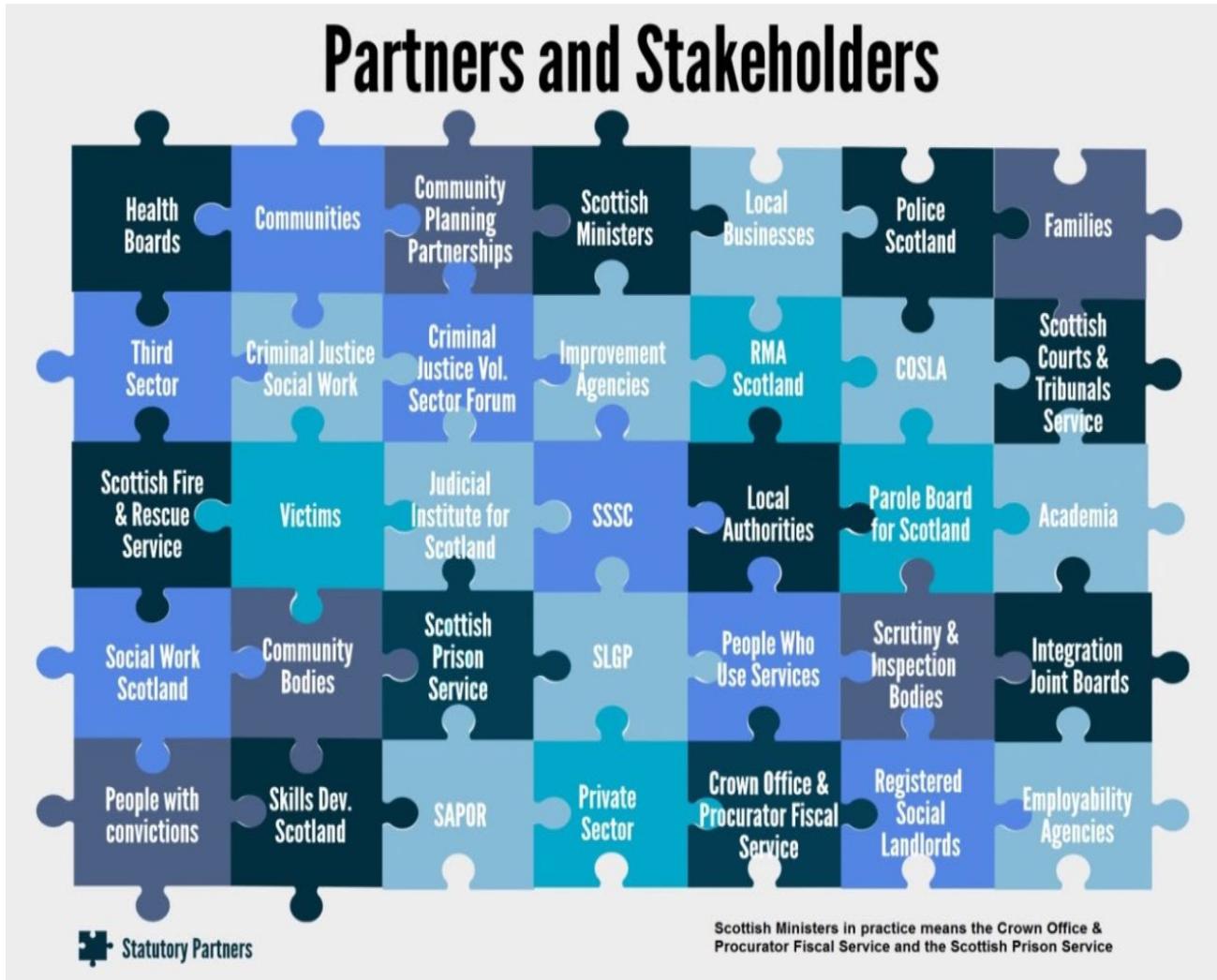


Argyll & Bute Community Justice Performance Report 2024-25

Collaborating to improve community justice outcomes across a diverse geographical landscape

Community Justice Planning and Delivery Partners and Stakeholders



Our vision is in line with Scottish Government vision for:

A just, safe resilient Argyll & Bute and Scotland.

