

Edinburgh's Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2028

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What is Edinburgh's Community Safety and Justice Partnership (CSJP)?

The CSJP is a strategic group of public agencies and the Third Sector established in the context of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, responsible for co-ordinating and delivering a multi-agency response to community safety and community justice in Edinburgh. Partners work together to reduce re-offending, tackle antisocial behaviour, and improve the lives and life chances of people in the justice system and those being supported (from point of arrest), to successfully rehabilitate into their local communities. The CSJP has developed and will implement Edinburgh's Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) 2023-28 on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership (community planning partnership). Contributing partners:

Scottish Courts and Tribunals

evoc

Skills Development Scotland

SPS Scottish Prison Service

NHS Lothian

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Fire and Rescue Service

Police Scotland Keeping people safe Poileas Alba

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service

Scotland's Prosecution Service

Edinburgh The City of Edinburgh Council

National vision for community justice

The CSJP's aspirations align with the Vision for Justice in Scotland expressed in the revised National Strategy for Community Justice (the National Strategy) published in June 2022 which states that:

"Our vision is for a just, safe, resilient Scotland" where "we can all live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe".

The vision also aligns with the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework

The National Strategy sets out how those long-term outcomes will be achieved, essentially through partners applying two key transformation priorities:

- Ensuring justice services embed person-centred and trauma informed practices and
- Working across public services to improve outcomes for individuals, focussing on prevention and early intervention

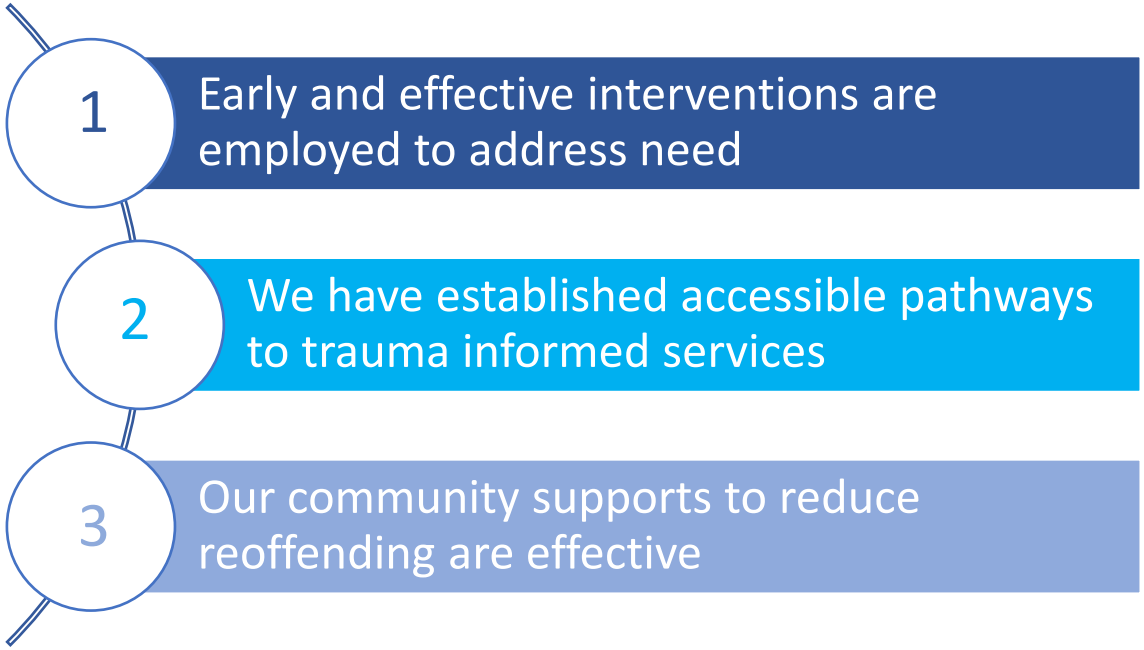
Alongside the national priorities, sit 4 national aims to:

- Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity
- Ensure that robust and high quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland
- Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence
- Strengthen the leadership, engagement and partnership working of local and national community justice partners

The key national priorities build on the previous Community Justice National Strategy's vision for community justice in which Scotland is a safer, fairer, and more inclusive nation where we:

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

Local priorities/outcomes



Our priorities are informed by the new National Strategy, feedback from people using our services, practice evaluations and needs assessments, and build on activity delivered under the CJOIP 2019-22. Evidence[1] shows that people in the justice system including those in prison[2] often have complex health issues and underlying unmet needs in relation to mental and physical health, non-visible disability, substance use, poverty, education, housing, financial inclusion, attitudes to offending and pro-social networks and supports. Many are vulnerable, have experienced significant disadvantage, and their involvement with the justice system puts them at increased risk of further marginalisation and of being a victim of crime.

Partners will work together in collective commitment to continue to address those unmet needs, to reduce reoffending, and to improve outcomes for people in the justice system; continuing to build on past achievements as outlined below.

