

# Shetland Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2020/21





## 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.”*

### 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 have access to the support they need to recover from the impact of crime.



This annual report will outline the key activity of Shetland Community Justice Partnership during 2020/21, and next steps for 2021/22.

## Community Justice Activity in Shetland 2020/21

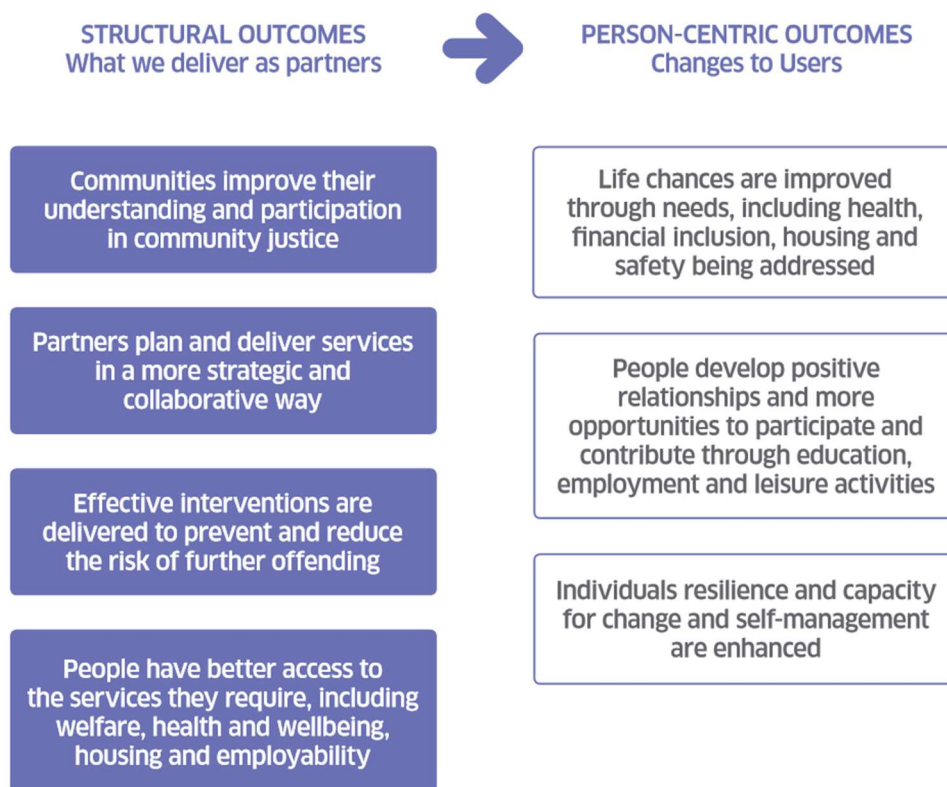
The Scottish Government's National Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework details a series of structural and person-centred outcomes to achieve the vision contained within the National Strategy for Community Justice.

Local improvement actions have been identified to support achievement of these national outcomes. Planning and delivery of community justice in Shetland is based around 3 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



Key information and activity across Shetland Community Justice Partnership and related projects during 2020/21 in relation to national structural and person-centric outcomes is outlined below.



### Justice Services and Shetland Foodbank

During COVID-19 justice services became involved with the local foodbank and colleagues from the education service and community service to help support local school larders. This was a new project to enable families who required additional food supplies to collect these from their local schools and prevent them from having to attend the centralised food bank. The Community Payback unpaid work scheme took responsibility for the packing and delivery of food parcels. Families reported back that the food parcels enabled them to continue to feed their families and meet the additional demands placed on them during the pandemic.

The service also wanted to support the increasing poverty issues within the community and set up a free pop up shop with children's clothes, toys and small household items. Access to free clothing assisted with issues around poverty.

### Emotional wellbeing and resilience project

Voluntary Action Shetland, supported by the OPEN Project are commissioned by the EW&R Project to employ 6 young people (17-26 years old). The young people share their own ideas, views and experiences, across many aspects of the project. They

undertake research and consultation with other young people and are able to present these findings in order to share other young people's views and experiences. They participate in strategic group meetings and will also be participating in co-production as part of improvement teams as work with frontline staff develops in order to meet the aims and outcomes of the project.

