

Community Justice Scotland

Ceartas Coimhearsnachd Alba

**Community justice outcome activity across Scotland:
Local area annual return template
Reporting year April 2024 – March 2025**

April 2025

1. Background

This reporting template has been developed in discussion with community justice representatives from local areas. This template is designed to enable local areas to gather information and report on progress towards the community justice outcomes.

2. Statement of Assurance and Data Usage

The information submitted to CJS using this template will be used by CJS in its role to monitor, promote and support improvement in, and keep the Scottish Ministers informed about, performance in the provision of community justice.

In line with provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), CJS will use appropriate data to ensure that there is continuous reporting, development and progress towards the national outcomes. By providing data to CJS you are consenting to its use by CJS as indicated. Community Justice Partnerships should be aware that any information held by CJS is subject to statutory Freedom of Information obligations.

Completion of the template can help local partnerships to fulfil their requirements under s23 (1b) of the Act by using the developed content to inform the production of the publicly facing summary statement of annual progress.

3. General principles of the template

The template and guidance have been developed using the following principles:

- Support CJS in developing the evidence base for local community justice activity and progress across Scotland within the reporting year
- Support CJS to comply with their duties set out in the Act, Sections 26-30
- Support local partners to comply with their local reporting requirements set out in section 23 of the Act.

4. How to fill in the template

The return should be completed and consulted on with partners involved in community justice in your local area. In line with the Act this includes statutory partners, third sector bodies involved in community justice in the area, and such community bodies or other persons as partners consider appropriate. CJS expects that completion of this template will be a collaborative effort.

This template incorporates guidance to support completion, with the text *(in blue)* providing reflective prompts to consider when developing your answer, which can be deleted and replaced with your response. These should be considered together through the development of your answer rather than addressed individually.

There is no expectation that areas will return substantial numerical data. It is likely that local areas will not have the national data indicators set out by the Community Justice Performance Framework at the time they are completing this template. **It is not anticipated that CJS will routinely use or refer to local level national indicator data in the context of the national outcome activity annual report.** If in developing the national report it becomes apparent that local-level data may support further analysis of particular outcomes, for example in identifying potential recommendations, exploring data outliers, or areas for further development, we expect this to be taken forward in discussion with the relevant local areas and partners.

Instead, we want partners to focus on the qualitative evidence drawn from their activity and insights about impact. Relevant local supporting evidence from the [CJS improvement tool](#) that will supplement the national indicator data has been specified under each national outcome in this template. We would encourage partners to develop the response to this template in conversation with each other and view it as an opportunity to reflect on your strengths and needs in partnership.

Where the template asks for evidence, a written response will suffice and there is no expectation that you send additional supporting documentation – if there are any aspects CJS is unclear on, it will be our responsibility to request clarification where necessary.

If any response or evidence requires details about people with lived experience (e.g. evidence in respect of someone's life story) please DO NOT include any identifiable personal or sensitive information (as outlined in Schedules 2 & 3 of the Data Protection Act 1998) as CJS does not require such information. If this is unavoidable then please ensure that the data is fully anonymised.

If you have any queries about completing the template, then please email CJSImprovement@communityjustice.scot.

1. Community Justice Partnership / Group Details

Name of local authority area/s	West Dunbartonshire Council
Name and contact details of the partnership Chair	Name: Beth Culshaw Email: beth.culshaw@ggc.scot.nhs.uk Telephone: 01389 738282
Contact for queries about this report	Name: Dominique haggerty Email: Dominique.haggerty@west-dunbarton.gov.uk Telephone: 07904 996649

2. Template Sign-off from Community Justice Partnership / Group Chair

Enter the name of the chair to confirm that the local community justice partnership representatives have agreed this return as an accurate record. It should be returned to CJS by 26 September 2025.

For the purpose of submitting this return to CJS ensure you have agreement from community justice partners.

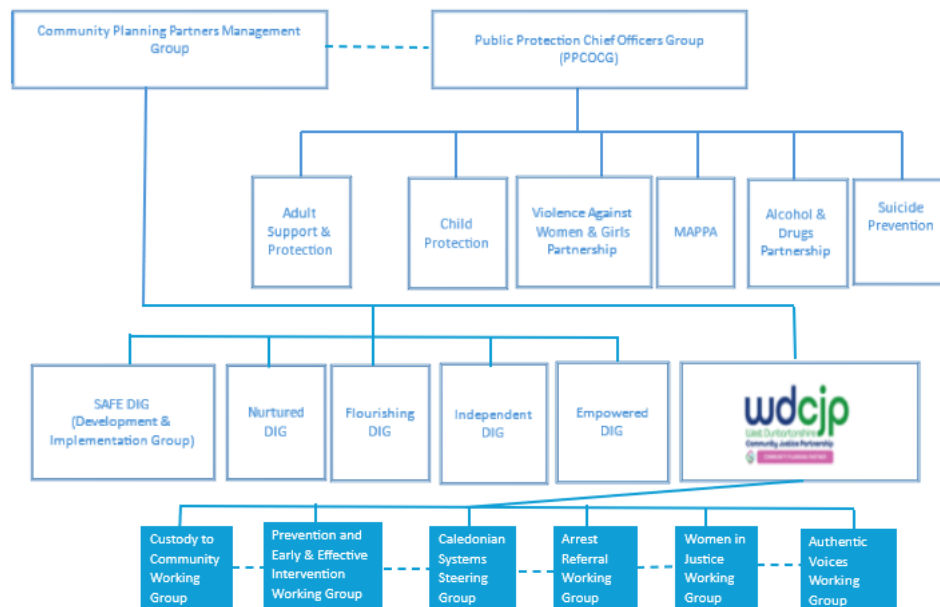
Date: ...30/09/2025.....



Name: Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire HSCP

3. Governance Arrangements

Last year, we asked partnerships to describe their governance structure for community justice arrangements and include links to wider community planning. Please describe any substantive changes since your previous answer.



