



Community Justice Progress Report 2024-25

Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership



FOREWORD



As Chair of the Community Justice and Safety Partnership, it is my pleasure to share our second official public facing annual report outlining the Partnership's progress against the National Strategy for Community Justice (launched June 2022) and our local Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (launched June 2023).

We continued to work hard during the reporting period to ensure the availability of robust community-based options in an effort to shift the balance of care between custodial and community disposals in line with the national direction of travel.

Bailie Chris Ahern, Chair of the Community Justice and Safety Partnership

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the progress of the Perth and Kinross Community Justice and Safety Partnership (CJ&SP) against national and local community justice priorities during 2024-25.

Diversion from Prosecution: The reporting period saw an increase in successful diversion completions. Audits undertaken identified strengths in assessment and engagement, with ongoing efforts to improve communication and consistency in procedures.

Support Following Arrest: The Complex Needs Project continued to co-ordinate referrals from police custody, providing community navigation and support for individuals with multiple needs.

Bail Supervision: Bail services maintained high assessment volumes but saw a decrease in cases commenced and successful completions, prompting further examination. Co-location with police supported timely assessments, and multi-agency training continued to enhance practice.

Electronic Monitoring: Electronic Monitoring with Bail Supervision was available, with comprehensive multi-agency training delivered. Stakeholders recognised its benefits in reducing police resource demands and family disruption.

Community Sentences: Efforts to support desistance included developing performance dashboards, reintroducing quality assurance audits, and expanding trauma-informed programs.

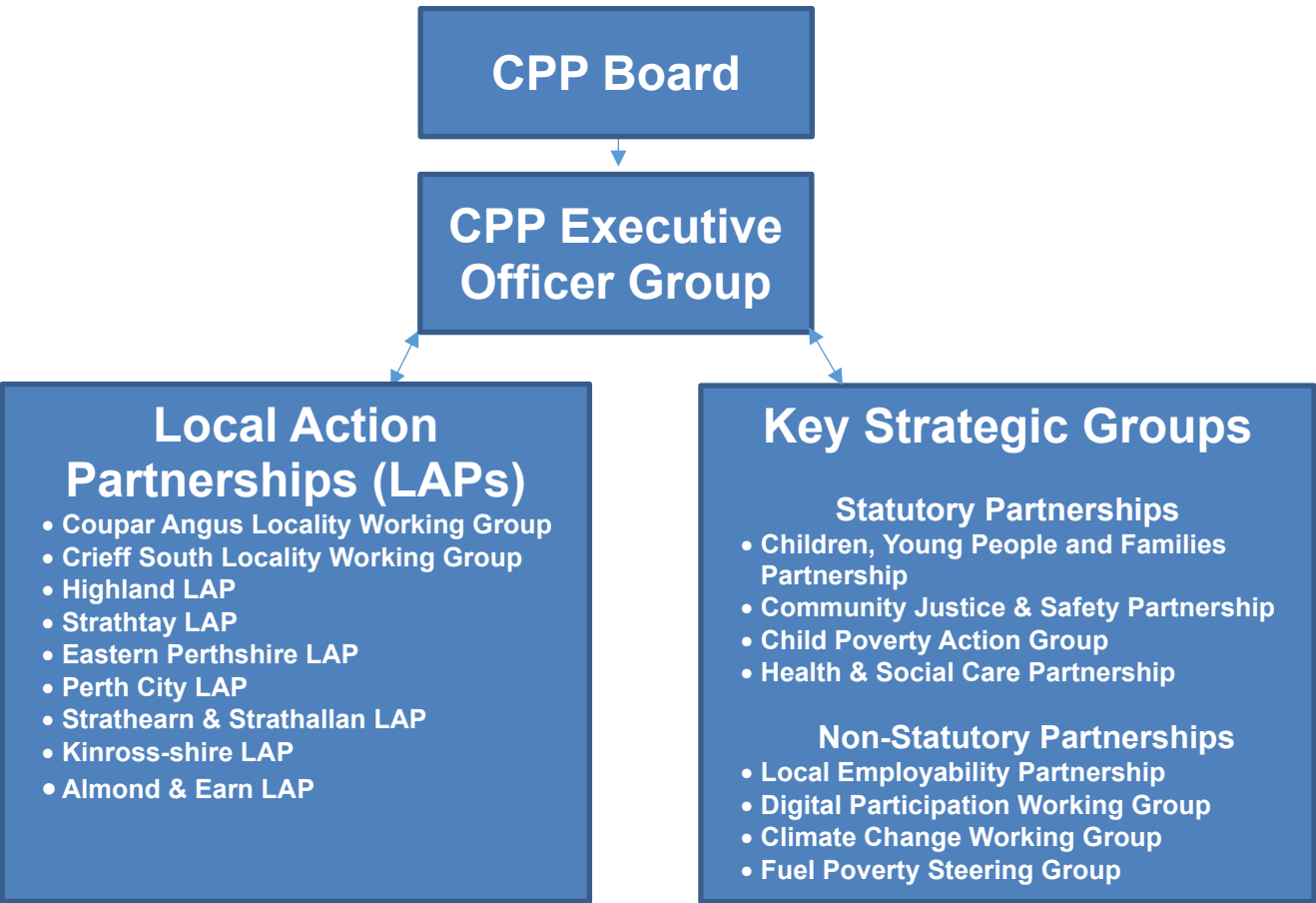
Housing and Health Support Post-Release: Collaborative work improved pathways for GP registration, housing support, and voluntary throughcare coordination for people leaving prison. Sustainable housing initiatives continued despite challenges with homelessness applications linked to prison release.

Employability Support: The Westbank Project continued to offer employability and vocational training linked with unpaid work, supporting diverse client groups including those with convictions. Partnerships with Skills Development Scotland and employers like Greene King enhanced opportunities for employment post-release.

Community Engagement and Victim Support: Training and awareness initiatives, including the Child Impact Assessment project, improved understanding of justice impacts on families and children. Victim and survivor voices are incorporated through working groups, and restorative justice developments are monitored nationally.

1. Community Justice Partnership Governance Arrangements

Figure 1: Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Structure



2. The year overall

Challenges / Negatives

The short-term nature of Scottish Government Funding continued to present difficulties for medium- and long-term planning in Community Justice. The high prison population placed pressure on the justice system both within the prisons and communities. Initiatives aimed at reducing the prison population placed additional demand on an already overstretched workforce/services/housing stock.

Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) is the only Local Authority area in Scotland with two prison sites, placing additional demand on senior management within the Community Justice Service. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding for Prison-Based Social Work has not been reviewed for several years, and staffing levels have not changed despite significant increases in the prison population.

Positives / Opportunities

During the reporting period, collaborative working methods continued with ongoing support provided by the combined CJ&SP and the operational Justice and Community Safety Service, which included co-located services such as Community Justice Social Work (CJSW), Safer Communities, and Police Scotland. This multi-agency approach facilitated prompt responses to legislative and policy changes locally, including the Bail and Justice Act. External stakeholders, including Community Justice Scotland, the Scottish Government, and the Care Inspectorate, all noted the benefits of the co-location model during onsite visits.

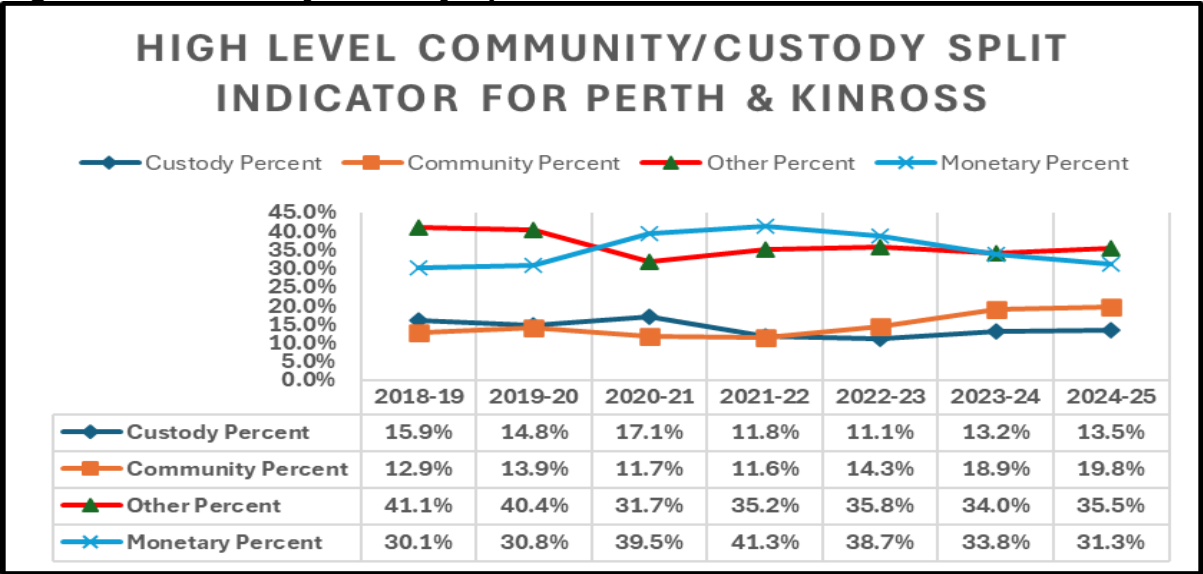
Partnerships remained strong with CJSW, local judiciary, defence agents, the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Substance Services, Housing, Welfare Rights, and Third Sector organisations. These relationships assisted the Partnership to adapt activity to meet national requirements and support local need. Several tests of change occurred during the period, including:

- Connecture group work programme (CJSW)
- Specified Person linked to Community Payback Order (CPO) Drug and Alcohol Treatment Requirement (CJSW & Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP))
- Wellbeing Wheels outcome tool development (CJSW)
- Complex Needs Coordination following arrest, remand, and release (CJSW & ADP)
- Voluntary Throughcare Coordination, including GP registration and tenancy support (CJS, Housing, Apex, IDART)
- Intensive Housing Support (Housing/Turning Point Scotland)
- Child Impact Assessments (CJSW, Education, Families Outside, Police Scotland, NHS, Third Sector)

At a national level, positive working relationships continued with Community Justice Scotland, the Justice Division of the Scottish Government and Medication Assisted Treatment Implementation Support Team (MIST).

Figure 2 provides a visual of the community/custody split for Perth and Kinross (P&K). The percentage of custodies have levelled in recent years (the desired direction is to decrease). The percentage of community disposals have increased in recent years in line with the desired direction of travel; however, this increase appears linked to the reduction in the percentage of monetary fines as opposed to a reduction in custodies. When comparing the data to pre-COVID-19 figures (2018-19 and 2019-20), the percentage of custodies has reduced, and the percentage of community disposals increased (both in line with the desired direction of travel). Monetary fines have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. The community /custody split will be monitored by the Partnership.

Figure 2: Community Custody Split



Source: <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-criminal-disposals-dashboard/>

3. Priority Action One - Diversion from Prosecution

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.

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

As outlined in figure 3, a small decrease in Diversion from Prosecution (DfP) assessments was noted during the 2024-25 reporting period (decrease of 3), however, the number of DfP cases progressing to “cases commenced” increased by 5 during the same period. The number of DfP cases “successfully completed”

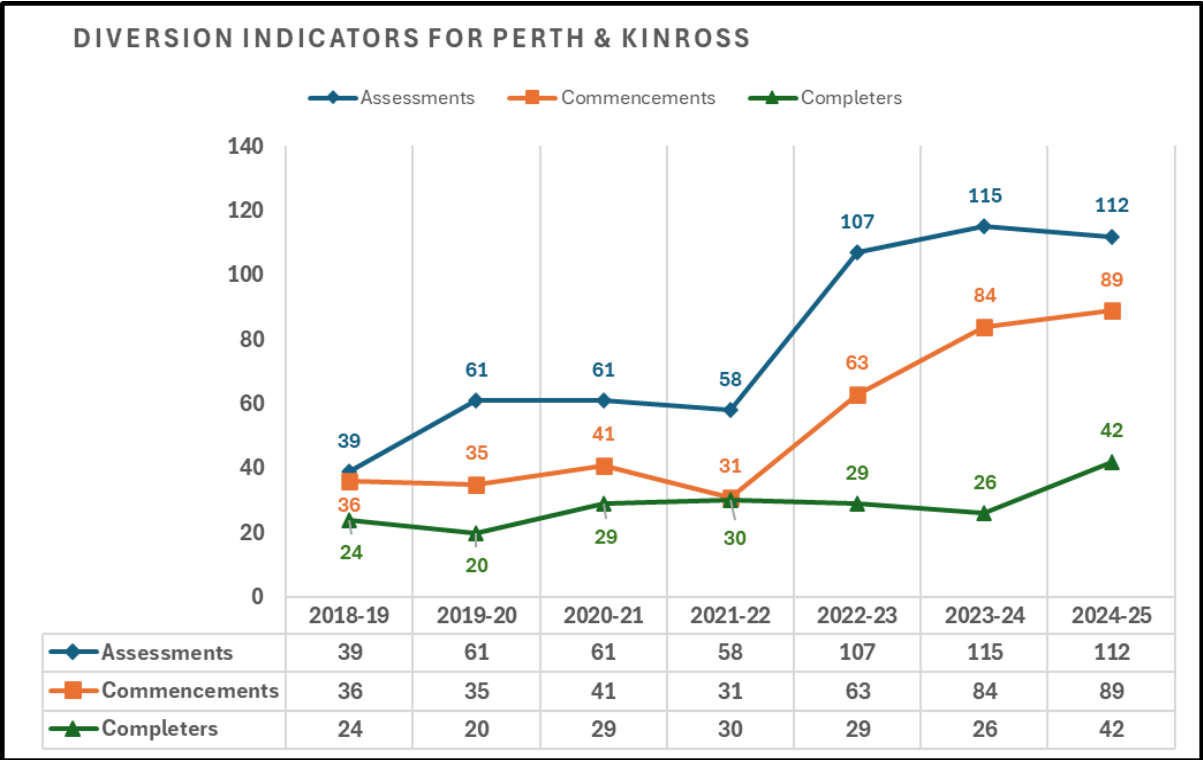
¹ National Indicator:
Number of diversion from prosecution:

- assessments undertaken
- cases commenced
- cases successfully completed

increased by 16 during the same period. Sixteen to 17-year-olds remained the predominant group.

While “cases commenced” and “cases successfully complete” volumes are increasing in line with the desired direction of travel, the conversion rate from “cases commenced” to “cases successfully complete” is 47%, less than half. In part the lower conversion rate may be linked to current reporting to Scottish Government where those assessed as suitable for diversion but require no further action are not included in the cases complete volumes. This will be explored further by CJSW to determine if the low conversion rate is a reporting issue. In addition, work will commence locally to benchmark P&K trends.

