

# Shetland Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2022/23



## Shetland Community Justice Partnership

Community Justice is about preventing and reducing further offending by addressing the underlying causes. It is where individuals, agencies and services work together to support, manage and supervise people with convictions or with a history of offending. It aims to reduce offending behaviour and the harm that offending causes, and promote social inclusion and citizenship.

Shetland Community Justice Partnership want to secure the best possible outcomes for people with convictions, victims and witnesses, families and communities. We want to safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to help them reintegrate and realise their potential for the benefit of the whole community. We want to make sure that everyone affected by offending behaviour has access to the support they need to recover from the impact of crime.

### **Our shared vision:**

Shetland is a community with a strong focus on addressing the underlying causes of offending as well as the significant inequalities that exist that are often a root cause of crime. We support and enable people at risk of offending or reoffending into the community and maximise their life opportunities for the benefit of all our people

This annual report will outline the key activity of Shetland Community Justice Partnership during 2022/23, and next steps for 2023/24.



## Community Justice Activity in Shetland 2022/23

The Scottish Government's National Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework details a series of structural and person-centred outcomes to achieve the vision contained within the National Strategy for Community Justice.

Local improvement actions have been identified to support achievement of these national outcomes. Planning and delivery of community justice in Shetland is based around four priority themes contained within the Shetland Community Justice Plan 2020-22 to deliver these local actions, which in turn deliver on the Scottish Government national outcomes for community justice.

### Local Priority Themes



#### Participation

Developing capacity and involving people



#### Prevention

Preventing people entering, escalating or recycling through the justice system



#### Wellbeing

Improving health and wellbeing for everyone affected by the justice system



#### Improvement

Encouraging a culture of continuous improvement

Key information and activity across Shetland Community Justice Partnership and related projects during 2022/23 is outlined below.

## Trauma training



In 2022/23 Shetland and the Shetland Community Justice Partnership continued their commitment to becoming a trauma informed island. They held a follow-up local strategic planning workshop to identify key aims and local outcomes for sustaining trauma informed approaches.

Partners continued to take part in trauma training and leadership meetings, allowing for a greater understanding of the impact of trauma on

offending behaviour and raising awareness of individual trauma and the impact that trauma has on daily lives. Justice Social Work completed the Trauma Informed Lens assessment on their service, and made changes from these findings. For example, following feedback from justice experienced individuals, changes were made to a room used for meetings to make this feel like a more welcoming and safe space.

## Families Outside



Work and support to Families Outside from Shetland Community Justice Partnership has continued, to ensure families affected by imprisonment in Shetland have access to emotional and practical support.

One constant theme for families living on Scotland's islands is the cost of prison visits. Families Outside have been working on a case by case basis to enable families to access available funding for meeting these costs.

During 2021/22 Families Outside supported two cases from Shetland. The main issues recorded were in relation to:

1. Visiting / Maintaining Contact
2. Own Emotional / mental wellbeing
3. Info about the Prison / Prison system
4. Income / Finances
5. Concerns for person in Prison

This year Families Outside have specifically focused on the cost of imprisonment, and plan to set a precedent to offer more financial assistance for island families visiting prisons on the mainland.

Further information is available via: [Paying the Price: The Financial Cost to Families of Imprisonment and Release \(familiesoutside.org.uk\)](https://www.familiesoutside.org.uk)

## Bridgehead Programme

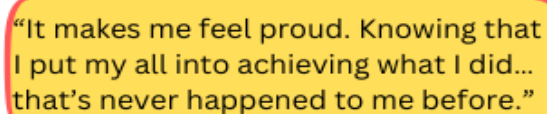
Bridgehead has been developed within Shetland by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and is supported by the Shetland Community Justice Partnership.

The program looks to help individuals reach their full potential while overcoming barriers which may be in their way.

It uses the core virtues of professional firefighters as the basis for its theory and practical sessions, and looks to create a renewed mind set based around growth. It builds on the student's powers of self-reflection and allows them to gain learning from previous experiences to achieve positive outcomes in the future.

Two successful courses have been run with the most recent in 2022. Students took part in a week long programme and spent time between the training room and the drill yard, learning to use a range of firefighting equipment. Alongside practical activities, students reflected on their personal experiences, learning more about themselves in the process.

One participant stated:



"It makes me feel proud. Knowing that I put my all into achieving what I did... that's never happened to me before."



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## Shetland Public Protection Committee

The Shetland Public Protection Committee joined up with the local authority's Chief Officers Group in 2022, and undertook a self-evaluation which looked at how the Shetland Public Protection Committee operates and ultimately how the work of the Committee contributes to keeping members of the Shetland community safe.

The outcome of this was a recommendation for development of a 'Public Protection Risk Register' which would hold information on adults deemed 'at risk' in the community. The Child Protection Register has existed for some time so it is proposed that a similar format could be adopted for adults.

## Justice Social Work

Each individual subject to supervision and support in 2022/23 had a case management plan created and put in place to address individual need. The targeted plans ranged from domestic violence and sexual offending programmes to developing coping and daily living skills.

Establishing a personal case management plan for each individual allows for a service that targets individual need by identifying the specific factors linked to offending and tailoring interventions to meet such needs. This aims to reduce the risk of reoffending.

