

Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership

Annual Report 2023-2024
Part 2

Introduction

The Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) brings together statutory, public and third sector organisations working together to reduce reoffending and improve outcomes for people affected by the justice system.

A new [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) was published by the Scottish Government in 2022, which set the strategic direction for community justice partnerships across the country. Following this, a revised [Community Justice Performance Framework](#) (CJPF) was published in April 2023 and provided the basis for local community justice partners to begin development of a new Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP).

This annual report covers the data in relation to the national indicators and provides an assessment as to whether the national outcomes are being achieved across Ayrshire.

To comply with legislative responsibilities under Section 23 of the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#), this report has been issued in two parts. The first part, which is available on our website here outlines a range of action taken by community justice partners in Ayrshire over 2023 - 2024 towards each of the priority actions as outlined in the national strategy.

The new CJOIP for the partnership was published in April 2024 and is available on the CJAP website:

www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk





Community Justice

Ayrshire **Partnership**

Working together to break the cycle of offending

National Indicators

The national strategy sets out four national aims for community justice, and 13 priority actions sitting underneath these, which the Scottish Government and community justice partners should seek to deliver over the duration of the strategy. Effective coordination and collaboration are key to achieving these aims.

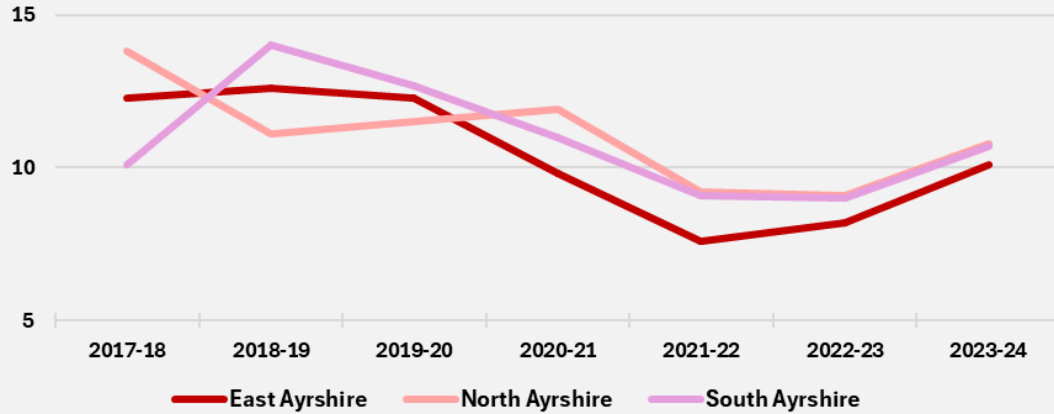
The CJPF states:

- 9 nationally determined outcomes which are to be achieved in each area.
- 10 national indicators which are to be used to measure performance in achieving the outcomes

National Priority Theme	National Outcome	National Indicator
Consistency, confidence in and awareness of direct measures and diversion from prosecution	↑ More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution	Number of diversion asmnts undertaken, cases commenced, cases successfully completed
Identifying underlying needs and delivery of support following arrest through arrest referral services	↑ More people in police custody receive support to address their needs	Number of referrals from custody centres
Alternatives to remand; ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively	↑ More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision	Number of asmnts for bail suitability, bail supervision cases commenced, cases completed
Increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies	No nationally determined outcome.	N/A
High quality, trauma-informed services and programmes for those given community sentences	↑ More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences	% community payback orders and drug treatment and testing orders successfully completed
Ensure restorative justice is available to all those who wish to access it	No nationally determined outcome.	N/A
Enhance access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison	↑ More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from prison	Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community
Ensure housing needs of those in prison are addressed consistently and at early stage	↑ More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from prison	Number of homelessness applications from prison leavers
Enhance life skills and readiness for employment	↑ More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment	% of those in employability services with convictions
Promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services	↑ More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence	Number of voluntary throughcare cases commenced
Effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place	No nationally determined outcome.	N/A
Ensure voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are embedded	No nationally determined outcome.	N/A
Ensure the community and workforce have improved understanding/confidence in community justice	↑ More people understand, and have confidence in, community justice	% people agree that people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

High Level National Indicator - Not related to a National Outcome

Percentage of custody disposals

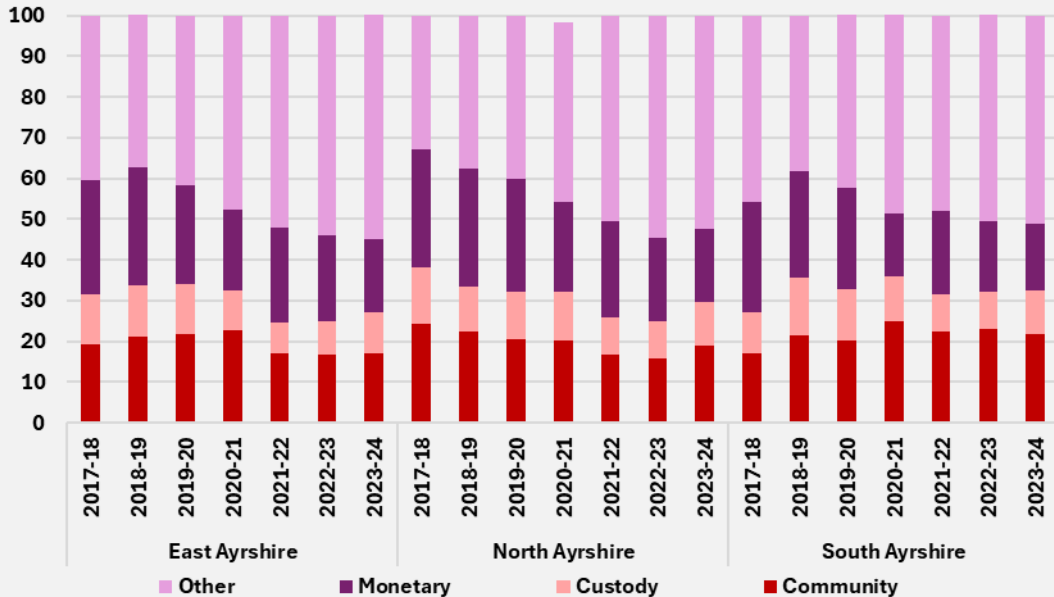


In addition to the nine national indicators which are each directly linked to one of the nine national outcomes, there is also a high level national indicator. This looks at the disposal grouping split – the outcome of the case at court; comparing the proportion of custody disposals to other disposal groups including community disposals. The desire is to see a decrease in the percentage of custody disposals.