[1] http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1523/reducing-offending-reducing-inequalities_summary_aug17_english.pdf
[2] Prison population health needs: synthesis report - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Building on achievements

The priorities in this CJOIP seek to build on the achievements over the past three years under the CJOIP 2019-22; partners have worked together to review existing provision, embed successful models of justice support and provision, and deliver improved community justice services while managing the challenges of maintaining consistent service delivery throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priority theme 2019-22	**Achievements**
Early Intervention	
• Embed the Whole System Approach (WSA) for young people in conflict with the law	• The reintegration and transitions aspect of the WSA has been extended from under 18s to under 21s who are remanded or sentenced, then released to guarantee they receive a welfare check, and where there is a risk of remand or bail is opposed, a standard bail assessment.
• Expand the range of interventions and options for people at the early stages of the justice system	• A 76% increase in Diversion from Prosecution cases from 247 in 2018/19 to 434 in 2021/22; all referrals for Diversion are accepted. • Edinburgh began offering Structured Deferred Sentences intervention from August 2021.
• Expanding bail supervision options and routine welfare checks at Edinburgh Sheriff Court (ESC)	• A bail supervision assessment is carried out in every case where remand is requested. Although welfare checks are prioritised according to vulnerability, and are completed for all under 21s, the norm is now to conduct welfare checks for all individuals in custody at ESC. • From May 2022, electronic monitoring options are being rolled out as part of bail/bail supervision.
Trauma informed practice	
• Develop, implement, and evaluate a trauma informed leadership coaching approach across justice services	• Evaluation of the pilot took place with the findings set out in a report entitled The Trauma Project published in February 2021. • In 2021, a Trauma Informed Services Advisory Panel (TISAP) was developed to provide support to teams/ services committed to adopting a trauma informed practice model

• To further develop and mainstream trauma informed approaches across justice and related services	• The CSJP and NHS jointly awarded grant funding to the Trauma Informed Leadership programme, enabling the recruitment of a part time specialist senior clinical psychologist in November 2021 who is embedded within the justice service and provides expertise and governance supporting delivery of interventions responding to trauma. • In 21/22, an additional 5 senior social workers were trained in delivery of training at the NES Trauma-skilled level, thereby increasing the capacity of in-house trainers and consolidating knowledge/skills/support for trauma informed approaches. • 4 trauma informed supervision groups have been established across Domestic Abuse Services, Crossroads, and the Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders (CISSO) facilitated by our clinical psychologist
• Trialling a trauma informed intervention specifically designed for men and further developing the Crossroads men's service for men in the justice system	• From April 2021, a Third Sector commissioned service to support people in the justice system introduced a dedicated staff member allocated to a joint working role within the Crossroads men's service to improve pathways to support for vulnerable men with substance use and other unmet needs.
Sustainability in housing	
• Co-locating staff working in Access to Housing and Support Services within HMP Edinburgh to support collaboration with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) in implementing the SHORE* standards	• A Prison Based Housing Options Officer was recruited to work within HMP Edinburgh and commenced in post in January 2021. The Officer completes homeless assessments with individuals prior to their liberation and allows for the arranging of temporary accommodation where required and signposting to appropriate support services within the community.
• Supporting people serving a short-term prison sentence to retain their tenancies where possible and ensuring that everyone serving a sentence in HMP Edinburgh has their housing situation assessed prior to release, with an emphasis on those who will be accessing homelessness services	• The revised Data Sharing Agreement agreed between SPS and the Council in February 2020 has enabled pro-active targeting of individuals for housing support prior to their release. Baseline figures were established in 2021/22 which provide a breakdown of referral sources, homeless assessments conducted, number of bed spaces (temporary accommodations) arranged, and tenancy terminations.
• Engage with partners landlords to secure accommodation on a case by case basis	• In addition to engaging with partner landlords, initial discussions have commenced with Places for People and Social Bite Village to explore whether

* Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE)

	pilots can be put in place for nominations where it is identified that someone leaving prison may be suitable for either accommodation provider.

Addressing need

The CSJP is committed to supporting people to stay out of the justice system; this requires a focus on providing support at the earliest stages of the justice journey while ensuring that rehabilitation is successful and translates to desistance. The number of people convicted of an offence in Edinburgh who then go on to commit further crime in the community and be reconvicted has reduced, according to the most recent data available covering a 3 year period however, the rates of reconviction have edged upwards to from 24.6% in 2016/17 to 27.3% in 2018/19[3].

The population of HMP Edinburgh (which accommodates adults aged 21 and over) demonstrates high levels of drug and alcohol use on admission to prison. In a given year, two thirds of those who entered HMP Edinburgh sought a referral to substance misuse services and of that number 750 (65%) engaged in treatment with NHS or 3rd sector services. Best available estimates suggest 73% of people in prison have an alcohol use disorder, 36% are likely dependent on alcohol, and 39% report being drunk at the time of their offence; while 38% of people report being under the influence of drugs at the time of their offence, 15% of people report having committed their offence to get money for drugs and 18% report having used 'psychoactive substances' prior to going to prison[4].

A recent report on the state of health and health inequalities in Scotland noted that experiencing severe forms of disadvantage presented a greater risk of imprisonment as well as higher mortality, homelessness, opioid dependence, and psychosis[5].

In 21/22, 363 requests were made to Edinburgh's prison outreach officer based in HMP Edinburgh (of which 278 were self-referrals) for housing assessment, advice and support; those in custody were supported to address their housing situation according to their individual circumstances, which included arranging temporary accommodation on release where required, managing their tenancy while in custody, or terminating their tenancy where appropriate.

