

Shetland Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2019/20





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 2019/20, and next steps for 2020/21.

COVID-19 update

Note that the contents of this report cover the period from 1 April 2019 up to 31 March 2020, therefore the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic will not be recognised in activity reported here. The unprecedented disruption and change due to the pandemic will undoubtedly result in impacts across community justice services, with a need to adapt and respond to these impacts as well as opportunities for learning being taken into account in planning for Community Justice in Shetland in the future.

Community Justice Activity in Shetland 2019/20

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 2017-20](#) 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 2019/20 in relation to structural and person-centric outcomes is outlined below.

National Structural Outcomes

Communities improve their understanding and participation in Community Justice

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

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

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

New Community Justice Projects

5 projects received funding of £5000 each from Shetland Community Justice Partnership ran from 1 March 2019 to 31 March 2020. Projects were supported by SCJP and were aimed towards addressing a range of local and national outcomes (preventing offending behaviour or improving outcomes for people with offences or those affected by crime).

Information and brief outcomes noted below:

Jackie’s Story 

A week-long tour of dramatic performances of ‘Jackie’s Story’ – a play to raise awareness of issues surrounding domestic abuse. Performances were seen by 237 pupils in schools across Shetland, as well as staff in schools and members of the public at a community performance.

Workshops around healthy relationships also run by Shetland Women’s Aid following performances.

Pupils reported increased confidence in recognising abusive relationships, in knowing where to access help, and were able to access direct support from Women’s Aid at the events or at follow up drop in sessions provided.

Advocacy Shetland 

Project designed to provide independent, non-judgemental one-to-one advocacy and support to justice experienced clients.

A range of advocacy and support was provided to individuals worked with as part of the project.

Clients reported that the support had been beneficial and that they would use the service again, that they had been listened to. Improvements were noted in mental health, family relationships, increased positive engagement with services.

Dogs Against Drugs 

Dogs Against Drugs work towards outcomes related to:

- increasing knowledge and awareness of drugs, the law and associated risks;

Shetland Rape Crisis 

Delivery of Sexual Violence Prevention workshops in Shetland schools. Workshops provide education to young people in relation to sexual violence and how to recognise it, consent and how to recognise it, and break taboos

- reduction in criminal activity, anti-social behaviour and health related harm;
- decreasing the availability of alcohol and drugs

in 2019/20 activity included school visits, sessions to help young people with decision making around drugs and the law, wider impacts of substance use, associated risks, and actions that can be applied in challenging situations.

Awareness raising sessions around how detection dogs operate have been delivered to community groups and professionals across Shetland.

around discussing grooming and exploitative behaviour so that young people can raise issues with trusted adults.

Aims of the workshops include:

- Improving health and wellbeing by openly discussing sexual health, healthy relationships, healthy sexual behaviours, the impacts of sexual violence, and where to get support.
- Prevention of offending behaviour through direct intervention, awareness raising and attitude changes in the community.
- Improved outcomes for survivors of sexual violence and those affected by changing attitudes towards disclosure.
- To develop capacity and improvement in the community by working to change harmful cultural norms.

Transition Service



The Transition Service supports young people aged generally 14-26 who may have some barriers to employment (including offending behaviour). These young people all had difficulty engaging in activity around employability and finding suitable employment. Staff have developed skills as a team to support those young people into activities, training and work experience opportunities.

The team have worked 1:1 with individuals to develop a plan for them to work toward, which may be training, volunteering, College or employment. Each participant is supported with a person centred approach, building on their strengths and developing new skills. This can include group activities, training, CV development, volunteering, work experience opportunities through to paid employment.

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.

Young people have gained confidence in sharing and presenting information at this level. Their membership of this group is valued by everyone involved. They are learning new ways of working and building their confidence as the project progresses.

Community Payback Orders

- Unpaid work projects are regularly discussed at partnership meetings and the justice team took part in an awareness raising and community consultation event in the summer of 2019.
- Community Payback Team were also involved in a large charity fundraiser for an MRI scanner for the local hospital. Over 36,000 Christmas cards and envelopes were counted and packed into 3000 boxes.

100%
satisfaction with
work as part
of CPO


3100 hours
of unpaid work
completed

"The work was carried out very well and we would be happy to use your service again"

"On behalf of the trustees I would like to thank you for the recent work done by your clients in the painting at the Taingwick Hall Museum. They have done a good job and we are very grateful for their assistance"

"The Support at Home team are extremely grateful for the work carried out by Community Payback. The job was carried out to a professionally high standard rooms were left clean and tidy ready for use"

"The work was carried out to a very high standard and the work crew left a very tidy job behind them. Scalloway Fire Festival Committee are extremely grateful to the Community Payback team and wish to extend our sincere thanks to all involved"

Bridgehead Programme



The programme is a firefighting course designed specifically for justice experienced individuals. The course is delivered by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service over 5 days with input from a local mental health charity and includes both practical firefighting skills (drills, CPR skills, exercises wearing full breathing apparatus) and theory sessions covering topics which are central to success in the fire service (mind-set, discipline, pride, leadership etc.).

