

**COMMUNITY  
PAYBACK ORDER (CPO)**

**ANNUAL RETURNS TEMPLATE**

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2023/24**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **West Dunbartonshire**

TEMPLATE RETURN DATE: **29<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**

Please return all completed templates to  
CJS at [CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot](mailto:CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot) and copy  
the Scottish Government at [cpo@gov.scot](mailto:cpo@gov.scot)

## Background

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Under the Community Justice (Scotland) Act (2016), local authorities have a statutory duty to report on the operations of Community Payback Orders (CPO) within their area on an annual basis to Community Justice Scotland (CJS). CJS will then collate these returns and summarise them in a report which is laid before Scottish Parliament.

To assist with this reporting duty, CJS, in collaboration with representatives from Justice Social Work, the Scottish Government, and Social Work Scotland, has developed a template of questions for local areas to complete. This template is designed to support the reporting requirement.

## Completing the template

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Please answer the following questions contained in this year's CPO template. When answering the questions, please ensure that all case studies and feedback are anonymised. We understand that maintaining anonymity may be more challenging for some local authorities. If this applies to your area, you may provide a more general response to the questions.

Please ensure all answers are relevant to your local area within the 2023 to 2024 reporting year.

If you need any support in completing this template and or have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with CJS. Contact details can be found on the title page of this form.

Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions in this template.

## Questions to answer

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### 1) Reducing risk of reoffending

**Please provide a case study or examples of your work with people subject to a Community Payback Order (CPO), focusing on how you work to address their offending behaviours and reduce the risk of reoffending.**

By completion of the LSCMI risk assessment and the case management plan created, staff identify and prioritise the needs of the service users. Topics such as substance misuse, pros and cons of offending, healthy relationships and anger management are addressed, relevant to the individual needs of the service user. Support sessions addressing criminogenic needs have included utilising a CBT approach alongside motivational interviewing techniques. All our qualified social work staff have been trained to an enhanced level of trauma informed practice.

Dependent on the nature of offending, staff trained in the NOTA Individual Treatment Program have supported service users, convicted of sexual offending, to understand their offending pathways and support them to contribute to their risk management plans to address the risk of re-offending.

Most staff have been trained in the Caledonian system to address the stubbornly high levels of domestic abuse perpetration within West Dunbartonshire. Alongside this, staff work collaboratively with the service user to support the decrease of domestically aggravated offending.

The Women's Safety and Support Service provides specialist responses and interventions to increase the safety and wellbeing of survivors of Domestic Abuse. The service supports

women offenders, (via group work and one to one supports) who have additional vulnerabilities and complex needs resulting from multiple experiences of Violence Against Women.

We have regular drop-in employability workshops where our service users are supported to access volunteering, further education, and employment opportunities.

### **Case study 1**

One service user after referral to employability services, gained employment at Pret a Manger and did well. After the trial period she was offered full time employment and continued to develop both personally and professionally. This was recognised and was selected for a Rising Stars programme within the company. This is a professional development programme that took her to London on several occasions to visit headquarters. She was selected for her performance and potential to go up the ladder within Pret, allowing her to choose a training programme to reach other posts. She decided to train as barista but could have chosen management, back office etc. In summer 2023 she was going to Norway for a week of team building courtesy of the company.

M was on supervision due to her drug and alcohol use on weekends/social settings and a history of abusive/problematic relationships but has not been involved with Justice services since completion of the Order. Having the stability gained through employment and the help of her supervision/addiction support, she now enjoys weekends of recreational alcohol intake but in a controlled, safe way.

**Support for underlying needs: Please provide a case study or examples of your work with people subject to a CPO, focussing on how you work to address their underlying needs (e.g., mental health, substance use).**

#### **Case study from social worker:**

Service user AF, a 32-year-old male with a history of repeat homelessness, offending behaviour, and addiction. AF was homeless in a high-deprivation area after being released from prison and was admitted to the hospital on the same day for a drug-related injury. Before my first contact with AF, I thoroughly prepared by reviewing previous records and contacting other agencies involved in AF's support plan. This allowed me to gain a deeper insight into AF's life and identify potential risks to AF, myself, and others.

Records indicated that AF's recurring incarceration was a significant barrier to achieving his goals. My background checks showed that AF's recent sentences were due to offending behaviour while under the influence of drugs. Together, we conducted a comprehensive assessment that revealed AF's urgent need for secure accommodation. AF and I worked together to create a plan based on his goals, focusing on securing accommodation and staying out of prison.

I provided task-centred support using a trauma informed approach to help AF work toward his desired outcomes. I advocated on AF's behalf and explained the need for him to move from the hospital to residential rehab to housing and addiction services. This move was supported by the Scottish Government's strategy 'Rights, Respect, and Recovery' and MAT Standards. AF successfully transitioned from the hospital to residential rehab and was able to engage in support, access recovery, improve his health, and build relationships.

