

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER

ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: 2015/16

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **Argyll, Bute & Dunbartonshires' Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership**



There is a formal strategic and operational partnership between West Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute and East Dunbartonshire Councils. They share a single strategic partnership manager, single budget, and deliver common outcomes within a joint planning and performance framework, commissioning strategy and report to a joint committee.

Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out; the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and information and examples that help to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work.

Previous reports have noted that the consequences of an emphasis on the visibility of work undertaken under the auspices of community payback has been the development of projects of benefit to the wider community or groups of beneficiaries. This has had a constructive effect on services in terms of developing a level of skill and expertise in tasks associated with planning and executing environmental projects, in turn leading to greater confidence in referring organisations.

Work has continued to identify new projects as well as sustaining existing ones where appropriate. The unpaid work teams operate within a range of resource constraints the principal ones being either the number and availability of individuals subject to unpaid work requirements or the challenge of managing significant spikes or sustained increases in demand. The latter issue has affected West Dunbartonshire in 2015-16. The relative scale of and volume of unpaid work requirements means that the West Dunbartonshire service can from time to time commit to larger scale projects requiring double squads whereas this is less possible in Argyll and Bute and East Dunbartonshire.

When considering projects to be undertaken by offenders on unpaid work the benefit to the community is taken into account. These benefits include:

- Improves local area/amenities for residents and visitors
- Discourages anti-social behavior including vandalism and fly tipping, if area looks attractive and consequently is used regularly for legitimate purposes
- More attractive place to live and visit (stop as opposed to driving past)
- Nature trails and paths now being used by more families to enjoy and assists in engaging the community with the countryside for health, recreation and learning
- Enabled the disadvantaged and those most at need in the community to benefit from and have access to facilities and environmental options on their doorstep
- Hitherto inaccessible areas/amenities now available and maintained
- Produce grown on allotments is donated to local food shares
- Assurances with safety campaigns and flyer/leaflet distribution contributed to increasing community knowledge and awareness

Argyll and Bute:

CPO completed during 2015/ 2016 did a total of 8,104 hours of work in Argyll and Bute.

In Argyll and Bute, we seek to prioritise projects that offer the most benefit to people in the local community .We work to make the local community more accessible, a safer place and a better environment for all. We work alongside the local community to improve the area that the offenders live in.

Current projects include assisting the MS Society in shampooing their carpets and chairs, cleaning up around their building, repairing broken slabs and benches - sanding and repainting them - which allows their visitors to be able to sit out in and around their garden. We have also painted the inside of the charity shop Marys Meals in Oban.

Home Start Majik is another charity in Oban who support people who have just been given their own home after being homeless - we painted their offices as they are a non-profit making organisation and they would not have been able to fund this externally.

North Argyll Cares are a charity which helps with vulnerable adults /children and people with a disability and we agreed to paint inside their building as our decorating helped make the place more homely and comfortable for them to learn in.

We continue to work at Glenfinnart Garden also Green Shoots and Fyne Futures Produce where clients develop skills on how to grow their own fruit and veg that they can then take home to their families thus improving healthy eaten.

We are still involved in working at the Sensory Garden - laying paths and gritting footpaths and snow clearance which will allow the emergency services in if required.

We are also currently working on a piece of land in Bute that will make it more comfortable for people to come and have a seat and meet other people in their community.

- Glennfinnart walled garden
- Green shoots
- ButeProduce /Fyne Futures
- Sensory Garden
- Organic Growers
- South Kintyre Development Trust
- Rockfield Primary
- Community Garden in Islay
- Blarbluie Woodland

East Dunbartonshire:

CPO completed during 2015/ 2016 did a total of 4,771 hours of work in East Dunbartonshire.

Unpaid work projects in 2015/16 in East Dunbartonshire have included the building, siting, lighting, removal, and storage of a Santa's grotto for Hillhead community Centre; provision of benches for seating at a local cemetery; removal of a pagoda and patio area for an adult resource centre; building of 80 metre fence for St Cyprians Scottish Episcopal Church.