Figure 3: Diversion from Prosecution trends



Source: Justice social work statistics - gov.scot ([Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables - gov.scot](#))

In February 2025, three Criminal Justice Assistants conducted an audit of a random sample of ten DfP cases using a structured template and data sourced from CJSW records. Despite staffing constraints, the audit yielded valuable findings. Strengths identified included consistent application of assessment and completion templates, effective consultation and referral processes, comprehensive documentation of outcomes, regular client engagement, and high completion rates. Areas highlighted for further development included ensuring that assessments are completed within four weeks and interventions commence within twelve weeks, with timely updates to

the Procurator Fiscal if delays occur. In addition, a further audit was recommended for cases where DfP was not completed, or successful, for better understanding.

During the reporting period, it was noted that clients had often not received a communication from COPFS regarding the DfP referral prior to the CJSW contact. In certain cases, this resulted in people declining to participate, as the CJSW interview invitation constituted their initial notification regarding DfP. To mitigate this, the wording of initial appointment letters from CJSW was revised for greater clarity and to enhance engagement, and the issue was formally raised with COPFS via the established quarterly Sheriffdom meetings.

Historically, the above mentioned Sheriffdom meetings were attended by Community Justice Coordinators from across the Sheriffdom. However, during 2024-25, invitations were extended to senior CJSW practitioners responsible for DfP and Bail Supervision, fostering more comprehensive discussions on operational matters.

Productive collaboration with Police Scotland continued through the ongoing co-location of CJSW, the Safer Communities Team, and Police Scotland’s Partnerships Interventions and Preventions team.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action one from our local CJOIP. The cited CJOIP actions were identified or evolved from the DfP specific SNSA completed in April 2022.

<p>Priority Action One – CJOIP Priorities 2024-25</p> <p>1.1 Continue the established programme of multi-agency DfP training. Improve understanding of DfP journey – ongoing</p> <p>1.2 Explore opportunities to incorporate Victim Card session into DfP training – Complete</p> <p><u>Update:</u> An annual training programme for Police and CJSW staff was established following a pilot session conducted in January 2023. Subsequent sessions were held in November 2023 and March 2025.</p> <p>The two sessions delivered in 2023 included a first hour dedicated to DfP, presented by Community Justice Scotland and Strathclyde University, followed by an hour focused on the impact of the Justice Journey on families, led by Families Outside.</p> <p>In 2025, the session again began with a focus on DfP, while the second hour addressed Victim Support and the Victim Care Card, with input from Police Scotland and Victim Support.</p> <p>The initial sessions were targeted at Police and CJSW staff. In 2025, invitations were extended to include COPFS and Victims Organisations. Due to scheduling constraints, broader group representation was not achieved 2025 session, however, future invitations will be open to the Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative members including Victim Organisations.</p>		
January 2023 (pilot session)	November 2023	March 2025

<p>Attended by 16 staff (Police and CJSW). Session was well received by all who attended.</p>	<p>Attended by 29 staff. 93% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed they were more knowledgeable following the training. 56% of respondents said they would do something differently following the training.</p>	<p>Attended by 21 staff. 91% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed they were more knowledgeable following the training. 38% of respondents said they would do something differently following the training.</p>
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1.3 Ensure people progressing with DfP have a clear understanding of the process they are entering by consistently utilising a DfP agreement at the outset – ongoing.
Update: In progress - Some work was undertaken during the reporting period to make the agreement more aligned with DfP principles and more trauma informed. The DfP agreement was consistently utilised with females embarking on DfP supported by OWLS during the reporting period but not with males. This was due to a changeover in key staff. Consistency of use of the agreement across the service will be monitored during 2025-26.

1.4 Develop a DfP dashboard, providing timely DfP performance information - Complete
Update: Achieved – draft dashboard established – further development work required when issues are resolved in the new Social Work Database (Mosaic)

1.5 Test the use of an “outcome wheel” as method of monitoring outcomes for people on DfP (test commencing October 2024) – carry forward.
Update: In progress - work took place to develop and test a screening version of the Wheel for use within a DfP context, however, the roll out of the screening wheel was delayed due to delays in Mosaic going live. This will be taken forward in 2025-26.

1.6 Update local DfP action plan to ensure all relevant recommendations from the joint review of DfP are incorporated – Complete.
Update: During the reporting period, the assessment and completion report templates were revised to improve consistency and ensure alignment across the service for males and females. These updates also aimed to standardise the way information is recorded by all staff, reducing variation and enhancing the quality and comparability of reports. Another key driver for the updates was the need to capture specific data required for Scottish Government statistical returns—such as whether referrals had been made to drug/alcohol and mental health services. As a result of these updates, reports are now more streamlined, comprehensive and better equipped to capture required data.

Further work to ensure alignment to national recommendations will take place when the new DfP guidance is launched during 2025-26.

A DfP specific case study can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Case Study 1 - DfP.**

4. Priority Action Two – Support following Arrest

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:

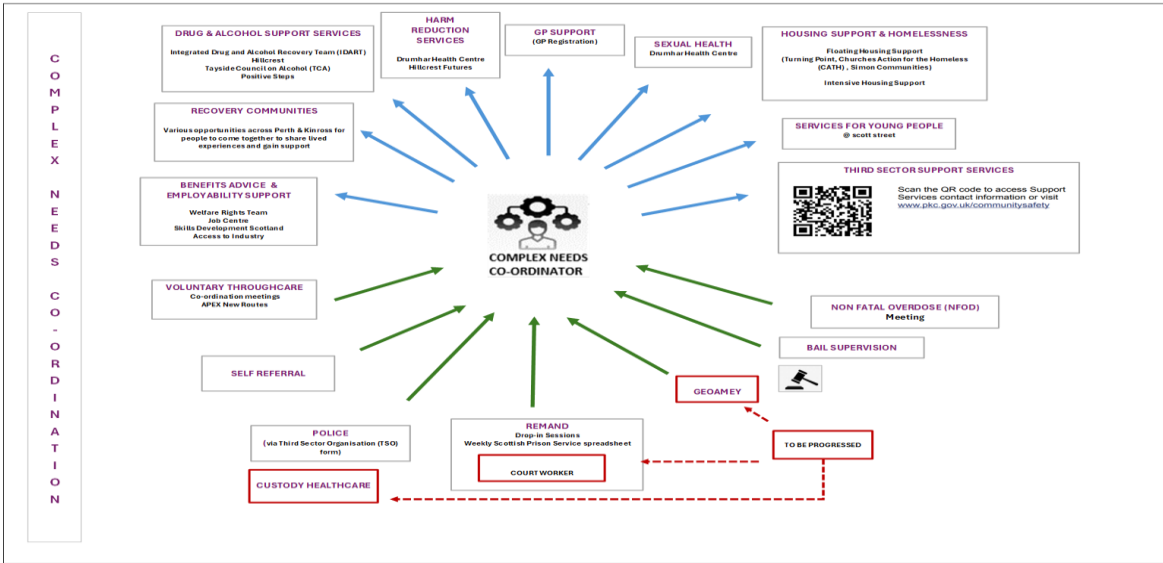
- There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centres for the local population.
- Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centres for the local population

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

The **Complex Needs Project** commenced in September 2022 (jointly funded by CJSW and the ADP) with the recruitment of the Complex Needs Co-ordinator. In August 2024, a Complex Needs Project Lead role was introduced taking on operational oversight of the project (support following arrest and prison release).

The Complex Needs Co-ordinator continued to be the single point of contact for referrals from Police Scotland during the reporting period and offered a community navigation role to those referred following arrest (see figure 4 for more details).

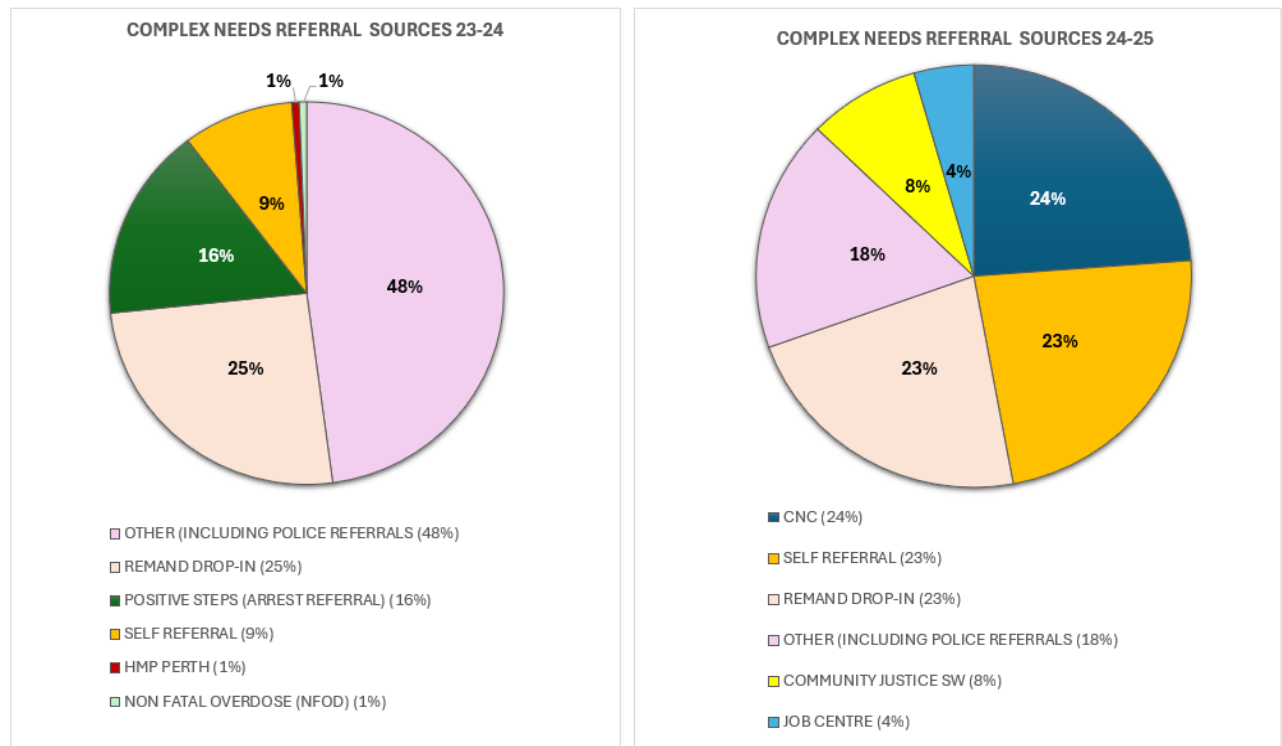
Figure 4: Community Navigation Illustration – Complex Needs Co-ordinator



² National Indicator:
• Number of referrals from custody centres

Figure 5 provides a visual breakdown of Complex Needs Co-ordinator referral sources. Referrals to the Complex Needs Co-ordinator doubled during the reporting period (156 in 2023-24 to 361 in 2024-25). Self-referrals increased potentially linked to improved signposting (police sharing business literature) and referrals from Bail Officers (unmet need identified but person does not receive Bail Supervision).

Figure 5: Complex Need Co-ordinator Referral Sources



Source: Local Performance Dashboard

The majority of referrals received from Police Scotland during the reporting period were from Bell Street Police Station, Dundee, however, positively referrals were also received from Perth Police Station and Dunfermline Police Station. This was achieved via the direct referral mechanism established by Police Scotland and supports the CJ&SP’s decision to move away from a funded Arrest Referral Service in one police location (acknowledging that P&K residents can be taken to any police station in Scotland depending on where they are arrested). Ongoing work is required in 2025-26 to boost custody referral numbers which were noted to have reduced during the reporting period.

The remand drop-in continued during the reporting period and continued to be viewed as an extension to Arrest Referral with the purpose of engaging with the untried population, sharing information regarding supports available and linking P&K residents in with appropriate supports ahead of release.

More detail regarding the community supports people were linked into can be found [here](#).

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action two from the local CJOIP. The cited CJOIP actions were identified or evolved from the Arrest Referral specific SNSA completed in April 2023.

Priority Action Two – CJOIP Specific Priorities (2024-25)

2.1 Promote Complex Needs Co-ordinator support:

- Across rural areas.
- With defence agents.
- Within Perth Sheriff Court.

Update: Achieved – posters and business cards distributed widely.

2.2 Development of a Mental Health / Substance Use Protocol which will outline how mental health and substance use services work together in supporting people with a range of mental health and substance use.

Update: In progress - in 2024-25, IDART employed a social worker with extensive mental health experience to work with people experiencing both substance use and mental health issues. The worker participated in the mental health Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting, improving collaboration between services and enhancing user experience.

A plan is underway to replicate a Multi-Agency Consultation hub similar to the hub developed in Angus and Dundee. This hub will deliver comprehensive, person-centred care for adults with co-occurring substance use and mental health needs. A protocol for mental health and substance use will be created as part of this initiative.

2.3 Establish engagement opportunities with people requiring translation who require support.

Update: Complete - Access to Language Line established for Justice Social Work.

2.4 Review Complex Needs Co-ordinator service.

Update: Carry forward action – this evaluation will be completed during 2025-26.

2.5 Develop signposting literature to share with families following the arrest of a family member – information about Families Outside (FO), complex needs co-ordination etc.

Update: Complete – leaflet developed and circulated with Police, Defence Agents, Bail Supervision Staff, Housing, Third Sector etc.



Resource Created by
Perth and Kinross
Community Justice and
Safety Partnership

For a summary of this
information, a translation or BSL
interpreting service, please visit
www.pkcs.gov.uk/translation

(PKC Design 2024163)

Emergency Help

If the person is
at immediate risk
call 999 and don't
leave them alone

Call for Help

Urgent Help


Samaritans (24-hour phoneline)	116 123
The Neuk 9am to 9pm every day	01738 718070
Suicide? Help! Or download the free app	www.suicidehelp.co.uk
NHS 24 (includes mental health hub) (24-hour phoneline)	111
Police Scotland (24-hour phoneline)	101

Young People

The Lighthouse 0800 121 48 20 Freephone crisis line Monday to Friday 10am to 10pm
Papyrus Hopeline 247 0800 068 41 41 (24-hour phoneline)
Childline 0800 1111 (24-hour phoneline)

**Perth and Kinross
COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP**
Working Together to Improve Communities

Information for people and
families following an arrest.
Access local and national
organisations for support.



<https://communityjustice.scot/community-justice/community-intervention-and-support-directory/>

2.6 Develop a referral pathway - Police Custody Healthcare to Complex Needs Co-ordinator.

Update: The direct referral route from Custody Healthcare to the Complex Needs Co-ordinator is no longer needed, as an end of shift handover meeting now includes both Custody Healthcare and the Police Custody Support Team Leader (Bell Street Police Station). This allows Police Custody Support Officers to refer to the Local Authority single point of contact, based on feedback from Custody Healthcare.

2.7 Develop a Complex Needs Co-ordination Performance dashboard.

Update: Carry forward action to 2025-26 – dashboard will be developed as part of the evaluation of complex needs.

An Arrest Referral specific case study can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Case Study 2 – Arrest Referral.**

5. Priority Action Three – Bail Supervision

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.

³ National Indicator:

Number of:

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

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?

