

Scottish Borders Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2020 - 2025

COMMUNITY JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2016

Working in Partnership to Tackle Inequality, Prevent, and Reduce
Reoffending in the Scottish Borders



CONTENTS

	Page
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AS DEFINED IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY	2
FOREWORD	3
INTRODUCTION	4
THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE	5
UNDERSTANDING THE SCOTTISH BORDERS: Justice Demand	7
COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020 - 2025	8
Introduction	8
The Justice Journey	8
Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016	9
ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE TO SCOTTISH NATIONAL OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY PLANNING WITHIN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS	11
GOVERNANCE	12
INTRODUCTION TO THE SCOTTISH BORDERS	14
JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS	15
Sentencing & Interventions	15
Youth Justice	16
Housing	16
Mental Health	17
Alcohol and Drug Use	17
Financial Inclusion	18
Education, Employment and Training	19
Family	19
IMPROVEMENT ACTION THEMES	20
COMMON OUTCOMES & ANNUAL REPORTING	21
PARTICIPATION STATEMENT	25
PARTNERS DUTY TO CO-OPERATE	27

FOREWORD



Over the lifetime of the first Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan a great deal of progress has been made through the establishment of our local partnership and delivery against our agreed common outcomes.

It is well documented that inequality and the presence of adverse childhood experiences tend to be most prevalent among people living in deprived parts of our community. Both victims and perpetrators of criminal behaviour are often found within these areas which are disproportionately affected.

We have already made a commitment within the Scottish Borders Community Plan to address factors associated with closing the gap for those families living in difficult economic circumstances. This plan goes a stage further by specifically focussing on those individuals within the justice system, their families and importantly victims of crime.

All local authorities in Scotland are required to produce a plan as set out in legislation. This plan creates the circumstances in which accessibility to housing, healthcare, financial security, and family contact is maintained or improved so that offending or the likelihood of re offending becomes less likely.

Improvements have already been made in the way we share information with the Scottish Prison Service, access drug and alcohol services, and employability support, introduced community mental health triage distress brief interventions.

With the presumption against short term sentences being raised from under 3 months to 12 months or less more people are expected to serve sentences within the community. Residents of the Scottish Borders who receive a custodial sentence are also likely to return to their home area once liberated. It is therefore important that we collectively promote and develop arrangements that support a reduction in offending behaviour among our citizens.

Councillor George Turnbull

Chair of Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board

INTRODUCTION

This is the second Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for the Scottish Borders and builds upon the work already undertaken in the three years since the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act) came into being.

The plan creates an integrated approach to reduce the likelihood an individual will enter or remain within the justice system working in parallel to the statutory functions delivered by Justice Social Work. Importantly for community justice a number of statutory partners have a duty to co-operate. An established Community Justice Board meets bi-monthly to further this agenda. In preparing this plan, cognisance has been taken of the National Strategy for Community Justice and the Scottish Borders Community Plan.

Reported crime in the Scottish Borders, while relatively low, has been on an upward trend over the last few years. Crimes of dishonesty make up the greatest proportion of recorded crime. It is not uncommon for crimes of a sexual nature to be reported outwith the year of commission. Drug, offensive weapon and bail offences tend to reflect police pro activity. Detections remain similar to the national picture. The number of direct measure disposals completed by Police Scotland has risen while Procurator Fiscal direct measures have declined.

The majority of cases proceeding to court result in a financial penalty or community sentence. A small number of cases result in prison, the least frequent sentencing option. The number of people from the Scottish Borders in prison tends to be less than 1% of the total prison population. Prisoners originating from the two local courts are spread across the prison estate with the majority in HMP Edinburgh. Individual's sentenced to four years and over are required to participate in Statutory Throughcare upon release facilitated by Justice Social Work. Those receiving shorter sentences are entitled to ask for advice, guidance and assistance through Voluntary Throughcare provided through the same arrangement.

In developing this plan we sought the views of people from the Scottish Borders in custody. Support with mental health and housing featured as priority areas of concern.

Since the last plan, work has been undertaken within the Council Homelessness Service to reduce the number of people presenting as homeless by maintaining existing tenancies and preventing rent arrears. The Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards have been adopted locally.

There has been a strengthening of addiction services through the Alcohol and Drug Partnership and introduction of assertive engagement. A staged approach has been taken to mental health services accessed through GP surgeries.

Arrangements have developed with Fair Start Scotland and Right Track, both are available locally to support those furthest from the employment market.

The role of the Community Justice Board is to create an environment that supports individuals who may be susceptible to or have previously offended from entering the justice system. The Board are working towards creating better outcomes for people within the justice system. This plan follows the model template set out in the Guide for Local Partners in the New Model for Community Justice. It has undergone a consultation process and been reviewed by Community Justice Scotland as required in legislation.

THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

The following Scottish Government publications have been used in the development of this Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan:

- National Strategy for Community Justice,
- Community Justice Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework, and
- Guidance for local partners in the new model for Community Justice.

The Scottish Government vision, mission, priorities and principals for community justice underpin this plan and are listed below.

Vision

Scotland is a safer, fairer and more inclusive nation where we:-

- prevent and reduce further offending by addressing its underlying causes; and
- safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to help them reintegrate into the community and realise their potential for the benefit of all citizens.

Mission Statement

We will achieve this vision by effectively implementing the Scottish Government's plans for penal policy to:

- Deliver a decisive shift in the balance between community and custodial sentences by:
 - a) increasing the use of community-based interventions; and
 - b) reducing the use of short term custodial sentences;
- Improve the reintegration from custody to community.

The new model for community justice, with its focus on strong partnerships working to ensure effective intervention from the point of arrest onwards, provides the delivery framework for achieving both this mission and the wider vision.

Priorities

Extensive consultation with stakeholders has made clear that the Scottish Government's vision and mission will be delivered by prioritising action in the following areas:-

- Improve Community Understanding and Participation.
- Strategic Planning and Partnership Working.
- Effective use of Evidence-Based Interventions.
- Equal access to Services.