The team have also provided a furniture uplift and delivery service for St. Margaret's Hospice Shop; on-going graffiti removal and road sign cleaning throughout the area; general litter picking, cutback of overgrowth and tidying of pathways throughout the district, for walkers, cyclists etc.

The service continues to enjoy a constructive relationship with Mugdock Country park in relation to environmental work and general amenity improvement.

West Dunbartonshire:

CPO completed during 2015/ 2016 did a total of 17,321 hours of work in West Dunbartonshire.

In West Dunbartonshire, the unpaid work team continue to work on a range of environmental projects. Local communities have benefitted from produce grown by persons subject to unpaid work requirements on allotments provided by Dalmuir Community Allotments and one located in Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton, which is subsequently donated to local food shares.

The West Dunbartonshire service have restored and maintained a number of trails and

paths in support of the wider objective of providing the community with access to the countryside for health, recreation and learning. These projects include path clearance and amenity improvement at Vale of Leven Industrial Estate, design and build of improvements to the Alzheimer Scotland Garden in Dumbarton, repairing of Bellsmyre BMX park paths, ground clearance work at Bowling Basin and construction of pathways to access Battle of Glen Fruin memorial cairn. The service seeks to strike a balance between projects which provide for the general good of the community and those which are more targeted in their intended benefits.

- Trail/path building
- Ground maintenance
- Building bridges and erecting fencing
- Repairing public benches
- Church floor restoration
- Environmental Work/vegetation clearance
- Litter picking, beach cleaning, fire site clearance
- Painting & Decorating and joinery– both residential and public buildings
- Landscaping and gardening
- Flyer/leaflet distribution
- Safety poster campaign
- Production and distribution of fruit and vegetables to local food share locations

Working on these projects also has a number of benefits to the offender including:

- Increase in self esteem and self worth
- Sense of achievement
- Learning to work together as a team
- Allows them to see how their work has been good for the local community
- Encourages a work ethic
- Improved motivation
- Improved employment prospects
- Opportunities for new skills and training (See below re SVQ)
- The provision of role modeling by the work supervisor
- Enhances service users skills in specific areas of work
- Educated them about their communities and surrounding environment
- Encouraged them to improve their health and well being by using the facilities available to them
- Developed skills in the use of a variety of tools and equipment, many of which required an assessment of competency to be completed

One of the positive results for offenders undertaking unpaid work is the experience and skills it gives them to improve their chances of obtaining paid employment. Some have been successful in gaining employment or continuing to undertake voluntary work. An ongoing initiative is access to a SCQF level 2 gardening skills qualification through a gardening project in Dumbarton.

List of placements used during 2015/16 -

Argyll and Bute:

The scheme has been successful in placing offenders with individual agencies which we use regularly. These placements have helped them gain valuable skills and experience. It has also allowed individual offenders to attend a placement around their work or childcare commitments. We still have several ex-service users volunteering at present and one now

working in fulltime employment.

- Hope kitchen
- Mary's meals
- Oxfam
- Green Shoots
- Bute Oasis
- Re-jig Islay
- Community Garden Islay
- Kintyre Recycling
- Fyne Futures
- Calum's cabin
- Bute Oasis
- Barnardo's
- Blarbluie Woodland

East Dunbartonshire:

A number of organisations support East Dunbartonshire's ambition to offer a range of placement opportunities. This enables offenders to learn new skills; gain a sense of self-worth through their contribution and gain a wider perspective on others within the local community.

- Capability Scotland
- Barnardo's
- Twechar healthy living & enterprise centre
- East Dunbarton addiction recovery centre
- Alan Glens rugby club
- Friendship centre, Milngavie
- Local community education centres
- East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action
- Maxxi Richards Foundation

West Dunbartonshire:

The unpaid work team in West Dunbartonshire seeks to identify and use where appropriate various charity shops for individual placements. This compliments the development of collaborative arrangements with other agencies, organisations and voluntary groups in relation to larger scale projects and initiatives.

- Debra
- Salvation Army
- British Heart Foundation
- Barnardos
- WDC Foodshare

These placements provide an opportunity for them to pay back for their offences whilst at the same time recognising their vulnerability of being new/low risk within the criminal justice system

The placements above have been seen to benefit both the agency and the offenders. This type of placement would, therefore, be used again by the Partnership.