This information is updated and published quarterly by Scottish Government analysts and can be viewed [here](#).

The charts to the left show the percentage of disposals issued at charge level in Scottish criminal courts. Information is not included on charges for which the accused is not convicted. Disposals are grouped into ‘Community’ (including CPO, RLO, DTTO), ‘Custody’, ‘Monetary’ (including fines and compensation), and ‘Other’ (including admonishments, absolute discharges).

Disposal grouping split



The chart above shows specifically the proportion of disposals which were for custody, each year from 2017-18 to 2023-24 for each Ayrshire area. You can see it has ranged from around 7% to 14% in that time, and that all three areas broadly followed the same pattern of decreasing between 2019 and 2022 before increasing. All three areas increased again last year, while staying below the levels of 2017 to 2019. This is in line with the national trend, which reduced from a peak of 13.5% in 2018-19 to 9.7% in 2022-23 before increasing to 11.5% last year.

The chart below shows the proportion for each disposal group each year and we can see that custody is consistently the least used. ‘Other’ appears to be increasing in all areas, as it is across Scotland, representing over half of disposals last year, while ‘Monetary’ has generally decreased. The use of ‘Community’ disposals has been more consistent but higher recently in South Ayrshire than in East and North. Last year nationally 16.3% were community disposals, compared to 17.1% in East Ayrshire, 18.8% in North Ayrshire and 21.9% in South Ayrshire.

National Aim 1:

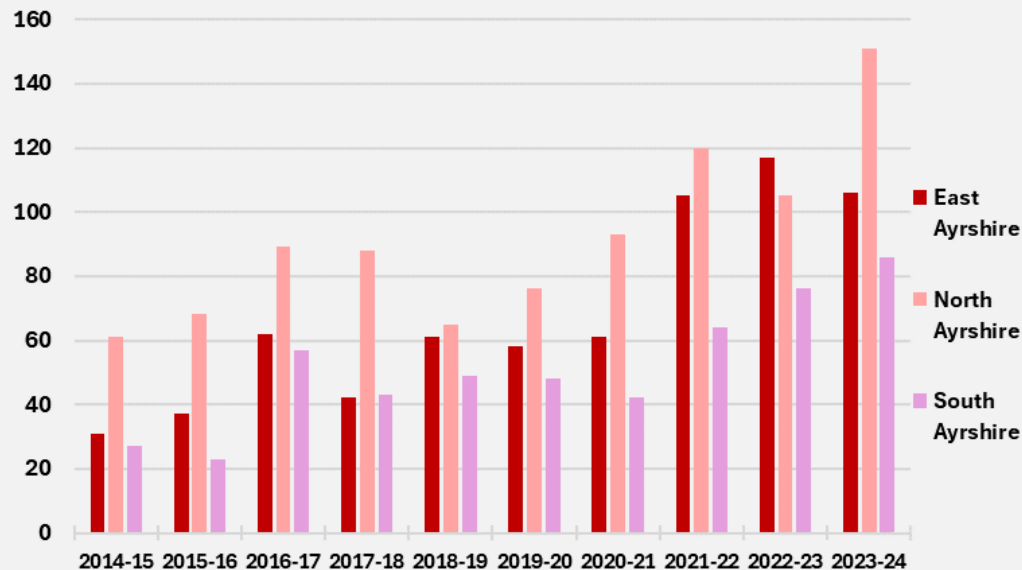
**Optimise the use of
diversion and intervention
at the earliest opportunity**

National Outcome - More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution

Priority 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

Diversion from prosecution is one of the options available to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) after receiving a police report of a person's alleged offending. A 'Direct Measure' like Diversion allows the person to be diverted away from formal justice proceedings and into support from local Justice Social Work (JSW) teams to address the issues and needs contributing to their offending behaviour. This enables intervention to take place at an early stage, rather than waiting for a court process to take place.

No of diversion from prosecution assessments undertaken



In East Ayrshire, there was a slight decrease in the number of diversion assessments undertaken compared to last year, whereas in North and South Ayrshire it increased.

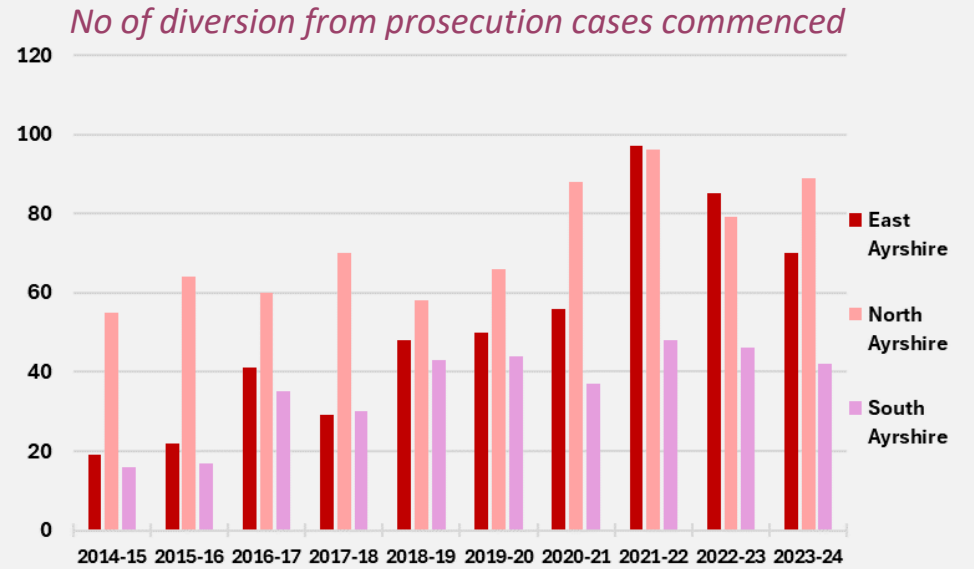
In all three Ayrshire areas the number has generally been increasing over time, and the highest figure seen in the last ten years has been in the last two years. There were 343 diversion assessments undertaken across Ayrshire last year.