Bail Officers continued to benefit from their co-location with Police Scotland and the Safer Communities Team at St Martin's House, facilitating the timely completion of comprehensive Bail Supervision assessments.

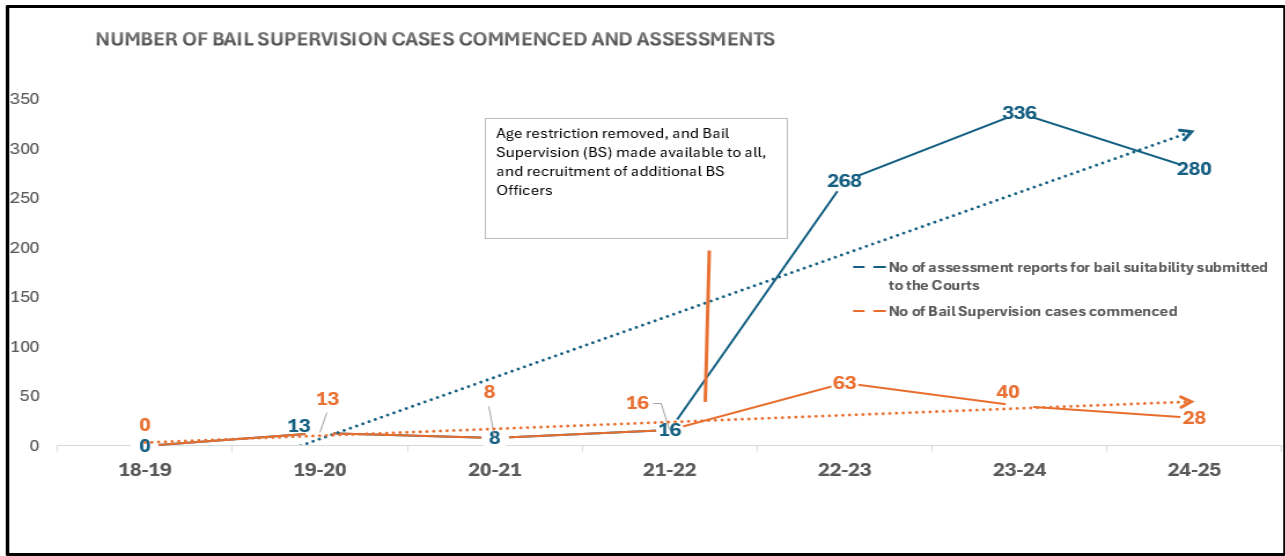
Monthly meetings were held among Bail Officers to exchange information and best practices, and officers also participated in the National Bail Supervision Working Group to share insights at the national level. As a result of these collaborative efforts, Bail Officers began assessing individuals on warrants during the reporting period.

As highlighted in figure 6 below, Bail Supervision increased markedly in 2022-23, however, this growth has not persisted in subsequent years, despite regular engagement with the local judiciary. Although the volume of Bail Supervision assessments remained high (albeit lower than the previous year linked to staff absence), the high-volume assessments submitted to the court did not consistently translate into new Bail Supervision "cases commenced" (a reduction of 12) despite a high volume of the assessments identifying an unmet need. The reason for the low conversion rate is currently unknown and will be further examined during 2025-26. This review will include efforts to capture/link referrals made by Bail Officers to the Complex Needs Co-ordinator, for those with identified unmet need, who do not receive Bail Supervision.

The reduction noted in relation to the number of Bail Supervision cases "successfully completed" (a reduction of 9) may be linked to the lower number of cases commenced.

It is hoped that the introduction of the Bail and Release Act, alongside ongoing sessions with local Sheriffs, will lead to an increase in Bail Supervision cases during 2024-25.

Figure 6: Bail Supervision Trends



	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
No of assessment reports for bail suitability submitted to the Courts	0	13	8	16	268	336	280
No of Bail Supervision cases commenced	0	13	8	16	63	40	28

Of the cases commenced, No of Bail Supervision Cases with EM *					0	6	5
No of Individuals with cases commenced	0	13	8	16	59	36	27
No of Bail Supervision cases successfully completed *					27	43	34

* Recording of this information started in 22-23.

Source: ([Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables - gov.scot](#))

Outcomes for individuals who received Bail Supervision included deferred sentences for good behaviour, admonishments, CPO, Restriction of Liberty Orders (ROLO), Right Track referrals, and custody.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action three from the local CJOIP. The cited CJOIP actions were identified or evolved from the Bail Supervision specific SNSA completed in April 2023.

Priority Action Three – CJOIP Specific Priorities (2024-25)

3.1

Review Bail Supervision and Complex Need Co—ordination referral pathway to ensure a consistent offer of support to those with identified unmet need who do not go on to receive Bail Supervision.
Update: Achieved – referral route initiated from Bail Supervision to Complex Needs Co-ordinator. Further work required 2025-26 to ensure consistency of pathway.

3.2

Explore opportunities to provide accommodation to people with no fixed abode as part of Bail Supervision assessment.

Update: Not progressed 2024-25 due to housing stock issues, carry forward action.

3.3 Continue multi-agency training to improve antecedent information recorded in Standard Prosecution Report (DfP, Electronic Monitoring and Child Impact Assessment Training).

Update: Achieved – A range of multi-agency training was available during the reporting period including DfP, Electronic Monitoring and Child Impact Assessment.

3.4 Develop a Bail Supervision and Remand performance dashboard.

Update: Achieved – draft dashboard in place – further development work required when Mosaic reporting issues are resolved.

3.5 Utilise the established sessions with the Sheriffs to share local trend information.

Update: Achieved – Bail supervision specific discussion held during the reporting period and further sessions to be arranged 2025-26.

A Bail Supervision specific case study can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Case Study 3 – Bail Supervision.**

6. Priority Action Four – Electronic Monitoring

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.

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

Electronic Monitoring with Bail Supervision has been available within P&K since May 2022. This service is accessible to individuals aged 16 and over, aligning with national policy developments and offering alternatives to remand. Although uptake during the reporting period remained limited, the option of Electronic Monitoring with Bail Supervision was consistently available.

The primary focus throughout the reporting period was the delivery of a comprehensive Electronic Monitoring training programme for staff across multiple agencies, facilitated by G4S. Training commenced in March 2024 and was attended in person by representatives from Police Scotland, CJSW, SPS, Housing and Women's Aid. Additional sessions were provided as follows:

- CJ&SP received an introductory video (May)

- CJSW & Safer Communities (May)
- Sheriffs, Perth Sheriff Court (May)
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) (June)
- Housing (November)

Furthermore, a multi-agency stakeholder meeting was convened subsequent to the training, attended by key representatives from CJSW, COPFS, Sheriffs, Police, Defence Agents, and the Safer Communities Team. Discussions highlighted the benefits of using Electronic Monitoring for bail curfews compared to police-imposed curfews, particularly its potential to reduce the frequency of in-person police checks, thereby reallocating police resources. There was consensus on the value of Police requesting an Electronic Monitoring Order (EMO) in the Standard Prosecution Report (SPR), which would then enable COPFS to make a formal request to the court.

It was recommended that Electronic Monitoring training be extended to the National Case Marking Unit, with arrangements to be coordinated through COPFS and G4S. Consideration was also given to the “Away from Restriction” process and the importance of seeking and documenting victim consent in the SPR, identified as areas for further exploration.

Stakeholders were of the view that EMOs are generally less intrusive than standalone curfews, resulting in fewer disruptions to family life—such as reduced police visits to residences and minimal disturbance to children—and allow for flexibility to accommodate work and childcare responsibilities. The group agreed that standardising the content included in CJSW Reports would provide sheriffs with a consistent baseline of relevant information.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action four from the local CJOIP. The cited CJOIP actions were identified or evolved from the Bail Supervision specific SNSA completed in December 2023.

Priority Action Four – CJOIP Specific Priorities (2024-25)

4.1 Improve multi-agency understanding and confidence of Electronic Monitoring (EM) via multi and single agency awareness raising sessions.

Update: Achieved – sessions delivered as outlined above.

4.2 Arrange follow up meeting with key stakeholders, post training, (CJSW, COPFS, Police, Sheriffs, Defence agent, Safer Communities Team) to discuss use of EM within P&K.

Update: Achieved as outlined above.

- 4.3 **Establish mechanism for Police to seek victim consent for an “Restriction Away From” device at point of arrest/following arrest and include details in the Standard Prosecution Report.**

Update: Carry Forward Action 2025-26.

- 4.4 **Develop an EM dashboard.**

Update: Achieved – draft dashboard developed by CJSW – further development work required when Mosaic reporting issues are resolved.

An Electronic Monitoring specific case study can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Case Study 4 – Electronic Monitoring.**

7. Priority Action Five – Community Sentences

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.

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?

CJSW participated in a Care Inspectorate (CI) Self Evaluation activity during 2024-25. The activity focussed on the extent to which the service can measure and report

⁴ National Indicator:

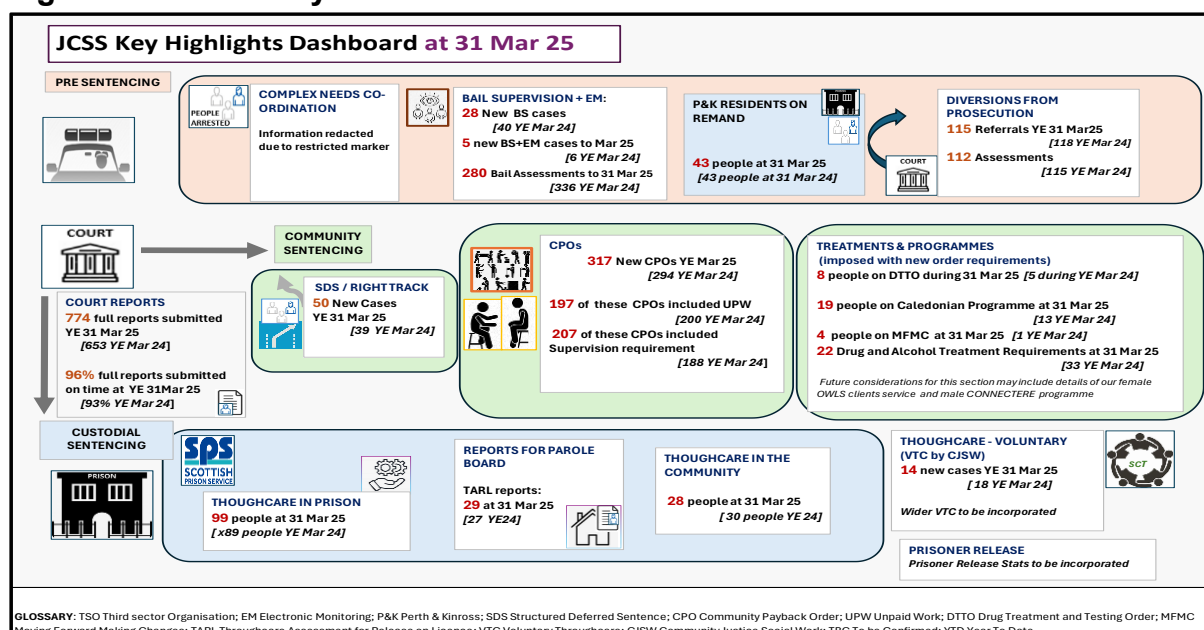
Percentage of:

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

on the performance, quality and outcomes of the justice services provided to people on community-based sentences. P&K were one of the areas to benefit from onsite CI validation of the self-evaluation activity. The exercise was beneficial for the service in terms of identifying strengths and areas for development.

Work commenced during 2024-25 to develop a robust **Community Sentences Performance Framework** and **Dashboard**. The dashboard (figure 7 below) provides a high-level front page for managers with access to more detailed information, as required.

Figure 7: Community Justice Social Work Dashboard



It is intended that the dashboard will become automated using Power BI; however, development was suspended at the start of 2025 due to the transition from SWIFT to Mosaic for the Council's social work case management system, resulting in temporary loss of access to a reporting function. Work will resume in 2025-26 once this functionality is restored.

Quality Assurance activity had not been prioritised by the service during the pandemic / post pandemic period and work was undertaken during 2024-25 to reintroduce formal audits. In November 2024, a joint audit of Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) and a case notes exercise was completed by the CJSW Team Leader and Senior Practitioners. Feedback was given to individual workers and a plan developed to ensure up to date case management plans for all clients on LS/CMI, and case recordings by January 2025. An audit of Community CPOs took place in January 2025. The audit highlighted the service is performing to a very good standard. Improvement areas identified, related to individual practice and wider service developments. The development of a Quality Assurance Framework is a priority action for Children, Families and Justice during 2025-26.

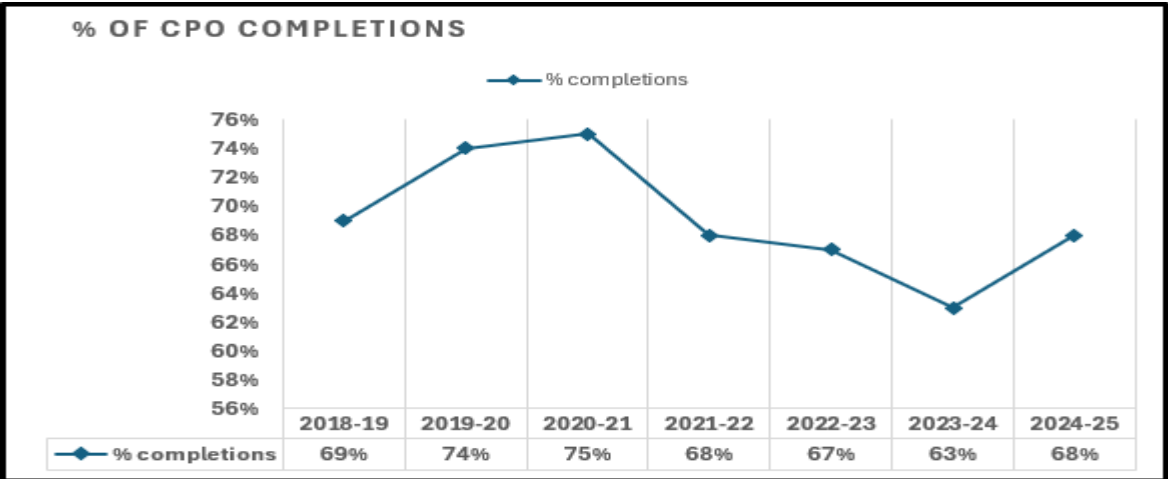
CJSW had previously identified **measurement of outcomes** as a development area and a “Wheels” template was developed and tested with those being supported via Evolve. Testing of the Wheels highlighted their benefit in visually demonstrating progress for individuals. The decision was made to roll the Wheels out to the whole CJSW team and guidance developed for staff to ensure consistency of practice. Workers started using the Wheels with all new people on a CPO from February 2025 and initial feedback was positive. The use of the Wheels will be monitored in 2025-26, and opportunities explored to aggregate the individual progress captured.