WD CJP Working Groups

- Custody to Community (Including Bail Supervision, Voluntary/Statutory Throughcare & Remand)
- Arrest Referral Scheme
- Prevention and Early & Effective Intervention (Including, Diversion, Youth Justice and Employability)
- Women in Justice
- Authentic Voices – Experts by Experience
- Caledonian Steering Group (Including performance and audit)

4. The year overall

This section should be used to reflect some of the a) challenges/negative implications and b) opportunities/positive implications from the reporting year on the community justice partnership. This can include impact on the improvement activity, partner collaboration, delivery of services, or other as relevant.

Challenges / Negatives

From April 2024 – April 2025 West Dunbartonshire (WD) has been working in financially insecure times and there has been a local as well as a national housing crisis called. There have also been legislative changes in the justice landscape including the

emergency release of prisoner's scheme as well as sentencing guidelines for long terms prisoner. These changes have had significant implications in terms of capacity for community based social work; longer sentences completed in the community has added an increase in workload in terms of planning and engagement with residents who have been released earlier than anticipated under the new guidance.

A national and local housing emergency has also been called which has had implication for those who are returning to the community from custody, this has consequences for meeting the commitments of the SHORE (Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone) Standards.

The national launch of the Arrest Referral Scheme, led by Police Scotland, has also stalled in terms of traction and direction – this has delayed local progress in terms of successfully embedding the scheme across the locality.

Funding is an ongoing issue. With the move to reduce prison populations and strategically a presumption in favour of community-based sentences, Justice Services are required to provide a wider portfolio of services but with no substantial uplift to current budget, this clearly presents challenges in terms of service provision and delivery.

Positives / Opportunities

Despite the challenges experienced across 2024-2025, there are also many positives to celebrate. There had been much preparation and planning, both locally and nationally, regarding the New Voluntary Throughcare model to ensure its smooth inception into the locality. National voluntary throughcare providers are now part of the whole-systems approach to service delivery in West Dunbartonshire and have membership in the custody – community; women in justice; and prevention and early & effective intervention working groups.

Stakeholder partners have been committed to their statutory duties and undertakings, and the partnership has now established integrated process and procedures and a whole systems approach to outcome improvement activity. The working groups responsible for the delivery of the local Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) have strengthened and focused their priority areas significantly in the past year. Each group has defined its terms of reference and agreed on outcome reporting as part of a whole systems approach to service delivery in WD.

The activity of the Authentic Voices Working group has ensured that lived experience is central to service design and delivery across justice systems in WD. There had been considerable Authentic Voice activity that has contributed significantly to outcome improvement planning in the locality.

West Dunbartonshire Community Justice Partnership (WD CJP) has made much effort to raise the profile of and raise confidences in community-based sentencing by hosting a number of information and awareness raising sessions across the locality for multi-agency partners. These sessions have evaluated excellently and there is a clear appetite from partners to understand community justice in more detail including the partnership approach to reducing recidivism and making communities safer.

WD CJP has made much progress towards developing a trauma responsive workforce. All staff members including business support staff have been trained to Trauma Skilled level to support the delivery of trauma informed justice in all areas of justice business.

Training, development and improving competencies amongst justice and partners staff groups have been a key part of outcome improvement planning from 2023-2024. The following staff training have been developed and delivered to ensure staff competencies:

- All justice staff including business support are now trained to trauma skilled level, and we are committed developing a trauma responsive workforce.
- Responding to domestic abuse on the frontline – business support staff training for crisis.
- Dash-Ric – risk assessment training
- DAAMH (Domestic abuse, addictions, mental health) - intersectionality training
- Bail & Supervision
- SARA V3 – risk assessment
- Caledonian Men's Programme
- Blood Borne Virus
- Adult Support and Protection
- Justice Star training
- Child Protection- Understanding neglect
- CSE awareness
- MARAC Awareness
- JSW report writing
- Risk Practice Training/SA07 (sexual offending)

In summer 2024 WD CJP began the process of planning to host its first conference to support the launch of its first CJOIP and showcase research that has been undertaken in the locality that influences outcome improvement planning.

Priority Action One

Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution

Nationally determined outcome:

More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution¹

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people undertaking diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people supporting the delivery of diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement.

5. What activity has taken place to increase successful completion of diversion? What impact has there been as a result?

There has been much development activity around diversion for both youth and adult justice. The partnership is working towards a better understanding of the use of diversion across the locality through the mechanism of the Prevention & Early and Effective Intervention working group. A strategic needs and strengths assessment commenced in autumn 2024 and is currently underway. This activity is part of strategic planning for the new Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024 and seeks to understand the use of diversion; what diversion activity is available in the locality; and the impact of diversion in terms of keeping people away of justice systems. West Dunbartonshire is in the process of implementing the Care and Risk Management (CARM) Framework as part of best practice response to youth justice and embedding child welfare and protection in justice systems– diversionary activity will be an important part of embedding CARM practices in the locality.

The use of the Justice Star tool is now more embedded in the diversion process and is being used to inform assessment and measure outcomes of the diversion journey. This is going well, and it is anticipated that Outcome Star can soon be used to identify good practice, gaps in provision and areas for improvement.

Street Soccer has been introduced into the locality as part of West Dunbartonshire's Alcohol and Drug Partnership's strategic outcome improvement planning. It is being considered as part of Diversionary and CPO activity in the locality.

“Using football as the engagement hook, we provide education, mental health provision, poverty relief, employability, social connection, volunteering opportunities and positive

¹ National Indicator:

Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

support networks. Taking a trauma-informed approach, all our sessions are hosted in safe, welcoming and supportive environments. Sessions are always free to access, removing economic barriers. Many of our sessions are player-led and delivery is designed to fit the needs of those in attendance. Street Soccer Scotland comprises of a range of inclusive programmes in addition to our regular Adult Drop In. Some examples of this are our Street45 Women's Only Programme, Additional Support Needs sessions, 1-2-1 Mental Health Support and SCQF Courses. At present, we are also delivering sessions and personal development programmes in Prisons across Scotland to those who are due for liberation"

<https://www.streetsoccer.org.uk/scotland/>

Street Soccer will be considered as part of wider commitments to developing the use of diversion in the local authority.