This general increase is in line with national figures - the Scotland-wide number of diversion assessments undertaken has increased consistently over this period from around 2,500 in 2014-15 to over 5,600 last year.

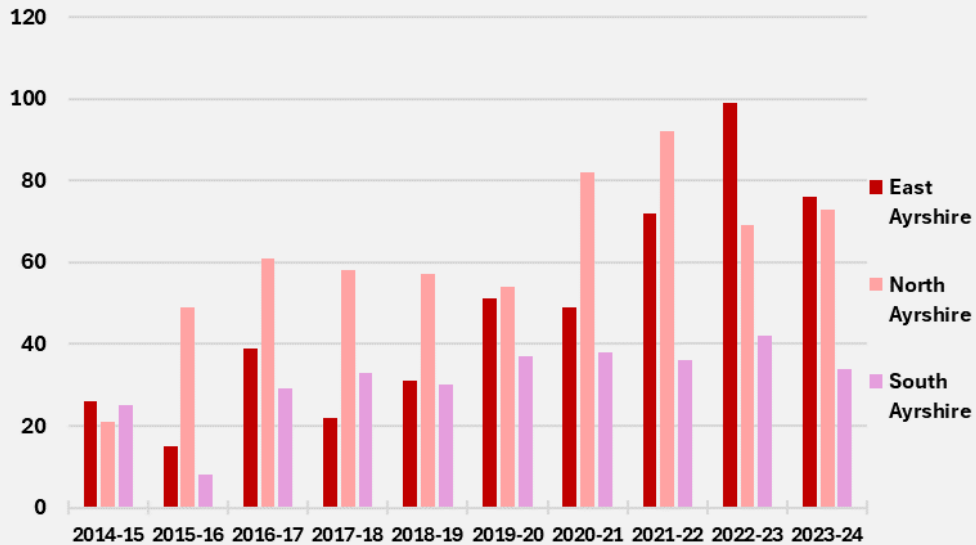
Nationally, 59% of assessments progressed to case commenced last year (61% in 2022-23). In East Ayrshire this proportion was 66% (down from 73% in 22-23), in North it was 59% (down from 75% the year before) and in South it was 49% (down from 61%).

Similarly, at a national level, the number of diversion cases commenced has generally increased from around 1,900 in 2014-15 to a peak of over 3,300 last year. The chart to the right shows this data for Ayrshire, and you can see that although there has been an increase over the full period, there has been a slight decrease from a peak in 2021-22 in all areas (though North Ayrshire did increase this year compared to last).

If we assess as a rate of the population to compare against other areas, we can see that last year East Ayrshire had the 15th highest rate of diversion cases commenced in the country, North Ayrshire 9th, and South 27th.



No of diversion from prosecution cases successfully completed



The final chart to the left shows the number of successfully completed diversion cases. The figure in East Ayrshire decreased from last year but remained higher than it had been previously. There was a slight increase in North Ayrshire and a decrease in South.

There were 183 successfully completed Diversion cases across Ayrshire last year.

CJAP Outcome Assessment: Numbers of Diversion assessments continue to increase generally across Ayrshire. Compared to last year, the number of successfully completed diversion cases decreased in East and South Ayrshire and increased in North.

National Outcome - More people in police custody receive support to address their needs

Priority 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

The point of arrest and court appearance are crisis points in a person's life. Evidence has shown that people involved in the justice system often have higher levels of vulnerability and complex needs than the general population. Arrest referral schemes can successfully capitalise on a 'reachable and teachable' moment to help people engage with support services and address any underlying health or social issues contributing to their offending, such as substance use or mental health issues. In practice, in Ayrshire, this would be achieved through police custody staff, or a third sector agency talking to people who have been arrested and are in Kilmarnock or Saltcoats custody centre and, if the person agrees, making a referral to a support agency for them.

Number of referrals from custody centres

Currently, arrangements for sourcing the data required for this national indicator are still being made and so robust data is not yet available.

It is advised that new data collection procedures are being introduced during 2024-25.

CJAP Outcome Assessment: Although we don't have data to assess the national indicator performance, ongoing work with Sacro in Saltcoats and roll out of new police custody referral process will have a positive impact.

National Aim 2:

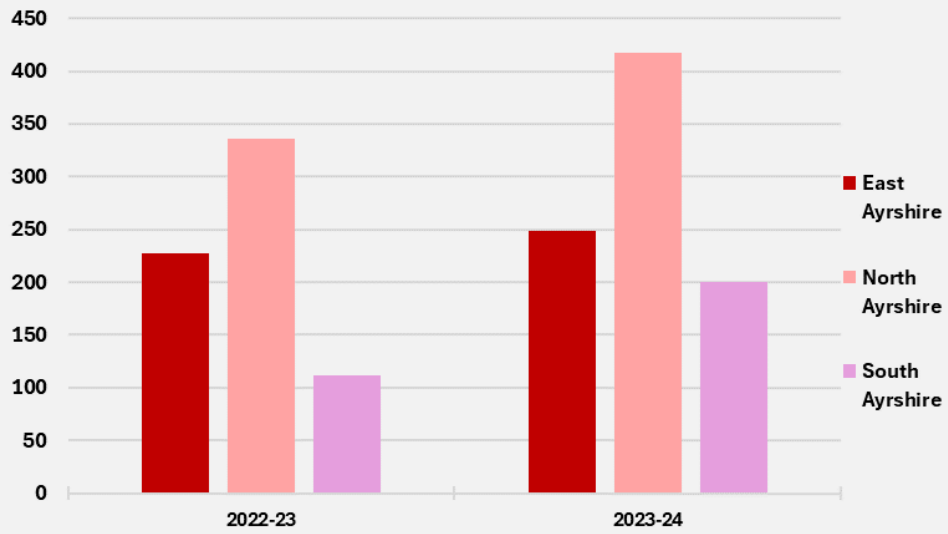
Ensure that robust and high-quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across scotland

National Outcome - More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision

Priority 3 - Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available across Scotland

The bail supervision scheme is designed to minimise the numbers of accused people held on remand in custody where appropriate. This could be prior to trial / conviction or following conviction where the Court are waiting on reports. It can be used where a level of supervision, monitoring and support may help someone to adhere to bail.