Collaborating with other agencies was central, to ensure holistic support within the community. A few months later, AF was due to appear in court for previous offences. His improved lifestyle was recognised, and for the first time in over 7 years, he was not sentenced to prison. Instead, he was given a restriction of liberty order as an alternative to custody, allowing him to continue confidently engaging in support and eventually move to his own home. With the support of myself and other professionals, AF was able to develop the skills and stability needed to live safely in the community and avoid returning to prison.

Upon reviewing AF's plan, it was noted that there was an increased level of safety, independence, and resilience, providing evidence of a successful outcome and reduced pattern of offending.

## **Unpaid work**

### **Please describe a case study or provide examples of unpaid work activity**

#### **Joinery**

##### Memorial bench renovation project

With over one thousand memorial benches across the local authority, we work in partnership with WDC Greenspace Team to renovate benches that can be repaired whilst Greenspace replace those beyond repair with composite benches.

#### **Environmental/Biodiversity work**

##### Forest Schools

Support provided to local primary schools to establish and maintain outdoor forest school areas.

##### Knowetop Farm

This is a social enterprise based around horticulture to support people in recovery and promote inclusivity. Support has been provided to establish a Community Food Growing Space, create access paths, and remove and disposal of original farm fencing.

##### Alexandria Green Corridor

Support local community groups to develop Green Corridors in the town by levelling grounds, clearing overgrowth and moss, building raised beds and flowerpots, planting trees, and establishing garden areas for those in need.

##### CHAS

Support a local children's hospice to maintain their six-acre gardens.

##### Annual church maintenance programme

Continuation of programme for local churches across the authority to support an aging congregation to maintain the gardens and grounds

##### Footpaths/nature walking routes

Overgrowth clearance and drainage maintenance of local nature walks and cycle paths. Repair and build pathways using re-cycled road planings to make safe for pedestrians.

##### Litter picking.

General litter picking and fly tipping clearance.

#### **Painting and Decorating**

Interior painting and decoration of residential homes

#### **WDC Food Parcel deliveries**

Doorstep delivery service of food parcels for WDC Foodshare

#### **Barnardos Charity Shops**

Barnardo's provide individual placement opportunities provided by three shops based across the local authority.

#### **Restoration of Old Kilpatrick War Memorial**



### Other activity

**Please describe the main types of "other activity" carried out as part of unpaid work or other activity requirement.**

#### CPO Connects online CBT courses – The Wise Group

Connect is all online, each session lasts two hours and delivered by a friendly facilitator in an informal way. Topics include:

- Mental health
- Physical health
- Pro-social networks
- Employment
- Financial inclusion
- Digital Skills

#### Creative Change Collective (formerly known as Street Cones)

Creative Change Collective, which brings together professionals from the creative industries to affect positive change, it uses film and theatre type activities to help participants on the charity's programmes achieve more positive outcomes in their lives.

#### Local addiction services –

Dumbarton Area Council on Alcohol

Alternatives incorporates a Community Recovery Programme and offers Specialist Residential Rehabilitation, aiming to support individuals with problematic drug and alcohol use.

HSCP: Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services

#### Employability and training services

- Working4U
- Fair Start
- The Lennox Partnership
- Venture Trust

## 2) Feedback

**Please provide a summary of quotes or feedback on the impact of supervision requirements and or unpaid work or other activity requirements from the following perspectives:**

- **People subject to a supervision requirement**

*"I wouldn't be here talking to you now – if it hadn't been for P (social worker) and R (unpaid work officer). They have been brilliant to me" (J Nov 23)*

Many service users have discussed with their worker how supervision has made a positive impact on their lives. Social isolation, poverty and substance misuse are considered to be the

- **People undertaking unpaid work or other activity requirement.**

*“Would be nice to do this as a job possibly help others get practical help which could help them get a job.*

*“Do think my cooperation in the scheme may benefit others.”*

- **The community and beneficiaries of unpaid work**

- I just wanted to get in touch to say thank you for helping at Saint Patrick's PS. Your help is greatly appreciated by all the team and all the children. (Depute Head Teacher, Nov 2023)
- Please convey our thanks to all concerned especially Stevie, Eddie, and Andy! The war memorial is looking fantastic and has already received lots of positive comments. Hope all is well with you and once again thank you for your continued support (Izzy, Old Kilpatrick Community Council, Nov 2023)

### **3) Benefits and challenges of other CPO requirements**

Please mark with a cross the requirements that were imposed by courts in 2023 to 2024.

- ☒ Compensation requirement
- ☒ Programme requirement
- ☐ Residence requirement
- ☒ Restricted movement requirement
- ☒ Conduct requirement
- ☐ Alcohol treatment requirement
- ☐ Drug treatment requirement
- ☐ Mental health treatment requirement

**For each of the requirements that were imposed (up to a maximum of 300 words) please describe innovative and best practice, challenges, and impact associated with each.**

There were 79 Conduct requirements attached to Community Payback Orders. These included requirements to address substance misuse, mental health concerns. There were two programme requirements to undertake the Caledonian programme.

