

Shetland Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2023/24



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 wants to secure the best possible outcomes for people with convictions, victims and witnesses, families and communities. Partners 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 2023/24, and next steps for 2024/25.



Community Justice Activity in Shetland 2023/24

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 three priority themes contained within the [Shetland Community Justice Plan 2023-28](#) to deliver these local actions, which in turn deliver on the Scottish Government national outcomes for community justice.

Local Priority Themes



Justice System

Developing a responsive approach to emerging needs within the justice system



Impacts & Experiences

Addressing the impacts of offending and common experiences of those affected by justice system

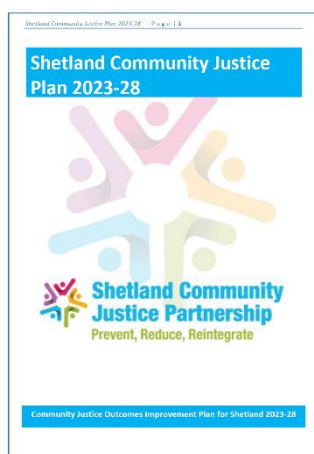


Improvement & Partnerships

Improving partnerships, working with communities, other agencies and the internal operations of the Shetland Community Justice Partnership

Key information and activity across Shetland Community Justice Partnership and related projects during 2023/24 is outlined below.

Shetland Community Justice Plan 2023-28 published



The Shetland Community Justice Partnership Plan, informing the work of the partnership for 2023-28 was published in December 2023. Work on an accompanying action plan also commenced and an initial draft of this proposed within the partnership.

Preferred monitoring and evaluation methods are being taken in to consideration and work is ongoing to ensure we are meeting statutory obligations under the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)

A link to the Shetland Community Justice Plan for 2023-28 is provided on page 3 of this report.

Police Scotland and NHS



To enhance opportunity for people in police custody to receive support to address their needs, Police Scotland and the NHS have developed a new practice locally involving the provision of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) in police custody to conduct a holistic assessment of any individual requesting this or, whom police colleagues feel require healthcare intervention. This can include physical and/or mental health assessment, including exploration of medical history where long term health conditions may be uncovered. Depending on assessment findings, onward referral to appropriate services can be made and where appropriate, individuals' supported to access these by an Outreach ANP in the community.

This is both responding to emerging needs within the justice system and addressing common underlying issues of those affected by the justice system using a multi-agency approach.

Additional to this, all people who have been in custody at Lerwick Police Station are offered an appointment with Justice Social Work staff to consider each persons situation, providing an opportunity to share information on services, signpost or refer an individual to an appropriate service to address any presenting needs.

Community Justice Event

Two events were planned and delivered which comprised a Community Safety and Community Justice seminar for Elected Members of the Shetland Islands Council, followed by a Community Justice specific day event in late October 2023. These events included key note speaker Karyn McCluskey, Community Justice Scotland and various local partners who provided information on potential circumstances behind offending behaviours, local facts and figures, national and local anonymised case studies providing insight to the work going on in Scotland as well as in Shetland, demonstrating how this can support not only the individuals but the community as a whole. Over the two days speakers from Justice Social Work, Workforce Development (trauma informed practices), Anchor for Families (whole family support/early intervention), Space2Face (restorative justice and approaches), Recovery Hub (alcohol and drug services), Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Youth Services (education/employability/wellbeing support) and Children's Social Work (youth justice).



Karyn McCluskey - CEO
Community Justice
Scotland



Children's Social Work – Executive Manager, Jordan Sutherland presenting to the attendees at Sound Hall

“Karyn McCluskey’s talk was very engaging, interesting and inspirational. It’s hard to remember, but I know I was really interested in what Karyn had to say. The Space2Face presentation also stuck in my head, really powerful. Looking back at the slides, I think the real life examples of the second presentation [Justice Social Work] were also helpful to put things in a local context.” Attendee

“It was very informative and made me think about the impact our service has and how we could work better across departments.” Attendee

Justice Social Work

Each individual subject to supervision and support in 2023/24 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.

Release from Custody & Throughcare

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. Some people are required to attend statutory throughcare and others are offered and choose to attend voluntary throughcare.

Voluntary Throughcare (VTC) Case Study:

Oliver (not his real name) was aware that due to the nature of his offending, (drug dealing from a local authority housing property), he was losing his tenancy. His allocated justice social worker (JSW) liaised with a Housing Officer and arranged a number of 3-way phone appointments so that Oliver was clear about his situation and had the appropriate support to deal with his imminent homelessness. A Homeless application was completed with the help of the prison based social worker and submitted prior to release with an agreement from the local authority housing department that Oliver would have 4 weeks on his return to reside in and empty his previous property.

Oliver was supported by JSW to attend the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to make a claim on his day of return. Some prisons have appointment with DWP arranged for prisoners, but not all.