Priority Action Two

Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people in police custody receive support to address their needs²

Local Evidence:

- There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centre for local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population

6. What activity has taken place to support people in police custody to access support? What impact has there been as a result?

West Dunbartonshire's Arrest Referral Scheme (ARS) working group is a joint working group that supports the strategic priorities for both the CJP and ADP. Both partnerships have developed a unified whole-systems approach to identifying the underlying needs of individuals at the point of arrest ensuring person - centred care within police custody.

In the year 2024-2025 the group has explored opportunity to create, develop and direct enhanced support that is underpinned by a trauma responsive, needs-led framework that effects desistance, diversion, and effectively reduces recidivism. The previous pilot in WD was limited to drug and alcohol services and both partnerships were keen to ensure that the projected scheme is more inclusive of wider services i.e. mental health services, food banks, housing services. The group is working towards the outcome improvement plan by adopting a 'whole - person', 'whole - family', 'whole - systems' response to service intervention.

This whole-systems approach ensures that WD residents are afforded as much support as possible, provided the right support at the right time, ensuring enhanced outcomes and positive destinations. In preparation for the National Launch of the ARS the working group has considered different models of service delivery, referral pathways, data collection and reporting, and a targeted approach to meeting the needs of high-risk individuals to mitigate the impact of conflicting with the law by recognising the relationship between offending behaviour and complex needs. To inform outcome improvement planning the group has been considering the following:

- NHS Scotland/National Police Care Network: Targeted Operating Model for Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services for People in Police Custody.

² National Indicator:

- Number of referrals from custody centres

- NHS Scotland/National Police Care Network: Targeted Operating Model for Children and Young People in Police Custody in Scotland who require Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services.
- NHS Scotland/National Police Care Network Target Operating Model – Addictions (Drugs & Alcohol) Focus Group.
- COSLA: Scotland's Health and Well-being strategy.
- Scottish Government: Multi-Agency Partnership Approach to Distress Framework for Collaboration.
- HMICS Thematic review of policing mental health in Scotland
- SHAAP: Alcohol in Justice. Position on people with alcohol disorder in the justice system.
- SACRO: Custody Navigators Service

Both partnerships are in the process of considering viable and sustainable options that support residents to a positive destination and will impact on decision making at the point of sentencing.

Once WD has agreed on a viable operating model consideration will be given to impact measures in terms of impact to the person and impact at court and sentencing decisions.

Priority Action Three

Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively

Nationally determined outcome:

More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision³

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place to support a high-quality bail assessment.
- Referral pathways are in place that support identified needs of people on bail supervision.

7. What activity has taken place to increase the use of bail, and support people to access services to address needs while on bail? What impact has there been as a result?

To increase the use of Bail within West Dunbartonshire the following actions have been taken:

- Justice social work team managers have met with local sentencers to raise awareness of the option of Bail supervision and electronic monitoring as an alternative to remand.
- Information and awareness sessions have been held for faculty colleagues.
- Fiscals and lawyers are in support of Bail Supervision and there has been an increase in staffing at the local court to engage with service users.
- Staff continue to use of the Outcome Star needs assessment tool to improve service delivery and outcomes for service users.
- There has been a joined-up approach with wider strategic partners including WD ADP and WD Housing Solutions Partnerships to facilitate a greater support and confidence in the use of Bail Supervision within the local authority.
- The development of robust relationships between legal representatives and court staff has been hugely valuable in ensuring bail assessments are requested timeously and available to sentencers.

Service users have been supported to maintain family connections, maintain employment and address needs related to their offending as part of their engagement with bail supervision.

Community Justice Scotland have developed training focusing on diversion and bail supervision and justice social work staff are welcoming of this enhancement and support.

³ National Indicator:

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

Priority Action Four

Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

8. What activity has taken place in your area to increase the use electronic monitoring technologies? What impact has there been as a result?

To support the use Electronic Monitoring in WD information session have been hosted in partnership with G4S to help staff understand the parameters of use of EM and the benefits of using electronic monitoring. The session evaluated excellently and there are plans to run further session to ensure that all staff are aware of the benefits of electronic monitoring.

As part of continued improvement planning and ensuring equity for all residents of WD consultation was undertaken as part of authentic voice activity. This activity proved to be hugely beneficial in understanding the unique needs of the gypsy/traveller community within the locality. A partnership approach with MECOPP helped the partnership to understand that specific consideration required to be included in court reports to ensure a human right, respecting approach was adopted. Consideration must be given to the welfare needs of the gypsy traveller community in that welfare facilitates are not located within the dwelling place and rather located elsewhere on sites. This is important because community members are likely to be ostracised if they use the welfare facilities in their dwelling as it may be seen as unclean. This has clear implications for the protection of community and social networks within the gypsy/traveller community. WD is in the process of upskilling the staff group to ensure cultural sensitivity in all court reports where EM is appropriate and suggested as a sentencing option.

As of June 2025, there are changes to the operation of EM in that it will no longer operate by radio frequency but rather GPS and this will be hugely beneficial in terms of flexibility of use and applicability. The applicability of EM is being considered by the Prevention and Early and Effective intervention working group to consider responses to VAWG, the intersectionality of offending, addictions and Youth Justice.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=biAOmXnmORsYLp6yxP4IJD6uwaz3YPwa&id=iQL2878eYkezdQNdHqtRQ9G4mEfumgpCmA_52TeLxZNUMjVYVzdGQkhaQ1cyNUIMNUpKRktON0w1Ry4u

Priority Action Five

Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences⁴

Local Evidence

- Availability of local programmes to support desistance from domestic abuse and sexual offending.
- Availability of referral pathways to support the needs of local population on community disposals.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people with experience of community disposals to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of the community justice workforce with regard to supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement.