Court business significantly increased during 2024-25 for **CJSW Reports**, increasing in volumes and complexity. Reports rose above pre-pandemic levels across the broad range of offence types, but the service worked hard to submit reports to the court timeously and keep the court informed of any additional time required.

An independent review of **Structured Deferred Sentence, known locally as Right Track**, was completed during the reporting period. The review highlighted the tremendous work undertaken by the project. The review also identified development areas and identified resilience as a risk. In November 2024, an additional worker for Right Track was recruited increasing capacity. This positive work was further acknowledged by the award of a Butler Trust Commendation to the Right Track project officer. Examples of Right Track Outcomes during the reporting period, include admonished and CPO.

During the reporting period, 317 new CPOs were imposed, an increase of 8%, although, the volumes have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Figure 8 highlights an increase in successful CPO completions compared to the previous year, however, remaining lower than pre-COVID-19 completions. This will be monitored by the Partnership and work will commence to benchmark P&K trends.

Figure 8: Percentage of CPO successfully complete



Source: Justice social work statistics - gov.scot ([Justice Social Work Statistics in Scotland: 2024-25 – Part 1 - gov.scot](#)) 2018-19 to 2023-24. Please note: Scottish Government had not been published for 2024-25 at the time of writing and therefore local data has been utilised to populate the chart for the period 2024-25.

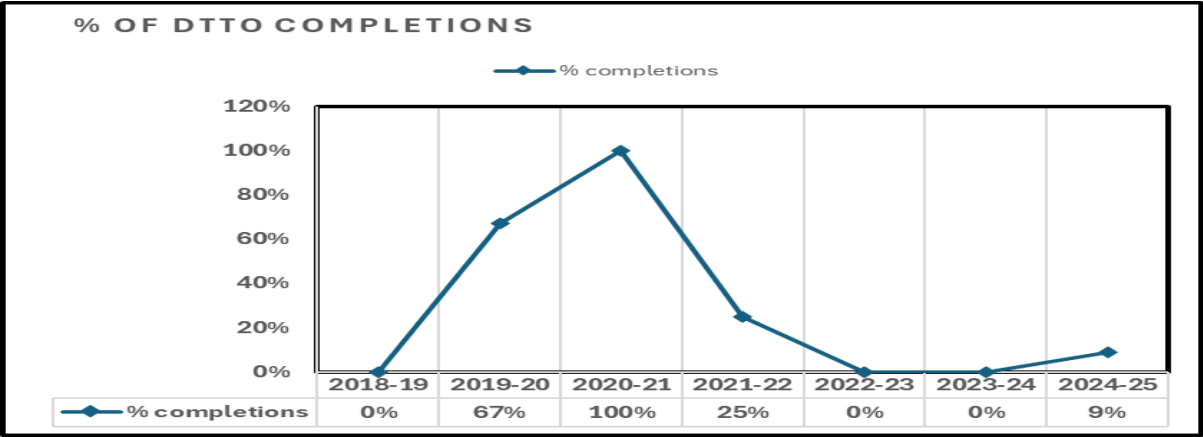
The **One-Stop Women's Learning Service (OWLS)** continued to supported women on a CPO, Throughcare and Voluntary Supervision during the reporting period. Two women completed Living Wild Programme through Venture Trust. OWLS also hosted a MacMillian Cancer Support coffee morning, supported by staff and clients. The following positive feedback was received ***"Thank you ... for your donation of £255.82. Your kindness and commitment are inspirational..."*** The OWLS delivery model was reviewed during the reporting period due to staff absence. Resilience was provided by the wider CJSW team during the period absence.

Evolve Men's Service was initially a test of change which operated from the Neuk (a trauma informed space within P&K), with the purpose of developing trauma-based programmes echoing some of the principles used in setting up OWLS. The test of change was aimed specifically at men given a CPO with a supervision requirement. In 2023, Evolve focussed on trialling a Trauma Informed Group Work programme called **Connectere**. Training was purchased for a small group of staff, following positive feedback. Two further cohorts were delivered in 2024. Feedback was positive re: the impact on attendees and how the workers felt the groups progressed. Learning from the Evolve project was used to determine wider applicability across the broader justice service and the Evolve support started to be available to all males in contact with CJSW during 2024/25.

The Caledonian Programme continued to be available in P&K to address domestic abuse. Court reports for offences that required an assessment of suitability for the **Caledonian Programme** (domestic offence) increased during 2024-25. Work took place during the reporting period to bring the Caledonian Women's Worker and Children's worker roles in house with TUPE arrangements planned to complete in 2025-26. This will enable closer working relationships and improved access to information relating to Caledonian Programme work (e.g. Woman and Children's case records).

As highlighted in figure 9 below there have been very few successful **Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO)** completions in recent years (1 successful completion in last 3 years). DTTO is not a frequently used disposal, it is one that is costly with limited success. For this reason, a review of DTTO has taken place locally alongside Drug and Alcohol Treatment Requirements to consider effective drug treatment disposals for the future.

Figure 9: DTTO Successfully Completed



Source: [Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables - gov.scot](#) 2018-19 to 2023-24. Please note: Scottish Government had not been published for 2024-25 at the time of writing and therefore local data has been utilised to populate the chart for the period 2024-25.

Access to Alcohol Services – The partnership between CJSW and Tayside Council on Alcohol (TCA) supporting the delivery of mentoring supports to men and women on Court Orders within P&K in relation to alcohol continued during the reporting period. The Partnership delivers a mentoring approach to women within the OWLS Service and to males via the Perth Mentoring for Men Service. Both mentoring services have one referral route, CJSW. The Mentoring interventions are delivered on a collaborative, person-centred basis which is formulated in a bespoke agreement/contract between the Mentor, Mentee and the Referrer. A person-centred programme is developed and evolves with the person over time. Mentoring can support engagement/ compliance with mandatory requirements and intervention. This will include both practical assistance and motivational support to enable the client to comply. As the relationship builds between the mentee and mentor the client will be supported to begin to identify personal goals.

The **Unpaid Work** Team received significantly more requests for support during the reporting period. Although the number of orders imposed remained the same as the previous reporting period (and below pre-COVID-19 levels), the number of hours imposed continued to rise increasing the capacity of the Unpaid Work Team to deliver work in communities. More detail regarding Unpaid Work can be viewed in Priority Action 9.

CJSW continued to hold **monthly team meetings** during the reporting period where the agenda followed a set list of topics including feedback from Senior Practitioners and workers about specific areas of practice. This provides an opportunity to discuss improvement ideas and identify where a short life working group may be required. Staff within CJSW also continued to benefit from regular supervision where they can discuss workload, learning and development needs, and share service improvement ideas.

CJSW continued to offer a range of disposals to the court and supported in efforts to manage the high prison population.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action five from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Five – CJOIP Priorities 2024-25

5.1 Review Specified Person Test of Change – Improved assessment capability and support when a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Requirement is imposed.

Update: Carry forward action to 2025-26 – evaluation delayed due to staff absence.

5.2 Expand capacity of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (increase capacity from 5 to 10).

Update: Achieved – capacity was increased from 5 to 10.

5.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders

Update: Carry forward action to 2025-26 – decision made to review Drug Alcohol Treatment Requirement in tandem with review of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders.

5.4 Establish links with Third Sector Interface Volunteering to expand unpaid work opportunities for those on an Unpaid Work placement.

Update: In progress - Discussions initiated with Third Sector Interface.

5.5 Develop a Community Sentence performance dashboard.

Update: Achieved – draft dashboard in place – further development work required when Mosaic reporting issues are resolved.

5.6 Embed outcome wheel within CJSW processes.

Update: Achieved – wheel rolled out across CJSW February 2025.

Community Sentence case studies can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Community Sentence - Case Studies 6 to 9.**

7. Priority Action Six – Restorative Justice

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.

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?

The CJ&SP opted not to prioritise Restorative Justice locally as local statutory, and third sector organisations had significant concerns about offering restorative justice in sexual/domestic offences and on the basis that pilots were underway in other areas. The CJ&SP committed to monitor progress nationally with a view to initiating local discussions when the outcome of the national pilots became available.

Priority Action Six – CJOIP Priorities 2024-25

6.1 Continue to monitor progress of Restorative Justice developments

nationally. Update: Thriving Survivors presentation delivered to Victim/Survivor Group 4 December 2024.

Sycamore Project presentation delivered to Victim/Survivor Group 4 December 2024. This project delivered by Christian Fellowship is a restorative programme currently available in prison establishments working with those serving a prison sentence. The Christian Fellowship expressed interest in expanding the project to people on a community sentence. Opportunities to offer this locally will be explored further when capacity allows.

6.2 Commence local Restorative Justice service planning when national infrastructure is in place. Develop delivery plan.

Update: action on hold pending outcome of pilots (other local authority areas) / national developments.

8. Priority Action Seven – Access to Health and Social Care following Release from Prison

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.

⁵ National Indicator:

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:

- custody to community

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?

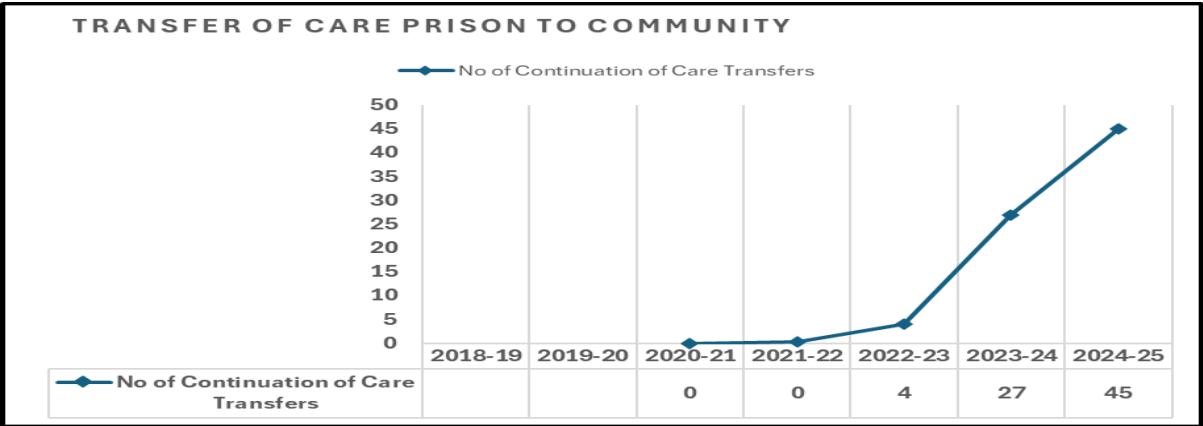
Extensive work took place within P&K to improve access to support for individuals preparing for release from prison, including creating pathways for timely access to health and social care services upon release (Priority Action 7), facilitating access to Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) (Priority Action 8), and enhancing the co-ordination of Voluntary Throughcare (Priority Action 10). Further detail about these efforts can be viewed in the Priority Action 10 section of this report.

During the reporting period, processes were established and tested to assist individuals in registering with a GP prior to their release from a sentence. GP practices within P&K agreed to receive GP registration documents prior to an individual's release (January 2023) and committed to completing the registration process for patients on the day of release. A local process was developed, and testing began in April 2023, with continued testing throughout 2024-25. More information regarding the established process can be viewed [Pre-release and day of release checklist](#) . The learning from this work was shared nationally.

During the reporting period 83% (39) of people leaving prison (supported by the voluntary throughcare co-ordination process) were either pre-registered with a GP practice or had retained their GP practice during their sentence.

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community
Figure 10 provides a visual of the number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community. The number of transfers shows an emerging pattern of increase in line with the desired national direction of travel. This is linked to the robust referral pathway from custody healthcare to community bases drug and alcohol services in relation to opiate replacement medication.

Figure 10: Number of transfers - drug/alcohol treatments custody to community



Source: [Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times](#)

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action seven from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Seven – CJOIP Priorities 2024-25	
7.1	Extend the Complex Needs Test of Change –Trial of a complex needs supervisor role to bring together the co-ordination of arrest, remand, voluntary throughcare, housing support and non-fatal overdose supports. <u>Update:</u> Achieved – Complex Needs Project Lead commenced in post August 2024.
7.2	Extend GP registration test of change to the remand population. <u>Update:</u> In progress – checks of GP registration status commenced for remand residents during the reporting period, however, mechanisms to pre-register those not registered with a GP ahead of release were not established.
7.3	Establish mechanism to monitor efficacy of Prison to Rehab pathway. <u>Update:</u> Carry forward action to 2026-27.
7.4	Evaluate the role of the prison liaison nurse in improving access to substance use services on release and return to prison. <u>Update:</u> Carry forward action to 2025-26 linked to sickness absence.
7.5	Improve access to support for the remand population. <u>Update:</u> In progress.

10.Priority Action Eight - Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone

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

⁶ National Indicator:
Number of:
[6] National Indicator:
[6] National Indicator:
Number of:
• homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

- Scottish Prison Service (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

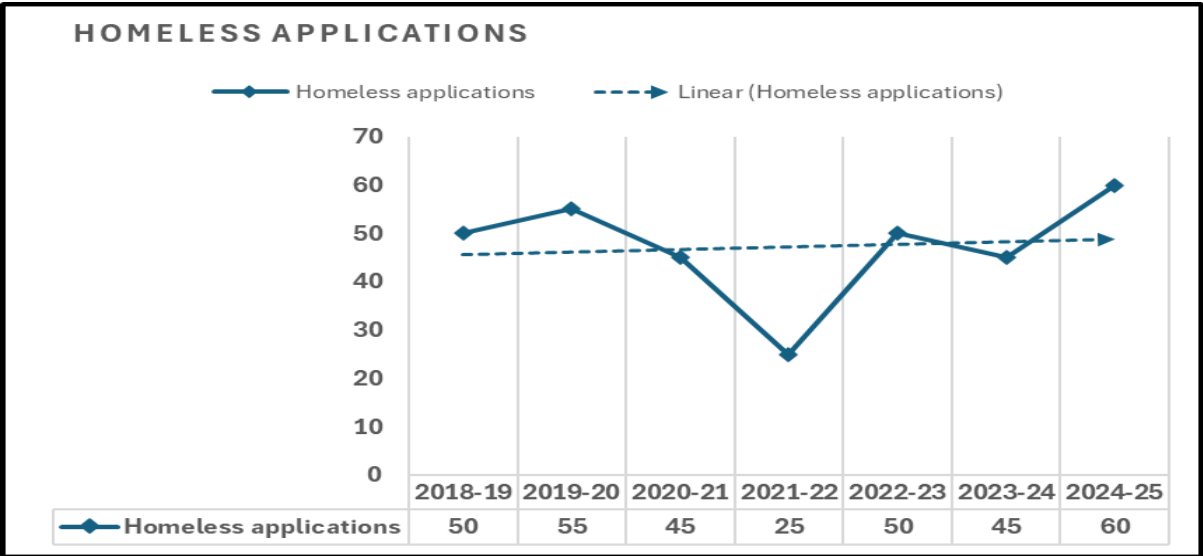
What activity has taken place to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and what impact had there been as a result?