Quotes from people on CPO and beneficiaries about the impact of the unpaid work on them and/or the community.

With regard to customer feedback in respect of unpaid work 100% of respondents (persons in receipt of unpaid work service) stated they would use the service again.

Quotes from beneficiaries:

Marys meals - delighted with job we did *"looks lovely and fresh thank you for your Continuous support it's much appreciated"*

Strachur hall *"thanks for all the help throughout the year - you make the place so much tidier for people visiting"*

"Eaderglyn old folks home would like to thank the team for all their hard work in the summer /winter grass cutting and gritting we don't know where we would be without you all - thanks again"

South Kintyre development trust have also said thanks in the local paper for all the hard work we have done and continue to do

We have also had many letters from people thanking us for our continuous support in their local community

Our organisation *"has been very well supported by Community Payback. Much of what we have achieved in terms of enhancing the wood could not have been done without the assistance from Community Payback"*.

We "very much value the services provided. We also value being able to participate as members of the community in assisting offenders both address and atone for previous behaviours. We would be happy to endorse with any other body including Scottish Government, Audit Scotland etc".

A thank you letter from Helensburgh & District Access Trust read "over the past 3 months your Community Payback teams worked on putting down a walking/cycling path ...this work was undertaken during some pretty miserable winter weather. Accordingly the H&DAT would like to place on record our thanks for the completion of the task which has already been used by walkers, runners and cyclists and received favourable comments." We are very aware that you have conflicting priorities for the work of your team and that you made a special effort in this case. We believe it was well worth it and that the local community has gained much."

Newspaper article about Community Payback's involvement with foodshare featuring service users – "I think it's quite hard work, it's physical, but it's quite rewarding to think that you are giving something back to the community with the food going to the foodbank."

Quotes from offenders:

"I think it was very educational and had a lot of discipline while on the service, all the supervisors were good at explaining and showing you to follow instructions".

"More project work for everyone as I feel as though I learned different skills due to working on projects, as this is different work than I am used to".

Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement.

- Anger management
- Employability
- Alcohol & drug addiction advice
- Life skills & social awareness
- Community education courses
- Tenancy support
- Computer skills
- Literacy support work clubs and/or job clubs
- Food/hygiene
- Attendance at Turnaround (Turning Point Scotland) who are co-located within CJ Team
- Attendance at Women's Group run internally by CJ staff
- Community Projects such as CLAN, Venture Trust, Employability services, All4Youth, DACA and Alternatives
- Attendance at SVQ level 2 Basic Horticulture course
- Range of other college courses accessed by case manager/service user

Activities carried out to consult prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities and how the consultation results helped determine which projects were undertaken.

Since the introduction of CPO, the concept of payback appears to strike a chord with individuals, community organisations and the media, beyond the high levels of satisfaction consistently reported by recipients of unpaid work. Throughout the Partnership unpaid work staff have continued to promote and consult regarding unpaid work projects.

The partnership authorities continue to receive constructive publicity in respect of unpaid work projects and are proactive in encouraging service recipients, where appropriate, to acknowledge the contribution of community payback in any publicity generated by the project. This is helpful in combination with word of mouth in generating interest in and referrals to the unpaid work teams within the Partnership. We have several instances of projects resulting in spin off benefits in terms of additional opportunities for unpaid work projects.

Feedback from communities and organisations has been very positive regarding unpaid work undertaken by offenders subject to CPO. It should be noted that the Criminal Justice Partnership Committee provides an opportunity for elected members to be briefed and comment upon unpaid work activity. Some of the activities carried out to communicate the benefits of community payback orders to the wider community have been:

- Publicity in local press on projects being undertaken/completed
- Details on Council /Community organization websites
- Feedback via elected members
- Community/organization newsletters

In all areas Unpaid work team staff undertake formal liaison/presentations to groups and organisations as well as utilizing the benefits of informal networks and relationships. Typically, this would involve someone involved in a local organization or project finding out about the work undertaken by unpaid work teams informally and approaching us for

assistance. Some examples are detailed below:

- Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action - meeting to discuss partnership
- Ceartas - updates of current service provision
- Kelvinbank Resource Centre – meetings regarding CP involvement in upgrading of current premises
- Hillhead United Social Club - updates of current service provision
- Hillhead Housing 2000 - updates of current service provision
- Harestanes Community Council - updates of current service provision
- Lennoxton Community Council - updates of current service provision
- Regularly meetings with the Council's operational services to gain work opportunities
- Meeting with the National Parks of Scotland to see if/how we can assist them
- Written to all the Community Councils in Argyll & Bute to see if when can be of help to them in anyway
- Regular meetings with Councillors with regards to projects they would like us to carry out in their community
- Requests via the Council website
- Presentation to Dumbarton and Argyll Justice of Peace Training group
- Representation at Kirkmichael Regeneration Group

Continued partnerships with:

- Robin House Children's Hospice
- Vale of Leven Industrial Estate BID (Business Improvement District),
- Public Reassurance Team (responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour within communities)
- Dalmuir Community Allotments
- Alzheimer Scotland
- Greenspace Team
- Allander Rotary Club
- West Dunbartonshire Customer and Communities' Services
- Helensburgh Heritage Trust
- Helensburgh Access Trust
- Arrochar CC
- Kilcreggan & Rosneath CC
- Duchess Woods

This consultation helps with the assessment of need & priority, information sharing to increase knowledge re community need and knowledge for agencies of our capabilities and criteria for acceptance of work. We are able via the Council's general request website to filter potential projects and enable us to compile a list which we can then prioritise.

The Partnership also conducts an annual consultation with prescribed persons which has generated a great deal of interest in particular with community groups. Suggestions have been received and will be followed up over the next few months. Some examples are:

- Grass cutting, low level garden maintenance for elderly and vulnerable local residents.
- Ant graffit/vandalism tasks/repairs, painting etc
- Supervised contact with local officers for discussions around their offending and impact on the victims including police officers themselves and general negative impact offending has on the community
- Local meeting quarterly with all partners to discuss new ideas/views/issues that

may be relevant

Use by the courts of CPO requirements other than unpaid work, for example what, and in what way, different requirements are being used for those whose offending is driven by drug, alcohol and mental health issues; or how requirements such as programme or conduct are being used to address offending behaviour.

The principal requirement used other than unpaid work (83% of CPO), is supervision (53% of CPO) with other requirements (noted below) used to a significantly lesser extent. The work undertaken within a supervision requirement is informed and supported by a consistent approach to risk assessment and case management through the medium of the Level of Service Case Management Inventory and other tools where appropriate.

Requirements other than unpaid work are not imposed with any great regularity. Alcohol and Drug Treatment requirements are occasionally imposed but do not impact greatly on the running of the order. There are instances of requests for alcohol treatment to form part of the requirement but it is generally couched in terms of 'under the direction of the supervising officer', which gives an element of discretion with regard to the timing and nature of treatment/support. We are starting to make more use of conduct requirements, particularly in relation to registered sex offenders. This allows us to hold individuals to account for aspects of conduct and bring matters of conduct or discipline to attention of sentencers. Conduct requirements have been used in relation to drug treatment and in one incidence where it stated 'not to use alcohol', which left no discretion and the Order had to be breached quite quickly, although was subsequently returned with no additional sanction. In these circumstances one has to question the value of the Conduct Requirement.

Any issues affecting access to services which are provided by other partners (e.g. drug and alcohol services) and, where such issues have been identified, what work is underway to resolve them.

Criminal Justice Social Work is engaged at an operational and strategic level with partners for instance through Alcohol and Drug partnerships, in the field of domestic violence and relevant community planning thematic groups.

Services are increasingly engaged at a strategic level within member authorities and with partner agencies. The work currently under way in relation to the planning for the implementation of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 is providing an opportunity to strengthen and build upon good partnership arrangements with other services and agencies and establish new ones.