9. *What activity has taken place that will support people serving sentences in the community to desist from offending, address their needs, and help them successfully complete their sentence? What impact has there been as a result?*

WD HSCP has independently funded the Caledonian Programme in the locality due to the high prevalence rates of domestic abuse in the locality. Staff have all now been trained on assessment, 1:1 sessions and group work sessions. There are currently seven social workers who are trained to deliver the Caledonian case managers pack, which consists of fourteen sessions that are required to be undertaken prior to an individual's inclusion in the 26 session groupwork programme.

The Caledonian System men's programme has been receiving assessments/orders from the Courts since January 2024. Over the course of last year and this year, we have undertaken 78 Caledonian assessments which have either been in conjunction with justice social work reports (requested either by the court themselves or undertaken from the assessment of the social workers). These are significant and complex pieces of work in themselves requiring multiple interviews, complex assessment and liaison with a variety of agencies to collate the required data/intelligence. From these Caledonian assessments this has generated 41 community payback orders with a programme requirement to undertake the Caledonian programme.

⁴ National Indicator:

Percentage of:

- community payback orders successfully completed
- drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed

The programme is running well in the locality and outcome improvement planning is supported by the Caledonian Steering Group. The remit of the group is to support embedding and shaping of 'The Caledonian System' across West Dunbartonshire. The group is responsible for directing enhanced and targeted activity and actions, which will ensure the fidelity of the system and associated men's programme. Activity is underpinned by a trauma responsive, needs-led framework that will contribute to wider activity effecting desistance, diversion, and effectively reduces recidivism with respect to Domestic Abuse and Violence.

The group has been developing a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) between partners to ensure effective communication and agreed protocols to manage risk and ensure the safety of victims as paramount. The SOP is being developed in a partnership approach and each partner has contributed to its development. The 1st draft of the SOP has been referred to other strategic partner i.e. the VAWGP and the MARAC steering group for scrutiny and agreement.

The group is further considering protocols regarding breeches of orders and responding to breeches timeously to ensure that the men who are on the programme are engaging a meaningful way and that risk is always considered in a dynamic manner and shared with relevant partners i.e. justice and children and families' social work.

As part of a partnership approach with the Child Protection Committee the working group is considering the incorporation of multiagency chronologies as part of best practice to ensure that all significant information is shared with relevant stakeholder partners. The group is developing protocols around ensuring contribution to the chronologies or use of single -agency chronology as standard practice for those who are part of the Caledonian men's programme.

As part of ongoing commitment to quality assurance a performance and audit subgroup has been created to support outcome improvement planning for Caledonian systems. A performance and audit tool has been developed and dip sampling of reports undertaken. The group focused on the standard of assessment including thorough analysis of the SARA – V3, recommendations, and sheriff sentencing along with analysis of those who were deemed not suitable for the programme.

The audit activity showed a high standard of assessment and congruence in terms of recommendations. Actions for outcome improvement planning are focused on better understanding of Sheriffs decision making at sentencing when inclusion for the programme have been recommended but not upheld or the programme being included in sentencing when recommendations suggested that the programme was not suitable and the programme not being recommended as part of insecure housing. This work is ongoing and will continue as a function of the group.

The Caledonian working group is closely aligned with the MARAC steering group to ensure robust information sharing across and between shared priority and policy areas.

Women's Safety and Support Service (WSSS) as part of Caledonian Systems

Operating within Justice Services and providing support to women and children as part of the Caledonian System, the WSSS adopts a whole-system approach, supporting survivors while also working alongside services addressing the behaviour of convicted domestic abuse offenders. The service pathway includes comprehensive risk

assessment, safety planning, recovery support, and change-focused practice. This integrated model ensures women and children are safer and better supported across the system.

Case Study: Donna's Journey Through Recovery from Domestic Abuse

Using the Three-Stage Trauma Model of Recovery (Judith Herman 1992; 2015)

➤ Stage 1: Safety and Stabilisation: Background and Experience of Abuse

Donna, a 24-year-old woman and mother to two daughters aged 2 and 13, endured a four-year abusive relationship. Early in the relationship, subtle controlling behaviours emerged. Donna was expected to check in with her partner and limit contact with others. Although he had a history of alcohol addiction, she attempted to set boundaries, such as prohibiting alcohol in the home. The first incident of overt abuse occurred when he returned home intoxicated and began shouting and damaging property. Though not physically assaulted, Donna felt unsafe and feared for herself and her children.

Despite police involvement, Donna gave her partner another chance, partly due to his childhood trauma and fear of abandoning him. However, the abuse escalated, including threats of self-harm and emotional manipulation, particularly when he consumed alcohol. This pattern continued for two more years, alternating between moments of calm and intense volatility. Donna ultimately ended the relationship for the safety of her children. Her ex-partner was charged with domestic abuse and referred to the Caledonian Project, the court-mandated programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Intervention for Safety:

Donna was referred to the Women's Safety and Support Services through the Caledonian system. She was offered voluntary, trauma-informed support focused on her safety and wellbeing. A personalised safety plan was developed, addressing emergency preparation, escape routes, safe spaces, and trusted support networks. This immediate intervention created a sense of structure and control in the midst of psychological turmoil. Donna expressed relief at finally receiving help and acknowledged the severe impact the abuse had on her mental health and sense of security.

Her children's needs and the impact of domestic abuse were also assessed, and the children were supported by a Caledonian children's worker, ensuring their rights were upheld and their emotional needs addressed.

➤ Stage 2: Processing and Remembrance: Therapeutic Support and Emotional Processing

Donna engaged in weekly emotional support sessions. She began to process the fear, shame, and guilt she had carried, particularly around her decision to stay in the relationship. Speaking about her experiences helped her unpack the psychological impact of coercive control and emotional abuse, something she had previously internalised in silence.

Donna described experiencing hypervigilance, a common trauma response, and expressed a desire to learn how to move forward without placing herself or her children at risk. Through therapeutic conversations, she explored the root of these feelings and was supported to safely recall and work through difficult memories. She also developed

an understanding of abuse dynamics, which enabled her to identify patterns and begin to separate herself emotionally from the blame and confusion.