As above, intensive work has taken place within P&K to improve access to support for people preparing for release from prison in relation creating pathways to timely access to health and social care supports upon release (Priority Action 7), in relation to Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone (SHORE) (Priority Action 8) and in relation to improved co-ordination of Voluntary Throughcare (Priority Action 10). Detail regarding this work can be found under Priority Action 10.

Services worked collaboratively during the reporting period to support people to access the most appropriate service. An example of this would be identification of people with multiple and complex need via the Prison Release Co-ordination meetings, and the Complex Needs Co-ordinator, and routing those individuals directly into the Intensive Housing Support offer provided via Turning Point Scotland.

However, figure 11 provides a visual of homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from. The numbers fluctuate with a rise noted during the reporting period and above pre-COVID-19 volumes. Ten of the 60 within the 2024-25 did not have a local connection to Perth and Kinross. PKC Housing Services monitor these trends and anticipate the volume will be lower during the 2025-26 reporting period.

Figure 11: Homeless Applications



Source: [Homelessness in Scotland: prison homelessness - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/homelessness-in-scotland/prison-homelessness/pages/2.aspx)

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action eight from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Eight – CJOIP Priorities - 2024-25	
8.1 Extend the sustainable tenancy test of change.	<p><u>Update:</u> The sustainable tenancy test of change continued during the reporting period, and a similar number of people progressed to a sustainable tenancy via the test of change as the previous reporting period. Capacity issues, availability of one-bedroom properties within the Perth City area presented challenges for those seeking to settle within Perth City.</p> <p>Although volumes of people accessing a sustainable tenancy on release did not increase, a homeless prevention post went live in June 2024 to support people entering prison to retain their property.</p>
8.2 Develop a process map to improve consistency of the sustainable tenancy offer to people being released from both short and long-term prison sentences.	<p><u>Update:</u> The development of a process map was delayed during the reporting period due priority being given to support the Emergency Early Release. This action will be progressed during 2025-26.</p>
8.3 Monitor the efficacy of the prison release.	<p><u>Update:</u> Evaluation to be undertaken 2025-26.</p>
8.4 Explore opportunities to increase Intensive Housing Support Capacity.	<p><u>Update:</u> Complete – opportunities explored – capacity not extended, however, additional funding secured to extend Intensive Housing Support contract for 6 months to allow Intensive Housing Support to be recommissioned alongside the recommissioning of Floating Housing Support.</p>
8.5 Improve access to support for the remand population.	<p><u>Update:</u> Reviewing requirement of the remand population will be progressed 2025-26 onwards.</p>

11. Priority Action Nine - Employability Support

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

⁷ National Indicator:
Percentage of:
• those in employability services with convictions

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.**

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

In developing your answer to this question, you should engage with the relevant local partners involved in the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of activity. We would encourage you to reflect on engagement and collaborative activity rather than solely single service delivery.

For this Priority Action, you may wish to consider involvement from the following partners and stakeholders:

- ***Local Authority employability services***
- ***Skills Development Scotland***
- ***Third Sector***
- ***Scottish Prison Service***
- ***Scottish Courts and Tribunals Services***
- ***Any other partners as relevant***

The CJ&SP recognises the vital role employment has in improving self-esteem, maintaining relationships, encouraging resilience and reducing re-offending.

Westbank Project

The Westbank Project is an employability project established in 2018. It is co-located with the P&K Unpaid Work Team which is part of the Justice and Community Safety Service. The Unpaid Work Team in P&K is widely known and carries out work for a wide range of people, communities, societies and causes.

The Westbank Project is based on a foundation of years of investment in Unpaid Work and the site at Westbank House. The project is funded through No One Left Behind, to provide a service to its core client base, but in addition careful consideration has been given, to ensure further contributions to communities and to extend the concept of 'Payback'. The project was developed to provide services to a mixed client base, people who are disadvantaged in the widest sense and from 'cradle to grave'.

The Project hosts: Perth Community Farm, P&K Early Years Outdoor Nursery, Activities for Adults with Learning Difficulties, Programmes for Young People who have disengaged from school, Unpaid Work, Structured Deferred Sentence, known locally as Right Track, projects with prisons, employability support for people experiencing long term unemployment etc. The development of projects for any client group will be considered, large or small, providing it can be delivered safely. Lack of funds are never a barrier to participation and learning. Some people/groups pay for the services which helps to fund those who are not funded and cannot afford to pay and the service incorporates Social Enterprises designed to raise additional funds to support people and organisations who may not be able to pay for their training or other support services (sale of honey, firewood, garden furniture) Some Young People who have disengaged with school and have no previous work experience are referred to Westbank to experience work and different trades. Those young people often require a long-term approach designed to help them change their approach and attitude to work. The placement provides opportunity to ready those young people to take part in the vocational skills training available to adults on site supporting employment opportunities in the future, all activity that prevents susceptible and vulnerable young people being drawn into crime.

The Westbank Project is Roads Transport Industry Training Board (RTITB) accredited, delivering training in Forklift, Telehandler and Elevated Platform (a towable cherry -picker). The funding ceased in 2022, but the team continued to provide training at a reduced level and in 2024-25 successfully applied for new funding through the Local Employability Partnership (LEP). Skills Training is also available in: Mowing and Strimming, Basic Woodwork, Basic Building, Basic Mechanics, Horticulture and Garden Projects, Painting and Decorating.

The Westbank Project works in active partnership and is considered a key member of the P&K Local Employability Network. This helps to promote the visibility, value and effectiveness of Unpaid Work and Community Justice.

Westbank and HMP Perth

In addition to the above, the Westbank Project explored opportunities to work together with HMP Perth during the reporting period. An agreement was reached whereby the project delivered timber to HMP Perth (purchased using funds raised from other 'enterprises' at Westbank such as sales of honey and firewood) this is then cut, shaped and packed by the HMP Perth Men's Shed into kits for benches, planters and bird tables. The prepared kits are then collected by the Westbank Project, assembled painted and sold to generate funds to buy more timber. Finished benches have been installed widely across P&K, in schools, community centres and public spaces.

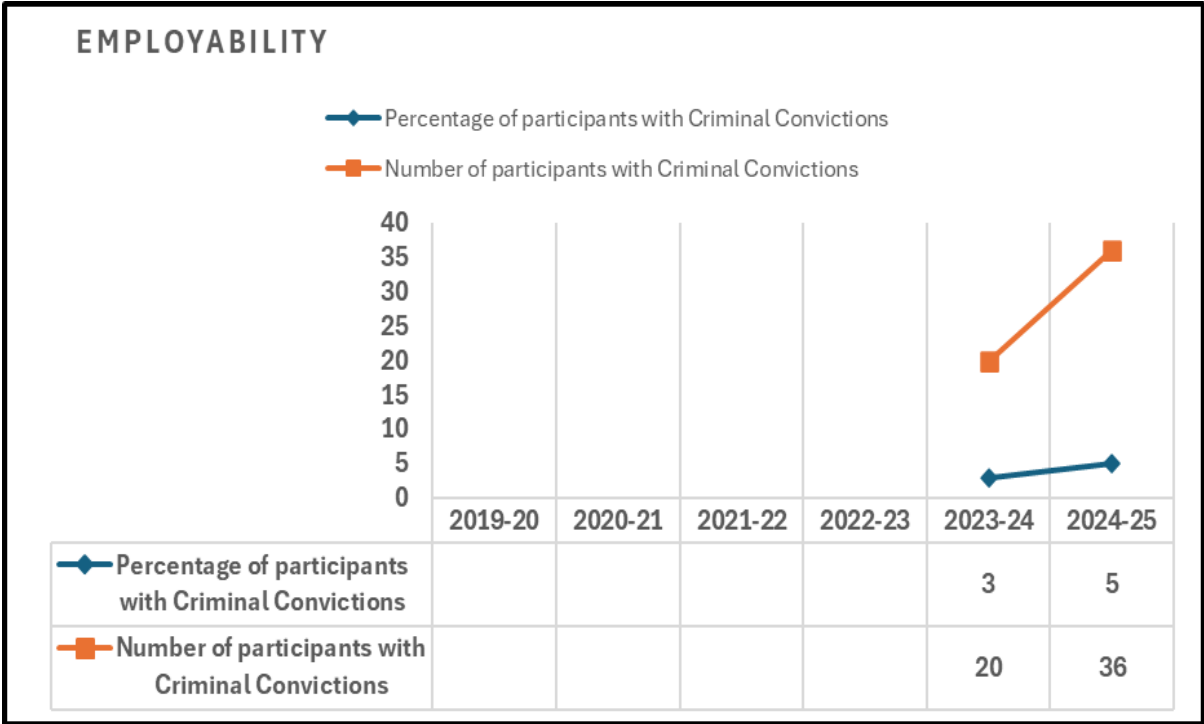
The Future

2025-26 will see all these activities continue and expand - there are plans to:

- Procure a mini-digger and provide accredited training in its operation
- Explore the potential for adopting a new accreditation partner that will provide Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Cards
- Develop new pathways to local construction companies
- Engage with Skills Development Scotland and prison-based employability schemes to provide ongoing outreach and support as prisoners transition from Prison to training, to employment.
- Provide staff and clients with training with disclosing convictions to potential employers.
- The Team will develop a program, in partnership with the local Sheriffs, to meet the needs of people who are not fit for unpaid work or who have caring responsibilities which make it difficult for them to commit to the arrangements. This will involve producing items for sale such as sewing, bird boxes, or other easy to assemble items. This will enhance inclusion and accessibility without damaging the reputation of Unpaid Work.

Figure 12 provides a visual of the percentage of those referred to No One Left Behind (NOLB) employability services with convictions. The percentage of people referred to NOLB employability programme with a criminal record shows an emerging pattern of increase in line with the desired direction of travel.

Figure 12: Employability Data



NB baseline statistics commenced 2023-24 hence previous years not provided.

Source: [Supporting documents - Scotland's Devolved Employment Services: No One Left Behind Statistical Summary October 2025 - gov.scot](#)

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action nine from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Nine – CJOIP Priorities - 2024-25

9.1 Promote connections between Scottish Prison Service

Employability/Positive Destination pipeline and community employability pipeline.

Update: Northern Employability Advisory Board commenced (9 January 2024) attended by the CJ&SP Chair and Co-ordinator on behalf of the CJ&SP. The Board is chaired by Greene King and attended by Scottish Government, Department of Work and Pensions, SPS, Skills Development Scotland, only a Pavement Away representatives from Community Justice Partnership & LEP from P&K and Grampian.

9.2 Establish a partnership project at Westbank to embed a careers advisor as part of the Unpaid Work Team.

Update: The Project has engaged with Skills Development Scotland (SDS), and a Prison based employability project with a view to establishing a more holistic and extended approach to support of people coming for prison or who are on Unpaid Work. This will provide on-going support for people after they have received their qualifications and training and support about disclosing convictions.

9.3 Promote the needs of people within the Justice Journey at the Employability Network and Local Employability Partnership (LEP).

Update: Complete – Head of Offender Outcomes (HMP Perth) became a member of the LEP (May 2024), and Justice Services Team Leader is a long-standing active member of the Employability Network.

HMP Perth's participation in the P&K LEP has opened avenues for partners to understand better the purpose of rehabilitation in prison. In turn, HMP Perth has now an opportunity to network and promote the needs and rights for prisoners to be considered as potential employees.

HMP Perth have been successful in accessing funding through the LEP that has created opportunities with partners such as Toyota to give prisoners hope that they can develop skills, confidence and self-esteem.

9.4 Promote the Greene King Academy to encourage employers to recruit people with convictions.

Update: Greene King has become a prime example of what effective partnership working can do to offer support and employment on release. The efforts of staff within Greene King, P&K Council, Only a Pavement Away and HMP Perth has drawn positive attention from other industries. This has led to the introduction of Civil Engineering and Mechanics to HMP Perth which has created more real opportunities for people in custody.

9.5 Explore options to support HMP Perth to establish a Barista Academy

Update: this action has not progressed as HMP Perth have not been able to access a barista machine. Carry forward action 2025-26.

12. Priority Action Ten – Community Integration and Support

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.

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

Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination

During 2024-25 three tests of change were brought together (GP registration, Sustainable Tenancy and Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination) creating a whole system approach to supporting P&K residents prepare for release from prison.

Background

A Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment completed in 2022 highlighted confusion around the support available to people being released from a short-term

⁸ National Indicator:

Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

sentence, issues accessing housing on release and issues registering with a GP on release. Although processes were in place to screen the 3-month release details provided by SPS (via Safer Communities colleagues), a lack of clarity was identified regarding the co-ordination of the prerelease support offer. ***“Some residents are confused by multiple offers of support while others do not receive any offer”***, Unit Manager, HMP Perth.

A wide range of partners were involved in these early discussions, and three tests of change were developed – 1. Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination, 2. GP Registration, 3. Sustainable Tenancy.

- Weekly meetings were established attended by CJSW, Complex Needs Co-ordinator, Apex, Housing, Integrated Drug and Alcohol Referral team (IDART) and chaired by the Community Justice Partnership Co-ordinator (March 2023). The meetings focussed on the voluntary throughcare support offer, who should make the offer, how it should be made, and how to develop creative opportunities to engage with people who did not engage with the initial offer.
- Attention was initially focussed on P&K residents serving a short-term sentence in HMP Perth and was later extended to all short-term releases (male and female residents) during the Emergency Early Release in June 2024.
- The weekly meetings ensured an assertive offer of support was provided to everyone in scope of the project – where a resident did not engage with one service provider, an alternative offer was made.
- The complex and challenging arrangements clients had to overcome in GP registration was identified as a significant barrier. A short life working group was established leading to the agreement from local GP practices to accept registration papers ahead of release and a process map was developed as a guide for staff and testing commenced in April 2023.
- Multiple changes were made to the process throughout the period of testing. In January 2025 a [Pre-release and day of release checklist](#) was hosted on the CJ&SP webpages which included the GP registration process.
- When extending the GP registration offer to all prison sites, it was identified that generic email addresses for all Prison Based Healthcare teams would be required. Enquiries were made with SPS, Scottish Government and Community Justice Scotland but a complete list did not exist. With the support of Practitioner Services colleagues, we worked locally to create a complete list which was later shared with our local GP practices, as well as SPS, Scottish Government, Community Justice Scotland and the Community Justice Co-ordinator Peer Network (February 2025). During this time the Community Justice Partnership Co-ordinator and the link GP Practice Manager (who was integral to the development of the process and bringing all the P&K GP practices on board) were invited to share learning from our test of change at the national GP and Prisons Interface meetings. Learning from our test of change was shared and helped inform the development of national guidance launched August 2025 (NHS circular PCA(M)(2025)04- Prisoner pre-registration guidance).