The impact of these case managements plans are discussed in reviews and collated from exit questionnaires.

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## Release from Custody

**100%**

of prison leavers  
are offered accommodation and  
general support with access to  
the community.

**100%**

of individuals  
who accepted throughcare  
services were assisted, as  
required, to obtain  
accommodation, access benefits  
and register with a GP.

All people released from custody are offered through-care to provide support with access to housing, finances, healthcare and emotional support. Good partnership working between agencies, including the Scottish Prison Service, Social Work, Housing and Health ensures that individuals are identified early and effective release plans are in place.

## Community Payback Orders

Those who take part in Community Payback Orders (CPOs) generally report positive outcomes once they have completed their orders. Areas mentioned include relationship building skills with staff delivering and supporting CPOs, enhanced employment skills and experience of structure and routine, experiences of receiving positive feedback for work done and progress made by organisations and individuals. One CPO client stated:

21 people were subject to a Community Payback Order in 2022/23

8 Diversion Suitability Assessments carried out in 2022/23

*"My CPO got me out of the house and into the community. I was needing that push to step out into the light again. The work I did made me feel valued. The comradery experienced on the minibus will stay with me forever and the appreciation given to me by the community was felt by me.*

*The work done during Supervision with my social worker has helped me to be a better person and handle situations properly and keep safe. Overall it has brought my confidence back."*

Further, Justice Social Work conducted exit interviews with the individuals and organisations that benefitted from this work, and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Examples are below:

*"As always, thanks again for the support you show us throughout the year which we actually couldn't do without". Community Play Park.*

*"The unpaid work team were very thorough with the painting of the outdoor bench seats and the supervisor was very helpful". Youth Club*

*"Delighted with the work the team did in our Sensory Garden, and would definitely consider asking them to help out again". Day Care Establishment*

*"We are very grateful to all those involved in carrying out the work again this year in doing repair works to our road. It is of great benefit to all who visit the beach". Community Council*

## Other Activities

Effective interventions are being delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending. This includes the use of 'other activities' in Community Payback Orders such as activities for personal development around employment skills, daily living skills and building self-esteem and confidence. Those who participated in other activities in 2022/23 focused on increasing their employment skills and improving their financial situation through:

- *Space2Face*: A creative restorative justice practice organisation working with those involved in a situation of harm, crime or conflict.
- *Moving On Employment Project Support*: Securing Employment with those with barriers into employment
- *Gambling Addiction*: Online weekly sessions that provides support to people affected by gambling addiction and mental health problems.



## Shetland Community Bike Project



The Bike Project continues to successfully offer spaces to unpaid work participants, allowing individuals to complete unpaid work hours, develop their skills and confidence, while also providing valuable employability skills. They support clients with barriers to employment, this includes drugs, alcohol and mental health.

Case Study: The Bike Project received a referral from the Justice Social Work team for a client to undertake an unpaid work order. The client, who was originally assessed as being high risk of harm and was socially isolated and stigmatised, now attends work daily and has stopped using all substances.

Through the placement, his confidence in being part of the local community has increased. He feels proud that he is making a positive impact by helping to provide cheap, sustainable, and healthy transport to members of the local community. He is now a keen cyclist and cycles to work daily. This activity has improved his health and has greatly reduced his anxiety, thus supporting a substance-free lifestyle.

The client is now a skilled bike mechanic and this work placement will more safely support his move away from offending and support his reintegration into society. The bike project's supported-environment will further build his confidence, his self-worth and to help him start to gain money management skills through being financially stable and will support his journey to be substance free.



## Employability Pathway

Employability services in Shetland are managed by Shetland Islands Council, working with various employment support services to support people who offend or those who have barriers to employment. The Employability Pathway's main aim is to support people aged 16 to retirement age with various barriers, move into employment, further education or volunteering opportunities. Justice Social Work continue to make referrals to the Employability Pathway to develop employability skills and gain qualifications. This is used to develop CV's, gain Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) card and undertake online accredited employability courses.

The service also provides a wide range of optional activities and group work such as outdoor days, gym groups, online quizzes, and working at their polytunnel.

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## Areas for Development

The Shetland Community Justice Partnership want to improve internal operations of the Partnership – including participation from statutory partners, third sector and justice experienced people.

It has been challenging for a small number of partners to engage in community justice activity. However, the majority of partners do attend the Partnership, and are keen to explore new ways of working to enhance partnership working, planning and service delivery.

Along with this, we are also interested in thinking of new and creative ways to increase engagement with those with lived-experience.

We also want to improve communication and promote stronger partnership working between the Shetland Community Justice Partnership and other key partnerships with shared aims, for example the Shetland Alcohol & Drug Partnership, Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership and Shetland Local Employability Partnership.

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## Next Steps

To finalise and publish the Shetland Community Justice Plan 2023-28 in December 2023, following a consultation period and further work on our action plan, which will shape future activity.

The updated plan will identify a shared vision and updated priorities for community justice partners to work towards to reduce offending and reoffending, and to improve outcomes for those affected by the justice system over the next five years.

We are also currently planning a Community Justice Event for key stakeholders and elected members, to raise the profile and general understanding of Community Justice in Shetland and to encourage improved partnership working.