[3] https://www.gov.scot/publications/reconviction-rates-scotland-2018-19-offender-cohort/pages/5/ (table 13)
[4] NHS Lothian Health Needs Assessment, HMP Edinburgh, 2019
[5] Leave no one behind – The Health Foundation, 2023

Young adults with an Edinburgh postcode, aged between 18 and 21 who have been remanded or sentenced are accommodated in HMYOI Polmont; Scotland's national holding facility for male and female children and young people in conflict with the law. A 2019 HMIPS report[6] on mental health services provision in HMYOI Polmont noted that there were comparatively high levels of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) amongst those in custody and 33% had been looked after and accommodated as a child. There was also significantly higher experience of traumatic bereavement (murder, suicide, or drug overdose) in their family or close friends, exposure to multiple types of traumas, and a high number of school exclusions. Over a third had experienced at least one head injury, and half displayed learning difficulties. Recent data (2020/21) on young people aged 16 to 21 in custody nationally, showed that 50% were under the influence of alcohol and 55% under the influence of drugs at the time of their offence[7].

It is clear that establishing pathways to a range of effective interventions to support people to address the high level of underlying needs at point of arrest, in prison, and on release into the community is key to improving outcomes for this vulnerable and marginalised group who are at risk of harms including drug related death, homelessness, and reoffending. Delivering trauma informed supports across the different stages of the justice system is required to encourage people to turn their lives around, develop resilience and pro-social attitudes, believe in their future, and live a life free of crime.

Delivering person centred services

Addressing the high level of need amongst people in the justice system requires both a holistic and person-centred approach to delivering care within a fully co-ordinated 'one person one plan' model. Justice services in this Plan look to address each person's unmet needs for example, relating to financial situation/welfare and benefits entitlement, educational experience/employment, housing, health, addictions, cultural background, previous offending, aspirations, individual circumstances including wider social networks and family dynamics, and their skills and abilities so that the most appropriate interventions are employed to maximise improved outcomes and reduce the reoffending risk.

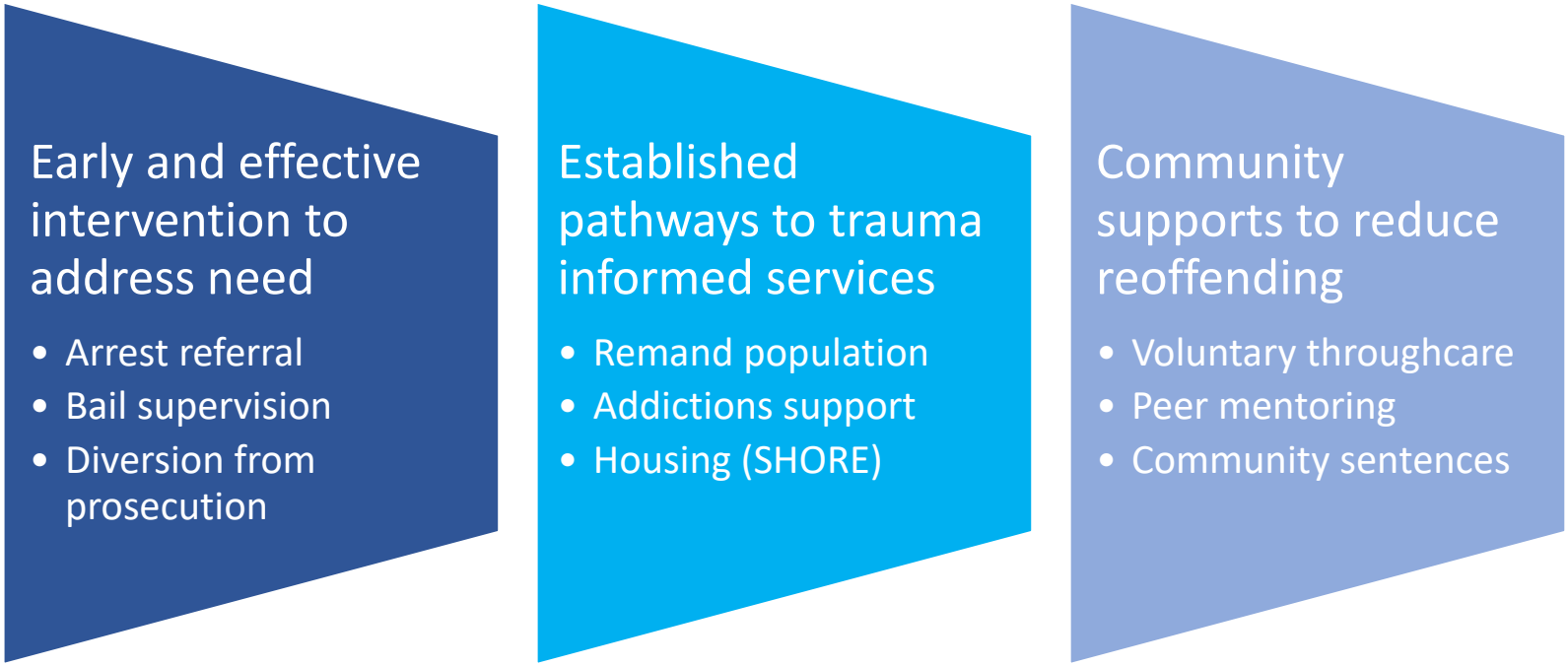
Priority work themes

The CSJP through regular themed updates, has followed progress under the previous CJOIP 2019-22 and agreed 3 key priority themes following a review of evidence from a range of sources relating to needs and strengths and 'what works' to achieve improved outcomes for people in community justice. Attached to each of the priority themes are the key activity areas listed in bullet points where partners will continue to strive for improvements, identify any gaps and work in collaboration to ensure that across justice services:

[6] Report on an expert review of the provision of mental health services for young people entering and in custody at HMYOI Polmont
[7] Vision for Young People in Custody: 2021

- people can access the right support at the right time
- interventions are effective and delivered within a sustainable model

Progress updates/qualitative data on the key activity areas will continue to be discussed at quarterly CSJP meetings.