- Housing was identified as an additional challenge with too many people having to present as homeless on release. A short life working group was formed to find sustainable solutions (January 2023).
- In 2023-24 we set out to identify a minimum of two to three test cases to begin the sustainable housing application process. A sustainable tenancy spreadsheet was created and maintained by housing, to enable progress to be monitored. The selection of people during year one was ad hoc but the test of change confirmed that the arrangement of a tenancy direct from prison was possible.
- The sustainable tenancy test of change continued during 2024-25 and a similar number of sustainable tenancies were achieved despite the Housing Emergency and the Emergency Early Release reducing the timescale between notification of release and release.
- During 2024-25, the voluntary throughcare co-ordination meeting became the mechanism of checking GP registration and accommodation status and became the mechanism for monitoring consistency of approach bringing the three tests of change together.

Future proofing the project

Work is still required to fully mainstream this project though the partners have committed their resources to the approach long term. Work will continue during 2025-26 to develop the protocol further and create a business assurance framework.

Impact

The improvement activity has enhanced the co-ordination of support to people being released from a sentence. While not everyone has accessed a sustainable tenancy on release, everyone (who engaged with housing) received a homeless assessment in advance of release. We now have a system in place to ensure an “assertive” offer of support is made to P&K residents listed on the SPS’ 3 month liberation spreadsheet.

In addition to improving the co-ordination generally, the creation of the multi agency team (formed by the weekly co-ordination meeting) established a level of resilience and compassionate support that did not previously exist. The established relationships have also enabled open and honest discussions to take place which over time has helped shape the test of change. This project reduces stigma, supports a return to employment and to family life, removes barriers to reintegration, and reduces the potential for reoffending. It encourages people to make better choices and gives them hope.

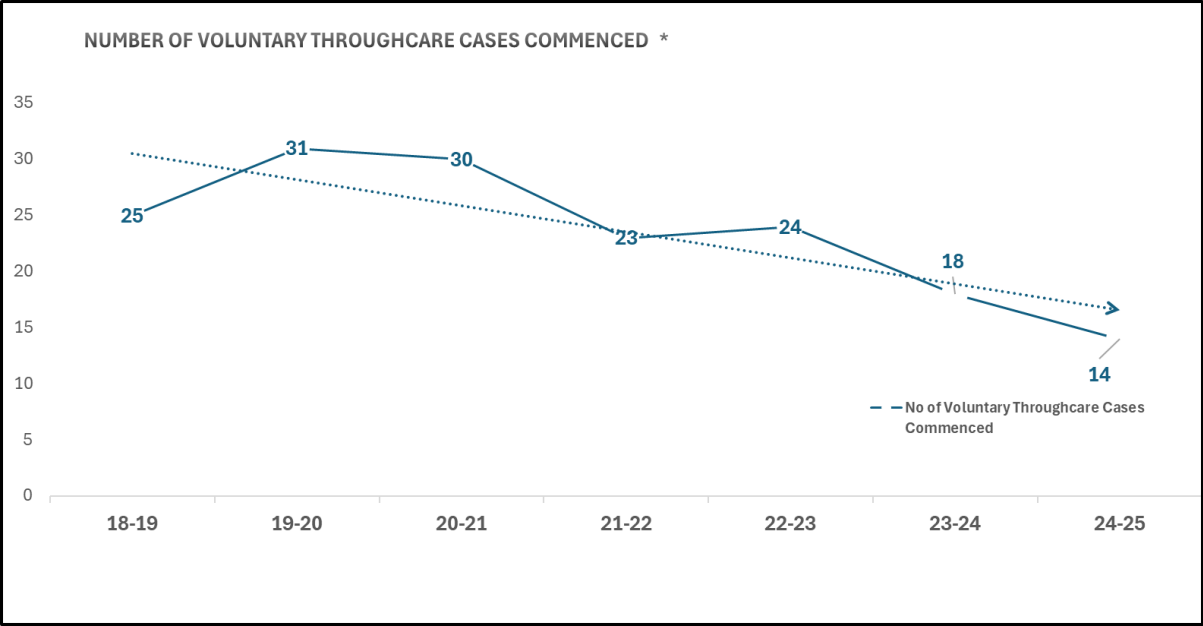
People receiving the co-ordinated support during 2024-25 have commented that they have never received this level of support before. One person commented feeling an element of pressure to succeed, ***“everyone is rooting for me and invested in me in a way I have never experienced before”***.

Prison release is highly complex and fraught with different criteria and different support offers depending on the offence and sentence. This project has sought to establish a level of co-ordination to ensure the best use of partnership resources and provide a minimum level of standard in terms of support for every P&K resident

approaching release. This has not been without its challenges such as a change to third sector providers and internal Safer Communities Team review. However, regardless of the changes, the throughcare co-ordination group have continued to meet routinely in recognition that we have wider reach as a collaborative group than can be achieved by one organisation.

During the reporting period 66 people of were discussed via the Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination Meeting. All 66 were offered support of which 44 accepted ahead of release. The support was offered by the national voluntary throughcare providers (New Routes /Shine), Intensive Housing Support Service (initial contact via Complex Needs Co-ordinator), Complex Needs Co-ordinator or CJSW. It should be noted that the decline in voluntary throughcare commenced (figure 13) via CJSW is linked to the co-ordinated approach taken locally to route people into the most appropriate service on release. Figure 14 provides a breakdown of voluntary throughcare uptake, CJSW and third sector.

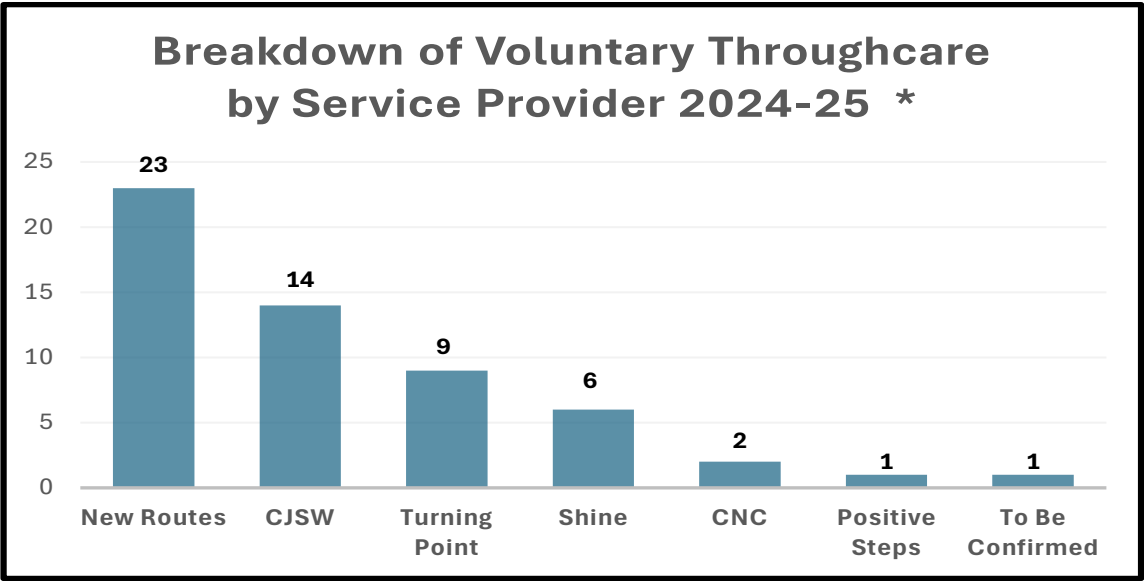
Figure 13: Voluntary Throughcare Cases Commenced (CJSW)



* These figures in this chart include voluntary throughcare linked to release from a short-term sentence and voluntary assistance support available to people at the end of their licence conditions

Source: ([Justice social work statistics: local authority time series tables - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/justice-social-work-statistics/local-authority-time-series-tables/pages/10.aspx))

Figure 14: Breakdown of Voluntary Throughcare Uptake by Service Provider



*The 14 CJSW cases include voluntary throughcare linked to release from a short-term sentence and voluntary assistance support available to people at the end of their licence conditions.

Source: Local Prison Release Tracker

Life Skills Program

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service supported HMP Castle Huntly residents preparing for release via inputs in the Life Skills program offered within the establishment. Their input covered a range of topics including Home Fire, Road and Water Safety with a view to promoting increased safety awareness and improved decision making reintegrate into the local community. The engagement also created opportunity to increase trust and engagement with the fire service in a harder to reach cohort of society. The program can also include some basic fire service drill work with activities such as hose running.

Family Support

HMP Perth Visitors Centre (staffed by Cross Reach) moved into the waiting area of the prison during the reporting period. The Visitor Centre had previously been located in an external building within the grounds. The space created within the waiting area has been transformed into trauma-informed, therapeutic space, and an excellent service for all visitors who arrive at HMP Perth. The new Centre is bright, welcoming and is utilised well by individuals and families, with comments such as: - ***“how different the visit feels now”, “this support makes me less anxious before my visit”, “Having this service here is a God-send”. “Transformed, doesn’t feel like a category A”***. In addition to providing direct support to visitors, Cross Reach also hosted a number of external agencies enabling additional support offers in relation to mental health, neurodiversity, physical health etc.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action 10 from the local CJOIP. The cited CJOIP actions were identified or evolved from the Prison Release specific SNSA completed in January 2023.

Priority Action Ten – CJOIP Priorities – 2024-25

10.1 Extend Co-ordinated Voluntary Throughcare to all P&K residents being released from a short-term prison sentence in Scotland.

Update: Achieved June 2024 following Emergency Release Powers.

10.2 Broaden the outreach offer (voluntary throughcare and statutory throughcare) to include all the Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative Organisations to increase capacity and address unmet need.

Update: Achieved – voluntary throughcare co-ordination meeting provides a mechanism to route people into the most suitable service.

10.3 Development of a Mental Health / Substance Use Protocol which will outline how mental health and substance use services work together in supporting people with a range of mental health and substance use.

Update: The work has commenced under Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards Work but will carry forward into 2025-26.

10.4 Develop a Voluntary Throughcare performance dashboard.

Update: Carry forward Action – delayed due to dashboard development priority being given to Community Sentences.

10.5 Extend the outcome wheel developed by CJSW to voluntary throughcare processes.

Update: Delayed due to recommissioning process for voluntary throughcare. Discussion required with new Voluntary Throughcare Service regarding the monitoring of outcomes.

Prison Release Specific case studies can be viewed in **Appendix 1: Case Studies 10 to 15 – Prison Release.**

13. Priority Action Eleven – Improved Outcomes

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

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

The CJ&SP maintained a collaborative approach to strategic planning. This approach is similar to the Human Learning System methodology, which aims to address the complexities present in the 21st century. As described by [Human Learning Systems](#):

“Thinking in systems—understanding things as connected and interdependent—leads to better outcomes for all.

Focusing on the relationships between people creates improved ways of working and better workplaces.

Prioritising collective learning over deliverology facilitates innovation and sustainable improvement.”

Partners within P&K acknowledge the complexity and interdependencies in their work environment. Mechanisms have been established to support engagement, including:

- A CJOIP, with improvement actions updated annually to reflect changes within Justice.
- A participation statement.
- Annual progress reports submitted to Community Justice Scotland (September) on both national and local outcomes.
- A publicly available annual report (December).

Mechanisms are also in place to facilitate effective interaction between national partner organisations and the P&K CJ&SP:

Engagement strategies include collaboration with statutory and non-statutory partners in operational planning, drawing on these experiences in strategic planning through groups such as:

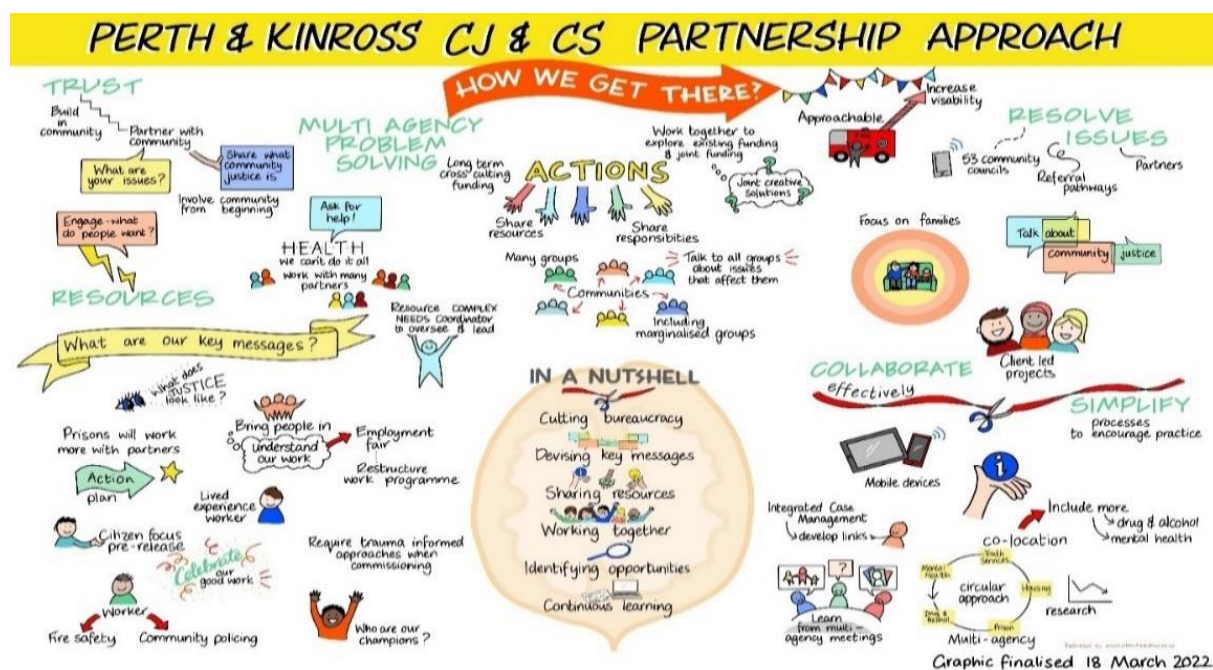
- Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative (Quarterly)

- Victim/Survivor Working Group (Quarterly)
- Complex Needs Oversight Group (Quarterly)
- Prison Release Oversight Group (Quarterly)
- Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination meeting (weekly)
- GP Registration Working Group (Bimonthly)
- Suicide Prevention Working Group (Bimonthly)
- Child Impact Assessment Steering Group (Monthly)

Information sharing sessions with local Sheriffs continued during 2024-25 including:

- HMP Perth's Governor and Head of Offender Outcomes on prison programmes,
- Chief Executive of Community Justice Scotland – national priorities,
- Justice Social Work & Chair of CJ&SP – local priorities,
- Prison Reform Trust and Families Outside regarding the justice system's impact on families, the Child Impact Assessment toolkit,
- Multi-agency session on Electronic Monitoring.

As noted in the previous annual report, the CJ&SP infographic is scheduled for review, though the update was postponed due to planned operational changes during the reporting period. The existing Approach Infographic remains applicable.



Learning derived from these activities continues to inform both operational and strategic planning at the local level and is shared with Community Justice Scotland through regular meetings between the Community Justice Scotland Improvement Link and the Community Justice Co-ordinator.

