

Community justice outcomes improvement plan 2018–2021

The opportunity
to create a better
community



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What is community justice?

Community justice is protecting the community. As well as delivering justice for the victims of offending and making our communities feel safer, it's about working with people with convictions to give them the support and help they need to reduce the risk of re-offending.

When we talk about community justice, we mean all the people and organisations that work together to support victims and families affected by crime and who support, manage and supervise people who have committed offences from arrests through to the sentences they receive in court and on to their rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community.

These are not things that any single organisation can achieve alone. Because of this, the Scottish Parliament introduced the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, a law which means that statutory agencies must work together to plan their work and report on how they are performing.

In passing the law, the Scottish Government set out a goal:

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

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

To reach this goal, we know that:

- By telling communities about community justice issues and encouraging them to take part in planning our services, interventions will be more effective.
- Community justice issues are complex and we need to work together to make things better.
- Every member of our community, including those who have committed offences, their families, and victims of crime, should have access to high quality services that work together to address the needs of each individual.
- People should be given the right help at the right time; this should assist in preventing people from committing offences.
- People must be held to account for their offences, in a way that recognises the impact on victims of crime and is mindful of risks to the public, while being proportionate and effective in preventing and reducing further offending.
- Re-integrating those who have committed offences into the community and helping them to realise their potential will create a safer and fairer society for all.



“Community justice is protecting the community”

(Pictured) Snakes and Ladders game painted by people undertaking unpaid work, paying back to their community.



Why have a community justice approach?

The community is at the heart of the new model—we aim to consult and engage with those who have a stake in it.

We are committed to working with the local community to identify local priorities and take action to reduce re-offending within Renfrewshire. Plans will be made involving local people who know their area best. This is our opportunity to create a better community for Renfrewshire.

Community Justice Renfrewshire will help prevent crime by working with partners to support preventative activities in the community and help reduce crime by encouraging people with an offending history to feel part of their community and be good citizens.

Prison remains appropriate for people who commit serious offences, but locking people up isn't always a good way to stop re-offending. Community justice is proven to work.

Community-based justice is not a soft option—it's a punishment based on reparation as well as rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation is a key part of the approach—we want to help people with convictions find employment and stable housing, and reduce the chances of them reoffending. This benefits the whole community.



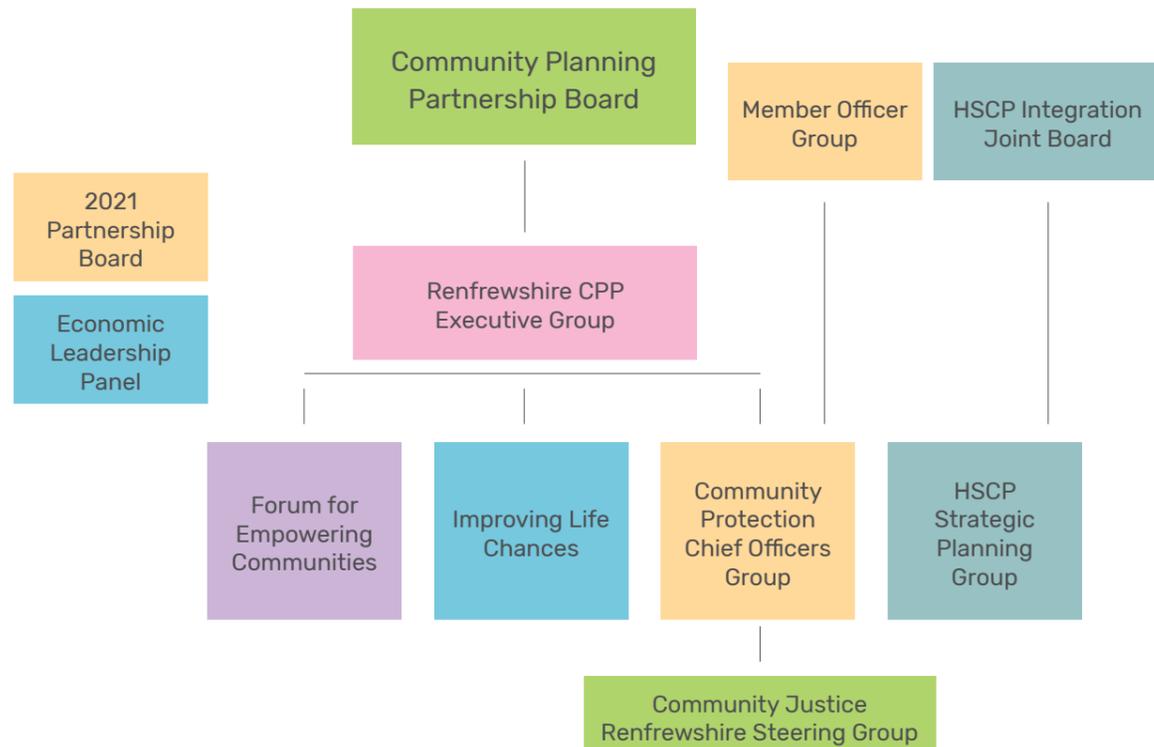
Who are Community Justice Renfrewshire?