➤ **Stage 3: Reconnection and Reintegration: Growth, Learning, and Future Focus**

As Donna progressed, her focus shifted toward healing and future resilience. She expressed a desire to set strong boundaries, recognise red flags in relationships early on, and build a life based on self-worth and emotional safety. Her ongoing engagement with support services is allowing her to rebuild her identity, both as an individual and as a parent, outside of the abusive dynamic.

She reports that her children are “so much happier” and that she herself feels a sense of inner calm for the first time in years. Donna continues to access support and remains committed to her recovery journey. Her feedback demonstrates a clear shift from surviving to thriving, with strengthened confidence, emotional regulation, and relational awareness.

Feedback from Donna

“I am so grateful for the support I am receiving as I felt that no one cared about my situation. I couldn’t speak to anyone as I was ashamed for staying when I should have left. My children are so much happier without him around and I feel calm inside for the first time in years.”

This structured case study illustrates how trauma-informed, whole-family intervention using Justice integrated services including the Caledonian System and the Three-Stage Trauma Recovery Model can result in meaningful, long-term improvements in safety, mental health, and wellbeing for women and children impacted by domestic abuse.

As part of ongoing activity to raise the profile of the Caledonian System, activity and developments are showcased as part of the multi-agency information and awareness raising sessions in the locality.

Drug Testing & Treatment Orders

The DTTO service is provided by an integrated care team working across West Dunbartonshire to support individuals whose offending is primarily due to their established addiction issues. The staff provide both medical intervention and social work support, encouraging recovery, reduced offending behaviour and promoting stability.

The team are working in partnership with local ADRS services to provide inclusive, wraparound treatment provision, supporting rehabilitation in the community. It is hoped within the forthcoming year, that a single use area will be completed to allow the team to provide a wider range of interventions and treatments and further support to the client group.

Case Study: Anne’s Journey

At the outset of the order Anne’s drug misuse was chaotic and she was in an abusive relationship. The DTTO team worked intensively with her offering trauma informed and needs led support, she is now abstinent from illicit drugs, has enrolled in a college course, spends her free time at the gym and has ended the abusive relationship. Anne speaks very highly of the DTTO service and attributes progress in recovery to her engagement and the support from DTTO team she is now keen to continue her recovery

independently and continue moving on to a positive destination. Anne is happy and free from illicit substances.

Priority Action Six

Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

10. What activity has taken place to make restorative justice available to people and support them to access it, and what impact has there been as a result?

Unfortunately, there have been challenges around restorative justice activity in the locality. There has been issues with provision and this has proved problematic for referrals and numbers of people worked with in this capacity. Consideration is being given to restorative justice activity, this sits with the prevention and early and effective working group. There requires to be further improvement activity to support increased referrals and better understanding of the use of restorative justice practices, alongside improved support from partners to utilise the service

WD is working closely with Community Justice Scotland national activity to develop local restorative justice practices in the locality.

Priority Action Seven

Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence⁵

Local Evidence

- Health and social care circumstances/care plans are reflected in collaborative plans for release.
- Referral pathways and information sharing arrangements are in place to support timely access to health and social care supports upon release.

11. What activity has taken place to support people to access health and social care support after release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

The Custody Community working group has made much progress in the last year and been responding to the early release of prisoner's scheme and the new legislative changes to sentencing guidelines. The group has naturally split into two working groups one that is managing risk and safety of victims as part of release planning, and another group that co-ordinates a whole – systems approach to meeting the health and social care needs of residents as they transition from custody back to the community. Both groups have been hugely successful in terms of ensuring that needs are met. The risk and safety group has created a communication protocol between services to ensure that information around risk is shared and managed timeously. This has been hugely beneficial in terms of safety planning for VAWG and child protection, ensuring the safety of adult and child victims. This group is responsive group that meets when there is a need to communicate and respond to risk.

The whole-systems group has engaged in much activity:

- The group issues a multi-agency brief to communicate the parameters of the early release of prisoners and what this means for stakeholder partners in terms of planning and provision.
- Contributed to the *"Health Needs Assessment of individuals in community justice in services and untried in custody"*, undertaken by Community Justice Health Improvement NHS GGC. WD has also financially contributed to and will be included in phase two of the research that will seek to better understand the health needs of those serving community-based sentences and those on remand.

⁵ National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

- Research has been undertaken in the locality addressing *“Head injury in people in the criminal justice system: Implications for social work practice”*. The custody to community working group is developing responses to embedding the recommendations of the research and what it means for assessment, reporting and intervention.
- The custody to community group has been preparing for the inception of the new National Throughcare model in Scotland and hosted information and awareness raising session at all the working groups to inform partners of the resource. WD CJP also created a 7-minute brief for staff to ensure that all relevant information is communicated to all relevant stake holders.
- To ensure that all resident who are released from custody back to community are supported, WD has created a protocol to triage prison release names and ensure that they are connected with all relevant services and that any potential risk to adult or child victims are shared, i.e. those who have been discussed at MARAC or who have children on the CP register. This has proved beneficial in terms of care planning for children/young people and safety planning for adult victims. This process will continue to be developed and embedded as part of core business.
- WD CJP has been working closely with West College Scotland (WCS) to develop pathways to education from a custody setting transitioning back to community. This work is under development and is seeking to ensure that further education pathways are part of the portfolio of options on offer to WD residents.

Priority Action Eight

Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas

Nationally determined outcome:

More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence⁶

Local Evidence

- SPS admissions and liberations information is shared with relevant partners to support suitable accommodation planning.
- Proportion of admissions where housing advice was provided.
- Percentage of people leaving prison who have been housed by the local authority and have maintained tenancy for more than 1 year

12. What activity has taken place to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

In line with SHORE standards, data obtained from the ISP is shared with housing services on a weekly basis. This identifies points of contact and required actions for people in custody who have been sentenced or remanded.

Initial contact is made to the relevant prison either by phone or in person and arrangements made to link in with prisoner. These appointments are carried out by the resettlement team either in the Link Centre, agent visits, phone calls or video calls to further afield prisons.