Criminal Justice Social Work staff exercise considerable ingenuity in accessing services and building support around individuals. Again this is a good platform upon which to build constructive strategic partnerships in the future planning and delivery landscape.

Any other relevant information. This might include details of work which is carried out with people on CPOs to address their offending behaviour but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.

A women's group-work programme continues to be delivered in the West Dunbartonshire, Helensburgh and Lomond areas. This area has over recent years experienced relatively large numbers of women subject to community supervision (41 new CPO with supervision requirements in 2015-16). The themes or issues addressed include readiness to change, self-esteem, anger and conflict, relationships (partners, children, family and others), substance misuse, parenting skills, health (lifestyle risks, diet, sexual health, fitness) and access to training education and employment. A key element of the programme is

establishing a relationship with a range of service providers/agencies through direct input to sessions and where appropriate the establishment of contact and referral independent of the programme. Agencies/services involved include Community Learning and Development (Working 4U), West College, Stepping Stones, NHS and addiction services. A feature of the programme is working alongside women to determine their own specific needs and goals.

A dedicated member of staff has been deployed to develop and support the group-work programme, particularly in relation to the engagement of other agencies and services, for instance in relation to health and wellbeing. It has also provided the capacity to work very intensively with a small number of very vulnerable women and support them to establish more stable lifestyles including engagement with appropriate services. Whilst it is risky to describe the work undertaken with reference to a typical case it is nonetheless the case that almost without exception the women receiving the intensive support have experienced considerable trauma over the course of their lives frequently stretching back into childhood. The service provided support to 26 individuals over 2015-16. The weekly group-work sessions were attended by an average of 6 women per session and very intensive work undertaken with seven women. There is a recognition that signposting and referral to appropriate agencies requires to be backed up by practical support and encouragement; thus in 60% of cases where contact with another agency results in a referral, the client was accompanied by the project worker to at least the first appointment. This service demonstrates in very clear terms the practical application of the aspirations underpinning community justice.

The continued availability of funding for women's services has permitted the service to sustain and continue to develop this service with work ongoing to increase the range of relationships with other agencies and services both in respect of individual women but also to develop support beyond exit from Criminal Justice services and diversionary/preventative activity.

The Partnership has hosted a Women's Safety and Support Service funded by the Scottish Government Equalities Unit (Violence Against Women Funding Stream) since 2008. Funding was secured for 2015-16, and a further funding bid has been successful for 2016-17.

The project is located within and managed by the CJSW team in Dunbarton and provides a service to female partners / ex-partners of domestic abuse perpetrators subject to statutory supervision and to female offenders experiencing domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence. It is a direct response to the historically, very high incidence of reported domestic violence affecting West Dunbartonshire and empirical evidence of the impact of gender based violence on female offenders. The service covers West Dunbartonshire/ Helensburgh Lomond area.

The service's objectives are to:

1. Increase the safety of women and children experiencing domestic violence within a criminal justice context
2. To achieve better outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse
3. To provide a service to female offenders which recognises the impact of gender based violence in relation to routes into and out of offending
4. To raise the profile of the effects of gender based violence on the women who receive the service

The service received 55 new referrals in 2015-2016. The main sources of referral were

Criminal Justice Team, Early and Effective Intervention Team (Police Incident) and ASSIST. 17 cases were carried forward into 2016-17.

The service has developed an input into the women offender's group-work programme and supports a service users group.

The Women's Safety and Support Service maintains a high level of commitment to training and practice development to staff across a range of services and in 2015 published 'Responding to Violence Against Women, Supporting Survivors and Managing Risks; A Good Practice Guide'.

West Dunbartonshire has in the past developed and run programmes for perpetrators of domestic violence. Notwithstanding some evidence suggesting the success of these initiatives they could not be sustained in the face of year on year demands for efficiency savings. At the time of writing we are participating in a short life sub-group of the West Dunbartonshire Violence Against Women Partnership exploring the options and possibility of addressing this significant gap in the response to a significant local need with a third sector partner. The recent additional funding provided to support community sentences may provide an opportunity to support this initiative.

COMPLETED BY: Norman Firth, Partnership Manager

DATE: 16th September 2016

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