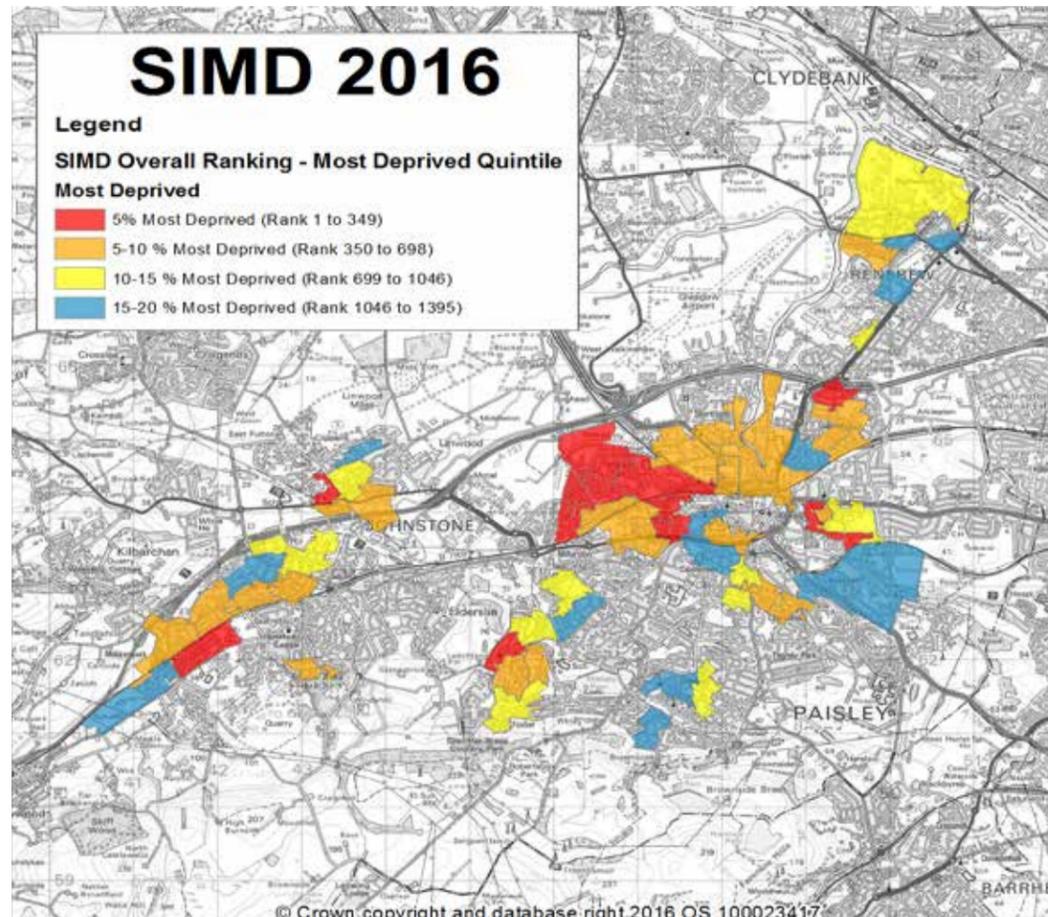
Community Justice Renfrewshire is firmly established within Renfrewshire’s robust Community Planning arrangements and our priorities reflect the vision of Renfrewshire’s Community Plan 2017 to 2027: “Working together to make Renfrewshire a fairer, more inclusive place where all our people, communities and businesses thrive”.

The diagram below identifies Renfrewshire’s Community Planning arrangements

People and organisations in Renfrewshire already work together on community justice and the new arrangements will make this partnership even stronger. Some of the groups where organisations already come together include:

- Community Protection Chief Officers Group
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- Child and Adult Protection Committees
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Gender Based Violence Strategy Group
- Employability Network
- Low Moss PSP Governance Group
- NHSGGC Community Justice Health Improvement Strategic Group
- Community Safety & Public Protection Steering Group
- MARAC–Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference





Local issues?