The priority themes will remain unchanged during the CJOIP's duration however the workstream/outcome and corresponding activity will be reviewed annually to take account of completed activity, new demands, emerging issues of concern, feedback from people using justice services, address recommendations from internal audits, and comply with legislative requirements. Additionally, as part of this CJOIP, partners will explore conducting a self-evaluation exercise to strengthen leadership, engagement, and partnership within the CSJP. The priority themes, workstreams and activities to improve performance set out below, fully align with the national Community Justice Performance Framework 2023.

Priority theme: early and effective intervention to address need

National aim *"Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity"*

Workstream/outcome	Activity	KPI	Baseline 21/22	Target ↑ ↓	Lead partner/ agency	Update Mar 2026 22-25
Arrest referral service offered is comprehensive, accessible and includes a drop in facility in a central location	Explore extending arrest referral hours of operation Establish a drop in for people attending court and released with no supports	• Numbers seen • % seen accepting assessment • Referrals from Police Scotland custody hub • Numbers accessing drop in service • % cases where participants feel their needs have been met	766 26% (202) 101 n/a 39%	↑	Justice services/ Change Grow Live (CGL) CGL	Numbers have declined over the period. Evidence points to less people being taken into custody, reducing opportunity for engagement. NHS Liaison and Diversion Service now operates within St Leonard's Police Station and Edin Sheriff Court to pick up those with unmet healthcare needs. Next steps: options to improve supports for people arrested to be reviewed in 26/27 via Police Scotland's newly established local arrest referral group (Lothians).
Arrest referral recovery co-ordinator to provide an assertive outreach service for people entering the justice system	Assertively engage people arrested Assertively engage people who have attended ESC and are released	• Numbers accessing service via assertive outreach	n/a	↑	CGL	Short term funding supported an assertive outreach service from 22-25 to follow up those considered to be at highest risk of harm and to link them into appropriate community supports/local recovery hubs. As

						above, options to be reviewed in 26/27.
Bail supervision assessments are tailored and based on up to date, accurate information	Work with COPFS so that reasons for bail opposed are shared with social work routinely Practice evaluations consider quality of bail assessments	• Number of cases where bail opposed info. is shared • Number of bail assessments • Number of bail supervision cases commencing	n/a n/a 21	↑	COPFS/ Court, Bail and Diversion Team/ local justice teams	A dedicated Court Team was created in 2024. Bail assessment numbers increased from 104 in 22/23 to 425 in 24/25. Bail supervision cases commencing increased from 25 in 22/23 to 167 in 24/25 in line with the desired direction of travel.
Bail supervision service delivered is responsive, flexible, and effective	Practice evaluations to inform service development Exit questionnaires	• Number of successful (completed) bail supervisions • Number of bail cases utilising Electronic Monitoring	n/a 75	↑	Quality assurance/ Court, Bail and Diversion Team/ local justice teams G4S	Successful bail supervision cases increased from 11 in 22/23 to 54 in 24/25. Edinburgh courts have increased the use of Electronic Monitoring in managing people on bail with 75 people supported in 22/23 increasing to 181 in 24/25. Both areas show progress towards the desired outcome.
Diversion from prosecution offers a range of interventions to suit all needs and abilities	Continue to develop the availability of diversion interventions	• Numbers of diversion assessments • Number of diversion cases commencing	437 434	↑	Justice services/ specific Third Sector partners/ CSJP members	Diversion assessments dipped to 323 in 23/24 before increasing to 335 in 24/25. 312 cases commenced in 24/25 showing a conversion rate of 93% from assessment to engagement. A new Justice Pathways Service for men established in 2024 has improved both the range and accessibility of supports. Progress has been made across 23/25.

Diversion from prosecution offers an effective intervention	Results from practice evaluations to inform service development Exit questionnaires inform planning and delivery of diversion interventions	• Number of successful (completed) diversions • Quality of diversion interventions • Feedback from exit questionnaires	170	↑	Justice services/ Quality Assurance/ CSJP members	Successful diversion completions fell to 101 in 22/23, increasing to 113 in 23/24 and further to 258 in 24/25 representing progress towards the desired outcome.

Priority theme: established pathways to trauma informed services

National aim *"Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence"*

Workstream/outcome	Activity	KPI	Baseline 21/22	Target ↑↓	Lead partner/ agency	Update Mar 2026 22-25
People on remand in HMP Edinburgh and HMYOI Polmont receive appropriate supports timeously	Establish an effective pathway in HMP Edinburgh for people on remand to receive prescriptions and other supports on release Continue to promote EMORSS in HMP Edinburgh and HMYOI Polmont	• Numbers obtaining prescriptions under remand pilot in HMP Edinburgh • Number of people on remand accessing EMORSS voluntary throughcare in custody	n/a 113	↑	NHS/CGL	Edinburgh's Alcohol and Drugs Partnership provided sort term funding for an NHS staff member to support the remand pilot. The role was withdrawn in 24/25 due to ongoing recruitment challenges. Data for the total number of individuals supported on remand was unavailable. The numbers supported by New Routes for men and Shine for women were unavailable. The number of