Principles

The Scottish Government's vision for community justice is underpinned by the following principles:-

- People must be held to account for their offences, in a way that recognises the impact on victims of crime and is mindful of risks to the public, while being proportionate and effective in preventing and reducing further offending.
- Re-integrating those who have committed offences into the community and helping them to realise their potential will create a safer and fairer society for all.
- Every intervention should maximise opportunities for prevention and reducing offending as early as possible, before problems escalate.
- Community justice outcomes cannot be improved by one stakeholder alone. We must work in partnership to address these complex issues.
- Informed communities who participate in community justice will lead to more effective services and policies with greater legitimacy.
- High quality, person-centred and collaborative services should be available to address the needs of those who have committed offences, their families, and victims of crime.

UNDERSTANDING THE SCOTTISH BORDERS:

The information in the table below outlines local case and court disposals.

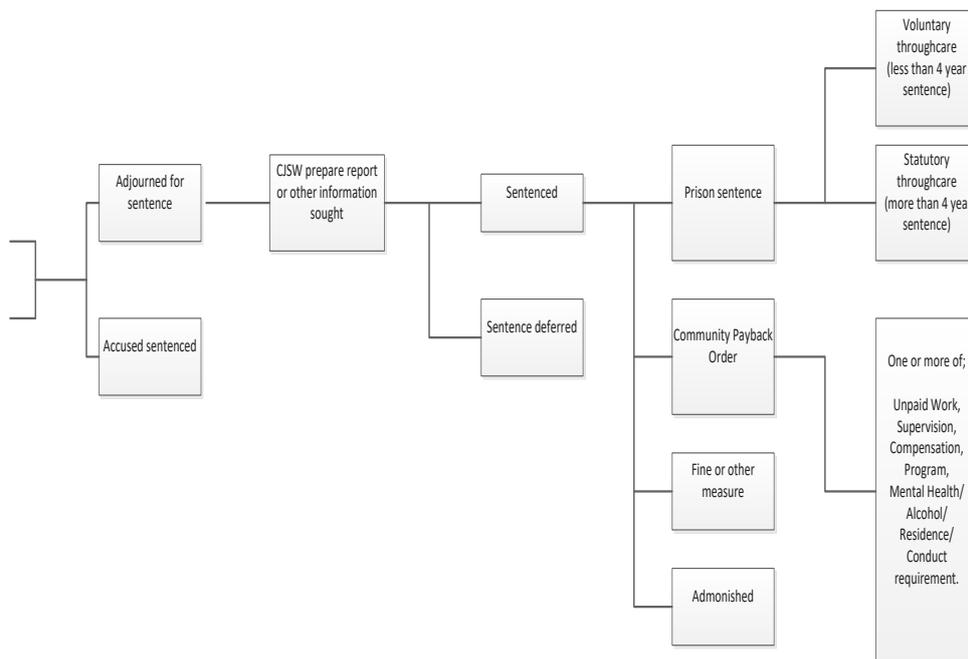
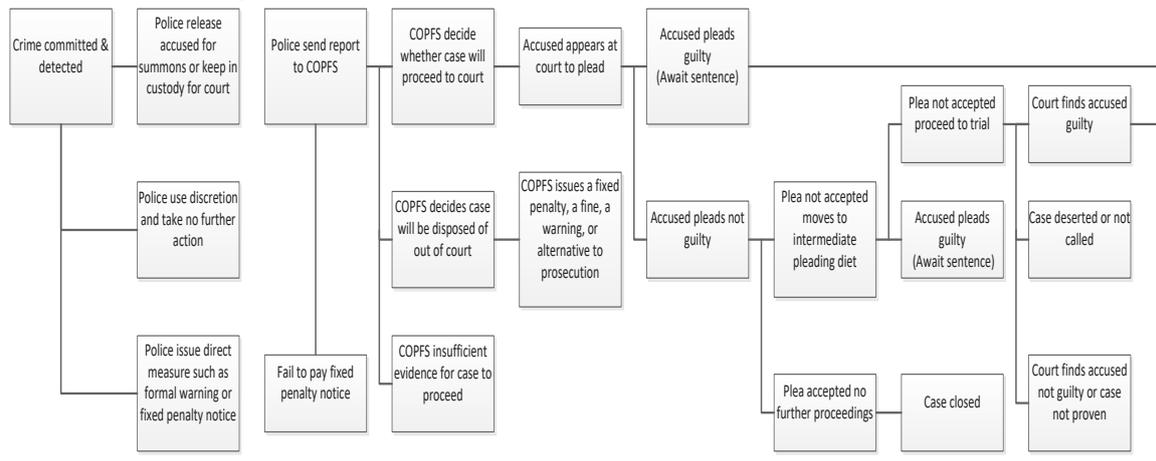
Criminal Justice Process (2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18)		Scotland						Scottish Borders		
Area	Item	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Crimes and offences recorded by the police	Total	585,436	527,612	508,531	6,675	6,877	6,811	6,675	6,877	6,811
	Crimes	246,243	238,921	244,504	2,916	3,057	3,448	2,916	3,057	3,448
	Offences	339,193	288,691	264,027	3,759	3,820	3,363	3,759	3,820	3,363
Crimes and offences cleared up by the police	Total	412,991	351,106	326,178	4,790	4,518	4,424	4,790	4,518	4,424
	Crimes	127,126	119,518	121,029	1,625	1,549	1,703	1,625	1,549	1,703
% Crimes and offences cleared up by the police	Offences	285,865	231,588	205,149	3,165	2,969	2,721	3,165	2,969	2,721
	Total	71%	67%	64%	72%	66%	65%	72%	66%	65%
	Crimes	52%	50%	50%	56%	51%	49%	56%	51%	49%
All police disposals	Offences	84%	80%	78%	84%	78%	81%	84%	78%	81%
	Total	43,973	41,740	34,681	349	533	462	349	533	462
	Anti-social behaviour fixed penalty notice (ASBFPN)	29,368	15,363	11,008	213	116	85	213	116	85
Police disposals	Police formal adult warning	3,358	316	203	69	0	1	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Police Restorative Justice Warning (PRW)	374	280	378	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Early and Effective Intervention	6,587	6,090	5,707	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Recorded Police Warning ²	4,231	19,596	17,291	67	417	376	67	417	376
	Total	11%	12%	11%	7%	12%	10%	7%	12%	10%
% Police Disposals of Clear Up	All police disposals	11%	12%	11%	7%	12%	10%	7%	12%	10%
	Children's Panel Referrals (CPR)	7,000	7,000	9,000	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
Children's Panel Referrals - % of Clear Up	Children's Panel Referrals (CPR)	2%	2%	3%	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	All COPFS disposals	62,468	41,818	41,824	425	313	217	425	313	217
Procurator Fiscal action	Fiscal fine (COFF)	34,476	21,823	22,686	267	189	127	267	189	127
	Fiscal fixed penalty (COFFP)	10,748	8,430	6,544	126	103	75	126	103	75
	Fiscal warning	14,049	8,662	9,389	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Fiscal combined fine with compensation (COMB)	2,671	2,217	1,979	23	16	9	23	16	9
	Fiscal compensation (Comp)	506	669	1,217	9	5	6	9	5	6
	Fiscal fixed penalties (Pre-SJR)	18	17	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	15%	12%	13%	9%	7%	5%	9%	7%	5%
% Procurator Fiscal action of Clear up	All COPFS disposals	15%	12%	13%	9%	7%	5%	9%	7%	5%
	Total Proceeded to Court	116,833	107,338	95,254	1,218	1,036	1,055	1,218	1,036	1,055
People proceeded against in court	Convicted	99,962	92,347	82,716	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Not Convicted	16,871	14,991	12,538	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	% Convicted	86%	86%	87%	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
% Not Convicted	% Not Convicted	14%	14%	13%	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Total Proceeded to Court	28%	31%	29%	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided	not provided
	Convicted	24%	26%	25%	25%	23%	24%	25%	23%	24%
Convictions by Penalty	Custody	13,766	12,705	11,973	111	86	104	111	86	104
	Community sentence	18,949	18,646	16,830	240	189	198	240	189	198
	Financial Penalty	49,872	44,946	39,260	656	617	636	656	617	636
	Other	17,375	16,050	14,653	211	144	117	211	144	117
% Convictions by Penalty	Custody	14%	14%	14%	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%	10%
	Community sentence	19%	20%	20%	20%	18%	19%	20%	18%	19%
	Financial Penalty	50%	49%	47%	54%	60%	60%	54%	60%	60%
% Convictions of Clear Up	Other	17%	17%	18%	17%	14%	11%	17%	14%	11%
	Custody	3%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Community sentence	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%
% Convictions of Clear Up	Financial Penalty	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%
	Other	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%

COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2020 - 2025

INTRODUCTION

Scottish Borders Council has a legal duty to provide a Justice Social Work Service. This service provides the justice system with a range of community disposals, including alternatives to prison. Social work staff supervise individuals within the community and work to address past behaviour. They assist people who have left prison and help them to overcome the problems that contributed to their offending behaviour. Community justice builds upon the range of social work services already established within the justice system. A summary of the various stages within the criminal justice system are illustrated below (a detailed justice process map can be accessed [here](#)):

The Justice Journey



Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016

The Act requires a range of statutory partners to co-operate in planning how local services are delivered to support prevention and a reduction in the number of people re offending. This approach aims to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour. Partners will work with a range of individuals and organisations who have a role to play in community justice.

Statutory partners for community justice as outlined in the Act are:

Police Scotland; Health Boards; Integrated Joint Boards for Health & Social Care; Local Authorities; Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service; Scottish Fire & Rescue Service; Skills Development Scotland; Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service; Scottish Prison Service.

The national organisation Community Justice Scotland will monitor performance across each local authority area in the achievement of seven common Community Justice Outcomes. A national strategy, performance indicators and a reporting framework set the strategic direction for partnerships and support delivery within the Scottish Borders and more broadly across Scotland. Common outcomes are split between those that are either structural or person-centric. All seven common outcomes form part of this plan:

Structural Outcomes – *What we deliver as partners*

- 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 they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability
- Effective interventions should be delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending.