The Resettlement team will attend ICM if required.

Resettlement Team will meet with the prisoner and identify housing needs and assess the risk factors for homelessness. This requires joint working with various other agencies e.g. CJSW, Health, Police, Housing.

Tenancy sustainment always play a vital role in the assessment. The Resettlement Team work closely with Corporate Debt and Housing Officers to ensure where possible the tenancy is maintained, and manageable payment plans are in place for any rent on release.

WDC will look at the potential to sub -let if suitable.

WDC have a Resettlement team who have their own temporary accommodation flats which are used for prisoner release if requiring homeless accommodation. The resettlement team work closely with the Justice services and have close working

⁶ National Indicator:
Number of:

- homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

relationships with statutory cases. Within the Resettlement is the SOLO who has the responsibility of the MAPPA cases and stable/ suitable accommodation on release.

The resettlement team also benefits from a supported accommodation worker who provides housing support in temporary accommodation.

Resettlement Team look at the options to convert temporary properties depending on occupant needs/wishes and availability of accommodation.

Close working and referrals to Housing First for those with multiple and complex needs also takes place.

Priority Action Nine

Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment⁷

Local Evidence

- Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports:
 - i. local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions
 - ii. local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support
 - iii. local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions.
- Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support:
 - i. at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO
 - ii. following release from custody.

13. What activity has taken place to support people to access employability support, and what impact had there been as a result?

WD CJP employability is supported heavily by WDC Working 4U partners and The Lennox Partnership (TLP) to ensure that all residents who are part of justice, or are on the fringes of justice, are supported to reach positive destinations by reducing barriers to employment and enhancing employability skills.

Working 4U and The Lennox Partnership sit on various working groups:

- Prevention & Early and Effective Intervention
- Custody to Community
- Authentic Voices

This has proved invaluable in terms of referrals and identifying the long term unemployed who have a desire to for employment and those struggling because they experience barriers to employment. As part of this activity Working 4U has partnered with Scottish Families affected by alcohol and drugs (Sfad) and developed a targeted approach to young people on the fringes of justice or part of justice services to ensure that employability needs are supported.

⁷ National Indicator:
Percentage of:

- those in employability services with convictions

The Lennox Partnership has made much traction with the prison service and has managed to access Greenock Low Moss prison as part of the ICM process prior to liberation. The worker from TLP is based in the prison on a regular basis connecting with residents prior to release and liaising closely with WDCs SOLO and housing/homelessness team.

Both Working 4U and TLP work closely with DWP and SSS (also members of the custody to community working group) to ensure benefit maximisation and that all residents are getting the financial support and benefits they are entitled to.

Over the 2024/25 reporting period, West Dunbartonshire has delivered a coordinated and partnership-led employability response for individuals with criminal convictions, focused on addressing persistent barriers to employment and promoting long-term rehabilitation. The area's strategic approach is underpinned by the Local Employability Partnership (LEP), which brings together statutory and voluntary partners to deliver an aligned and evidence-based employability offer. A key part of this offer is the commissioning of specialist support services specifically tailored to justice-impacted individuals.

West Dunbartonshire Council's Working 4U service through their Scottish Government No One Left Behind (NOLB) and UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) in agreement with the LEP and in collaboration with Community Justice partners, commissioned The Lennox Partnership (TLP) to provide trauma-informed, needs-led employability support for people affected by the justice system. This commissioning was developed with direct input from justice and social work teams and responds to evidence from local data which shows that 7% of unemployed individuals supported through NOLB funding has a history of criminal convictions. The model recognises the need for bespoke interventions that account for the stigma, systemic disadvantage, and complex needs that individuals with convictions often face.

Effective referral pathways have been established to ensure justice-impacted residents can access the right support at the right time. These pathways connect individuals at the beginning, during, and upon completion of Community Payback Orders (CPOs), and support people following release from custody. TLP employs a key worker model with staff embedded directly within justice and social work offices, enabling a seamless and person-centred route into employability services. These staff work closely with Working 4U and other partners to offer one-to-one support, job readiness activities, money and debt advice and access to qualifications and employer opportunities.

In addition to participant-facing services, Working 4U and TLP have worked to strengthen the capacity of local employers to engage with justice-experienced individuals. Employers are offered guidance on convictions, disclosure procedures, and fair recruitment practices. A wide and growing range of local employers—such as Network Rail, G4S, and Kier Construction—are now active partners in this agenda, providing inclusive job opportunities, placements, and second-chance employment routes.

Skills development has remained a core component of the model. Through Working4U and The Lennox Partnership's SQA-accredited training centres, participants have been supported to achieve both essential and vocational qualifications. In addition to structured learning, the programme has helped address key employability barriers such as lack of identification, low confidence, poor work history, and low literacy or digital skills. Wraparound support has been made available through Working 4U's wider offer, ensuring a holistic response to individual need.

The integrated employability approach in West Dunbartonshire has delivered measurable improvements in supporting individuals with criminal convictions and those impacted by the justice system. The combined efforts of Working 4U and The Lennox Partnership have ensured access to tailored support, qualifications, and job opportunities. The specialist delivery model, embedded within justice services, has surpassed set targets and effectively addressed key barriers to employment and supported individuals into positive, sustained outcomes.

West Dunbartonshire – Employability Outcomes for Justice-Impacted Individuals (2024/25) Programme Performance Statistics

The following table outlines performance data for general employability and support from Working 4U for participants with criminal convictions and/or justice impacted and the specialist contribution to delivery by The Lennox Partnership for Justice impacted participants in 2024/25:

Outcomes	Working 4U	The Lennox Partnership (specialist support)	Total
Specialist Referrals	N/A	43	43
Programme Starts	61	31	92
Job Starts	54	17	71
Qualifications Achieved	69	14	83

In summary, West Dunbartonshire's employability activity for justice-impacted individuals has demonstrated the value of a joined-up, locally responsive model that integrates employability with the wider justice and support system. By investing in specialist provision, building trust across sectors, and strengthening employer engagement, the area has improved access to opportunity for a group often excluded from the labour market. This work contributes meaningfully to national efforts to reduce reoffending and support inclusive economic participation.