Number of assessment reports for bail suitability



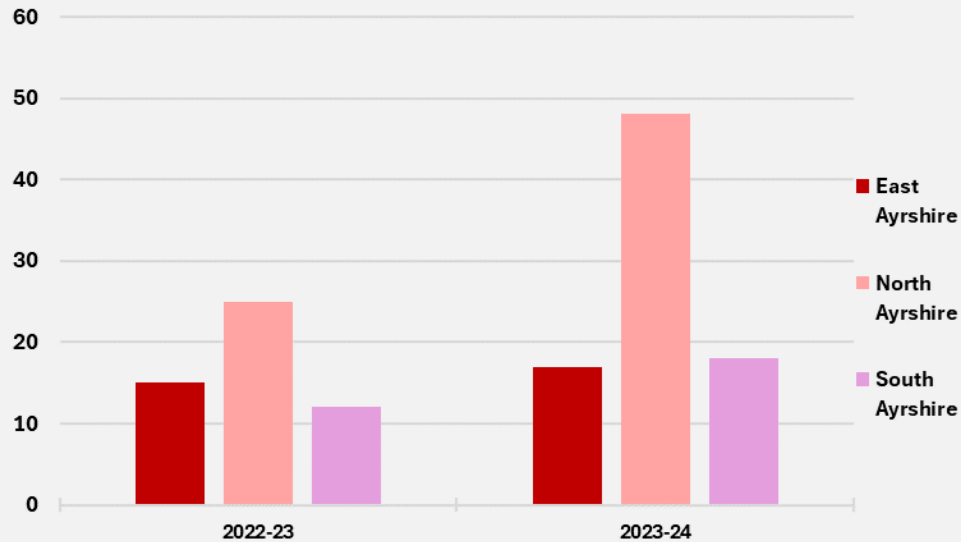
The number of assessment reports for bail suitability has only been collected and published for the last two years. You can see in the chart to the left that all three Ayrshire areas increased in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23. In Ayrshire, most reports recommended bail with supervision and electronic monitoring, and this increased from 54% last year to 58% this year.

Across Scotland, the number of assessment reports also increased - from just over 4,500 in 2022-23 to just over 5,500 in 2023-24.

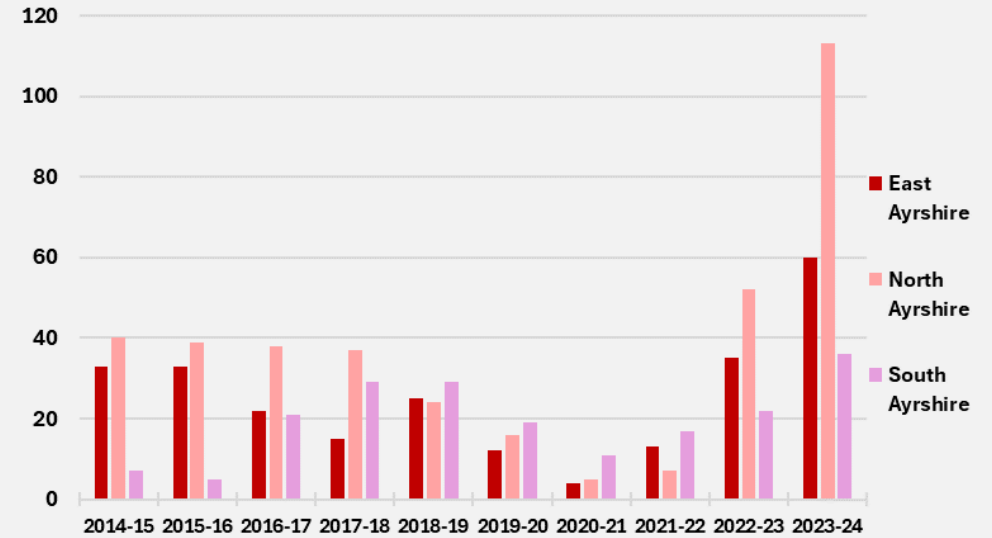
The chart to the right shows the annual number of bail supervision cases commenced in each area. We can see the impact of the COVID pandemic on bail supervision as 2020-22 saw particularly low use. In each of the three Ayrshire areas, 2023-24 saw the highest number of cases commenced over the ten year period. This was particularly noticeable in North Ayrshire where the number more than doubled from 52 last year to 113 this year, the third highest in the country.

Last year saw the highest national figure as well – 1,302 cases.

Number of bail supervision cases completed



Number of bail supervision cases commenced



The final chart to the left shows the annual number of bail supervision cases successfully completed. This data is also only available for the last two years. This year there were slight increases for East and South Ayrshire and a more significant increase in North Ayrshire which almost doubled. Nationally the figure more than doubled from 348 in 2022-23 to 831 in 2023-24.