Issues of Justice affect us

all.

Justice is the concept of fairness.

Argyll and Bute Community Justice Plan 2024 – 2027 Appendix 1

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The National Strategy for Community Justice in Scotland provides the rationale for this Aim, Priority Action and Outcomes (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-strategy-community-justice-2/documents/>)

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 1

- Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution

National Strategy Aim 1	National Outcome 1
Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity	More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of diversion from prosecution referrals:		
i) assessments undertaken	124	109
ii) cases commenced	88	83
iii) cases successfully completed	88	58

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people undertaking diversion from prosecution and are used to support improvement	Justice Social Work confirms that mechanisms are in place including the use of Justice Outcome Star, HSCP staff survey, Team Meetings and Staff Supervision at service level. New governance arrangements established in November 25 through a newly formed committee <i>Social Work & Social Care Governance & Leadership</i>

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Further improvement activity undertaken to develop and enhance the quality of Diversion from Prosecution services offered following on from the baseline audit undertaken during 2023 using the care inspectorate case file audit tool. Six monthly audits have continued
- Cases assessed as unsuitable reviewed, determined majority returned to the Procurator Fiscal was due to non-attendance for assessment interview or not willing to participate
- Through audits clear evidence of multi-agency working exists around Adult Support and Protection, anti-social behaviour, mental health, addictions, education, children and families social work, housing and benefit maximisation work
- Work continued during the year 24/25 around increasing the use of Justice Star within Diversion from Prosecution to better capture the needs of this diverse client group that have spanned the age range of 16 – 80 years, and the full spectrum of offending behaviours

Publication of the refreshed Scottish Government Diversion Guidance was expected during the summer of 2025, this has been delayed and is now expected towards the end of 2025. Further progress is expected locally 2025-2027, including streamlining of governance arrangements. Considerations on delivery in remote, rural and island areas will be integrated within processes.

National Outcome 1 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change from 2023-2024: Partially Met (<i>number of cases completed reduced in number & as a proportion of cases commenced</i>)	Justice Social Work are reliant on increased referral numbers from the Procurator Fiscal Service for there to be an increase in numbers in relation to Diversion Cases Commenced. Justice Social Work increased the conversion rate percentage of Assessments to Cases Commenced from 71% to 76%

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 2

- Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services

National Strategy Aim 1	National Outcome 2
Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity	More people in police custody receive support to address their needs

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of: i) referrals from custody centres	Data not available	Data available locally, aim to increase

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
There is an effective relationship between community justice partners, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and police custody centre for local population	Collaboration work between Community Justice Partnership, Alcohol & Drugs Partnership, Police Scotland (national and local) underway. Streamlined governance through the ADP <i>Public Health Approach to Justice</i> workstream and this Community Justice Aim
Referral pathways and support are in place from police custody centre for local population	Referral pathways work underway – aim to increase the number of service referral options available within local Police Scotland Custody Suites

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Local refreshed approach to Arrest Referral from Police Custody Suites within Argyll & Bute established following national launch in April 2025
- Collaboration between Community Justice and Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (in particular We Are With You) to review Argyll & Bute Custody Suite referrals for access to addictions and recovery support. Improvements identified and implemented, while nationally published data was not available, local information suggests there was an increase from 3 in 2023-24.
- Work continued during 2024-25 in response to the October 2024, HM INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY IN SCOTLAND published inspection report for the custody suite arrangements containing 18 recommendations. This provides an additional baseline information for the Community Justice Partnership and opportunities to collaborate with HSCP-led multi-agency response.

Further progress is expected 2025-2027 including streamlining of governance arrangements. The number Police Scotland Custody Suite referral processes and information-sharing opportunities is reliant on engagement of available service providers. Considerations on delivery in remote, rural and island areas will be integrated within processes.