						individuals on remand being supported by EMORSS was 59 in 22/23, reducing to 25 in 23/24, and 23 in 24/25 reflecting stricter access criteria and prioritising those with no existing supports.
Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) interventions are holistic and effective	Introduce availability of peer mentoring support for people accessing the DTTO service Obtain feedback from DTTO participants to inform service development	• % participants successfully completing DTTO • % DTTO participants no longer on prescription/ detoxed	69 29%	⬆	DTTO team	The DTTO service was suspended to new assessments/Orders in 2022 due to significant clinical staffing challenges. In 22/23, 49 individuals successfully completed their Order representing 56% of participants. In 23/24, 33 individuals successfully completed, representing 69% of participants and a return to the 21/22 level recorded. Figures for 24/25 are not yet available. The service has been restructured from stand alone to an integrated service, improving accessibility to a wider range of interventions.
People in custody have **sustainable housing** on release	Ensure people entering custody have their housing situation assessed at core screening	• Number of people in HMP Edinburgh receiving housing advice /practical support • Rate of uptake for housing support offered	363 n/a	⬆	Prison outreach	The Prison Based Housing Officer supported 297 individuals in 24/25 down from 391 in 23/24 and 355 in 22/23. Next steps: examine referral sources, explore reasons for reduced numbers, and liaise with partners to encourage referrals. Support

						provided resulted in an increase in tenancies maintained from 45 in 23/24 to 75 in 24/25.
SHORE standards are fully embedded	Housing partners to work together to prevent people becoming homeless on liberation	• % homeless presentations citing prison release	3.2% (81)	⬇	Housing partners/ Scottish Prison Service (SPS)	104 individuals presented as homeless citing prison release in 22/23 representing 2.9% of homeless presentations. 108 (2.8%) presented in 23/24 and 96 (2.5%) in 24/25. The figures show modest progress.
Trauma knowledge is inherent in all areas of justice practice	Routine screening on mental health and trauma to be built into all justice services	• Staff trained in 'Trauma Enhanced Practice' • Feedback from practice evaluations and people using services	70 (Dec 21 to April 22) n/a	⬆	CSJP members	In January 24, 20 staff within justice services received training at Trauma Enhanced level. Next steps: explore continued access to trauma enhanced level training via NHS. Analysis of exit questionnaires conducted across community justice services between 22-25 showed that feedback from people using services was overwhelmingly positive. Examples: 99% of respondents reported that justice services staff resolved issues very well/quite well and felt in control of decisions affecting them. Of the 36% of individuals seeking support for housing, 81% reported that the support received was helpful.

Council leadership and justice partners management are fully committed to providing **trauma informed** services	Fully implement the National Trauma Training Programme across the Council	• Trainings delivered across the Council and justice partners • Number of supports provided by Trauma Informed Services Advisory Panel (TISAP)	n/a	↑	Justice services/ trauma lead officer	Between 22-25, a dedicated Trauma Lead Officer supported this work and staff continued to complete Trauma Skilled level training. In September 2024, the Council sought commitment from community planning parters that the Edinburgh Partnership move to become a trauma informed partnership. Latest developments: the TISAP model is under review.

Priority theme: community supports to reduce reoffending

National aim *"Ensure that robust and high quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland"*

Workstream/outcome	**Activity**	**KPI**	**Baseline 21/22**	**Target** ↑↓	**Lead partner/ agency**	**Update Mar 2026 22-25**
Voluntary throughcare is accessible and flexible at key transition points	Explore a drop in facility for throughcare supports	• Number of people accessing throughcare supports (assessments) • Number of gate pick ups conducted	88 (CGL) 24 (CGL)	↑	CGL/ Justice services/ New Routes	EMORSS hosted weekly drop-in sessions at their city centre location hub. In 22/23, across support providers, a total of 313 individuals commenced receiving throughcare assistance, while in 23/24 and 24/25, 321 and 325 individuals commenced assistance respectively. 31 gate

↑

						pick ups took place in 22/23, with 28 in 23/24 and 27 in 24/25. Both throughcare and gate pick up numbers have remained consistent over the past 3 years.
Voluntary throughcare provides a continuum of support from custody to community and delivers improved outcomes for individuals	Improve co-ordination and joint working across different throughcare providers	• % throughcare users reporting improved circumstances • Average number of people engaged 6 months after liberation	21% (CGL) 12 (CGL)	⬆	CGL/ Justice services/ New Routes	28% of individuals reported an improvement in circumstances in 22/23 falling to 19% in 23/24 and 10% in 24/25 showing that to improve outcomes for those leaving prison, holistic transition/ community supports need to be strengthened. A Scottish Government funded national care service 'Upside' which commenced in April 2025 aims to bring consistency and robust supports to this cohort. In 22/23, an average of 9 individuals were engaged with throughcare 6 months after liberation. In 23/24 and 24/25 the measurement of this figure switched to 'total number supported' which showed 9 and 2 respectively, however numbers engaged after 12 months were higher with 17 in 23/24 rising to 33 in 24/25 demonstrating that individuals may prefer to engage with supports after spending at least 6 months in the community