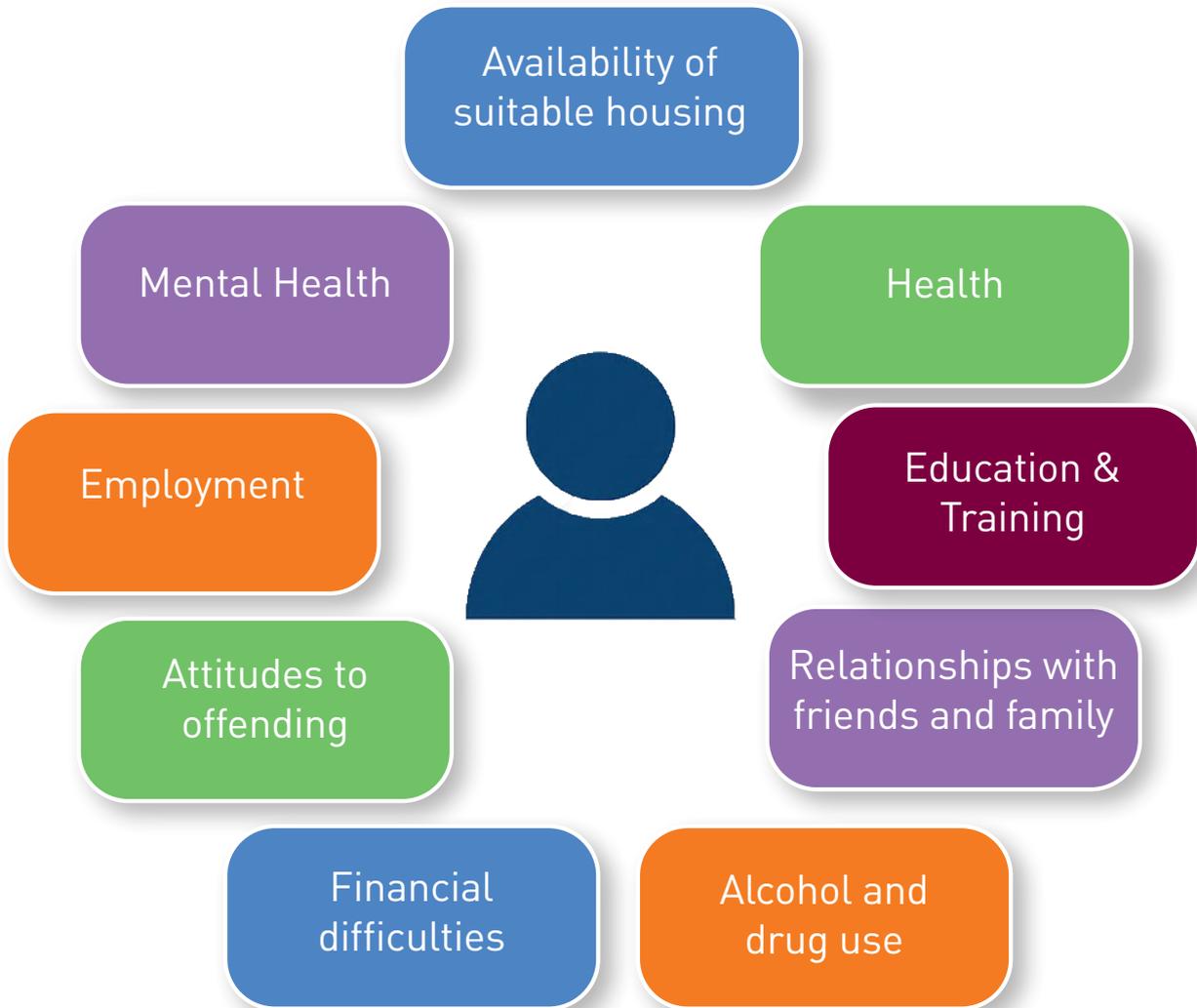
Person-centric Outcomes – *Changes to users*

- Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety being addressed
- People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities
- Individual's resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced.

A number of the activities undertaken by the partnership address more than one outcome but will not be referenced multiple times.

There is a strong evidence base that identifies the underlying causes of offending behaviour and those factors that can have a positive effect upon attitudes and prevalence of future offending known as criminogenic needs. Complex needs that services support have been identified as:

Factors affecting criminal behaviour



This Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan sets out the improvement actions identified as being necessary to support achievement of the common outcomes.

ALIGNMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE TO SCOTTISH NATIONAL OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY PLANNING WITHIN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

The positioning of community justice within the Scottish Borders has been strengthened through the synergy created between the Scottish National Outcomes and in particular the Scottish Borders Community Plan. The community plan has four outcome themes:

- Our Economy, Skills & Learning
- Our Health, Care & Wellbeing
- Our Quality of Life
- Our Place

These themes link across Scotland’s National Performance Framework; Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes, as illustrated below, and outcomes contained within this Plan:



GOVERNANCE

A Community Justice Board chaired by the Chief Social Work Officer has been established to coordinate and oversee community justice in the Scottish Borders. The Board has responsibility for the implementation of the improvement actions contained within this plan and content of the national strategy. Members report annually on the indicators contained within the National Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework in a format determined by Community Justice Scotland.

In addition to developing this plan Community Justice Partners have agreed the associated Strategic Needs and Strengths Baseline Assessment, and participated in developing the Integrated Impact Assessment. The plan was endorsed by the Community Planning Strategic Board following a period of public, lived experience and stakeholder consultation.

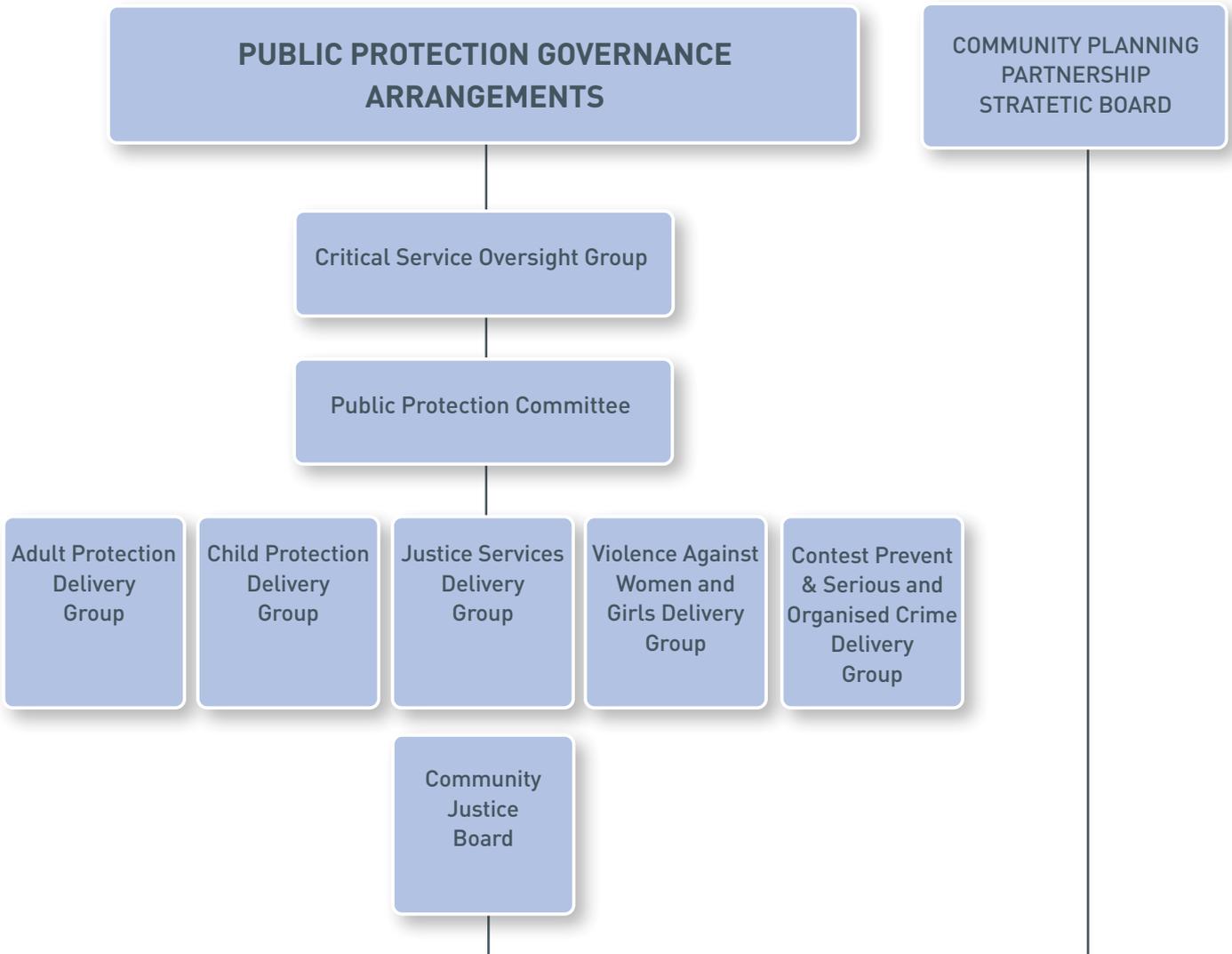
Since this plan was completed Community Justice Scotland have produced a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment guide, this will underpin future plans and action development.