National Outcome 2 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Change from Not Met to Partially Met. Some local data available, however wider range of referral pathway options required.	Local service data shows the collaboration work undertaken to increase the number of referrals to third sector addictions from Police Custody Suites in Argyll & Bute increased from 2023-24 to 2024-25

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 3

- Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively

National Strategy Aim 2	National Outcome 3
Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of:	2023-2024	2024-2025
i) assessment reports for bail suitability	57	63
ii) bail supervision cases commenced	15	8
iii) bail supervision cases completed	9	6

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Mechanisms are in place to support a high-quality bail assessment.	Justice Social Work confirms that mechanisms are in place to support high-quality assessment alongside the referral pathways, improvements within 2025-28 Service Plan. New governance arrangements established in November 25 through a newly formed committee <i>Social Work & Social Care Governance & Leadership</i>
Referral pathways are in place that support identified needs of people on bail supervision	

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Justice Social Work completed a higher number of Bail Support Assessments on the previous year. People are identified via the '*Bail Opposed*' information received from the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service
- Challenges remain with the part-time criminal business Courts that operate across A&B. Many of the Bail Support Assessments are undertaken on those appearing in Courts out with the local area, leading to a position of disadvantages in relation to: ready access to defence agents; reliance on Geoamey allowing telephone access to complete Bail Support Assessments meaning access is not immediate

Further progress is expected locally 2025-2027, including streamlining of governance arrangements. National progress in relation to changes made to the bail process will enable improved communication between the Courts and Justice Social Work to ensure that Sheriff's do not hear cases if an assessment is being prepared, and, they are in receipt of this. Considerations on delivery in remote, rural and island areas will be integrated within processes

National Outcome 3 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change from 2023-24: Partially Met (<i>lower conversion rate from Assessment>Cases Completed</i>)	The conversion rate from Assessment > Cases Commenced is reliant on Sheriff decision-making to include Justice Social Work Bail Support Service as a condition of Bail. Justice Social Work completed more Assessment Reports and increased the percentage of Cases Completed from 60% to 75%. The conversion rate from Assessment Reports to Cases Commenced reduced from 26% to 13%

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 4

- Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies

National Strategy Aim 2	National Outcome
Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	No National Outcome

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
No National Indicators	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Under development at a national level and limited data and knowledge available on the use of electronic monitoring technologies. Argyll & Bute Community Justice Partnership will continue to monitor the national developments and seek to improve our local knowledge and understanding. Of note, is the Community Justice Scotland National Improvement Recommendation – Electronic Monitoring, published 13 October 2025.

[National Improvement Recommendation – Electronic Monitoring - Community Justice Scotland](#)

Further progress locally is dependent on national action. Considerations on delivery in remote, rural and island areas will be integrated within local processes as they develop.

National Priority Action 5

- Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland

National Strategy Aim 2	National Outcome 4
Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Percentage of: i) CPOs successfully completed ii) DTTOs successfully completed	62% 50%	67% 0%

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Availability of local programmes to support desistance from domestic abuse and sexual offending – Scottish Government, requires national funding	Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of the community justice workforce with regard to supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement
Availability of referral pathways to support the needs of local population on community disposals – In place, geographical differences exist	Justice Social Work confirms that referral pathways and mechanisms in place, improvements within 2025-28 Service Plan. New governance arrangements established in November 25 through a newly formed committee Social Work & Social Care Governance & Leadership.
Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people with experience of community disposals to support improvement	
Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of the community justice workforce with regard to supporting the needs of people subject to community disposals to support improvement	

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Justice Social Work were trained and accredited in Dialectical Behaviour therapy (DBT) during 2023, was consolidated 2024/25 as the main basis for interventions. Staff have additional skills through training and awareness in DASH, SARA and Safe & Together
- This links well with the RNR (Risk, Need and Responsivity Principles). Used as a basis for all intervention work across the service and is tailored to the individual's needs as identified in Case Management Plans. This has ensured consistency of service provision across Argyll & Bute.
- Justice Social Work continues to adopt a proactive approach to dealing with non-compliance and breach of community sentences, using welfare checks, core groups and multi-agency meetings to understand the root cause of non-compliance and put strategies in place to try and avoid recurrence unless there is a high risk to public protection.

National Priority Action 6

- Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services

National Strategy Aim 2	National Outcome
Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	No National Outcome

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
No National Indicators	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

Argyll and Bute Community Justice Partnership recognise the value to having restorative justice services available, unfortunately we are unable to consider this due to lack of national funding. We will continue to review and monitor national progress and its local impact.