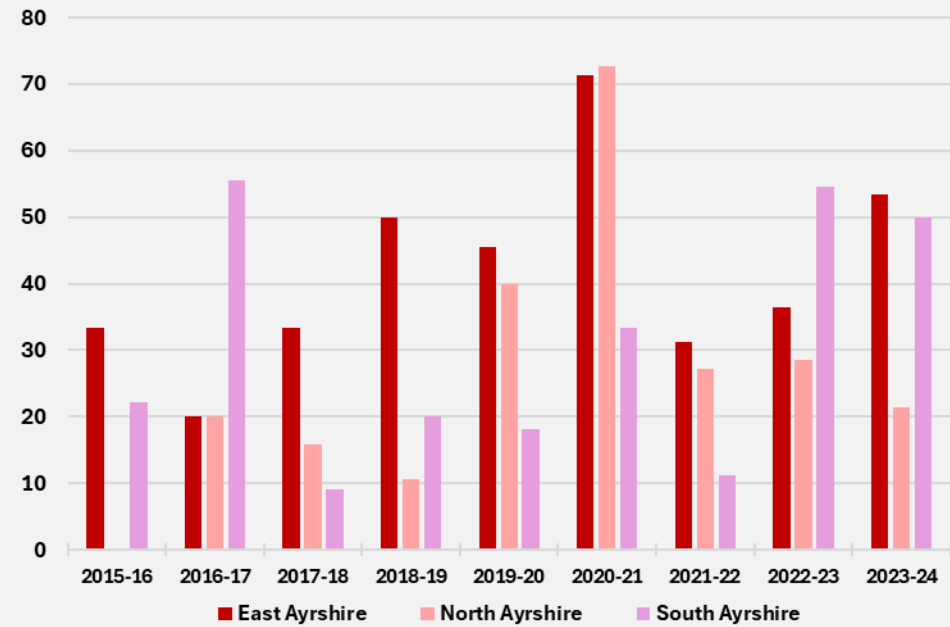
CJAP Outcome Assessment: In all three Ayrshire areas, the number of assessment reports for bail suitability, and number of bail supervision cases successfully completed, increased this year compared to last.

National Outcome - More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences

Priority 5 - Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes

We know from evidence and research that community interventions are more effective than short prison sentences. After a person is convicted of an offence, one of the options available to the court is to impose a Community Payback Order (CPO). Using a CPO where appropriate, allows a person to serve their sentence in the community rather than in prison. A CPO will contain one or more of 10 requirements including unpaid work, alcohol / drug treatment and supervision, delivered by JSW. Unpaid work provides people with a constructive means to repair harm caused by their involvement in offending. It involves 'making good' to the victim and / or the community via engagement in rehabilitative work. Reparation via unpaid work supports the strengthening of relationships with others in the community, improves employability where appropriate, and supports the development of a new pro-social identity.

Percentage of DTTOs successfully completed



Note for 2023-24 this data has been gathered from local systems as the data from the Scottish Government return will not be published by the reporting deadline.

We can see that the percentage of DTTOs successfully completed increased compared to last year in East, but decreased in North and South.

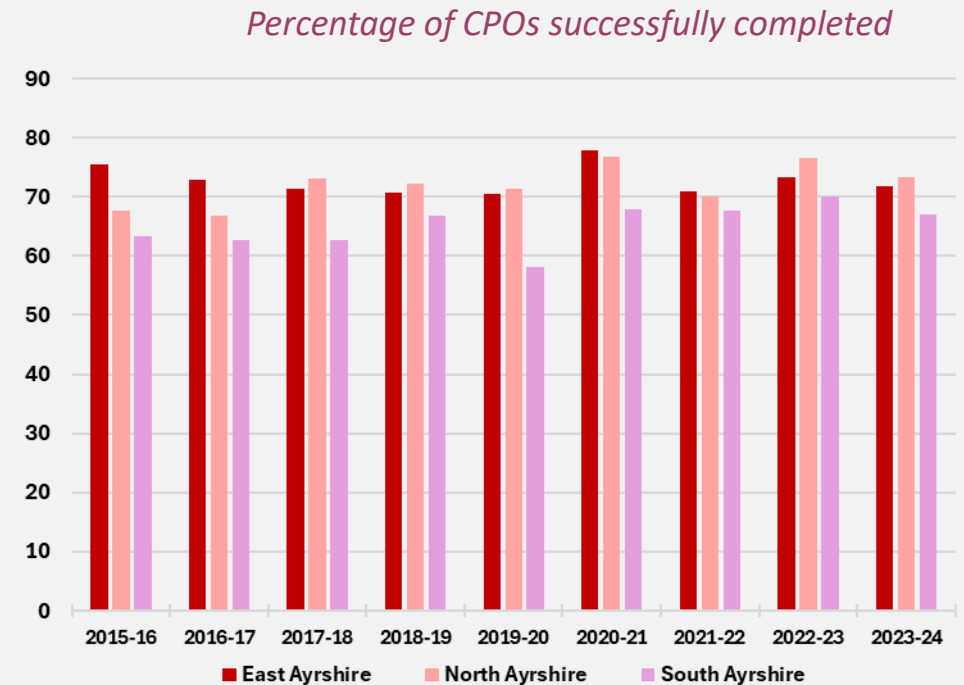
It should be noted that there have been small numbers of DTTOs completed each year and so the percentages are subject to wide variances as shown on the chart. For example last year there were 35 completed across the three Ayrshire areas.

Note for 2023-24 this data has been gathered from local systems as the data from the Scottish Government return will not be published by the reporting deadline.

This chart shows that the percentage of CPOs successfully completed has been quite consistent each year since 2015-16, with a slightly increasing pattern evident in North and South.

Last year specifically, there was a slight decrease in all three Ayrshire areas – in East from 73% to 72%, in North from 77% to 73% and in South from 70% to 67%.

There was an increase in the number of CPOs successfully completed in East and South this year compared to last., while there was a slight decrease in North.



CJAP Outcome Assessment: The number of DTTOs completed has remained relatively consistent, and while the percentage successful is varied due to small numbers, there was an increase last year in East and a decrease in North and South. Successful CPO completion has been consistent, last year there was a slight decrease in all three Ayrshire areas, though the number of successful completions increased in East and South.