Just over a quarter of the population of Renfrewshire are in the top 20% most deprived parts of Scotland.

Deprivation

Renfrewshire's population is around 174,500 which accounts for three per cent of the Scottish population. We have the 9th largest population by council area and the second highest population density in Scotland outside the four major cities.

Renfrewshire is a diverse area with both large towns and rural areas and our communities have a strong sense of identity and in many cases a long history. Pockets of severe long-term deprivation sit very close to prosperous areas, and centuries-old settlements are neighbours to growing new communities.

Just over a quarter of the population of Renfrewshire are in the top 20% most deprived parts of Scotland. The single overall most deprived data zone in Scotland is located in Paisley. At the other end of the scale, there are 12 small areas in Renfrewshire which are in the 10% least deprived parts of the country.

Deprivation is not just about income. It's also about health and wellbeing, about education and job prospects, about access to services, about housing and about crime. All of this affects the quality of life in our communities.

We know that there is a big gap in life expectancy between communities within Renfrewshire. For example, life expectancy for men living in Ferguslie is 16.4 years less than for men who live in Bishopton, and there are other examples of these gaps. We also know that there are big differences in how healthy people are in older age.

Drugs and Alcohol

Figures on hospital presentations tell us that Renfrewshire has a higher than average number of people misusing drugs and alcohol. Misuse of alcohol and drugs is recognised as leading to ill health, preventable injury and death, worklessness and serious and petty offending. Alcohol and drugs are key factors in violence and is often a factor when children are taken into care.

A report published recently by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) showed that Renfrewshire has also experienced an increase in the rate of drug related deaths. In 2016, there were 42 drug related deaths, which compared to the five year average figures taken between 2006 and 2016 indicates a small rise from 22 to 26 cases (18.2% increase). Deaths in 2016 were characterised by an older (typically 35-44), male (71.4%) poly-substance (especially atypical benzodiazepine and opiate).

Up to 1 in 3 males and 1 in 10 females in Scotland are likely to have a criminal record which may act as a barrier to employment.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There is a clear link between deprivation and poor mental health and wellbeing. Renfrewshire has the 10th highest standardised rate of mental health inpatients in Scotland (2015/16), and 19% of Renfrewshire's residents are prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis. This rises to one in four people in some parts of the authority.

In recent years we have come to understand more about the relationship between Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) and future offending and imprisonment. ACEs are traumatic experiences that can have a profound effect on a child's developing brain and body with lasting effects.

Studies have shown that people, who have experienced four or more ACEs when compared to another person with no experience, were 20 times more likely to have been incarcerated at any point in their lifetime.

Figures show that 16% of criminal justice clients in Renfrewshire are in contact with Local Authority mental health services.

Homelessness

The security of having a roof over your head and somewhere you identify as home is important for all of us in maintaining a secure and stable lifestyle. People leaving prison were almost twice as likely to have reported homeless in the preceding 12 months as someone who has not been in prison. They are also less likely, as a homeless person, to receive permanent accommodation and more likely to have their application closed due to 'lost contact'.

Homeless applications have been falling in Renfrewshire for several years for all groups of people except prison leavers – those applications have almost doubled in the last 10 years.

Employability

Up to 1 in 3 males and 1 in 10 females in Scotland are likely to have a criminal record which may act as a barrier to employment. People with convictions may not feel that their conviction is the only barrier. As well as the process of having to declare convictions to potential employers, there is evidence which links a lack of skills, poorer education and a lack of self-confidence with offending. Due to this, people with convictions can be less 'job ready' than others. When people struggle to find work, it may be another reason that makes it difficult for them to have a stable lifestyle and contribute to their community.

We carried out some research with people in prison and those serving community sentences. Almost all those interviewed cited joblessness and lack of money as a key factor in their offending.

Drug and alcohol use also featured strongly. When asked what would help them not to re-offend, almost three-quarters of those being interviewed said training and help to find employment.

Crime

Each year, the Scottish Government publishes information on the number and type of crimes committed in each council area. Figures for Renfrewshire tell us that the number of crimes is falling. When Police Scotland were preparing their local policing plan for 2017–2020, they consulted Renfrewshire residents. One of the top issues they wanted police to focus on locally was drug crime. Because of this, tackling the supply and misuse of drugs is a top priority in the Renfrewshire Local Policing Plan.

