



COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER

ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2016/17**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **Argyll & Bute Council**



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.

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 within resources available.

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 offenders live in.

Current projects include assisting Operational Services in gritting footpaths and snow clearance which allows Care Workers and emergency services to visit if required. We are also cleaning railings, washing down walls and generally tidying up and litter picking along community footpaths.

We continue to work at Glenfinnart Walled Garden, developing the sensory garden and laying paths for locals and tourists to benefit. An added bonus is that we have now been given a plot of land to use to grow vegetables. Offenders can take these vegetables home to their families thus improving health and wellbeing.

In Oban we are working at the Sensory Garden, Green Shoots Garden and Rockfield Primary which is being turned into a heritage centre for all the community

On Bute we have been given a piece of land to create, develop and maintain something that all the community can benefit from and this is still in progress.

We are now involved with a large project at Blairmore Trust creating footpaths and play areas.

And finally we are working with the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park tidying up footpaths and picnic areas.

- Glenfinnart walled Garden
- Rockfield primary
- Green shoots
- Sensory garden oban
- Blairmore community trust
- South Kintyre devolvment trust
- Blarbuie woodland

Working on these projects also has a number of benefits to the offender including learning new skills in gardening, land maintenance and growing and being able to work as a team.

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 as well as learning to use their initiative, work in a team and deal with problems. It has also allowed individual offenders to attend a placement around their work or childcare

commitments. Some of the offenders placed have stayed on after their order has finished as volunteers which has given them a work reference to use in seeking employment.

Examples of placement agencies:

- Hope kitchen
- Oxfam
- Green Shoots
- Bute Oasis
- Re-jig Islay
- Kintyre Recycling
- Fyne Futures
- Calum's cabin
- Bute Oasis
- Barnardo's
- Blarbuie Woodland
- Shelter
- Cancer research
- Salvation Army
- Debra charity
- Leven valley campus
- Bute produce
- Fyne futures recycling

These placements provide an opportunity for offenders 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. The agencies are always glad of the help and feel that they are also helping the offenders by teaching them different skills.

Ongoing discussions are being held with volunteer agencies to encourage them to keep on offenders as volunteers once their CPO requirement has been completed. This will allow offenders to gain experience and skills from a work environment which can be used to enhance their CV and assist them in gaining paid employment.

Several offenders (7 to 10) have continued to be involved with the projects once they have completed their time with some having gone on to gain employment as a result of what they have learned. The work they have been involved in includes gardening, cooking, retail shop work, computing and archiving.

There were approximately 14,184 hours of unpaid work undertaken on orders completed in Argyll and Bute during 2016/17.

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

Quotes from beneficiaries:

Blairmore trust "what a wonderful job we have done in such a short time"

In the local paper Kintyre trust are delighted the help they are being giving to help spruce up their town - Campbeltown.

The Committee of the Pipe Band Hall in Dunoon have again written a thank you letter for all the hard work we have given them - painting inside and tidying up around their building before and after Cowal Games.

Strachur Village Hall committee have also sent in a letter thanking the Payback Team for all the help in keeping their building and surrounding area tidy and clean all year round and to the wonderful job we carried out painting the village hall inside and out - quote "its looking like its old self again thanks very much on behave of our community".

Quotes from offenders:

Some of the Offenders see the project before and after completion and one commented "I feel if I have given something back and feel good about the job that was done and for all to see and can't believe they could make such a difference".

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

Community education courses, Turnaround input, drugs/alcohol support, Literacy support, tenancy support, computer skills.

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.

CJSW is required under the Act (section 227ZL) to consult prescribed persons, organisations and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities and contribute to the creation of local partnerships to achieve positive outcomes for local communities. This includes activities carried out to communicate the benefits of CPO to the wider community, some examples of which are detailed below:

- Regularly meeting with the Council's operational services to gain work opportunities
- Ongoing contact with Community Councils in Argyll & Bute
- Regular meetings with Councillors with regards to projects they would like us to carry out in their community, more recently including Councillors from the Helensburgh and Lomond area where service delivery has returned to Argyll and Bute Council
- Requests via the Council website with work ongoing to utilise the council's general request website to filter out potential projects

Continued partnerships with:

- Helensburgh Heritage Trust
- Helensburgh Access Trust
- Arrochar CC
- Kilcreggan & Rosneath CC
- Duchess Woods
- Glenfinnart walled Garden
- Rockfield primary
- Green shoots
- Sensory garden Oban
- Blairmore community trust
- South Kintyre devolvement trust

- Blarbuie woodland

CJSW also conducts an annual consultation with prescribed persons which has generated 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 graffiti/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

Any suggestions/requests received are considered individually and prioritised according to need, value to the community / individuals / groups and within the capabilities of the scheme.

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 (87% of CPO), is supervision (51% of CPO) (note: based on 2015/16 figures) 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 Treatment requirements are the most likely to be imposed but do not impact greatly on the running of the order.

The challenges facing the service principally relate to accommodating an increased volume of work characterised by significant additional complexity and diversity in terms of complex needs and risks. It should be noted that this affects all of CJSW statutory roles and that whilst the challenges regarding the delivery of CPO are of greatest significance in terms of volume it is one of a number of similar issues facing the service across all areas of activity. Within this context the CJSW service role in public protection is increasingly important.

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 with other local authority, HSCP services, statutory agencies and third sector partners. The implementation of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 provides an opportunity to strengthen and build upon good partnership arrangements with other services and agencies and establish new ones. In this context the current planning performance improvement framework and

strategy map (2107-20) was drawn up with reference to community justice outcomes.

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. However, this is dependent on adequate resources being made available to all partner agencies including Criminal Justice Social Work.

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.

Criminal Justice Social Work staff continue to be innovative and imaginative when looking at ways to support individuals through their order. The supervision requirement and the other activity option are used to develop skills and confidence of the individual whilst addressing underlying issues which relate to the complex needs map. This can be linking with activities in the community, helping with membership of a local gym and supporting the family to be involved. Where risk is a significant issue more structured intensive supervision is provided, particularly with young offenders to ensure safety of the community and the individual and enable them to engage in a constructive way with their local community.

COMPLETED BY: Kirsteen Green

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