NATIONAL AIM 3:

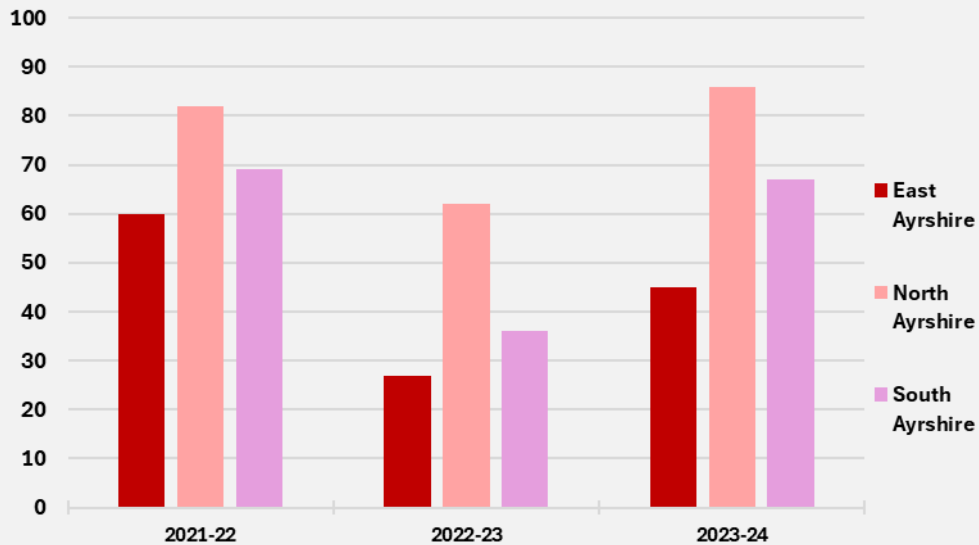
Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence

National Outcome - More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from prison

Priority 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

There are many complex needs for which individuals require person-centred support on entering and leaving custody. Collaborative working across multi-agency partnerships is required to ensure that both relevant information is made available on admission to support the healthcare needs of individuals while they are in custody, and that transition from custody to community is seamless, with health needs supported to ensure successful reintegration where people do not experience stigma and discrimination upon accessing services. An example of this is working to ensure all people released from prison are registered with a GP in their local area and helping to facilitate this if necessary.

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community



Data for this indicator is available for the last three years. Although there was a decrease from 2021-22 to 2022-23, from 2022-23 to 2023-24 all three Ayrshire areas saw an increase in the number of continuation of care referrals from prison to community.

17 areas across Scotland reported increases in this time period and 11 reported a decrease. The national increase in this time was 8%, whereas Ayrshire saw bigger increases; East Ayrshire increased 67%, North Ayrshire 39% and South Ayrshire 86%.

The vast majority of referrals were for drug issues as opposed to alcohol or co-dependency.

The 86 referrals for North Ayrshire residents in 2023-24 was the second highest number for any local authority area in Scotland, and South Ayrshire (67) was fifth highest.

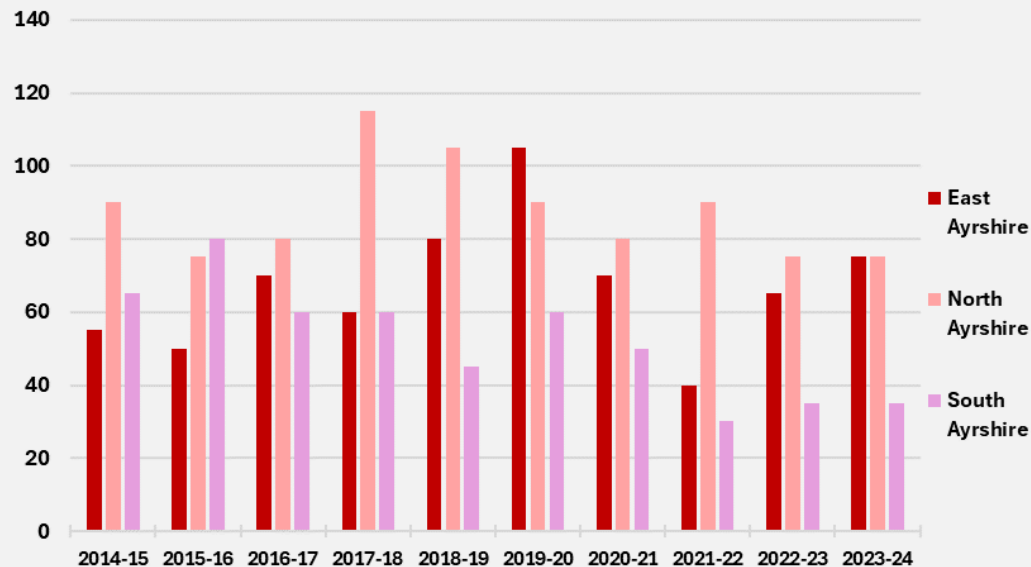
CJAP Outcome Assessment: In each of East, North and South Ayrshire, the number of referrals from prison to community for continuation of care increased this year compared to last.

National Outcome - More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from prison

Priority 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

We know that people who have access to stable housing are less likely to offend, and that people who are leaving prison are often without a permanent address and in need of support from local housing services to find accommodation. The SHORE standards were developed to ensure that everyone has access to sustainable housing when they are released which will in turn reduce homelessness and re-offending rates.

Number of homeless applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from



This indicator measures the number of homelessness applications made by people on release from prison, and we are aiming to decrease this number by ensuring people leave prison with somewhere to live.

In a Scotland as a whole, there were 1,640 applications in 2023-24 – the same number as there were in 2022-23, but this is lower than in any year previous to this going back to 2007-08.

In East Ayrshire, over the last ten years, annual figures have fluctuated from a peak of 105 in 2019-20 and a low point of 40 just two years later. There have been increases in the last two years to a figure of 75 last year.

In North Ayrshire it has been as high as 115 in 2017-18, but last year, and in 2022-23 there were 75 applications – the lowest figure in the last ten years.

While in South Ayrshire, the figure had generally been decreasing over time – from a peak of 80 in 2015-16 to 35 last year which is only slightly above the low point of 30 (2021-22).

It should be noted that figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure control purposes.