Tackling the illegal supply and use of controlled drugs not only reduces the harm it does to individuals, families and communities, it also addresses a number of other issues associated with the drug trade, from funding serious and organised crime and terrorism to general antisocial behaviour and linked crimes of dishonesty. Because of this focus, almost one-quarter of all crimes reported in Renfrewshire in 2016–17 were drug-related.

Gender-based violence is another focus for not only the police but for other organisations locally. The number of people who are victims of physical, sexual or emotional abuse is a major concern. Domestic abuse in particular affects the lives of individuals as well as their families.

There are already strong multi-agency arrangements in place to work with the perpetrators and victims of gender-based violence and it is important that this work remains a priority for everyone involved. Community Justice Renfrewshire

will continue to support this work through its membership on the Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence Strategic Group.

Sentencing

The number of people receiving short prison sentences from the courts has been falling and there is much more use of community sentences. In Renfrewshire, work with women who offend has been very successful and there are fewer than 10 women from Renfrewshire currently serving a prison term. 97% of Renfrewshire's prison population are male with 94% being over 21 years of age.

The main community sentence used by courts is the Community Payback Order. In Renfrewshire, a person on one of these orders is most likely to be aged 21–30. The number of these orders being made by the court has increased year on year since they were introduced in 2011, and the length of the orders has also been increasing. More women are being given this type of sentence.

A considerable body of research shows that community sentences work better than prison for many people. This is especially true when compared to short prison sentences. In September 2017 the Scottish Government announced the extension of the presumption against short term prison sentences to 12 months or less. It is anticipated that this will create more opportunity to reduce re-offending through the increased use of effective community based rehabilitation programmes.

Research with a small group of people currently on a Community Payback Order in Renfrewshire highlighted positive results. All those who took part felt that undertaking the order had not only had a positive effect on their lives, it had helped them to understand the impact on the victims of their offences. They were also able to cite a range of other services they had been able to access during the CPO, such as support with housing, mental and physical health issues and substance misuse.

The service user voice

We asked people with convictions who use our services, what would help to stop them reoffending?

Hope—that you can change and better yourself.