						rather than in the first 6 months after release. The increase in numbers engaging in 24/25 when compared with the previous year is a positive step.
Voluntary throughcare provision is integrated with women's and men's justice services	More to more integrated model of voluntary throughcare provision	• Number of voluntary throughcare cohort accessing Women's Justice Centre and Crossroads (for men)	n/a		CGL/ Justice services	Progress made: SMART groups were established at both Willow and Crossroads and co-delivered to participants with CGL. This arrangement continued in 24/25 with the launch of the new Justice Pathways Service (JPS) for men. To improve integration, weekly part time co-location of CGL staff to Willow and JPS was introduced.
Peer mentoring is evident within supports for those in the justice system	Extend the peer mentoring offering across justice services	• Number of services employing peer mentoring	8	↑	CSJP members/ Third Sector	Projects offering peer mentoring and volunteering opportunities in 24/25 included CGL, Women's Aid, Just Us (Willow), Cyrenians garden project, pantries and FareShare depot, SPS Recovery Café, VOW project, Heavy Sound (SPS), Aid&Abet, and Access to Industry. Next steps: continue to expand opportunities for individuals to access peer mentorship and volunteering to support desistance.
Co-production is embedded across	Expand effective co-production	• Practice evaluations conducted	n/a	↑	Justice services/	Progress: practice evaluations were suspended in 22/23

justice services interventions	opportunities within justice services	• Activity to support those in the justice system who are also victims of crime			Third Sector partners/ Quality Assurance/ Victim Support	however justice services exit questionnaire surveys were introduced to understand customer feedback across interventions delivered. Justice services supported the peer led women's group Just Us which offers a pathway for women to contribute to Willow. In 22/23 justice services collaborated with Women's Aid (WA) to launch a support service for women in the justice system impacted by domestic abuse. The project has continued to evolve; planned next steps include supported peer mentorship being incorporated into the project. Feedback showed that 100% of participants recommended the programme in 23/24 and 24/25. From 22-25, justice services collaborated with Victim Support (Edinburgh) to support victims/witnesses to crime. Additionally, in 24/25, 89 individuals received financial assistance to improve their personal safety.
Community sentence interventions are holistic, address unmet	Exit surveys and 1:1 reviews are routinely conducted	• % participants reporting improved	n/a	⬆	Justice services/ Third Sector	Progress: all justice services/Third Sector partnership arrangements have introduced mechanisms for

practical needs and provide access to therapeutic interventions	with people using justice interventions	practical circumstances • % participants reporting improved mental health and wellbeing				obtaining evaluations/participant feedback. Examples: exit questionnaires across justice services in 22-25 showed that of the 20% of individuals seeking support for education/training/ employment, 88% reported receiving helpful support. Of the 23% of respondents requiring financial support, 82% reported receiving helpful supports. Availability and access to affordable housing remains a challenge; EMORSS results showed that for individuals receiving community supports after arrest in 22/23, 30% reported an improvement in their housing situation. This fell to 24% in 23/24 and 12% in 24/25. For those being released from prison however, prison-based housing support facilitated increased tenancy sustainment with 48 in 22/23, 45 in 23/24 and 75 in 24/25. The WA/Willow peer support project: 94% of attendees reported improved self esteem in 23/24 and 95% in 24/25.

Community and custody supports include clear employability pathways for people with convictions to access employment, volunteering, training, and educational opportunities	Streamline and improve existing employability pathway supports for those in the justice system	• Number moving into employment after custody • Number moving into voluntary work after custody • Number in work, training, or education 6 months after sentence end (custodial and community)	n/a		SPS/ Skills Development Scotland/ Third Sector/ CSJP members	Progress: Local Employability Partnerships have been established to oversee supports and pathways for people seeking to move into, retain, and progress in employment; this includes those facing significant barriers to employment. Latest data introduced in 2024 showed that in 23/24, 45 people with convictions used No One Left Behind employability services representing 4% of the total accessing the service. In 24/25, 36 people accessed the support representing 3% of the total cohort accessing employability support. As an individual's path to employment is unlikely to be linear and there are various routes into employment, via various agencies, the data is not exhaustive. Given the newness of data, a trend has not yet been established for this outcome.
CSJP communications deliver clear and effective messages highlighting the benefits of community justice interventions		• Number of campaigns to highlight community justice activity • % respondent support for community payback	n/a 49% (2022)		CSJP Comms / Justice services (Community Payback Order (CPO) annual	Examples of highlighting community justice activity: In 2022, William's Story was published online in which he provided an overview of his role as a volunteer driver for the justice services funded Travel

		in reducing reoffending			consultation results)	Service which provides key supports for people in prison through facilitating visits from their loved ones. In 2024 the Herald published an article highlighting the benefits of unpaid work and an STV report broadcast at 6pm primetime slot on 18 April 2024 also highlighted the availability of the Travel Service. In 2025, the Make Your Mark project highlighted opportunities for people looking to access volunteering within history, nature and culture organisations. Additionally, the Cyrenians garden project was highlighted in the North Edinburgh News. The Community Payback Order report is published annually which in 2023 showed that 49 % of respondents considered community payback effective in reducing reoffending. In 2024 this had increased to 62% in line with the desired direction of travel.

Note – while many activity targets aim for an upward trajectory, interventions delivered are minimally intrusive and partners continue to guard against bringing people into the justice system unnecessarily

Working with partners

Alongside partnership working with community justice statutory partners in the CSJP, many justice services are delivered in conjunction with the Third Sector and supported by other agencies/partners such as community safety/tenancy support, and the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, with some interventions jointly funded through the strategic commissioning model. Third sector partners delivering community justice services in conjunction with statutory partners include CGL, Sacro, Cyrenians, Women's Aid, Access to Industry, Edinburgh Community Food, and Victim Support. Some of those organisations attend the CSJP as do the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC), part of the Third Sector interface for Edinburgh. Third sector partners embedded in communities also play a significant role in reducing offending through providing diversional activity and volunteering opportunities to support rehabilitation and local community safety initiatives. Volunteering is also a key element of Edinburgh's Strategic Skills Pipeline Provision 2022-25