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2982/7-minute-briefing-cj-employability.pdf>

Priority Action Ten

Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services

Nationally determined outcome:

More people access voluntary throughcare following a short-term prison sentence⁸

Local Evidence

- Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences.
- Proportion of people liberated from short term custody:
 - i. made aware of support
 - ii. accepting support offer
 - iii. with a co-ordinated pre-release plan in place.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people accessing voluntary throughcare to support improvement.
- Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of community justice partners in delivering voluntary throughcare to support the needs of people leaving short term custody.

14. What activity has taken place to support people to access voluntary throughcare? What impact had there been as a result?

The National Voluntary Through Care providers were made known in April 2025. Following named persons for the locality there has been much developmental work undertaken in partnership with Upside.Scot. and WD CJP.

Upside organisation has been invited to join:

- Custody to Community working group
- Prevention and Early and Effective Intervention working group
- Women in Justice working group
- Authentic Voices working group

Upside have also welcomed the opportunity to be part of the Community Justice and partners Information and Awareness raising sessions to raise the profile and visibility of the service. To support the inception of the new service into WD a seven-minute brief was cascaded around stake holder partners. Going forward Upside will also be part of Justice and partners information and awareness raising session for the rest of the year.

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2984/7-minute-briefing-national-voluntary-throughcare.pdf>

⁸ National Indicator:
Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

Priority Action Eleven

Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

Local evidence:

- Mechanisms are in place to support engagement in each local authority, specifically:
 - a community justice outcomes improvement plan (CJOIP)
 - a participation statement
 - an annual report on progress towards nationally and locally determined outcomes.
- Mechanisms are in place to support an effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives within Community Justice Partnerships.
- Evidence of mechanisms to engage non-statutory partners in strategic planning
- Use of the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with focus on Leadership and Direction

15. How has your partnership worked to develop local leadership and enhance strategic planning and collaboration? What impact had there been as a result?

WD CJP ratified its first Terms of reference for the Community Justice partnership in September 2024 (see Appendix 1).

WD CJP has created and developed the first Community Justice outcome Improvement Plan for the locality – CJOIP 2024-2027.

The CJOIP was created and developed in partnership with all stakeholder partners who collectively agreed the strategic outcomes priorities and their commitment to the thematic working groups. Each thematic Group is chaired by a stakeholder partner who lead on activity, data collection and analysis and co-ordinate the group's outcome improvement activity.

The CJOIP has a clear participation statement:

"WD CJP is committed to continue to engage with WD residents, listen to them, and empower them to influence, contribute, and shape, strategic outcome priorities and enablers across and between all facets of WD Justice Service's portfolio. To inform our Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP), WD CJP created engagement and participation opportunities with justice service users (previous and current), justice staff and managers, partner members of the CJP, and the wider workforce and community". Participation activity is detailed fully in the CJOIP.

All stakeholder partners and partners without a statutory duty have contributed to outcome improvement planning activity and subsequent working group activity. The input from partners has been excellent and has allowed for varying work streams to be

progressed. Of note the partner who contribute to WD CJP without any statutory obligation are:

1. Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)
2. West College Scotland (WCS)
3. WDC Working 4U

In terms of national partnership working the Community Justice Co-ordinator sits on the following National Groups:

- MATSIN Justice Forum
- National VAWG Partnership
- Health Improvement in Police Custody (Police Scotland Targeted ((ToM) Operating Model)
- Community Justice Health Improvement NHS GCC Strategic group
- Action on Perpetrator Network: SafeLives
- Cross – Cutting Policy Agendas Peer Network: Improvement service

WD Justice Social Work Officer sits on the following National Groups:

- Social Work Scotland; Justice Standing Committee
- Prevention and Early Intervention Operational Forum (chair)
- Prevention and Early & Effective Intervention Strategy group (vice chair)

WD CSWO sits on the following National group:

- National Chief Social Work Officers group

WD CJP has worked closely with Community Justice Scotland and embedded suggestions from the targeted resources tools to support national outcome improvement planning in local authority areas. Focused data collection and reporting has been included with all the working group ToRs and will be reported on for the first time in October 2025. This was achieved in the working groups and data gaps have also been identified.

Since WD's first CJOIP was offered from 2024-2027 it has been agreed that the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide' will be utilised to reflect progress and quality assurance for performance and outcome improvement planning early 2026. This allows for development activity and work to be progressed and reflected on in a meaningful way. Self-evaluation will be reported on in the next end of year report.

Priority Action Twelve

Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded

No nationally determined outcome.

Progress in delivering this priority action should be evidenced with reference to any relevant local activity.

16. How has your partnership worked to understand and incorporate the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families into partnership planning and implementation? *What impact has there been as a result?*

WD CJP has made much progress to ensure that service provision and delivery is borne out of co-production and shape by authentic voices. The Authentic Voices working group has made much traction in terms of gathering the voices of those with lived experiences as part of outcome improvement planning in the locality.

In September 2024 WD HSCP Women's Safety and Support Service embarked on discovery activity as part of a collaborative approach with SafeLives to better understand the journey of women who have experienced domestic abuse involvement with justice systems from the point of arrest through to prosecution. The discovery report was heard at the Justice conference in June 2025 and embedding the recommendation from the report is being considered by both WD VAWGP and CJP a part of a unified response to improving outcomes for women involved with justice and wider social work systems.

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2988/womans-justice-journeys-document.pdf>

The authentic voices working group is made up of multi-agency partners and each partner is focusing on gathering the voices of those with lived experience in their respective areas. Action for children, Engagement Coordinator, Voices of the Promise, is part of the authentic voices working group. Action for Children are currently undertaking lived experience discovery activity, and this will be reported on in the forthcoming months. This report will be escalated to WD CJP to consider the implementation and embedding of recommendations as part of prevention work for youth justice. It is hoped learnings will also inform wider outcome improvement planning for adult justice services.