More support in the community

The chance of a normal life and job

Learning new skills

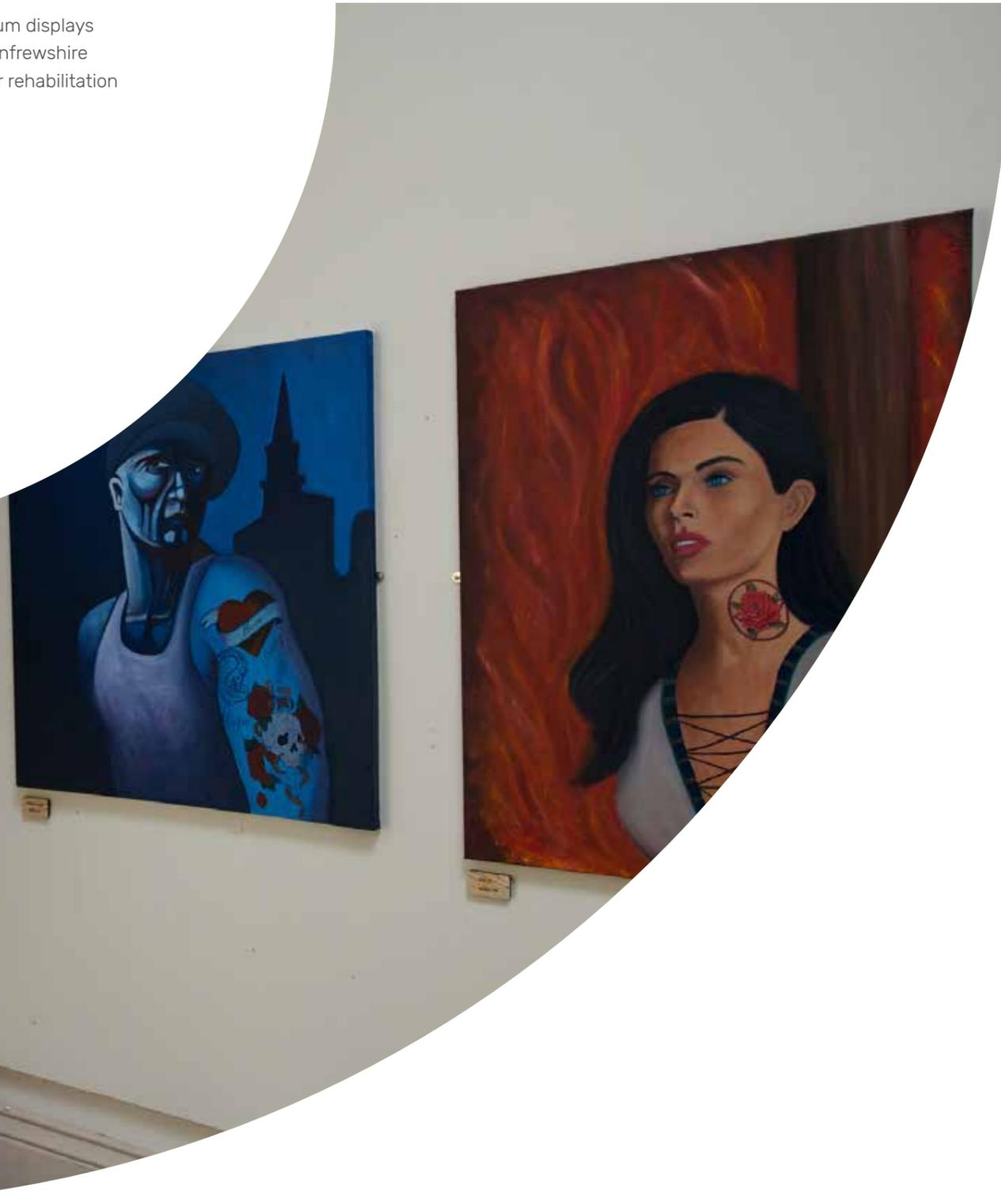
A job, house and family

Help to get work

Don't judge me, give me a chance

Structure in life

(Pictured) Paisley Museum displays artwork produced by Renfrewshire prisoners as part of their rehabilitation journey.



Services, Programmes and Partnerships

We want to build on existing success.

In addition to services targeted specifically at those who have been convicted, Renfrewshire has a range of universal services which can address some of these needs and contribute to better outcomes and potentially a reduction in offending behaviour. Fuller information on the services available in Renfrewshire is included as Appendix A of this plan.

The Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership already brings together services which have a part to play in preventing and reducing offending, and protecting the public.

By working in this way, Renfrewshire recognises that the police, the council, health, community wardens and voluntary organisations each play a part in making communities safer.

As well as the wider work they do, partners also come together to deal with specific issues, such as gender based violence and managing high risk offenders.

We want to build on existing success.

Services and programmes for people with convictions include:

- Low Moss Public Social Partnership Turnaround
- Constructs: Positive Steps to Stop Offending
- Moving Forward making Changes (MFMC, a Sexual Offending Group Work Programme)
- The Self-Change Programme (SCP)
- The Short Term Intervention Programme
- Controlling Anger and Regulating Emotions (CARE)
- The Pathways: Routes to Recovery and Desistance programme
- The Female Offending Behaviour (FOB) Programme
- Women's Community Justice Service
- Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships

Universal services which can support a reduction in offending

- Homelessness and housing support services
- Drugs services
- Alcohol services
- Health services
- Family support services
- Employability services
- Education providers
- Marac

Community Justice Scotland

Community Justice Scotland was established to provide leadership for the sector. They provide professional assurances to Scottish Ministers on the delivery of the seven improvement outcomes for Community Justice in Scotland along with monitoring the performance of all local authorities in Scotland.

Structural Outcomes

What we deliver to our partners

Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice

Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way

Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending

People have better access to the services they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability

What are our priorities?

Community Justice Renfrewshire will continue to develop a commissioning approach to Community Justice Services in Renfrewshire as we develop our understanding of local needs and consult with our stakeholders.

A national strategy, performance indicators and a reporting framework has set the strategic direction for partners and will support delivery within Renfrewshire and across Scotland.

Community Justice Outcomes are categorised as both structural and person-centric and progress on these outcomes will be reported to Community Justice Scotland annually:

Person-centric Outcomes

Changes to users

Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety being addressed

People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities

Individuals resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced

Our key priorities reflect the vision of the Renfrewshire Community Plan. They have been identified through our needs assessment and our interaction with stakeholders. Housing and employment are also currently identified as national priorities for Scotland.

The opportunity to create a better community

Key Priorities we will focus on

Improved Community Understanding and Participation

Informing local communities about community justice issues and enabling them to contribute to the decisions that affect them will support reintegration, reduce stigma and lead to the delivery of better, more person centred and responsive services and improved community justice outcomes.

In the next twelve months we will:

Engage with our communities to improve understanding of and participation in community justice developments within Renfrewshire.