The intended lifetime of the plan will be five years with progress reported annually to Community Justice Scotland. The Board will periodically review and amend the associated action plan taking cognisance of the developing justice landscape, and in the following circumstances:

- When a revised National Performance Framework for Community Justice is published
- When a revised National Strategy for Community Justice is published
- When a revised (Community Planning Partnership) Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for the local authority area is published.

Plans are underway to create family focussed Public Protection Service's within which Community Justice will form a part. Adult and child protection, justice, health and education, community safety including domestic abuse will form the constituent parts. A governance structure has been created through a Public Protection Committee with an independent chair reporting into a Critical Services Oversight Group. Alignment for Community Justice will include the Community Planning Partnership.

Community Justice Governance Alignment



INTRODUCTION TO THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

The Scottish Borders has an estimated population of 114,050 consisting of 53,787 households within a geographic area covering 4,732 km.

It is the 18th highest population out of 32 council areas. The age group 45 – 64 was the largest population in 2017 and 16 – 24 the smallest. Between 1997 and 2017 the 25 – 44 age group saw the largest % decrease (-24.3%)¹.

This is a rural authority with 30% of the population resident in areas with less than 500 inhabitants. Hawick has the largest population size of 14,003 followed by Galashiels with 12,670. Three other towns have a population exceeding 5,000. The Scottish Borders is the fourth most sparsely populated local authority in Scotland.

Across 29 intermediate data zone ranges in the Scottish Borders life expectancy reduces in those areas classified as most deprived for the period 2011 - 2015².

The Scottish Government's, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for identifying areas of deprivation in Scotland. Of the 130 data zones in the Scottish Borders, 5 are found in 15% of most deprived datazones in Scotland. These deprived data zones are located in Hawick and Galashiels and account for 3.5% of the Scottish Borders population. Datazones are assessed against a series of measures, employment, income, health and education, geographic access to services, crime and housing all of which are relevant to community justice and factors that influence the prevalence of offending behaviour³.

The Scottish Borders population has a lower proportion of people who are considered income deprived compared to Scotland (10.1% -v- 13.2%).

There are five localities in the Scottish Borders based upon existing area forum footprints - Berwickshire, Cheviot, Eildon, Teviot & Liddesdale, and Tweeddale.

These localities form the geographic footprint within which services are prioritised.

1 Scottish Borders Council Area Profile, National Records of Scotland (April 2019)

2 Life Expectancy in Scottish Council areas split by deprivation 2009 – 2013, National Records of Scotland

3 The Public Health Observatory, Public Health Information for Scotland

JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Sentencing & Interventions

The majority of cases reported by Police Scotland to the Procurator Fiscal are disposed of by a financial penalty followed by a community sentence.

A Community Payback Order (CPO) can result in one or more of a range of requirements being imposed.

Justice Social Work (JSW) prepare reports to support sentencing decisions, reports that convert to a CPO (when recommended) are outlined below.

Year	JSW Reports	CPO Recommended	CPO Disposal
2016/17	308	175	139
2017/18	341	138	138

A number of recognised options exist to support desistance from offending behaviour.

The Caledonian Men's Programme is available to the court as part of a community sentencing option for men who are convicted of domestic abuse offences. The programme also offers support to the victims, partners and ex partners of those convicted.

Reconnect supports women who may have issues they require support with and may cause them to be at risk of offending. A worker or self-referral can be made. This trauma informed programme covers a wide range of subject matter, areas covered can be physical and mental wellbeing, health, diet, decision making and employment.

Drug Treatment Testing Orders can be used by the court if someone's drug dependency is a significant cause of their offending behaviour. The order can range from 6 months to 3 years and includes regular drug testing and counselling.

Moving Forward Making Changes is a behavioural change programme designed to provide treatment to men who have been convicted of serious sexual offences.

Scottish Borders established a Woman's Hub in 2018. All women involved in statutory justice processes in addition to those who want to engage on a voluntary basis with the Reconnect programme are seen at the Hub.

The Scottish Government recently extended the mentoring schemes Shine and New Routes delivered by 3rd sector partners. Only Shine is available in the Scottish Borders.

The prison population from within the Scottish Borders peaked in March 2018 with 74 people in custody with a low of 51 in April 2017. Figures have adjusted over time between these high and low points.