National Priority Action 7

- Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners

National Strategy Aim 3	National Outcome 5
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from: i) custody to community	1	0

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Health and social care circumstances/care plans are reflected in collaborative plans for release	Some evidence exists Justice Social Work Statutory Throughcare & Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service. New governance arrangements established in November 25 through a newly formed committee <i>Social Work & Social Care Governance & Leadership and Alcohol & Drugs Strategic Group</i>
Referral pathways and information sharing arrangements are in place to support timely access to health and social care supports upon release	

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Improved internal information sharing was implemented, this provided Argyll & Bute Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service to strengthen communications across the team, prison and with individuals
- Further analysis of this Indicator will be undertaken in 2025-26 through the ADP Public Health Approach to Justice work stream

National Outcome 5 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Change from Not Met to Partially Met (National investment required. Drug Treatment & Testing Orders no longer available, Drug Treatment only)	Indicator decline however local & national internal and external improvements were implemented by DARS during 2024-25 improving communications with prisons and individuals. Pilot CJ Advocacy Project in place 2024-25 – from April 2025, responsibility of Upside National Throughcare Service. Referral pathways are in place, not recorded in reportable format.

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 8

- Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas

National Strategy Aim 3	National Outcome 6
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of: i) homeless applications where prison is last known address	10	15

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
SPS admissions and liberations information is shared with relevant partners to support suitable accommodation planning Proportion of admissions where housing advice was provided Percentage of people leaving prison who have been housed by the local authority and have maintained tenancy for more than 1 year	Liberation & remand data received by Housing, Justice Social Work and shared with Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service.

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Homeless/Housing Services continued to collaborate with multi-agency partners in relation to statutory and voluntary throughcare
- Proactive in-reach to those being released without Justice Social Work Statutory Throughcare support via LAAS Community Justice Advocacy Service
- Housing lead monitoring SHORE refresh at a national level, local updates as it develops
- Argyll & Bute continues to have challenges in relation to Housing Emergency

National Outcome 6 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change, Partially Met (SHORE standards under review nationally)	The increase in the number of homeless applications can potentially be because of awareness raising within Housing, the CJ Advocacy Service delivered by Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service and Scottish Prison Service. For the remaining Improvement Tool actions, data availability is under review.

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 9

- Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services

National Strategy Aim 3	National Outcome 7
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Participation in employability services:		
i) percentage of people with convictions	6%	7%
ii) Number of participants	20	22

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Effective links between the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) and Community Justice Partnership supports: i) local employment, education and training providers to respond to the needs of those with convictions ii) local employment, education and training providers are confident and competent in providing effective conviction disclosure support iii) local employers to develop more inclusive recruitment processes and employ people with convictions	To be reviewed 2026-2027, CJP & Employability Partnership
Referral pathways are in place to connect people to appropriate services and support: i) at commencement of, during and at the end of a CPO ii) following release from custody	To be reviewed 2026-2027, Local employability services and Justice Social Work

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Argyll & Bute Local Employability Partnership continued to support people involved within the criminal justice system (current or previous), Skills Development Scotland is the main Community Justice Partnership member
- Identifying gaps in provision and working collectively to address barriers such as stigma, digital exclusion, or lack of local opportunities
- JSW looked to increase opportunities for people to gain employment, training and volunteer work through use of UPW other activity. Accomplished by sourcing individual placements & developing relationships with local businesses
- Community Justice Partnership scoping identified a range of potential development activities that includes training, awareness and the need for increased collaboration
- The Local Employability Partnership contributes to supporting justice outcomes through the delivery of No One Left Behind (NOLB) support.

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change, Partially Met	Indicator increasing. CJP improvement scoping began late 2024-25, training needs identified. Some evidence available through local employability services and Justice Social Work.