In collaboration with Police Scotland, Edinburgh continues to offer restorative justice to victims of hate crime and those convicted of a hate crime offence, and continues to engage with Scottish Government's Restorative Justice Action Plan

Violence against women

Collaborative work is undertaken to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee (ESEC); a multi-agency partnership between statutory and third sector organisations and services in Edinburgh working to implement Equally Safe: Scotland's Strategy for preventing and Eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls. The work of the ESEC focuses on both prevention and early intervention to protect women, children and young people from violence and abuse, the promotion of gender equality, as well as ensuring robust and effective responses to perpetrators of violence and abuse. The ESEC has a constitution and business plan, as well as an Improvement Plan which is reviewed every 3 years to ensure best practice in preventing and responding to VAWG.

Young people

There is some crossover between the CJOIP which is focussed on services for adults in the justice system (aged 18 and over) and the WSA programme for addressing the needs of young people in conflict with the law which extends some provisions up to the age of 21, and for care leavers, up to the age of 26. For example, young people aged 18 to 21 (up to 26 if care experienced) in custody, are prioritised for welfare checks and for bail assessments where remand is requested. The Council revised its youth justice strategy in 2021; its vision and priorities include a rights respecting approach, early and effective intervention, complex needs, child criminal exploitation, WSA, and the age of criminal responsibility implementation[8] with progress reported to the Edinburgh Children's Partnership.

[8] The Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 raises the age of criminal responsibility in Scotland from 8 years to 12 years

An example of successful partnership working supporting young people is demonstrated through the operation of the VOW project; a Police Scotland led initiative which uses pro-social role modelling through Third Sector peer mentors to break down barriers/stereotyping and empowers vulnerable individuals to break the cycle of offending and transform their lives. Referrals into VOW are predominantly instigated in custody settings and if the young person agrees to participate, a bespoke plan is developed with their input. They can then access a range of practical supports delivered through an extensive network of Third Sector partners as well as counselling services and bespoke therapies to mitigate the impacts of ACEs/ trauma, improve mental wellbeing and reduce offending behaviour. Feedback from participants is overwhelmingly positive particularly relating to positive behavioural changes, resilience, and increased confidence.

There is a specific Throughcare and Aftercare service for young people (up to age 26) who have been looked after by the local authority at or beyond their 16th birthday which offers advice and supports with health, employment, finance, education, housing (including supported housing) and helps young people to develop the skills and confidence to make the transition to living more independently.

Governance arrangements

The Edinburgh Partnership (the Partnership) is Edinburgh's community planning partnership which brings together public agencies, and third and private sectors with local communities to design and deliver better services and to improve the lives of its citizens, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. It works with business, voluntary, and community organisations to address the City's most significant challenges of deprivation and disadvantage, to create an environment where everyone can share success, have enough money to live on, and can access employment, learning, training and good housing. The Partnership's membership work together to deliver on a shared Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) which focuses on 3 key priorities where additional joint action is needed and has the greatest potential to make a difference:

- Enough money to live on
- Access to work, learning and training
- A good place to live

CJOIP activity complements the LOIP through services employing a person-centred approach to interventions which considers each individual's needs including financial situation and unique circumstance. The CJOIP workstreams to embed the SHORE standards and improve existing employability pathways for people in the justice system also support the LOIP key priorities. The National Strategy for Community Justice - Delivery Plan (due for publication in 2023) will further support the 'access to work, learning and training' priority through its proposal to

establish Employability Advisory Boards to create a more strategic approach to employability and learning support provision for people leaving custody which will progress alongside provision under No One Left Behind.

In early 2022, the Partnership's LOIP was reviewed to take account of the changing landscape, address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent increased risk of poverty and equality, and to take on board the findings from the Poverty Commission. The 3 key priorities remained the basis of the plan and the Partnership is now the strategic lead for tackling poverty in Edinburgh; its work is overseen by the LOIP delivery group.

The CSJP reports local activity and progress in community justice under the CJOIP to the Edinburgh Partnership annually.

Participation statement

CSJP members come together quarterly at the CSJP meeting to discuss collective progress in community justice as well as sharing their respective organisation's individual activity contributing to improving outcomes for people in the justice system; the meeting is also an opportunity for partners to bring ideas for joint activity, discuss match funding proposals for specific projects, and employ strategic planning for justice related initiatives. All members agree that the CJOIP is a partnership document and have committed to supporting the agreed CJOIP priority themes and actions informed by partner discussions, assessment of strengths and needs to identify gaps, CSJP members development sessions, audits of community justice services, and a range of feedback from consultation with people who use justice services. Specifically, CJOIP development also included online consultation with the public and partners including the Third Sector on key CJOIP workstreams, interventions to support people serving community sentences, reducing reoffending, and creating safer communities.

Additionally, the views of people using justice services are sought routinely via focus groups which are being restarted after a period of suspension during COVID-19 restrictions, exit questionnaires, 1:1 reviews, and wider public consultation. Groups such as 'Just Us' for women support co-production, and a similar model is being developed within domestic abuse services in partnership with Edinburgh Women's Aid to increase participation. 'Just Us' are a group of women who have been/are in the justice system and have used Willow; their input contributes to the design and delivery of justice services and supports trauma informed interventions. This has been especially useful in the development of the new women's centre where women can access a range of services delivered by partners within a 'one stop shop'.