When compared to the rest of Scotland less than 1% of the total prison population comes from the Scottish Borders, spread across the entire prison estate.

During 2019 the Scottish Government have introduced a presumption against short term sentences of under a year, the full impact has yet to be realised.

An information sharing protocol between the Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Borders Council has improved the flow of information on prison admissions and release. There are established local Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).

During the consultation stage of this plans development there were positive comments about JSW from people in the justice system:

“I have found Scottish Borders Council Criminal Justice Social Work to be very helpful and supportive throughout my time in custody”

“That my Criminal Justice Social Worker went above and beyond to support my needs in the community”.

Youth Justice

There have been no young people under the age of 18 sentenced to a period of imprisonment in the past 24 months.

Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) screening meetings are held locally to divert young people away from Court through diversionary measures including direct referrals to Youth Justice Social Work.

Youth Justice have developed a justice module to include in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service youth programme highlighting the risks and consequences of offending behaviour.

For Care Leavers (aged 16 – 26) the Housing Options protocol provides the mechanism to access a tenancy or enter supported transition accommodation if they are under 21.

Youth Justice continues to offer Bail Supervision to Court, numbers remain low and recently introduced the use of a Movement Restriction Condition. This is effectively a curfew for the young person.

Housing

Of the number of Scottish Borders prisoners supported by Scottish Prison Service Throughcare Support Officers 59.7% presented as homeless between 2016/17 & 2018/19.

Scottish Quality Standards Housing Advice, Information and Support for People in and Leaving Prison, known as Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE standards) have been adopted locally. Four Square, a charity preventing homelessness and based in HMP Edinburgh have been commissioned to provide support to prisoners from the Scottish Borders to sustain tenancies and reduce the likelihood of rent arrears. This is joint funded until 2019/20 and a decision on its continuation is still to be made.

The Borders Homelessness and Health Strategic Partnership have been leading on a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, intended to provide general settled housing as a first response for homeless people with complex needs.

A Safer Housing Options worker based within the Council provides support to the victims of domestic abuse to maintain and remain in their homes or provide alternative suitable accommodation. The Scottish Borders have a number of Registered Social Landlords who manage the social housing stock. A senior representative has been invited onto the Community Justice Board given the importance of suitable housing in preventing and reducing offending behaviour.

Mental Health

Occupational Therapy and Psychology Service are available to prisoners.

Locally, mental health support services in the Scottish Borders are based around a 4 level model ranging from self-help to inpatient complex care. Access to specialist services is through a GP.

Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) has been rolled out across the four key areas identified within the Government pilot project of Police, Ambulance, A&E & Primary Care settings, between October 2016 & April 2019 there were 467 referrals made.

Quarriers Resilience for Wellbeing Service has been commissioned to provide capacity for early intervention and prevention with young people to improve emotional wellbeing. During Oct 18 to March 19, the service received 362 new referrals, the majority for 13 –16 year olds, and during this time worked with 455 young people.

The Children 1st Abuse Trauma and Recovery service provide support to children and young people who have experienced abuse, trauma and loss.

Wellbeing College courses focus on bringing people together to explore resilience and positive mental health in the Scottish Borders. People can learn more about their mental health and wellbeing; develop coping skills and skills for their personal development. This service was commissioned to provide support to people identifying with a mental health concern and include criminal justice clients.

Upon liberation from custody an individual is given 5 days' worth of medications and must then register with a GP in the community. For those serving a custodial sentence of under 6 months registration with their initial GP will remain active.

A Wellbeing Worker in Justice Services is being appointed to reduce health inequalities by improving physical and mental health outcomes for people within the justice system. Activity is underway to appoint into the role. This is a joint funded post between the NHS and use of Community Justice transitional funding, the duration is 24 months.

Alcohol and Drug Use

According to Scottish Health Survey (2014-2017 combined), 21% of all adults (aged 16 and over) in Borders are drinking above low risk guidelines (14 units per week). NHS Borders has the lowest prevalence rates for mainland boards.

The estimated prevalence of drug use was approximately 0.73% in comparison to a national average of 1.6%. The number of individuals in Scottish Borders with problem drug use was estimated to be 510.

In addition to addiction services available in prison, there are three direct drug and alcohol services that work across the Scottish Borders. All agencies accept self- referrals or direct referrals from agencies.

- We Are With You (WAWY) (formerly Addaction) - Support to anyone 16yrs and over concerned about their own drug or alcohol use or someone else's.
- NHS Borders Addictions Service (BAS) - Support to anyone 16yrs and over with drug/alcohol dependency and physical/mental health needs.
- Action for Children
 - o Support to children and young people affected by parental alcohol and/or drug use.
 - o Parents and expectant parents experiencing problematic alcohol / drug use which is significantly impacting on their child(ren) / unborn baby.

Waiting time referrals into treatment was achieved with 96% of referrals starting treatment within 3 weeks of referral against a national target of 90% (2018 – 2019).

Assertive Engagement has been introduced which aims to remove barriers to access drug and alcohol services and reduce the harm.

Take Home Naloxone is a medication to temporarily reverse the effects of an opiate overdose and is widely available to people at risk and a family member. Naloxone is available from WAWY, Borders Addictions Service and Injecting Equipment Providers in Community Pharmacies.

Training in the use of Naloxone is facilitated by the Scottish Prison Service and made available to participants at the point of liberation.

Unpaid work staff have been trained and administer Naloxone with equipment available should it be required.

Alcohol brief intervention's (ABI) are a short, evidence-based, structured conversation about alcohol consumption to influence a change in drinking behaviour to reduce consumption and/ or (their) risk of harm. Alcohol brief interventions are completed in a range of health and social care situations as well as justice service settings and the Police Custody Suite in Hawick.

Activity has also been coordinated to ensure prisoners in police custody have the opportunity to benefit from the arrest referral scheme into treatment when they are moved away from the Scottish Borders to alternative custody facilities.

Financial Inclusion

In April 2019 the unemployment rate in the Scottish Borders, as measured by the claimant count was 2.6% (1,745 claimants) compared to 3.1% as a percentage for Scotland as a whole. For youth unemployment, those aged 18-24 years, the figure was 4.7% (375 claimants) compared to the Scotland rate of 4.3%.