Locally, this relational, or Human Learning System, approach to strategic planning has supported responsive collaboration among Partners, ensuring organisational needs are considered and promoting cooperation in an open and transparent manner.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action 11 from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Eleven – CJOIP Priorities 2024-25 (updates in bold)

- 11.1 **Develop Memorandum of Understanding to support / encourage partnership working - strategic & operational level.**
Update: Activity delayed due to other priorities during the reporting period – carry forward action.
- 11.2 **Promote the National Community Justice Agenda. Share information with partners to inform strategy and operational planning.**
Update: Achieved – established mechanisms in place to regularly share information with Partners.
- 11.3 **Utilise quarterly CJ&SP meetings to provide progress updates against the CJOIP.**
Update: Achieved – established mechanisms to provide updates at quarterly meetings.
- 11.4 **Ensure CJ&SP members are engaged with the partnership, find meetings purposeful and relevant, and meetings provide sufficient strategic oversight for improving community justice outcomes.**
Update: A short survey was circulated to CJ&SP members during the reporting period. 12 members responded.
 - All the respondents viewed the merger of the Community Justice Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership as positive.
 - Partners were asked the types of inputs they find most beneficial – short presentations, co-ordinator updates and long papers for noting were the most popular agenda items, closely followed by short verbal updates, short papers for discussion, and case studies.
 - Nearly all the respondents felt that the frequency of the quarterly meetings was just right. One person felt that the meetings would benefit from being more frequent.
 - Nearly all the respondents felt that the meeting membership was just right. One person commented that regular attendance from NHS and GEOamey would be helpful.
 - All the respondents felt there was an effective balance between the Justice and Safety items on the meeting agendas.
- 11.5 **Promote regular attendance at quarterly CJ&SP and Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative meetings by monitoring attendance.**
Update: Activity delayed due to other priorities during the reporting period.
- 11.6 **Commence Care Inspectorate Self Evaluation with a focus on Section 9 – Leadership.**
Update: Activity delayed due to other priorities during the reporting period.

14. Priority Action Twelve – Incorporating the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families

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.

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?

The Victim/Survivor Supports Available meeting continued during the reporting period, attended by representatives from Safer Community Team, Third Sector (Women's Aid, Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASAC), Victim Support, Families Outside), Police Scotland, and the Community Justice Co-ordinator. Each participating organisation provided insight on behalf of the individuals and groups they support.

During the reporting period, several presentations were organised and delivered to the group:

- Victim Notification Scheme presented by SPS
- Thriving Survivors Presentation (Restorative Justice)
- Support Offer from RASAC
- Sycamore Project – a prison-based restorative programme aimed at individuals who have committed offences

The group also examined ways to enhance access to support services and increase awareness of available assistance:

- Victim Support Referral provided by Police Scotland
- Collaborative opportunities to promote the Victim Support Service

With respect to families, intensive work was undertaken in 2024-25, in partnership with Families Outside, to raise awareness of the **Child Impact Assessment Toolkit** and to shift the narrative for children and young people affected by the justice journey from “**Not Seen, Not Heard and Not Guilty**” to “**Seen, Heard and Supported**.” This initiative was informed by a Young Person's Steering Group at Perth Academy, composed of young people with direct experience of having someone close to them involved in the justice system. Further details on this work can be found in the priority action 13 section of this report.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action 12 from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Twelve – CJOIP Priorities - 2024-25

12.1 Map out lived experience within P&K – lived experience workers employed with local organisations.

Update: This work was delayed due to other priorities emerging during the reporting period and is no longer thought to be required. Priorities relating to incorporation of the lived and living experience voice will be taken forward during 2025-26 by the Protecting People Co-ordination Group.

12.2 Explore opportunities to set up a Lived Experience panel to drive future improvement activity and support the Partnership.

Update: Work will commence on this action during 2024-25 via the Protecting People Co-ordination group.

12.3 Establish pathways to ensure young people have the opportunity to have their voice heard at key decision-making stages, when a parent/care giver enters the justice system.

Update: Complete – pathway established via the Child Impact Assessment project (further details available below – priority action 13).

15. Priority Action Thirteen –Supporting integration and reducing stigma through improved understanding and confidence in Community Justice

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

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

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

Quarterly Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative meetings continue to serve as an effective platform for regular information sharing between third sector and

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

statutory organisations regarding positive developments within Community Justice and Safety in P&K.

The CJ&SP continued to embrace opportunities as they arose to improve understanding of and confidence in community justice across the workforce – examples of which are provided throughout this entire report. To name a few:

- Ongoing engagement sessions with local Sheriffs
- Arrangement of multi-agency training events
- Information sharing with our Victim/Survivor Organisation working group
- CJ&S) stall at the Launch of Prisoner Week (17 October).
- CJ&SP stall RecoverMay Launch (2 May)
- CJ&SP stall IDART Event Murray Royal Hospital (29 November)

The above-mentioned stalls were supported by members of the Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative on behalf of the CJ&SP.

In relation to positive public messaging, good news stories were regularly shared via The Westbank Project Facebook Page in relation to unpaid work

<https://www.facebook.com/WestbankProject>.

Community Payback work (Good Neighbour Scheme) continued within HMP Perth during the reporting period and a programme developed which included building benches for public spaces and play equipment for P&K schools and nurseries. The first of the school equipment initiatives was completed June 2024 with the equipment presented to Letham Primary prior to the summer holidays. The initiative continued throughout the reporting period and was promoted by both SPS and PKC Communications Teams. More information about the Good Neighbour Scheme can be viewed [Vandal-hit Perth school helped by prison's Good Neighbour project](#). SPS initiatives and the positive work are also promoted on the SPS facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ScottishPrisonService>

Child Impact Assessment Project

Children with a parent involved in the justice system often report being **not seen and not heard**, even though they are **not guilty**. Young people's circumstances may change significantly when a family member enters the justice system. They may observe an arrest, experience separation if the family member is imprisoned, and face financial challenges due to household income loss. Families may manage these changes alone because of stigma, which can affect relationships and mental health. During the reporting period, efforts were made to shift the local narrative from "Not Seen, Not Heard and Not Guilty" to "Seen, Heard and Supported." This was achieved by providing comprehensive training for professionals, raising awareness about parental or sibling involvement in the justice system and its impact on children and young people, and promoting the Child Impact Assessment toolkit. This work was made possible via the Scottish Government's UNCRC Innovation Fund, managed by the Corra Foundation, for the period 9 October 2023 to 6 December 2024. The funds were used to engage Family Outside to deliver training for professionals about the effect of justice processes on children and young people. Central to the project is the use of the Prison Reform Trust's [Child Impact](#)

[Assessments Toolkit](#), a UK-wide resource created in collaboration with children and young people.

A multi-agency steering group started in January 2024, and a programme of multi-agency training launched in April 2024. Ninety-nine participants completed Champion Training (one-day session), and 345 attended a shorter Toolkit Session. The training was designed to enhance the skills of staff from social work, education, housing, the third sector, and other areas, enabling them to recognise and address negative impacts of the justice system on children.

Resources and Support

Young people with living experience from Perth Academy contributed to developing child-friendly materials promoting the toolkit, intended to inform children and young people of their rights when affected by the justice system.

**UNDER 18?
FAMILY MEMBER IN CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM?
YOU HAVE RIGHTS.
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD.
ASK FOR A CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT.**

LEARN MORE

www.pkc.gov.uk/childimpactassessments

A stick figure is holding a sign that says "CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT".

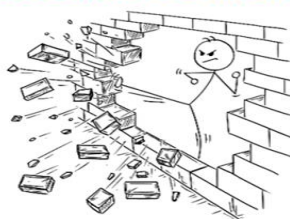
PARENT IN PRISON?
YOUR RIGHTS DON'T END AT THE PRISON GATES.



**GET THE SUPPORT YOU DESERVE.
GET A CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT.**



**PRISON WALLS CAN'T
HOLD BACK YOUR RIGHTS.**

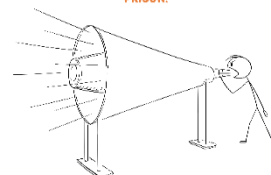


**PARENT IN PRISON?
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS.
GET A CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT.**



**THEIR SENTENCE.
YOUR SAY.**

YOUR RIGHTS DON'T END WHEN THEY GO TO PRISON.



**HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD.
GET A CHILD IMPACT ASSESSMENT.**



Additionally, resources were developed for individuals directly involved in the justice system (both perpetrators and victims) to clarify the support available.

Pathways & Roles and Responsibilities

A guide outlining roles and responsibilities was produced to provide clarity for multi-agency professionals regarding their duties (e.g., police sharing information about the toolkit; children and families support service assisting with toolkit completion and accessing support).

An information-sharing pathway was established to guide workers on data sharing and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance.

In addition to in-person training in 2024, Families Outside created a short training video as part of this project. The video is accessible online for those unable to attend sessions or seeking a refresher [Child Impact Assessment Training - Perth and Kinross - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/23964/About-Child-Impact-Assessments). This video is intended as a long-term resource, with plans to incorporate it into multi-agency induction materials and mandatory professional training in P&K.

Webpages were developed and made available to professionals and the public:

- [About Child Impact Assessments - Perth & Kinross Council](#)
- [Child Impact Assessments: The Toolkit - Perth & Kinross Council](#)
- [Child Impact Assessment Training - Perth and Kinross - Perth & Kinross Council](#)
- [Child Impact Assessment - Feedback from children, young people & professionals - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

Outcomes and Impact

The project aimed to increase staff knowledge and facilitate connections between children impacted by the justice system and appropriate support services. Feedback from multi-agency training suggested that project objectives were met.

Most training participants reported the following:

- Enhanced knowledge and understanding of issues affecting families impacted by imprisonment
- Increased ability to uphold children's rights after training
- Awareness of the need to offer a Child Impact Assessment to young people affected by the justice system
- Understanding of their role in supporting young people experiencing a family member's involvement in the justice system

Because the toolkit is voluntary, there is no cross-organisational mechanism for recording usage; however, efforts will take place in 2025-26 to collect feedback from children, young people, and professionals who have engaged with the toolkit.

The Young People's Steering Group at Perth Academy evolved into a Peer Support group, with membership increasing of students doubling and teacher support rising from one to six. A support programme is planned for the group during the 2025-26 academic year, including activities such as mental health support, one-to-one mentoring, skill development, and recreational opportunities.

Cross Reach hosted conversations with visitors at HMP Perth regarding the availability of the Child Impact Assessment toolkit during the launch of the toolkit locally in November 2024. Families participated in good conversations with staff, many visitors did not perceive there to be any impact from having a dad/grandfather in prison at the outset of the conversation but when they reflected on their child's behaviour they could identify changes in sleep patterns, behaviours etc that they had previously not linked to the person's absence. Those who participated in conversation about the toolkit appeared to find them cathartic and people were grateful for the opportunity to talk about their journey.

The following section provides an update on progress related to priority action 13 from the local CJOIP.

Priority Action Thirteen – CJOIP Priorities	
13.1	Develop a CJ&SP Communication Plan promoting the activity of the CJ&SP <u>Update:</u> Further delayed due to competing priorities.
13.2	Participate in the Alcohol and Drug Partnership's Recover May. <u>Update:</u> CJ&SP stall at RecoverMay Launch event.
13.3	Maintain the CJ&SP webpages to share Community Justice information. <u>Update:</u> CJ&SP website pages were updated throughout the year with relevant Community Justice information.

13.4 Raise awareness of Child Impact Assessments available to young people within P&K.

Update: detailed update provided above.

16. Next steps for the Partnership

Next steps for the Partnership

- Review and update the CJ&SP Infographic and the Community Safety Third Sector Collaborative Infographic.
- Begin using the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with an initial focus on Leadership and Direction.
- Further develop employability initiatives within P&K for individuals who have been in contact with Justice.
- Create opportunities for closer collaboration with Justice Healthcare.
- Revisit and update the Diversion from Prosecution SNSA and the Bail Supervision SNSA when new operational guidance is issued.
- Work closely with Upside (the new National Voluntary Throughcare service provider) – in recognition that if everyone eligible signed up for the service it would be quickly overwhelmed based on the allocated funding.

Opportunities

- Potential to enhance collaborative working and strategic planning through increased engagement with local funders within P&K, such as the Gannochy Trust.
- MAT Standards implementation in justice settings may increase collaboration between healthcare and community justice.

Barriers and/or risks

- The short-term nature of Justice Social Work funding limits opportunities for long term planning.
- Ongoing risk that “creating capacity” funds may not be realised due to local budget savings and local changes to service structures.
- Timely access to mental health services remains a concern.
- Ongoing prison population issues continue to result in residents not being accommodated in their local prison therefore adding additional barriers to establishing a relationship pre-release.
- Staff turnover, whether due to career progression or other reasons, may affect established partnership working relationships.

Appendix 1

Priority Action 1 - Diversion from Prosecution

Case Study 1 - Diversion from Prosecution

Donald (not his real name) was referred for DfP after being stopped by police in possession of a knife. At the time of the offence, Donald was staying with friends.

Donald was assessed as appropriate for DfP, which involved work focused on addressing knife crime, examining the potential consequences of carrying a blade, and exploring consequential thinking.

Areas addressed during DfP included:

- Submitting a homeless application
- Opening a bank account
- Applying for a passport
- Securing part-time employment
- Improving relationships with family
- Receiving education on the risks associated with knife crime and weapon possession

Initial progress centred around meeting Donald's immediate needs, as these influenced his engagement. He received support to open a bank account, apply for a passport, and complete a homeless application. Once these matters were managed, further sessions addressed the risks of knife crime, particularly the increased risk to individuals carrying bladed articles.

Throughout the intervention, Donald was supported by a family who provided assistance in various areas of his life. This support contributed to reducing his contact with negative influences and helped him to obtain part-time employment, thereby providing access to an income.

Priority Action 2 - Arrest Referral

Case Study 2 – Arrest Referral

Anne (not her real name) was referred to the Complex Needs Co-ordinator following arrest. Anne had no support in place at the time of the referral and was staying in temporary accommodation. Anne did not respond to initial offers of support. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator received a further notification from the Safer Communities Team that Anne did not have any electricity. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator visited the property and offered to support Anne to get electricity. The electricity issue was quickly sorted for Anne and who started to engage with the Complex Needs Co-ordinator.

Anne was very mentally unwell as she had not been attending regular medical appointments. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator re-established those appointments and supported Anne to attend. Anne agreed to a referral to SAMH and routine support for Anne was established. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator supported Anne to move her own tenancy where she continues to live and Anne engages well with the support offered to her from SAMH. Anne is more mentally stable from taking

her medication regularly. Anne now engages well with support services and has been stable for over 12 months.