Within community justice, services delivered in partnership with the NHS, the Third Sector and other partners are subject to internal audits which includes interviews with people using services and staff feedback. Practice evaluations and self-evaluation exercises are also conducted as part of the drive for service improvement and staff professional development.

Peer supports are incorporated into some justice services to ensure positive behavioural change is visible within community justice interventions. During the course of this CJOIP, there are plans to further harness the unique insights provided by those with lived experience of the justice system and expand the network of peer mentors working across the range of justice services provided.

Community justice in action

Many people in the justice system face significant difficulties in relation to poverty, disadvantage, poor education and housing and past and ongoing addictions and trauma. Those personal challenges continue to impact on their ability to embrace positive behavioural change and live crime free lives. The typical experiences of the many vulnerable individuals in the justice system often see them make numerous attempts to improve their lives and their pathway to improved outcomes often includes backward steps alongside small steps forward. When individuals feel ready and able to engage however, outcomes can be positive as the case studies below which provide a snapshot of community justice in action demonstrate.

Arrest referral – individual B

Individual B was seen by a member of the Edinburgh and Midlothian Offending Recovery and Support Service (EMORSS) at the end of September 2021 at St Leonards police station for arrest referral (support at entry point of the justice system). B agreed to complete the initial assessment and consented to support. Following his court appearance, the next day B was remanded and held in HMP Edinburgh. He was then allocated a community based EMORSS worker who visited him in custody and assessed him as part of the throughcare aspect of the service via agents visits at HMP Edinburgh.

B completed the comprehensive assessment in October 2021 with the key presenting factors being poor mental health and community alcohol use. Whilst on remand, he was seen regularly by the EMORSS worker who supported him in completing work on motivation and community relapse prevention focused on alcohol use. The EMORSS worker also linked B into NHS mental health support and provided a list of reading materials to support him with his mental health whilst in his cell which he could access via the prison library.

B was given a sentence backdated and transferred to another prison but remained as a throughcare case for EMORSS due to a June 2022 release. The EMORSS worker continued to engage with and support him via telephone calls to the other prison on a monthly basis. B returned to Edinburgh on his release date and received a gate pick up to support him on his day of release during which he was supported to attend to his housing need, register with a GP, acquire warm clothing and essentials, and obtain his prescription. He subsequently continued to work with his EMORSS worker from the Broughton Street office to focus on his alcohol use and support with any other community needs.

Voluntary throughcare – individual D

Individual D referred himself to EMORSS in November 2021 while serving a short term sentence at HMP Edinburgh. Ordinarily he would have received support from the EMORSS community team due to the short length of his sentence however he did not feel able to attend the community team visits due to his concerns about contracting COVID-19. He was therefore allocated to a worker within the EMORSS prison team. His concerns related to his substance use while in prison and his alcohol use when in the community; he was particularly anxious about his release from prison coinciding with falling back to his old ways and into bad habits, neglecting his housing needs and benefit appointments.

EMORSS created a recovery plan to address his concerns and support his stability prior to release which included liaising with the NHS prison team to organise a Methadone prescription for him as well as arranging for an Antabuse prescription to be in place for his release. D was offered a meeting every 2 weeks until release and he actively engaged with this support which included discussing his substance abuse patterns and motivational interventions to manage those. As a result of increasing his Methadone prescription slightly he was able to abstain from using illicit substances. As D was now stable, his supports focussed on relapse prevention and planning for his release in March 2022. He was keen to follow up his supports on release with voluntary throughcare and requested a gate pick up.

On his release day, D was met at the prison gate by the EMORSS worker who accompanied him to his medical appointment in the community to obtain his prescription. The worker and D then attended at the Access Place in Edinburgh for a housing appointment to follow up on previous arrangements made for him to access temporary accommodation. The EMORSS worker also provided D with a 'liberation pack' from the EMORSS community hub in Broughton Street; this included a backpack, mobile phone, hat, gloves, torch, diary, notebook, useful telephone numbers for supports, wipes, deodorant, and water bottle/flask. D with the support of the EMORSS worker, then contacted the Universal Credit helpline to sort out his benefits and application for Personal Independence Payment. Once D's practical issues had been addressed, he mentioned that he wished to continue working with EMORSS as he felt the regular motivation had helped him sustain the positive changes he had made. D agreed to a combination of ongoing phone call and face to face support appointments every 2 weeks to help his reintegration into the community.

After 6 months, the supports provided to him were reviewed and it was clear that he had made huge strides through his slow, steady progress over the course of the interventions. He was surprised at his achievements, acknowledging the meaningful interventions he had received from EMORSS and other professionals which had paved the way for a healthier lifestyle in which he had achieved stability around his substance use. He had also enrolled on and was studying health and nutrition courses online. He recognised that he was living a balanced, healthier life with no outstanding support needs and his case was closed.

Appendix 1 – links to other plans

Local plans

Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2022-28

Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan 2019-22

Edinburgh Local Police Plan 2020-23

Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh's Joint Community Safety Strategy 2020-23

Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership Strategic Plan 2021-24

National plans

National Strategy for Community Justice

Vision for Justice in Scotland

Community Justice Performance Framework

Police Scotland Criminal Justice Services Division 5 Year Vision and Direction

SPS Delivery Plan for 2022-23

Whole System Approach (WSA) to young offending

Justice for children and young people – a rights respecting approach: vision and priorities

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards: access, choice, support

Mental Health Strategy 2017-27

Trauma Informed Practice: toolkit

The Promise

Equally Safe strategy

National Performance Framework