The claim count across multi-member wards identifies the Hawick and Galashiels wards as having a higher claim percentage than the 2.6% for the Scottish Borders as a whole.

The Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Annual Participation Measure in 2018 for 16-19 year olds identified 91.9% as being in education, employment, training and personal development activities, this compares favourably with the national figure of 91.6%.

Individuals being released from custody following a sentence of three months or more, are supported to apply to the appropriate Social Welfare Funds. Three months before their liberation a financial screening assessment is offered. Upon release a grant is given to allow individuals to safely travel to their liberation destination. The Scottish Prison Service actively support prisoners to open bank accounts before liberation so that they can register for benefits.

The Scottish Borders Council Financial Inclusion Team are available to assist customers with benefit claims. Customer Advice & Support Service staff have a clear process map to follow ensuring enquiries are appropriately dealt with given the different benefit types.

The Community Justice Board has been enhanced by inviting the local Department of Work and Pensions, Employer and Partnership Manager into the meeting.

Education, Employment and Training

Fife College holds the contract for education in the Scottish Prison Service and (education) opportunities at HMP Edinburgh include classes and subjects across a range of SCQF levels including Higher Education, IT, E-learning modules and Distance Learning. Vocational Qualifications can also be completed from a number of awarding bodies including, Industrial Cleaning, Waste Management, Laundry, Hairdressing, Joinery, Painting & Decorating, and Appliance Repairs.

All individuals have the opportunity to meet with the Department of Work and Pensions 'Work Coaches' to gain assistance in relation to work opportunities, cv writing and financial support.

Skills Development Scotland have a weekly presence in HMP Polmont and Corton Vale. A professionally qualified careers adviser delivers Career Information Advice and Guidance to enable individuals to develop their career management skills and make positive and informed career decisions. Services include 1:1 career guidance, CV support and information about funding. The offer is targeted to young people aged 16-18.5 years (26 if care experienced background) but is also open to individuals nearing release.

In April 2018 the new Fair Start Scotland service was introduced with the aim of helping people find employment including those with barriers. Services are tailored and personalised for those who participate. Momentum Scotland have been commissioned to deliver the Fair Start Programme in the Scottish Borders aimed at adults who are struggling to find employment.

Right Track is a European Social Fund project that specifically works with people that have a criminal conviction within the Scottish Borders who face barriers re-engaging with the labour market.

The Disclosure (Scotland) Bill commenced stage 1 proceedings in June 2019 and is intended to bring the disclosure of convictions up to date so that it protects the public while preventing the presence of a conviction disproportionately affecting a recruitment outcome. We have already been in contact with the charity Recruit with Conviction to support us in some information sessions around the new legislation.

Family

Scottish Borders Council promote the charity Families Outside through its web pages as a resource to support families affected by imprisonment. Resources and support extend to housing, finance and emotional support. A series of information resources are available in addition to a helpline.

Justice Social Work Throughcare Support is also available to families of those persons subject to a period of remand or imprisonment.

A range of Public Protection Services are being brought together in the Scottish Borders linking a family approach to managing risk.

IMPROVEMENT ACTION THEMES in Order of Priority

Action	How we will achieve this	Lead	Links across common outcomes						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Develop arrangement's to incorporate lived experience into local planning.	Examine options and agree a process that is proportionate and achievable.	CJ Coordinator/ All CJ partners.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Provision of housing support to Scottish Borders prisoners.	Through collaboration between the Homelessness service, RSL and prison staff consider options that sustain tenancies, reduce abandonments and rent arrears.	Homelessness Service	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Improve wellbeing and access to health related services.	Introduce a Wellbeing Worker to improve access and health outcomes for people in the Justice system.	CJSW/NHS	x	x	x	x	x		x
Maintain the profile of Community Justice within Public Protection Service's.	As a constituent part of the Public Protection Service's maintain the specific identity of Community Justice.	CJ Chair / Coordinator	x		x			x	x
Improve the provision of local management information.	Develop an attributable data set on partnership performance, including victim and youth justice services.	CJ Coordinator/All CJ partners	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Identify options to identify and improve the support offered to families affected by imprisonment.	Promoting availability of support services and utilise information sharing and consent to identify families in need of support.	CJ Coordinator	x		x	x	x	x	x
Work across the local Third Sector Interface to improve its profile in supporting Community Justice.	The local Third Sector Interface represents four organisations. We will work to establish options for them to participate and be involved with our Board.	All CJ partners	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

COMMON OUTCOMES & ANNUAL REPORTING

The partnership is required to report annually on its achievement against the common outcomes set out in the Community Justice Outcomes Performance and Improvement Framework. Each outcome and indicator is accompanied by suggested qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Experience over the lifetime of the first Plan has identified a number of information sources that require national coordination to make them readily available to the partnership. In particular data capture, provenance and counting periods.

Community Justice Scotland provide a template aligned to the common outcomes for the partnership to complete. The submission from each local partnership forms the basis of national reporting to the Scottish Government.