In Spring 2020 during the first lockdown the EW&R team researched and produced a support information leaflet for young people to sign post to local and national services that could support their emotional wellbeing through the pandemic. The leaflet was shared online. [https://www.shetland-communities.org.uk/Downloads/EWR%20Leaflet\\_Final2020.pdf](https://www.shetland-communities.org.uk/Downloads/EWR%20Leaflet_Final2020.pdf)

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### Young People's Participation Group

Established in early 2020 in partnership with 'Who Cares? Scotland' and Shetland Islands Council Youth Services. The YPPG have attended meetings and delivered a workshop at the Shetland Public Protection Committee Development day to explore participation and to identify some key areas for the YPPG input to the committee. Funding has been secured to employ a participation worker who will be able to support the development of the work achieved so far.

"The small meeting beforehand (with the chair) was invaluable and really helped to set the tone for what we had to expect as young people coming to be involved in the larger Shetland Public Protection Committee meeting. Overall I really enjoyed my experience at being able to join in with my views at the committee meeting and felt respected and that my views were really being listened to and that this might be the start of some real positive change."

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### Bridgehead Programme/Verbatim Theatre



Bridgehead has been developed within Shetland by the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service SFRS and is supported by the Shetland Community Justice Partnership (SCJP). It has been created to assist in reducing offending and re-offending behaviour and also aims to prevent victimisation and re-victimisation of Shetland residents. 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

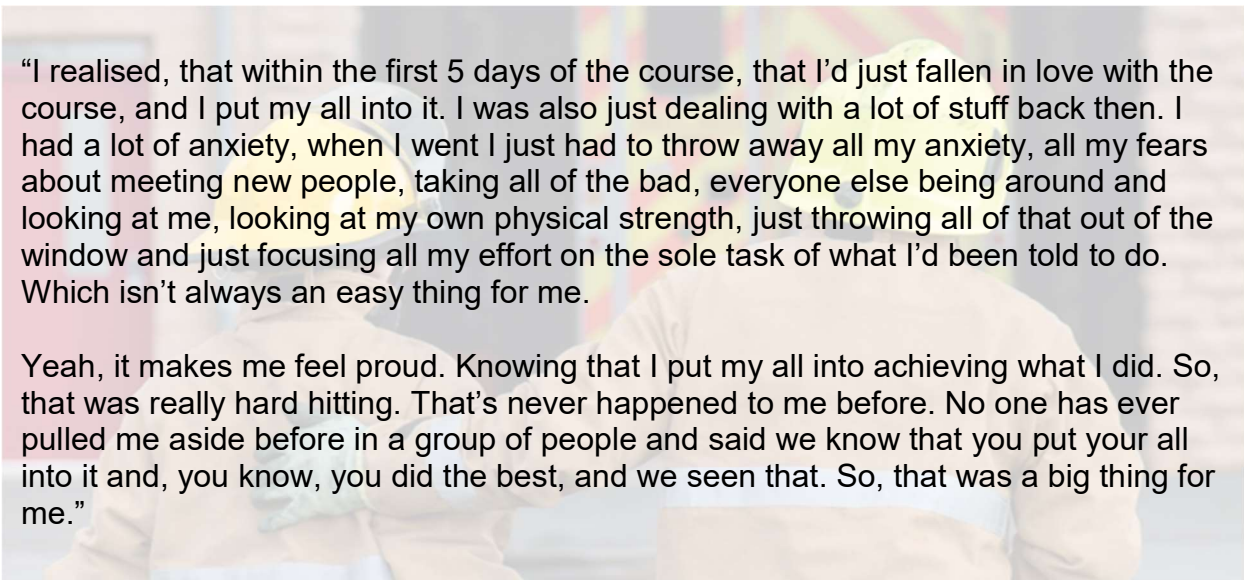
professional firefighters as the basis for its theory and practical sessions and looks to create a renewed mind set based around growth. It builds on the student's powers of self-reflection and allows them to gain learning from previous experiences to achieve positive outcomes in the future.

Its long term success has recently been captured during Shetlands second Festival of Care, a celebration of care experienced young people by 'Who Cares? Scotland'.

The Festival provided opportunities to engage, explore and connect with Care Experience from a young person's perspective through poetry, film, art, performance and a diverse range of online workshops.

