross section of evidence based strategic recommendations, but goes beyond this in that it also helps to meet a number of other strategic outcomes and priorities for Community Justice (Effective Interventions, Increasing Access to Services), Community Safety (Safeguarding Communities) and Police Scotland (National Serious Organised Crime Strategy aims of Divert, Deter, Detect and Disrupt).</p>

<sup>11</sup> Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards: access, choice, support - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))



<p><b>7) If you have identified other local community justice activities and outcomes which go beyond the national outcomes, then record them here.</b></p>	<p><b>Local outcomes</b></p>
<p>The Safer in Service Partnership ‘Days of Action’ that were carried out in December 2020, December 2021, and more recently, February, April and June 2022 are an example of collaborative activity that we as a Partnership are particularly proud of. The Days of Action are a partnership response which combines Community Safety, Justice Social Work, Drug and Alcohol Service, Housing, Children’s Services and Police Scotland to carry out engagement and enforcement to demonstrate the whole system and a multi-agency approach to tackling the issues associated with drug related harm in communities. The approach includes four core activities – Enforcement (execution of the drug search warrants, with support available from Health and Social Care services), Outreach (doorstep visits to people believed to be at risk of drug-related harm), Drop in (Community engagement from a pod based in a central location) and Community Harm Reduction (proactive investigations to gather evidence of drug dealing related antisocial behaviour, which can then be used for civil proceedings such as Antisocial Behaviour Orders, where required).</p>	



8) What other achievements and challenges happened?	
Achievements	Challenges
<p>As referred to earlier within this report, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership collaboration with Glasgow-based charity, Street Cones, continued during the reporting period and resulted in 418 hours of Unpaid Work and Any Other Activity being completed. This collaboration has now led to new projects for Aberdeenshire being identified and new ways for Community Justice Partners to secure service user participation and involvement in the development of community justice services. This includes a new project to develop resources for young people around drug use, county lines and exploitation, based on service users' first-hand experiences of these issues within Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire Criminal Justice Social Work are also looking to take part in the Street Cones 'Road to Change' Diversion from Prosecution sessions, which is a pilot project open to all Scottish Local Authorities. Building on the success of the Unpaid Work online modules, the sessions are designed for individuals who are working with Criminal Justice Social Work as part of a Diversion from Prosecution and wish to progress through their order while also improving their mental health and wellbeing and increase their confidence.</p>	<p>Please see Section 5 above for details of challenges experienced by the partnership during the reporting period. As noted above, the biggest challenge for the Community Justice Partnership during the period was being able to maintain a level of service delivery to meet the needs of those experiencing the justice system whilst continuing to work within the COVID restrictions that remained in place at this time.</p>





### 9) Additional Information including, next steps for the partnership

As described within other sections of this report, the Aberdeenshire Community Justice Partnership is currently in the process of undertaking a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment of Community Justice in Aberdeenshire, which will provide the evidence base for the next Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. Once the Assessment is complete, we will consult Community Justice Partners, including those within the Third Sector and those within our communities, including those with lived experience of the justice system, to help identify our priorities for the next plan. The Partnership will then develop the new CJOIP for Aberdeenshire, taking into account the recently published revised National Strategy and the revised Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework (once available). A detailed action plan, similar to the one that has been developed for 2022/23, will then be developed to progress implementation of the new Aberdeenshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan. Although the actions within the plan are still to be developed, and will be dependent on the priorities identified through the SNSA and consultation with partners, it is likely that existing collaborative work with community justice partners, such as the ongoing activity in relation to county lines and cuckooing, increasing access to services, and working together to find new and innovative ways to address the backlog of cases within the justice system, will continue.