Activities may have relevance to more than one outcome but only feature once in the tables below:

National Outcome 1	Indicator	Quantitative Information & Baseline	Source
Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice	Activities carried out to engage with 'communities' as well as other relevant constituencies	Social media activity Information in SBScene & SBConnect Council publications	Community Justice Partners
	Consultation with communities as part of community justice planning and service provision	Unpaid work requests and origin (2018/19 60 requests)	Justice Social Work
	Participation in community justice, such as co-production and joint delivery		
	Level of community awareness of/satisfaction with work undertaken as part of a CPO Evidence from questions to be used in local surveys/citizens panels, etc.	Scottish Borders Household Survey (2018 53% awareness of CPO)	Scottish Borders Council
	Perception of the local crime rate	Scottish Borders recorded crime and detections (2018/18 3704 crimes, 49% detected)	Police Scotland
		Scottish Borders Household Survey (2018 76% feel safe after dark)	Scottish Borders Council

National Outcome 2	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way	Services are planned for and delivered in a strategic and collaborative way	Local Victim Support referrals (2018/19 86 referrals by the ASBU)	Scottish Borders Council Antisocial Behaviour Unit; Police Scotland
	Partners have leveraged resource for community justice		Community Justice Partners
	Development of community justice workforce to work effectively across organisational /professional /geographic boundaries		Community Justice Partners
	Partners illustrate effective engagement and collaborative partnership working with the authorities responsible for the delivery of MAPPA		Justice Social Work

National Outcome 3	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
People have better access to the services they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability	Partners have identified and are overcoming structural barriers for people accessing services	Alcohol and Drug Partnership Assertive Engagement Service; Momentum Scotland Fair Start programme	NHS; Scottish Borders Council Employment Support Service
	Existence of joint-working such as processes/protocols to ensure access to services to address underlying needs	Alcohol and Drug Partnership treatment waiting times; Alcohol Brief interventions; Prison liberations presenting as homeless; Access to Right Track European Employability Fund	NHS; Scottish Borders Council Homelessness Service; Scottish Prison Service;
	Initiatives to facilitate access to services		
	Speed of access to mental health services, Speed of access to drug and alcohol services	Service performance information (2018/19 WAWY 95% & BAS 100%. 2018/19 ABI 173)	NHS
% of people released from custodial sentences, registered with a GP, have suitable accommodation, have benefits eligibility check	Liberation from prison information (not everyone discloses they have been in custody when registering) (2018/19 Homeless applications 28)	Scottish Prison Service; Scottish Borders Council Homelessness Service	

National Outcome 4	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending	Targeted interventions have been tailored for and with an individual and had a successful impact on their risk of future offending	Requirements identified during sentencing	Justice Social Work
	Use of "other activities" in Community Payback Orders		Justice Social Work
	Effective risk management for public protection		
	Quality of Community Payback Orders and Drug Treatment Testing Orders		
	Reduce use of custodial sentences and remand, balance between community sentences relative to short custodial sentences under 1 year, proportion of people appearing from custody who are remanded	Breakdown of case disposals following court proceedings (2017/18 custody 104, community sentence 198, financial penalty 636, 2018/19 CPO 206)	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service; Scottish Court Service; (Scottish Government Analytical Services)
	The delivery of interventions targeted at problem drug and alcohol use	Alcohol screening and brief interventions (2018/19 ABI 330)	NHS; Police Scotland
	Number of police recorded warnings, police diversion, fiscal measures, fiscal diversion, supervised bail, community sentences (CPO, DTTO and RLOs)	(2018/19 COPFS fixed penalty 201, fine 139. Court 126 Solumn 126, Summary 1106, JP 644)	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service; Scottish Court Service; Police Scotland; (Scottish Government Analytical Services)
Number of short-term sentences under one year		Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service; Scottish Court Service; Scottish Prison Service	

National Outcome 5	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety being addressed	Individual have made progress against the outcome	JSW Voluntary Throughcare; Right Track European Employability Fund client outcomes (2018/19 CJSW Voluntary Throughcare 12)	JSW

National Outcome 6	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities	Individuals have made progress against the outcome		

National Outcome 7	Indicator	Quantitative Information	Source
Individual's resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced	Individuals have made progress against the outcome		Police Scotland

PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

During the preparation of this plan all statutory community justice partners and attendees at the local Community Justice Board participated in its development. Initially this was through the production of a Strategic Strengths and Needs Assessment containing analysis to inform and underpin the plan. This included the completion of a literary review.

Community Justice Scotland have provided feedback on the structure and information and is reflected in the plan.

A two month consultation exercise was undertaken across the Scottish Borders promoted through Council social media sites and directly with other stakeholders. Regular messages were used to maintain profile. Paper copies of the consultation were also made available upon request. This information was considered against the purpose of the plan and credible suggestions used to further inform the content.

Elected members were advised of the consultation. Community Councils and the Third Sector Interface, representing third sector organisations in the Scottish Borders, received the link directly. The views of individuals with lived experience, currently subject to a period of imprisonment or a community sentence, were sought to validate the content.

A total of 37 people in the justice system participated in the process from across the prison estate and Scottish Borders area. Questions were based around the factors affecting criminal behaviour. Housing, support with mental health, employment and offending attitudes came out as having the greatest influence on future behaviour.

Specifically respondents made the following comments:

"It's very difficult to find housing in suitable areas when released from prison"

"Access to mental health quicker, the referral process takes a long time to see someone"

"Been hard to get support with my mental health"

"The way (Improve) people like me access the mental health team"

"Accessing financial advice was extremely difficult".

A further 17 people completed the public consultation, employment, removing addiction and attitudes to offending scored highest, although most of the factors had a high score. A total of 67% had an awareness of Community Justice. Opportunities for people coming out of the justice system was seen as an area for development and there was concern expressed about general attitudes towards alcohol and a "drinking culture". Of the respondents, 53% were members of the community, 24% associated with a community council and 24% working in justice.

Finally the plan was reviewed by Community Justice Scotland and endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AS DEFINED IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

By **community justice** we mean: "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."

PARTNERS DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

Section 35 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 sets out the duty to co-operate.

Each person or group of persons representing a statutory partner must so far as reasonably practicable co-operate, in the exercise of their respective functions in relation to community justice, with each other person or group of persons falling within that group.

Such co-operation may include -

- (a) sharing information,
- (b) providing advice and assistance,
- (c) co-ordinating activities (and seeking to prevent unnecessary duplication),
- (d) funding activities together.



CROWN OFFICE
& PROCURATOR
FISCAL SERVICE

SCOTLAND'S PROSECUTION SERVICE



Scottish Courts
and Tribunals Service



Keeping people safe

You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Scottish Borders Council | Council Headquarters | Newtown St Boswells | MELROSE | TD6 0SA
tel: 01835 824000 | email: PeopleInfoMgt@scotborders.gov.uk