One of the festival events led by the #ShetlandCrew included the Verbatim Theatre project. Verbatim Theatre brought together a group of Care Experienced young people with 'corporate parents', and allowed them to share personal stories exploring the theme of "Home and Belonging". Both Care Experienced people and corporate parents then swapped stories, in an engaging process allowing for a deeper level of empathy to be developed between the storytellers, who then took responsibility for each other's stories.

One of the young people chose to share his experience of the Bridgehead Programme as his topic. His long-term connection to the lessons from the course goes some way to display the long term change that is possible in this extract from the Verbatim Theatre dialogue:



"I realised, that within the first 5 days of the course, that I'd just fallen in love with the course, and I put my all into it. I was also just dealing with a lot of stuff back then. I had a lot of anxiety, when I went I just had to throw away all my anxiety, all my fears about meeting new people, taking all of the bad, everyone else being around and looking at me, looking at my own physical strength, just throwing all of that out of the window and just focusing all my effort on the sole task of what I'd been told to do. Which isn't always an easy thing for me.

Yeah, it makes me feel proud. Knowing that I put my all into achieving what I did. So, that was really hard hitting. That's never happened to me before. No one has ever pulled me aside before in a group of people and said we know that you put your all into it and, you know, you did the best, and we seen that. So, that was a big thing for me."

## Restorative justice work

In 2020 Space2Face (an independent local Restorative Justice Arts Organisation), who have been involved in SCJP for some time and take referrals from various organisations (for 1:1 restorative work and group work), were commissioned to expand their provision to SCJP to include 3 multi-agency training sessions providing an introduction to restorative justice and practice. The funding also allowed for increased RJ client work, including:



- provision of individual restorative justice and victim empathy client work
- individual creative anger management courses to address conflict and harm
- development of a new introductory group working creatively with excluded, vulnerable and hard to engage women (as a precursor to restorative work)
- development of a pilot 'preventative circles' project involving restorative circle work to prevent more serious harm being cause or to escalate in cases of so-called 'victimless crimes'

## Trauma training

In March 2020 SCJP provided virtual multi-agency Trauma Skilled training (sponsored by Community Justice Scotland and delivered by Epione Training). The training complimented ongoing local work through the Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience Project, which has undertaken to develop structure for trauma informed change in Shetland, including provision of trauma training at local level. Main training outcomes were:

To develop and understanding of trauma. This includes the 4 R's (realisation, recognising, responding and preventing re-traumatisation)

To understand the biopsychosocial perspective of trauma and barriers for someone with trauma engaging and navigating community justice systems.

To explore some key theoretical models of trauma informed practice and skills to be adopted. This includes relationships, strengths and resiliency.

To understand why people who have been traumatised use long-standing behavioural patterns to protect themselves which create collisions with Justice.

To provide an opportunity to review your agency to align policies, practice and environment with key Trauma Informed Principles.

To explore leadership, trauma-informed care and staff wellbeing across the workplace.

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## Virtual Prison Visits

Inconsistencies in the availability of access to virtual prison visits have been noted for some time. Virtual visits are of particular importance to prisoners from Shetland and their families as the cost and logistics of travelling to the mainland (particularly for families with children) can make maintenance of relationships while in custody very difficult.

Due to COVID 19 and the suspension of all visits to prisons, SPS provided a digital solution, introducing virtual visits across the prison estate and allowing families to access these visits from home. As maintenance of relationships is predictive of better outcomes for those in custody and their families, access to virtual visits is intended to facilitate continued social and family links for prisoners and help reintegration to home communities. It is also intended to remove the disproportionate impact on families from Shetland for whom access to travel for regular visits is so difficult.

Virtual visits were also accessed by social workers and other staff to maintain relationships and engage in effective planning for release, and processes for accessing suitable space for virtual visits outside the home have been put in place.

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## Recovery Hub and Community Network

The Recovery Hub and Community Network opened its doors in 2020 and is a service which provides support to anyone affected by alcohol or drug misuse. A Community Housing Support Worker was appointed in early 2021 to work alongside the Project Manager and the Shetland Alcohol and Drug Partnership in developing integrated housing support provision and alcohol and drug services to customers to support harm reduction, engagement with treatment and moving towards recovery and healthier lives with the focus on securing and maintaining settled accommodation.