#### **Case study 1**

An example of best practice was evident through the collaborative approach used to support a highly vulnerable female service user required to address both her substance misuse and presenting mental health issues as part of a conduct requirement.

The allocated justice social worker worked alongside colleagues from mental health, homelessness, Women's Aid and Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services (ADRS) to support AB achieve stability. The social worker also liaised closely with the woman's legal counsel to ensure that the Court had all information on AB's circumstances when she attended for regular reviews at Court.

All staff involved with AB were so concerned over her vulnerabilities that after each contact had with her, they created an 'all service' distribution list to share information timeously with each other. This also afforded staff the opportunity to support in 'real time' and mitigate risk to AB.

The close collaboration between services ensured that AB was supported to move to a place of safety. The evidence of AB working with services reassured the Courts to enable her to continue with her Community Payback Order.

### **Case study 2**

Through supporting and undertaking offence focussed work with her, DM has never minimised her offending behaviour. She has shown remorse for her actions and although not mitigating her behaviour, she has reflected that she struggled in the hospital environment and mental health was poor, leading to her being placed on a Community Payback Order.

She continued to engage with the community mental health team and was compliant with her medication. She received regular weekly support from third sector colleagues provided by the mental health team and support moving forward is intended to support her to organise her week and focus on promoting her independence with her shopping, looking at courses and encouraging her to engage with support providers, to build confidence in the community.

During her Order DM successfully completed an online college course in adverse childhood experiences. She is considering further college courses but is also keen to gain employment. She has attended a project to support with her CV / sourcing voluntary work and employment and is planning to join their employability group which meets on a weekly basis.

There have been no further incidents of offending behaviour during DM's Order. She remains settled in her local community with a degree of stability in her mental health that she has not experienced for a period of time.

DM's supervision was due to complete in April 2024. Considering the positive progress demonstrated by DM, her improved mental health and strong engagement with the community mental health team, along with her prospects and increased confidence in the community, the Court were asked to consider an early discharge of her Community Payback Order, which was granted on application.

#### **4) Organisational improvements and ongoing challenges**

Looking back at last year (2022-2023), have there been any improvements to the challenges you noted? Are there any challenges you are still facing this year (2023-2024)?

Justice social work services continue to experience some notable increases, and this coupled with the difficulty in the recruitment of suitably qualified staff, remains an ongoing challenge.

- We have re-established unpaid work services to pre-pandemic levels.
- the backlog in outstanding Unpaid Work hours to be completed was addressed through use of allowing multiple days of attendance where capacity allowed, and it is a credit to staff and those subject to the orders that the backlog has reduced.

Challenges for the service, continue to include:

- Accessing mental health supports for service users.
- The recruitment of staff, with posts being advertised several times has impacted on our ability to fill vacant posts. In turn this has placed additional demands on existing staff.

## **5) Collaborative working across justice partnerships**

Please provide any examples of work with community justice partners, including the third sector, to effectively deliver CPOs.

WD Justice Services and WD Community Justice Partnership collaborate closely in terms of shared priorities of which Community Payback Orders is one. As part of outcome improvement planning WD CJP and Justice Services have created and are currently developing joint working groups that will support local and national outcomes and delivery plans. Specifically:

Pre-conviction Working Group supporting Bail, Remand & Diversion activity relating to all Diversionary measures activity.

Post-Conviction Working Group will consider all justice activity relating to community-based sentences.

The working groups remit considers baseline, development, and impact activity from the analysis of relevant data. The working groups will feed into the Community Justice Partnership in terms of governance, reporting and outcome improvement planning.

### **Authentic Voices Discovery Activity**

As part of outcome improvement planning for the two years WD CJP has committed to better understanding the journey of justice service users to support improvement activity relating to the development and shaping of justice services. To support this activity the CJP has created an Authentic Voices Working Group. The group will explore opportunities to create, develop and direct service delivery that is underpinned by a trauma responsive needs-led framework.

As part of WD Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) the CJP has committed to undertaking Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessments of Justice service delivery to better understand the current landscape and to direct future improvement work.

## **6) Additional information**

**Is there any other relevant information you wish to highlight? This may include:**

- **Areas for improvement and planned next steps.**
- **New ways of working and benefits achieved from these.**

One area that we have recognised is an area of improvement is the use of living and lived experienced voices in the development of our services. As noted above, this has started with service user participation groups, questionnaires and research supported by Safe Lives looking at Women's' experience within the Justice Service.

The increase in service users with mental health issues have increased exponentially and provides challenges to Justice Social Work in supporting individuals in the community. Work has been undertaken with colleagues from Adult Services in Addictions and Mental Health to look to how best as a collective we support mutual service users. Pathways have been developed to ensure greater partnership working and further work is being taken forward with colleagues within our Alcohol and Drug Partnership to enhance this partnership working

and create quicker access to these services for those individuals subject to Community Payback Orders.