Focus sessions have been held with MECOPP to better understand the cultural sensitivities when working with the gypsy/traveller communities and ensuring that learnings are embedded into practice (see details regarding EM in previous part of this report) improving outcomes for minoritised communities.

WD CJP is currently developing evaluation and impact measure to collate the voices of those engage with justice services and this will be reported on in the forthcoming year. Evaluation and impact measures for:

- Bail Supervision
- CPO
- DTTO
- Unpaid work

are currently underway and will be linked with justice star outcome measures.

As part of authentic voice focus group activity, it was recognised that lack of health and well-being activity on release from custody or as part of recovery and rehabilitation was a gap in service provision that was deemed as being very important by justice service users. WD CJP responded to this by utilising a partnership approach to applying for funding. A local community gym was awarded funding to support Justice service Users on their recovery, rehabilitation and wellness journey. This was a significant positive outcome for justice services – there has been much stigma attached to service users being supported in wellness activity – the arrangement with the local community hub will reduce stigma, reduce barriers, and offer needs led support to optimise successful recovery and rehabilitation into the community. This activity has been developed with evaluation and impact measure build in and will be reported on in the following year.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in West Dunbartonshire has partnered with the Scottish Parole Board to support Scotland's Safe Space Initiative. A developing focus on the needs of victims, and recent legislative change resulted in new rights for victims in the parole process has led to the need to create a new Victims Team. The Team is dedicated to improving the service received for victims across Scotland and ensure they have a voice in the Parole Process. This initiative has allowed the Parole Board Victims Team to gain a location to hold an observation across any locality with ease.

To date West Dunbartonshire SFRS have facilitated 13 observations at Clydebank Fire Station under the Safe Space Initiative since the commencement of the partnership in October 2023.

Priority Action Thirteen

Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

Nationally determined outcome:

More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice⁹

Local Evidence

⁹ National Indicator:

Percentage of people who agree that:

- people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

- Community justice partner contribution to joint activity across policy areas to tackle stigma.

17. What partnership-driven activity has taken place to improve understanding of and confidence in community justice across the workforce and local community?

To support this priority area WD CJP has hosted information and awareness raising sessions across the locality and open to multi-agency partners (see Appendix 2).

The sessions have evaluated well, and this will part of ongoing activity.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=pZ5Q3AUSuncFtvU9p03UE1sYDM8shS2s&id=iQL2878eYkezdQNdHgtRQ9G4mEfumgpCmA_52TeLxZNUOTVJVzE3RE1OUkJGRzAxQVE5SJbHUIhBMi4u

Along with the wider information and awareness raising sessions focused session on the CJOIP have also been offered to ensure that staff groups including housing/homelessness; children & families social work; education services; health and 3rd sector partners are aware of the strategic and operational undertakings associated with the CJOIP and its delivery in the locality.

WD CJP has created a 7-minute brief for:

- CJOIP

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2983/7-minute-briefing-cjoip.pdf>

- Employability

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2982/7-minute-briefing-cj-employability.pdf>

- National Voluntary Throughcare

<http://www.wdhscp.org.uk/media/2984/7-minute-briefing-national-voluntary-throughcare.pdf>

These briefs are shared across strategic partnerships and sent directly to multi-agency staff groups to ensure that information is cascaded as widely as possible.

WD Community Justice is represented on the following local strategic partnerships:

- WD Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- WDC Housing Solutions Partnership
- WD Child Protection & Adult Support & Protection – learning and development group
- WD HSCP Engagement and Participation Group
- WD Health Improvement Trauma Informed and Responsive Group
- WD Violence against Women and Girls' Partnership (VAWGP)

WD Community Justice contributes to the wider strategic plans of the various partnerships and ensures a whole systems approach to shared policy and priority areas.

WD VAWGP and Trauma Informed and Responsive Group are taking a partnership approach to impact assessing and have begun the process of developing an Integrated Impact Assessment between the respective areas. This will be reported upon in the forth coming year.

WD Community Justice Partnership embarked on sharing the priorities of the partnership with the wider community. It provided input into Faily Community Guild as part of raising the profile and visibility of the partnership and its priorities in the locality. The input was very well received and resulted in a financial contribution being donated to support the work of the partnership.

The partnership is contributing to a new internet page that will host all relevant information regarding community justice in the locality. This will be ready in the next few months and will showcase the continued progress and success of the partnership.

This year the partnership has engaged with planning and development activity in preparation for the Community Justice “Trauma Informed Justice” Conference The outcomes for the conference are:

Keynote Speakers:

Objectives

1.To increase awareness and support of West Dunbartonshire’s Justice Services and Community Justice Partnership.

2.To demonstrate West Dunbartonshire’s progress, and continued commitment, to delivering National and Local Outcome Improvement Planning for Community Justice in West Dunbartonshire.

3.Key Performance Indicators:

- Delegates reporting a greater understanding of and confidence in community-based sentences
- Delegates supportive of a trauma responsive approach to justice and supporting this model of service delivery
- Stakeholder Partners attending the event
- Evaluation of event
- Develop a shared understanding of local priorities

4.Expected number of attendees: 60 delegates.

Spotlight Events

Objectives

1. To demonstrate how partners work together to deliver a ‘whole-person’, ‘whole – family’, ‘whole – systems’ approach to service delivery, reducing recidivism and supporting WD residents to positive destinations.

2. To raise the profile of the core business of Community Justice and partner services.

3. Governance structures (VAWP/CJP/ADP/Public Protection Cog etc.) that underpin services to be understood and transparent.

4. Delegates to understand referral pathways to services.

5. Showcase a 'Trauma Informed' approach to service delivery – including safeguarding for victims.

6. This activity will be reported on in the forth coming year and a Community Justice conference will be held aligned to each cycle of strategic planning

18. Look ahead for your local area. Please tell us what the next steps are for your partnership.

To continue with the strategic priorities as set out in the local CJOIP and associated delivery plan.