Priority Action 3 – Bail Supervision

Case Study 3 – Bail Supervision

Anna (not her real name) appeared at Perth Sheriff Court for a breach of bail relating to an initial domestic assault charge. She disclosed a history of emotional abuse, ongoing marital difficulties, and increased alcohol use due to unhappiness. Anna's bail officer connected her with Women's Aid, housing support, and resources to manage alcohol intake, adjusting meetings around her work so she could keep her job. With this support, Anna became more confident and resilient, improved her relationships, and progressed positively. Anna's case was deferred for good behaviour, allowing more time for change, and she was later admonished.

Priority Action 4 Electronic Monitoring

Case Study 4 – Electronic Monitoring

Gill (not her real name) was released on bail with Bail Supervision and Electronic Monitoring Order with an overnight curfew.

Gill was known to have complex needs due to trauma, mental health and addiction. During her time on Electronic Monitoring, she was admitted to hospital, NHS staff liaised with G4S and Gill was not breached for not being at home during her curfew hours.

Upon discharge from hospital, staff supported Gill to contact her solicitor to request a bail review as Gill did not want to return home, she wanted to stay with her family. A bail hearing was arranged, her curfew address amended and G4S moved the equipment.

Having a monitoring device helped Gill to stay at home during the evening and not leave the family home late at night to seek substances, this helped her reduce the amount she was consuming, which helped her relationship with her family. Gill completed her Bail Supervision Order and Electronic Monitoring.

Priority Action 5 – Community Sentences

Case Study 6 - Right Track (also known as Structured Deferred Sentence)

Allan (not his real name) was referred to the Right Track programme by the Sheriff during the reporting period.

Upon commencing with Right Track, the programme co-ordinator outlined rigorous expectations for engagement, which comprised:

- Attending the Work Programme once weekly for three hours to participate in gardening tasks, intended as restitution for his actions.
- Meeting with the Right Track co-ordinator for an additional hour each week to complete specialised domestic abuse intervention, focused on addressing and challenging coercive control attitudes and beliefs underlying Allan's behaviour.

The co-ordinator modified her approach to support Allan, who was diagnosed with autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The Right Track model is trauma-informed, promoting effective and inclusive engagement.

Allan's progress was reviewed biannually in Court by the same Sheriff. Reports were submitted jointly by the Right Track co-ordinator and the assigned Social Worker to provide updates on Allan's development. At his final court appearance, the Sheriff acknowledged Allan's personal growth, noting his efforts to disengage from negative influences and commending his commitment to the programme. The Sheriff further emphasised the importance of respectful behaviour in intimate relationships.

Following completion of over 250 hours in the work project and 10 plus sessions in the domestic abuse programme, Allan was admonished at his final appearance.

The Right Track programme considers all individuals aged 26 and under at the outset of their Justice involvement. The approach is tailored to the developmental stage and specific needs of participants, incorporating risk assessment to inform appropriate intervention strategies.

Case Study 7 - Drug and Alcohol Treatment Requirement

Sean (not his real name) received a 12-month CPO with Supervision and Alcohol Treatment Requirements. He met with a Specified Worker from CJSW weekly as part of his Alcohol Treatment Requirement.

Over the course of the 12-month CPO, Sean:

- Completed a hospital-based alcohol detoxification programme, which led to changes in his alcohol use patterns.
- Reduced his alcohol consumption.
- Reported improvements in mental and physical health related to reduced drinking.
- Worked with a mentor from TCA, who provided support regarding alcohol consumption and helped Sean participate in various activities.
- Began a course at Perth College, aiming for employment in outdoor work after deciding that his previous occupation contributed to negative drinking habits.
- Finished a 10-day wilderness course with Venture Trust and continued receiving support from them.
- Established a regular routine, including attending gyms that support individuals in recovery.
- Communicated with his housing officer to arrange repayment for rent arrears, which resulted in the conclusion of eviction proceedings.
- Developed problem-solving skills.

Sean complied with the requirements of his Order, made use of available supports, completed his CPO, and did not incur any further charges.

Case Study 8 – One Stop Women’s Learning Service (OWLS)

Emma (not her real name) was issued a 12-month Supervision Order. She had a documented history of alcohol misuse, and in her early interactions with OWLS, she frequently presented under the influence and exhibited hostility toward staff and clients.

To address her immediate needs, Emma was assigned both a mentor and key worker from OWLS. She requested assistance with accessing detoxification services and expressed anxiety regarding her partner’s imminent release from custody.

Emma’s mentor collaborated with her to tackle underlying issues such as anxiety, anger management, reduction of alcohol consumption, family dynamics, and past experiences of domestic abuse. The following supports were recommended and facilitated:

- Attendance at a detox programme, after which Emma achieved temporary sobriety before relapsing.
- Participation with IDART to support ongoing alcohol misuse, with consideration of re-referral to detox and an Antabuse prescription.
- Engagement with harm reduction services for liver health monitoring.
- Access to dental care.
- GP consultations for antidepressant medication and referral to a nutritionist.
- Hospital appointments to monitor alcohol-related health concerns.
- Housing support for household repairs and security.

Emma also received encouragement to participate in community activities, such as walking and grocery shopping.

As a result of this comprehensive support, Emma demonstrated significant progress in confidence and anger management, leading to notable improvements in her behaviour. She ceased attending OWLS under the influence and became more coherent and engaged during mentoring and supervision sessions. Additionally, Emma’s overall outlook improved; she began making healthier choices and adopted a more mindful approach to her wellbeing.

At the conclusion of her Supervision Order, Emma provided the following feedback:

“...soon I will no longer need assistance, but I have said I’d like to stay voluntary as the support I’ve been given has helped me massively. My worker is a very supportive and understanding person. I find it difficult to communicate with people when we first meet, but she made me feel I can be myself. She’s a credit, and people like me are fortunate to have her support.”

Case Study 9 - Connectere Programme

Mr Smith (not his real name) is described a traumatic child and adulthood. Mr Smith is diagnosed with various psychiatric disorders and has attempted to end his life on several occasions.

Through Mr Smith's positive engagement with Supervision appointments, it was identified that his complex childhood and the adult trauma he had experienced was closely linked to his expressions of violence and other forms of offending behaviours. Mr Smith was referred into the Connectere programme as part of his Supervision requirement, and history of experiencing trauma.

The 'Connectere' Programme, derived from the Latin term meaning "join together," comprises of twenty sessions. It was created to address a national demand for enhanced interventions, for individuals who have faced trauma and engaged in offending behaviour.

The Trauma Informed principles underpinning the program emphasise the consistent alignment of practices to ensure that every participant experience feelings of **safety, empowerment, choice, trust, and collaboration**. Facilitators must maintain a continuous awareness of incorporating these principles into every moment of group sessions, interactions outside sessions, and engagements with each participant. The program revolves around these principles, serving as catalysts for transformative change. Session prompts act as reminders for facilitators, reinforcing the centrality of these principles in engagement.

The philosophy of Kintsugi believes that all things, including people, are imperfect which makes us totally unique. Sometimes with our experiences we may 'feel broken', 'not working right' or that we are 'cracking up' a little. Kintsugi believes that it is not broken and the journey of repairing leads to a new beginning. Broken bits of pottery (just like bits of us) are embraced and made into a powerful and beautiful whole. Our wounds of trauma are not hidden but are accepted and recognised as essential, valuable parts of our new self. The Connectere programme is quite different from other groups as it is designed in a way that fully engages our senses (sight, touch, hearing). The group sessions include using video clips, music, discussions, drawing, sculpting, writing and a variety of other ways to learn about trauma and support recovery.

There were difficult moments for Mr Smith during the sessions, but the result was extremely positive. At its conclusion, Mr Smith was sad the sessions were ending; however, he agreed to speak to the next group of participants and endorse the benefits of the programme. Mr Smith was also able to set out how he would continue his journey of healing and making safe connections.

Mr Smith now has a better understanding of himself and has made genuine connections with his behaviours. There have been real situations where Mr Smith would previously have used violence when his anger has been triggered but was able to use learned coping strategies to remain in control of his emotions and therefore behaviours. This was a huge step for him, and he reports being much happier as a result. Mr Smith is abstinent from all substances and has spoken of how the programme helped change his attitudes regarding his propensity to use violence.

Priority Action 7 (Health and Social Care), 8 (SHORE), 9 (Employability) and 10 (Voluntary Throughcare) Case Study

Case Study 10 – Prison Release

David (not his real name) was discussed at the Voluntary Throughcare Co-ordination meeting prior to his scheduled release. David presented with complex mental health needs and had exhibited disruptive behaviour during his sentence, including frequent nighttime vocalisations.

The meeting addressed appropriate accommodation options for David's release, acknowledging that homeless accommodation could exacerbate his anxiety. Consequently, David was considered for the sustainable tenancy test of change. Additionally, a multi-agency meeting was convened to assess the support required upon his release.

Housing professionals proposed several accommodation options, which were evaluated by the Safer Communities team through an Environmental Risk Assessment to identify any potential risks to both neighbours and David, aiming for the most suitable placement.

David accepted support from the Complex Needs Co-ordinator and a Community Justice Assistant, who established a positive relationship with David and his family. Together, they identified key factors important to David for his transition back into the community.

A suitable property was secured, and staff informed David that it would be furnished prior to his release. With family support, David signed for the property before release.

On the day of release, David chose not to remain within P&K and temporarily relocated to another Local Authority area, experiencing homelessness for ten days. Nevertheless, housing colleagues maintained the accommodation offer in recognition of his complex circumstances. Upon his return, David moved into the property and adapted well.

Although David achieved greater stability, he experienced instances of antisocial behaviour directed towards him. Throughout this period, ongoing support was provided to David and his family by the Complex Needs Co-ordinator.

Case Study 11 – Prison Release

Andrew (not is real name) completed an employment academy during his prison sentence and was offered employment on release from Prison. Work commenced with housing to complete homeless papers with a view to arranging a sustainable tenancy for release. Andrew was very clear that he did not want to spend time in hostel accommodation on release due to the negative influences. A property was identified for Andrew close to his place of employment, however, there was a delay in the existing tenant leaving which meant the property was not available immediately

on release. Temporary accommodation (a flat) was made available to Andrew until his property was ready, in recognition of Andrews concerns about hostel accommodation, and Andrew was then supported to move to his new address once the property was vacant.

Andrew was also supported to register with a GP, to access medication to manage his alcohol intake prior to release and to access benefits. Support for Andrew's release was co-ordinated via the Prison Release Co-ordination meetings.

On the approach to release Andrew commented to the Complex Needs Co-ordinator ***“everyone is rooting for me and invested in me in a way I have never experienced before”***.

Case Study 12 – Prison Release (Sentence & Remand)

Keith (not his real name) had signed up for voluntary throughcare with a local third sector provider. His key worker was not available to meet Keith at the gate on the day of his liberation, and the Complex Need Co-ordinator was asked to step in. A gate pick up was provided and Keith was supported on the day of release (demonstrating the added resilience available locally via the prison release co-ordination meetings). Keith was rearrested soon after his release and was detained on remand. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator engaged with Keith during his period of remand via the Remand Drop-In sessions she offers in HMP Perth. During these engagements Keith advised that he wanted to make a fresh start and move to another Local Authority area on release. Contact was made with the Local Authority area who accepted the housing application. Keith was later released from court. The Complex Needs Co-ordinator met Keith at the court and supported him to access temporary housing in the new Local Authority area. Keith was offered a tenancy following a period of temporary accommodation and has integrated into his community. Keith has not picked up further arrests/charges since his fresh start. Keith continues to check in periodically with the Complex Needs Co-ordinator.

Case Study 13 - Intensive Housing Support

Brian (not his real name) was referred to the Intensive Housing Support Service (IHS) provided by Turning Point Scotland. At the time, Brian was in his late twenties and presented with complex needs relating to homelessness, substance use, mental health, physical health, and involvement with the justice system. Prior to engaging with IHS, Brian had interacted with numerous local services across various disciplines; however, support often ended due to non-engagement.

Brian experienced chronic homelessness, including multiple stays in temporary and hostel accommodations and periods of rough sleeping. While residing in supported or temporary housing, he encountered significant challenges sustaining his placements, such as refusal to pay service charges, difficulty maintaining his living space in an acceptable condition (including issues such as blood stains and discarded needles), and challenges cooperating with staff in a calm and respectful manner. These factors frequently jeopardised the stability of his accommodation.

Although Brian was expressing an interest in securing independent housing, he was also reporting fears related to living alone and concerns about coping and maintaining safe and habitable living environment.

Engagement with IHS commenced with Brian following multidisciplinary meetings, where effective strategies from previous provider interactions were shared. It was determined that 1-to-1 support, delivered gradually by a female worker, would foster relationship building and engagement. The primary objectives included facilitating access to healthcare and enabling him to move into and sustain an independent permanent tenancy. During Brian's residence in a hostel, support focused on establishing a trusting relationship, encouraging medical treatment for a potentially life-threatening health issue, assisting with benefit claims and maintenance, and providing harm reduction advice. As a result, Brian adopted a more cautious approach to substance use and became more open with his support worker. When engagement diminished, staff responded proactively by seeking him out in the community, ensuring his safety, and working to re-establish regular contact.

With the support of IHS Brian moved into his own home and his tenancy has been sustained with no issues. ***'When I had my meeting with my housing officer, she said that she was very pleased with my tenancy and that she will only need to see me once a year unless anything changes'.***

Brian regularly engages with his key worker and has begun to develop a working relationship with a second worker in the service. Brian's contact with the justice system has reduced with the IHS support. Brian has been supported to attend court appearances, and this support has meant warrants have not been required to ensure he appears. ***'I feel that support reminds me of when I am due at court and supports me to attend as I don't like being in places where there are lots of people, I can become very anxious when I have to wait around. Support helps me as we chat and keep my mind off the waiting'.***

Brian now engages with harm reduction conversations with his key worker resulting in him using substances more safely and seeking advice and medical treatment when needed. Without the support that is in place it is highly likely that Brian would have failed to maintain his independence within his own tenancy continuing to fall between hostels, rough sleeping, and prison sentences.

Case Study 14 – Advocacy Support

Independent Advocacy Perth and Kinross (IAPK) supported an older male (Jack, not his real name) preparing for release from custody with a pre-release Integrated Case Management (ICM) meeting. Those in attendance (SPS, NHS and Social Work) felt that Jack's support needs would be best met in a care home. Upon leaving custody, a care home placement was arranged. Through engagement with Jack, social work and the care home it was identified that a care home placement was not a suitable long-term option. Jack wanted to live more independently and IAPK supported Jack to express his wishes. Housing was contacted to request a re-assessment of Jack's

housing needs and suitability for sheltered housing providing opportunity for more independent living.

Case Study 15 – Advocacy Support

IAPK supported John (not his real name) during a period on remand and on return to the community (John was on remand for over a year). Whilst on remand John was offered a secure tenancy by PKC and IAPK supported John to consider the offer / accept the offer.

Since leaving prison there have been some concerns in relation to John's mental & physical health. IAPK have been able to share information and some concerns with Offender Management Unit and justice social work, who in turn have been able to raise concerns with the NHS. Ongoing support is provided to John from IAPK as and when he requests it.