The pilot programme was run in 2019, with further courses planned for 2020 being delayed due to COVID-19. The pilot project was run with participants from Bridges – a service within Youth and Employability at Shetland Islands Council which provides alternative learning interventions for young people aged 15-19 to return to education, training and employment. Bridges students and staff took part in the 5 day course.

Course aims	Course Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing physical and mental capabilities • Exploring how discipline can lead to improvements in their lives • Developing a knowledge and awareness of their community • Undertaking CPR training • Undertaking practical firefighting drills taken directly from the SFRS manual • Improving interactions with other services • Developing a mind-set which looks to personal growth • Developing the tool of self-reflection to learn from past experiences so as to improve their decisions in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating better citizens • Improvement of chaotic lifestyles • Improving the students self-worth and self-respect • Giving integrity and providing objectivity • Becoming disciplined and giving a sense of ownership • Understanding of their impact upon themselves and their community



I've found I'm taking ownership of things more. I've like, thought about the consequences before I've done things

I did things I never thought I could do.

It was a great experience. Loved learning it.

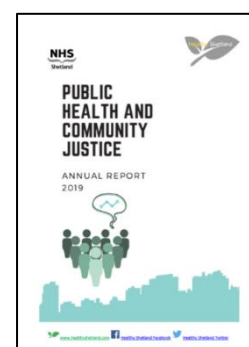
It was good to find out more about the job of a firefighter. It's not just about running in there. They have to think so much and weigh up the risks. They have to have the right mind set at all times. It really made me think.

I've applied some of the lessons we learned to my life already.

I've actually like removed myself from like challenging situations. Ones that would have gotten me in trouble before.

NHS Shetland's Public Health Annual Report

for 2019 was themed around public health and community justice, focussing on the health and wellbeing of people in contact with the justice system. With a focus on preventing and reducing the impact of offending, the report provides



background information from a health perspective around the drivers and impact of offending behaviour and the health inequalities experienced by this population. The report also details some of the approaches being taken locally as well as the challenges.

Island Proofing

SCJP recognise the need for island-proofing in strategic planning, and continue to work together to ensure regard for island communities in delivery of services and to avoid disproportionate impacts on island communities

For example, 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.

Throughout 2019/20 SCJP worked with Scottish Prison Service on a pilot project to provide facilities to enable virtual visits from Shetland to all Scottish Prison establishments. Work was at an advanced stage by March 2020, with systems and equipment in place, however COVID 19 and the suspension of visits to prisons meant that SPS provided a digital solution, introducing virtual visits across the prison estate by the end of June 2020.

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.

Making the Change Programme

Shetland Community Justice Partnership were represented, alongside 11 other cross-sectoral leaders, in the Making the Change Programme, a year-long action learning programme to build capacity for local collaborative leadership and learning throughout community justice.

Some of the key questions posed by the programme included:

- How do we get beyond analysing issues and problems in community justice and onto leading the change we want to see?
- How can I lead change?
- How can I lead change without having positional authority?
- How can I exert ownership and exercise leadership within and across organisational boundaries?



The programme report can be accessed at:

https://communityjustice.scot/reports_and_stats/making-the-change-programme-report/

Recovery Hub and Community Network

Work is ongoing across Shetland Alcohol and Drug Partnership around development of a Recovery Hub and Community Network to support those affected by alcohol or other drugs.

People will be able to access a range of support services under one roof that meet their wider needs (including: FAB (families affected by alcohol or drugs), Recovery Groups, SMRS (Substance Misuse Recovery Service), Housing Services, One to one support and advice, Job Centre Plus)

The hub will result in:

- 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 2019/20 Families Outside supported 8 families from Shetland, consisting of 8 adults and 2 children.

The main issues recorded were in relation to:

- Visiting / Maintaining Contact
- Info about the Prison
- Emotional Support
- Income / Finances

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

"Thanks so much for all your help throughout all the months of battling....I hope we don't need to speak again but its been a pleasure"

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

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. Anchor has been established in order to invest in understanding how to shift the resources we have towards early intervention; thereby reducing the intervention required as a result of statutory processes. It aims to bring about positive changes in the lives of families in Shetland who are struggling, whilst also gathering relevant information in order to change service delivery in the future, assisting other families in the longer-term.