Homelessness is often one of the greatest barriers to the recovery process and the service works with customers to offer housing support

provision aimed at tenancy/accommodation sustainment. Work is person centred to enable people with complex needs relating to alcohol and drugs to maximise their quality of life, independence and opportunities.

Hub outcomes:

- increased low level, non-treatment based support
- increased informal support
- increased support for families
- access to a range of services that support recovery in the broader sense, looking at the whole person, rather than just the substance use.





Work and support to families outside from SCJP has continued, not only to ensure families affected by imprisonment in Shetland have access to emotional and practical support, but also to identify and feedback issues to the partnership, and to be a voice for Shetland at a national level in relation to issues such as assisted prison visits and travel difficulties in general for prisoners' families.

During 20120/21 Families Outside supported 4 families from Shetland, consisting of 5 adults and 2 children.

The main issues recorded were in relation to:

- Visiting / Maintaining Contact (including virtual visits)
- Info about the Prison / Prison system
- Emotional / mental wellbeing

Feedback shows supported families felt more connected (with their loved one in prison) and also better engaged / included in the whole Prison System.

"The information you sent has been super helpful"

"(COVID19) Very difficult time for everyone, thank goodness for your organisation"

Peer support:

Families Outside have also established a Working Group, with input from family members in Shetland helping to shape development of group work and peer support offered.

The working group has developed and delivered via zoom to adult family members affected by imprisonment a 6 week Visual Journaling Project and a 6 week Trauma Informed Yoga Project, with plans to deliver a 6 week Taster Session Project and a 4 week Gardening Project.

Training:

Families Outside deliver training across Scotland to a wide range of professionals who may come in to contact with families, including children, who are affected by the imprisonment of a family member. The training is designed to raise awareness of the impact of imprisonment on families, improve practice and develop the knowledge and skills of participants required when supporting the families. This training was delivered by free monthly webinar from July 2020.

Quotes from those who have attended webinars to date include:

- *“I found it very informative and interesting and will allow me to understand more about impact imprisonment can have on children and signpost appropriately to families who require support due to family imprisonment”*
- *“I found that to be a really informative session about a complex area”*
- *“Best online training I’ve attended so keep doing what you are doing!”*

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**Information sharing** between Shetland Islands Council and Scottish Prison Service ensured that 100% of those sentenced to custody were offered support upon release to resettle into the community and access support to meet their basic needs, such as shelter, access to money and health facilities. 100% of individuals who accepted throughcare services were assisted, as required, to obtain accommodation, access benefits and register with a GP.

Data sharing agreement ensures information is shared in relation to:

- People being admitted to custody each week from Shetland
- People liberated over the preceding week to Shetland
- People scheduled for liberation to Shetland in the forthcoming 12 weeks

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## ANCHOR Project



The Anchor Project is a multi-agency programme designed to enable vulnerable families in Shetland to thrive, and participate in Shetland’s great quality of life.

It aims to bring about positive changes in the lives of families in Shetland, whilst also gathering relevant information in order to change service delivery in the future, assisting other families in the longer-term.

The Project is designed to work with families who may be struggling to cope and for whom the situation has not

deteriorated to the extent where statutory support could be expected to intervene. The expectation is the learning will lead to system change which puts families at the centre of decision-making and directs resources towards early action rather than crisis management.

The purpose of the Anchor Project is to demonstrate the value of family-led problem solving and early intervention; and actively encourage the uptake of family-led early intervention across the wider system of support in Shetland. The overall goal of the project is to create a system of support that will actively reduce the number of avoidable family crises.

### Anchor in 2020/21

As reported in the previous evaluation in 2020 the pandemic has had an impact on the progression of the Project. The Project has had to respond to very challenging conditions both for families and for the delivery of services. Work in 2020/21 included:

- Implementation of an Early Help Team to expand the provision of early action support to more families.
- Preparation and delivery of food parcels to 62 families during the pandemic and encouraged families to obtain clothing vouchers.
- Undertook development activities to promote early action service responses.