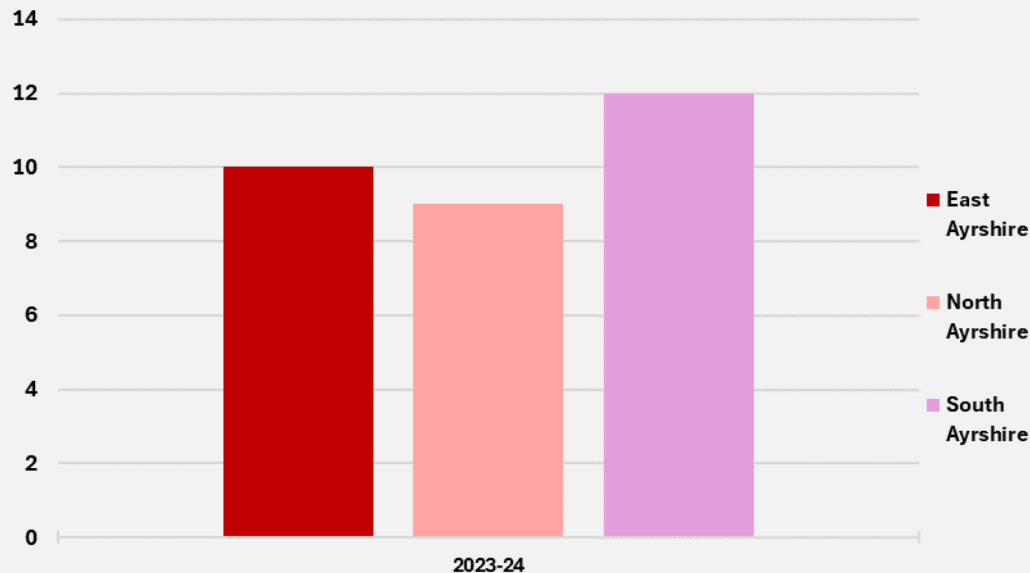
CJAP Outcome Assessment: There was a slight increase in the number of homelessness applications from prison for people from East Ayrshire, while there was no change from last year for North and South.

National Outcome - More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

Priority 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

Having a job has been shown to reduce someone's likelihood of offending. Therefore, supporting individuals to undertake training and education pathways with a view to accessing, retaining and sustaining employment before, during and after they are involved in the justice system is critical.

Percentage of those in employability services with convictions



No One Left Behind is a strategy for placing people at the centre of the design and delivery of employability services. This is funded by Scottish Government and administered by local authorities.

This indicator measures the percentage of participants involved in the No One Left Behind scheme who have a criminal conviction. This is the first year that this data has been available but over time we want to see an increase in the percentage.

A total of 188 participants from Ayrshire had a criminal conviction, 54 from East Ayrshire, 66 from North Ayrshire, and 68 from South Ayrshire.

6% of participants across Scotland had a conviction; all three Ayrshire areas were above this – East 10%, North 9% and South 12%

Data provided is on individuals that have a criminal conviction which is not 'spent', is exempt from becoming 'spent' or remains a barrier to progressing within the labour market e.g. gaps in C.V. This is self-reported and can be updated throughout the person's time receiving support.

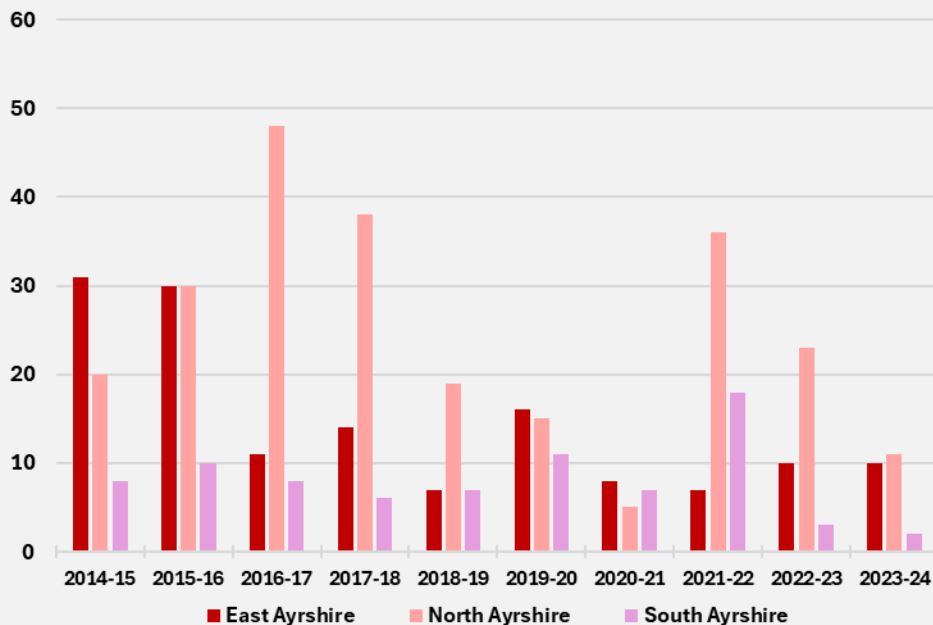
CJAP Outcome Assessment: Although we do not have data for last year to assess the trend of the national indicator, we know that in all three Ayrshire areas a higher proportion of people with convictions are accessing support than at a national level.

National Outcome - More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence

Priority 10- Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services

Throughcare support exists to help people re-engage with communities and public services they may have disconnected from while in prison. Throughcare is delivered on either a statutory basis (people who have served a long term (4+ years) prison sentence or were convicted of a sexual offence must work with throughcare services, usually delivered by Local Authority Justice Services) or a voluntary basis (people who have served a sentence under 4 years are eligible to receive voluntary support from JSW or from third sector organisations).

Number of voluntary throughcare cases commenced



This indicator measures the number of new throughcare cases which started each year, and is something we want to see an increase in, as we want to maximise the number of people who benefit from this support.

It is important to note that this data only reflects voluntary throughcare provision which is delivered by Justice Social Work. As we know, the uptake of voluntary throughcare from JSW can be low for many reasons, and uptake of provision delivered by third sector agencies can be higher. In Ayrshire, that support is provided by New Routes for men and Shine for women.