We will know we have succeeded if by 2019 we have:

Increased awareness of the complex issues facing people with convictions within our communities and people understand that by addressing these issues we can reduce re-offending and thus reduce the number of victims, making our communities safer.

Employability

Renfrewshire is committed to tackling worklessness and has made significant strides in tackling youth unemployment. Employment continues to be a national priority and people with convictions in Renfrewshire have told us this is the biggest factor which would help to stop them reoffending.

In the next twelve months we will:

Implement our Just learning-Skills for Employment Project, funded by the Scottish Government's Employment Innovation and Integration Fund. We will work to ensure skills and training for employment are a part of the rehabilitation journey and that access to the job market is fair for people with convictions.

We will know we have succeeded if by 2019 we have:

Developed the employability pipeline to better meet the needs of people with convictions in Renfrewshire and have increased the number of local employers who would consider recruiting people with convictions.

Homelessness for Prison Leavers

Housing remains a national priority and we know that people who serve prison sentences are more likely to return to custody and therefore to lose their accommodation. It is important that we try to break this cycle. We know how important it is to have a stable home and the positive impact that can have on the likelihood of a person reoffending.

In the next twelve months we will:

Develop initiatives to minimise the proportion of prison leavers presenting as homeless and through the 'Keys to Learn' project we will contribute to building skills designed to improve opportunities to access employment. We will closely monitor the trend in the number and proportion of homeless applications from those leaving prison and will track the impact of initiatives, which aim to intensively support those with convictions to sustain their tenancies

We will know we have succeeded if by 2019 we have:

Reduced the number of homeless applicants from those leaving prison, and evaluations of initiatives which help those in housing need to sustain tenancies are positive. We will have built on and improved current working practices between prisons and housing providers through our New Start Officer.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The population in contact with the criminal justice system is a vulnerable one in health and wellbeing terms, with people experiencing high levels of mental health problems, trauma, learning difficulties and challenges with problem alcohol and substance use.

It is important that we develop a greater understanding of any barriers that exist, which prevent people with convictions from accessing support services.

In the next twelve months we will:

Identify the services in Renfrewshire who support people and explore if they are trauma informed. We will work towards improving access to information and clarify pathways to support services for mental health and wellbeing.

We will know we have succeeded if by 2019 we have:

Created wider awareness and understanding about ACEs within our services and all agencies are aware of services and pathways available to individuals within Renfrewshire.

How will we know it's working?

We will review our plan each year; so that we can measure success.

An action plan will be developed to support the implementation of national and local outcomes and will be reviewed as an action log at each Community Justice Renfrewshire Steering Group meeting. We will review our plan and publish an annual report each year, which will provide an overview of outcomes and achievements. This will enable us to measure success and ensure the priorities are still the right ones and that we are grasping the opportunity to create a better community for Renfrewshire.

Future Developments

As we take forward the plan we will keep up to date with and prepare for any future developments such as, the introduction of universal credit, the presumption against short sentences and electronic monitoring, and will continue to evaluate our progress.

Appendix A—Glossary

Rehabilitation

Assistance given to persons with convictions for underlying issues which contribute to their offending behaviour.

Reintegration

The action or process of integrating someone back into society from custody.

Statutory agencies

Agencies with a legislative requirement.

Underlying causes

Factors which may impact on why a person offends.

Preventative activities

Activities which help to stop people committing offences.

Reparation

Paying back to the community.

Whole System Approach

A proactive approach to diverting and supporting young people in contact with the Criminal Justice system.

Children's Hearing system

Is Scotland's unique care and justice system for children and young people. It aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people through a decision making lay tribunal called the Children's Panel.

Population density

Population density is the number of people per unit of area, usually quoted per square kilometre or square mile.

Life expectancy

Is a statistical measure of the average time a person is expected to live, based on the year of their birth, their current age and other demographic factors including sex.

People with convictions

Persons who have been convicted in a court of law of one or more offence.

Community sentences

An alternative to deal with individuals whose offending does not warrant a prison sentence.

Community Payback Order

Is an alternative to custody designed to ensure that people with convictions payback to society, and to particular communities. Often a person with convictions will have to carry out unpaid work.

Universal services

Services available to all.

Electronic monitoring

A form of surveillance which uses an electronic device (a tag) fitted to the person. It is commonly used as a form of electronically monitored punishment for people who have been sentenced to electronic monitoring by a court, or required to wear a tag upon release from prison.



For more information and services
available in Renfrewshire please visit:
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communityjustice