### Impact on Families:

- *“It has made me feel less ashamed about asking for help and made me feel less stressed about caring for all my children’s needs..” “I’ve felt more able to sort things out after speaking with you. I’ve not buried my head in the sand so much.”*
- *“We are happier and coping better. There was a period of time when life was chaotic, it’s better now, more settled, and my [child] is doing good.” “My [child] is happier because I am more organised and relaxed. They are more settled at school and at home.”*
- *“I’ve felt better about sorting through paperwork and I’ve felt less anxious about approaching CAB and getting my money sorted.” “I’ve been more proactive in contacting folk about problems. I wrote to my MSP about a housing issue and I’ve spoken more openly about my problems with school staff and my employer.”*

The Anchor Project Board were also asked about the strengths of the project. The most commonly recognised strength was around the value of the collaborative partnership approach. Strengths identified include: development of good relationships, development of shared ambitions, level of cross-agency working, focus on action, dedicated and skilled project team with permission from senior leaders to try new things, targeted and strengths-based approach, positive impact on families and value of learning to service providers.

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### **Release from Custody**

**100%**

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

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 SPS, Social Work, Housing and Health ensures that individuals are identified early and effective release plans are in place.

**100%**

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

### Community Payback Orders

During the pandemic, contact with clients was increased, particularly during the 'hard lockdown' phase. This was on a needs led basis and levels of contact adapted to fit need. People subject to court orders / licence continued to have regular contact with Social Work Services when community services / supports reduced.

Individuals were supported to maintain lockdown restrictions through delivery of food parcels and emotional support.

**100%**

of participants subject to a CPO Supervision Requirement were found to have a reduction of risk and need at the end of their order.

Alternative communication methods were used during COVID, including telephone and video contacts. Also utilised the outdoors when safe and appropriate to do so.



Alternative methods maintained contact with people subject to Justice Services, supporting people to maintain conditions, build resilience and manage risk. Individuals continued to receive a service when routine face to face visits ceased, reducing the risk of offending and promoting community safety.

Shetland Community Bike Project continues to offer spaces to Unpaid Work participants, allowing participants to complete unpaid work hours, develop their skills and confidence, and providing valuable employability skills.

Close working between Justice Social Work and Housing Department to ensure access to housing and benefit. Comments from Community Payback participants:



- “Permanent accommodation I like my house”
- “Lost flat and got temporary accommodation”
- “Now have permanent accommodation”
- “Was in homeless at start and now in permanent accommodation”
- “I was homeless when I started, now good”

Justice Social Work continue to make referrals to the Employability Pathway as part of ‘other activity’ element of unpaid work to develop employability skills and gain qualifications. This is used to develop CV’s, gain CSCS card and undertake online accredited employability courses, supporting individuals access employment and address barriers to employment.

Areas of improvement are measured by Criminal Justice Social Work for their clients in areas noted below, with some examples of comments from clients:

**Housing** “I’ve managed to secure cheap housing and my pay is to increase”

**Employment/Training/Education** “• I was supported to get work again”

**Drugs** “My drug taking is far safer and I know about harm reduction. I think about consequences of my actions”

**Alcohol** “I think about how to keep myself safe by not drinking, using drugs and thinking about where I go”

**Physical Health** “medication is working”

**Finances** “engaged in budgeting”

**Mental Health** “the work I did whilst offence based, was therapeutic and helped improve my mental health”

**Coping Skills** **Self Esteem** “confidence has grown”

## Next Steps

Work began during 2020/21 to develop a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment for Shetland Community Justice Partnership. In order to gain an understanding of the current picture in Shetland of Community Justice as a whole, an extensive analysis of available data and service mapping has been undertaken.

This work is ongoing and will form the basis for development of priorities and outcomes/actions as part of the new Shetland Community Justice Plan (to be published 2022). Other strategically linked partnerships have been included in discussion to ensure that future work of SCJP is contributing in the most appropriate way and complimenting other activity in Shetland.

Note that currently both the National Strategy for Community Justice and associated Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework are under review, with updates due for publication spring 2022. This will be taken into account during development of Shetland's Community Justice Plan, as there is a duty to review local arrangements following any update to these national strategic documents.

**COVID 19 update** - The impacts of COVID 19 on partnership activity during 2020/21 have been significant, with wider impacts across the justice system remaining unclear. These impacts will continue to be monitored and built into planning for priorities and outcomes for the updated Shetland Community Justice Plan.