There were a total of 23 cases commenced across Ayrshire last year. Cases in North and South Ayrshire decreased for the second consecutive year, while there was no change to the number in East from last year to this.

We know that Shine Mentoring Service received 66 referrals from prison for women from Ayrshire last year; 17 from East Ayrshire, 26 from North Ayrshire, and 23 from South Ayrshire. In addition New Routes started 87 men on their mentoring service who were liberated in 2023/24; 30 from East Ayrshire, 30 from North and 27 from South.

Note East figures for the last three years have been amended and may not match what has previously been published by Scottish Government.

CJAP Outcome Assessment: The national indicator only reflects voluntary throughcare provided by local Justice Social Work and doesn't show provision from the third sector (which was significantly higher across Ayrshire). The number of JSW voluntary throughcare cases commenced decreased in North and South Ayrshire but stayed the same in East.

NATIONAL AIM 4:

**Strengthen the leadership,
engagement, and
partnership working of
local and national
community justice
partners**

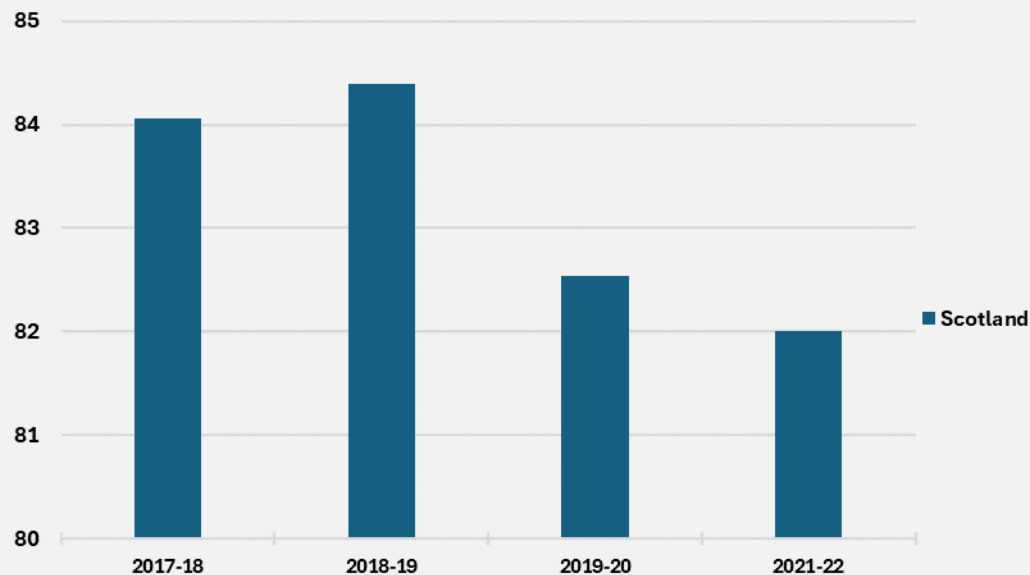
National Outcome - More people understand, and have confidence in, community justice

Priority 13 - Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice

Despite around 1 in 5 adults in Scotland having a criminal conviction, people involved in the justice system can experience significant levels of stigma, particularly if they have been in prison. This stigma can adversely impact someone's employability, social ties, housing stability etc. By increasing the knowledge of the effectiveness of community justice, and the various underlying needs which can impact someone's criminal behaviour, we can reduce stigma and make it easier for people to re-integrate with communities.

Percentage of people who agree that:

“people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence”



Research shows that community sentences are more effective and reducing the likelihood of someone reoffending, as well as costing significantly less, than a short term prison sentence.

This indicator measures the percentage of people who agree with the statement “people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence” and we are aiming to increase this.

This data is currently only available at national level and is taken from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - a large-scale social survey which asks people about their experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland. There is a time lag with this information as it is from a large survey, but it gives a very important national picture of the public confidence in this area.

The most recent available data is from 2021-22, and it shows that 82% of respondents agree with the statement. This is slight decrease from previous years, but the proportion has remained relatively consistent over the years – ranging from 82% to 84.4%.

Note survey did not take place in 2020-21.

CJAP Outcome Assessment: Although the national indicator data is at a national level, and latest info is from 2021-22, it shows a slight decrease in agreeance with the statement around Community Justice.

National Outcome	CJAP Assessment
More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution	Numbers of Diversion assessments continue to increase generally across Ayrshire. Compared to last year, the number of successfully completed diversion cases decreased in East and South Ayrshire and increased in North.
More people in police custody receive support to address their needs	Although we don't have data to assess the national indicator performance, ongoing work with Sacro in Saltcoats and roll out of new police custody referral process will have a positive impact.
More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision	In all three Ayrshire areas, the number of assessment reports for bail suitability, and number of bail supervision cases successfully completed, increased this year compared to last.
More people access services to support desistance and successfully complete community sentences	The number of DTTOs completed has remained relatively consistent, and while the percentage successful is varied due to small numbers, there was an increase last year in East and a decrease in North and South. Successful CPO completion has been consistent, last year there was a slight decrease in all three Ayrshire areas, though the number of successful completions increased in East and South.
More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from prison	In each of East, North and South Ayrshire, the number of referrals from prison to community for continuation of care increased this year compared to last.
More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from prison	There was a slight increase in the number of homelessness applications from prison for people from East Ayrshire, while there was no change from last year for North and South.
More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment	Although we do not have data for last year to assess the trend of the national indicator, we know that in all three Ayrshire areas a higher proportion of people with convictions are accessing support than at a national level.
More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence	The national indicator only reflects voluntary throughcare provided by local Justice Social Work and doesn't show provision from the third sector (which was significantly higher across Ayrshire). The number of JSW voluntary throughcare cases commenced decreased in North and South Ayrshire but stayed the same in East.
More people understand, and have confidence in, community justice	Although the national indicator data is at a national level, and latest info is from 2021-22, it shows a slight decrease in agreeance with the statement around Community Justice.



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