Oliver was supported to regain access to his bank accounts, with support being offered to attend in person at the bank. Oliver was supported to register with his GP and also with the local Substance Misuse Recovery Service (SMRS). Through discussion he was also signposted to the Community Recovery Hub, where individual drug counselling was taken up. Oliver was supported to travel to his appointments until such times as his SMRS bus pass was activated.

Once Oliver moved into a different temporary housing property, health and mobility issues motivated a referral to Occupation health so that mobility aids were provided to ensure his property was safe. A housing support worker was allocated to Oliver so that he had support to sustain his tenancy and a referral was also made to Adult Social Work for an assessment of needs due to Oliver's mobility issues.

Once these supports were in place – after about 3 months, Oliver intimated that he did not require JSW support any further – JSW aim is always to engage universal service support, but although they were happy to 'bow out', Oliver's case remained open to the JSW worker for the full year and Oliver was aware that he could make contact anytime. The allocated justice social worker reached out after a high profile community bereavement to assess any residual risks for Oliver and to ensure that he continues to have adequate support.

At the end of his period of VTC, JSW will write again to Oliver to inform him of the ending of the formal support structure, and to remind him that JSW operate an open door policy and he can make contact with the team at any point in time and we can offer support/signpost to support.

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. CPO client statements:

27 Individuals were subject to a Community Payback Order in Shetland during 2023/24

"I was given the support I needed by everyone involved."

"Extremely well run by great people to give other people a chance at life after mistakes they have made and good setting to rehabilitate people back into society."

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:

"The team did a splendid job repainting the fence around the play park. It had been looking in need of brightening up and as a result of the work put in by the Community Payback Unpaid Work team, we now have a bright and welcoming areas in the middle of the village. Great job done! Community Play Park"

"I would happily recommend any group to apply for Community Payback Unpaid Work as the standard of work done was brilliant."

"This is now our second time using the Community Payback Team to do work for us and we are extremely happy with the standard of work. A huge thanks needs to go to all who did the work. We absolutely love how the Church has turned out." Community Church

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 2023/24 focused on increasing their employment skills and improving their financial situation through:

- *Shetland Community Bike Project*: Work placements 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.
- *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.



Space 2 Face – Restorative Justice

Space2face offers three strands of work - all restorative justice related. These are:



- Restorative casework
- Preventative courses and group work (designed as potential precursors to a restorative justice process for people responsible) - these include anger management and victim empathy courses, the Phenomenal Women's Group for women who have touched the justice system alongside women in recovery from alcohol and substances and a Boys' Group for young teenage boys involved in offending; and
- Restorative Justice training and advocacy.

During 2023/24 'Space2Face' have been working with Community Justice Scotland to pilot two restorative justice cases. Case studies are in development and may be shared as part of the wider learning process. CJS wrote:

'We have been working in partnership with Space2Face, monitoring and evaluating two RJ Cases to support learning around the operational side of RJ service provision. The RJ process in both cases has now come to completion and we are moving from the monitoring phase into the evaluation phase. The monitoring of these cases has provided invaluable insights

into every element of the RJ process and we are exploring how this learning can be shared more broadly whilst protecting the confidentiality of the cases and the people involved in them.’ ‘We are immensely grateful to the dedicated team at Space2Face for their work and partnership’ – Community Justice Scotland

Space2Face worked directly with 31 individuals during 2023/24.

Employability Pathway

The Shetland Local Employability Partnership (SLEP), through their in-house council and commissioned provision have supported people disclosing a criminal conviction. This cohort makes up 7% of our total supported participants and of these, 27% have entered a positive destination.

SLEP have committed to increasing the job sustainability of those with convictions, and supported through our many interventions we can demonstrate an 80% sustainment at 6 months and 66% sustainment rate at 1 year for those in this cohort: well above national averages for all supported clients.

Referral pathways into the SLEP provision are strengthening each year.



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 partnership working between the Shetland Community Justice Partnership and other key partnerships, for example the Shetland Alcohol & Drug Partnership, Shetland Domestic Abuse Partnership and Shetland Local Employability Partnership and, promote the improvement of communication and coordination between services.

Next Steps

A review of how the Community Justice Partnership operates firstly by working through the Care Inspectorate Core Assurances for Community Justice as a starting point, which will then lead in our next partnership self-evaluation.

We will agree the final Action Plan and identify meaningful performance monitoring methods to observe progress towards achieving national and local outcomes.

We will use opportunities to build stronger relationships with other partnerships, to continue to raise the profile of Community Justice locally and support existing services to deliver consistent and high quality responsive services

We would like to plan and deliver other Community Justice Events for key stakeholders and elected members, and the general public, to create greater awareness and general understanding of Community Justice in Shetland and to encourage improved partnership working.

We will explore how to engage and embed lived and living experience of those affected by the justice system, including children and families.