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 10

- Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services

National Strategy Aim 3	National Outcome 8
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	More people access voluntary throughcare following a short-term prison sentence

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
Number of: i) voluntary throughcare cases commenced	2	3 (JSW) 30 (LAAS CJ Advocacy Service)

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Mechanisms are in place for partners to support people serving short term sentences Proportion of people liberated from short term custody: i) made aware of support ii) accepting support offer iii) with a co-ordinated pre-release plan in place Mechanisms are in place to understand the views of people accessing voluntary throughcare to support improvement	Justice Social Work and Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service (Community Justice Advocacy) evaluation (2024/25 only)

2024-2025 Activity Update

- During 2024-2025, the Community Justice Partnership commissioned local third sector Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service to deliver a rights-based voluntary throughcare service (partly funded by JSW and attributable to 2024-2025 JSW statistics). This project ceased as of March 2025
- Utilising the Scottish Prison Service weekly liberation notifications, a proactive approach to offer the service was developed with the relevant prisons (mainly HMP Greenock and Low Moss), prison visits and rights-based support was provided to those who engaged
- Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service, Community Justice Advocacy project became operational during early 2024, exploring a right-based approach to custody to community, take up of the service was around 70%. The Community Justice Partnership will review the submitted evaluation to identify what we can change locally and what requires national action
- The focus from April 2025 has been around the introduction of the new national voluntary throughcare service Upside and exploring how we connect meaningfully to local services, creating an understanding of the communities and their diverse nature across Argyll & Bute.

National Outcome 8 CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change, Partially Met	Community Justice Partnership commissioning of a pilot rights-based approach to voluntary throughcare service in 2024/2025 delivered improved results in uptake through a proactive approach. Justice Social Work indicator also increased. The new national service for voluntary throughcare began in April 2025.

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 11

- Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically

National Strategy Aim 4	National Outcome
Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	No National Outcome

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
No National Indicator	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Mechanisms are in place to support engagement in each local authority, specifically: i) a community justice outcomes improvement plan (CJOIP) ii) a participation statement iii) an annual report on progress towards nationally and locally determined outcomes	CJP publication of local CJ Plan In development, published early 2026 Included in Community Justice Plan Submitted annually to Community Justice Scotland
Mechanisms are in place to support an effective interface between national partner organisations and their local representatives within Community Justice Partnerships	In place as required

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Reviewing governance arrangements agreeing Community Justice reporting
- Identifying aligned strategic priorities with other Partnerships; Third Sector, Violence Against Women & Girls, Alcohol and Drugs and Children, Families and Justice, Health & Social Care Partnership, Corporate Parenting (not an exclusive list)
- Collaborating to reduce duplications in strategic planning
- Collaborating to fund local research into the impact of domestic abuse
- Consulting with a range of locally based and national third sector partners and services, creating an improved understanding of challenges and potential collaboration

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

National Priority Action 12

- Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded

National Strategy Aim 4	National Outcome
Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	No National Outcome

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
No National Indicator	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
Evidence of mechanisms to engage non-statutory partners in strategic planning	CJP jointly commissioned research with VAWG Partnership. Third sector engagement activity (place-based)
Use of the Care Inspectorate 'self-evaluation guide to support quality improvement for community justice in Scotland', with focus on Leadership and Direction	To be progressed 2026-2027

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Reviewing the collaborative domestic abuse research with the Violence Against Women Partnership in relation to what can be delivered locally and what requires national action
- Continuing to promote VAWGP training across the community justice workforces
- Initial scoping of the potential for collaborative approach with VAWGP and the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
Not Applicable	Not Applicable

National Priority Action 13

- Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

National Strategy Aim 4	National Outcome 9
Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice

National Indicator(s)	2023-2024 Results	2024-2025 Results
No National Indicator	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Appendix 3: National Community Justice Performance Framework Results 2023-2024, Activity, Outcomes Assessment

Community Justice Improvement Tool progress	2024-2025 Evidence Base
As above in Action 12	As above in Action 12

2024-2025 Activity Update

- Continued to encourage public and third sector service providers to add their details to the Community Justice Scotland Community Interventions and Service Directory
- Consider how Community Justice partners can collaborate to contribute to joint activity across policy areas to improve our knowledge of the impact of stigma and what we can do to tackle
- Consider the impact of activities to improve understanding and confidence across the workforce and community

National Outcome CJP Assessment	Assessment Rationale
No Change, Partially Met	Community Justice Scotland Annual Reports available, CJ Plan published early 2026