In its first year Anchor has established effective processes and practices for working with families. The 'Anchor approach' has been thoroughly welcomed by families and the schools involved. The approach adopted by Anchor has generated positive outcomes and impacts for the 8 families supported in the first year, and each engagement has generated a wealth of information that can support Anchor to achieve its overall goal of system change.

The project has also invested in the Project Board, and their leadership role in translating the learning from Anchor into system change towards a more family-led approach across Shetland.

Year one progress report has been published, providing detailed information on impact, and can be accessed at:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/documents/ANCHOR-oneyearevaluationreport.pdf>



VOICES FOR EQUITY

The Voices for Equity project concluded in June 2020. The project's aim was to reduce inequalities in Shetland by establishing mutual learning relationships between people with lived experience of inequalities and people responsible for decisions in Shetland. Through the participants' real life stories, the project delivered authentic narratives of experience of inequalities in Shetland.

The project developed and tested a new methodology for participation, bringing together civic and community participants to share their experiences of inequalities in Shetland. These 1:1 learning relationships, in more than 600 hours of conversation, explored socioeconomic inequalities in Shetland, with each participant bringing their own experience and perceptions. It acknowledged the need to learn directly from those who are experiencing disparities and disadvantaged outcomes in order to tackle inequalities.

The project did not aim to directly change policy or suggest areas for improving service delivery. However, it is clear that the Voices for Equity method facilitated new types of evidence by involving people personally through new relationships across communities in Shetland. The anticipation is that increased knowledge and understanding gained through relationships and conversations will lead to a change in approach, service delivery and priorities.

National Person-Centric Outcomes

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

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

Individual's resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced

Community Payback Orders

100%

of those subject to a Community Payback Order felt they were treated with respect

81%

of those subject to a Community Payback Order reduced/stopped offending

Comments from people involved in unpaid work include:

"I would be happy to do more unpaid work as it gave me something to do"

"I have enjoyed my time on unpaid work, it's been good to help people"

"Lots of painting and I think I'm an expert now! At first I didn't want to do it but it was really ok in the end"

Health Improvement

- A general health screening for those in the criminal justice system has been developed, that includes questions around substance use and offers harm reduction and signposting advice.
- Individuals who are not currently engaged with substance use services are identified and signposted/supported to engage.
- Harm reduction advice given to help reduce the risk of harm from substance use.

Employment



10 people with convictions have been supported by the employability pathway

The various employment support services available to people who offend or those who have barriers to employment can at times be complex and overlap with one another. Significant work is ongoing to redesign the “Employability Pathway” which should improve consistency of approach and lead to better relationship building, individual support and outcomes.

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 *“Was in homeless at start and now in permanent accommodation”*

Employment/Training/Education *“I lost my job as a result of my offending but after 5 months have secured full time work”*

Drugs *“no longer using”*

Alcohol *“drinking a lot less alcohol”*

Physical Health *“medication is working”*

Finances *“taking more responsibility”*

Mental Health *“learned ways of coping and services I can use”*

Coping Skills *“Talking things through with my supervisor has helped me work out strategies”*

Self Esteem *“The offence knocked my self-esteem a lot, but the work I have done has ‘repaired’ me”*

Individuals also made the following comments about changes to thinking and behaviour:



“I am a lot less stressed”

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

“Try remain calm and don’t overthink”

“I realise I am still bitter but I need to keep myself safe”

“More positive thinking”

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

“Looking at areas into offence and why”

“Don’t want to get into trouble anymore so thinking before hand”

“Supervisor has been an excellent worker striving to help and going above for his service user”

“Working with my supervisor has been very good, easy going and he has helped me out with housing and money issues”

“We got on. At first, it felt hard but supervisor was good to get on with after our first meeting. She listened to me and helped me work out stuff without judging me or telling me what to do”

Improved relationships were also noted:

- Making good lasting friendships
- Disconnected from unhelpful friends
- Relationships with folk are better
- I can manage myself safely
- I now have a relationship with my family



Next Steps

Shetland Community Justice Partnership undertook a supported and validated self-evaluation of Community Justice in Shetland with the Care Inspectorate from May to November 2019.

As well as providing an opportunity to examine progress in community justice to date, and the current strengths and challenges within the partnership, the consultation process has allowed deeper understanding between partners and involved service providers and encouraged a culture of participation

The improvement plan which resulted from the Self-evaluation activity was used to inform the updated Shetland Community Justice Plan 2020-22, which identifies 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 2 years.

The plan can be found on the Safer Shetland website:

<https://www.safershetland.com/assets/files/cj-plan-final.pdf>



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