



Participation Statement

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 requires statutory partners involved in community justice to produce a participation statement detailing how they have involved third sector bodies and community bodies in community justice and the preparation of their Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP).

The Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) is committed to engaging with local communities, empowering them to be involved in the delivery of community justice and achieving our collective aims. In preparing the new CJOIP for 2024 to 2029 a range of activities were carried out with strategic partners and wider stakeholders, as outlined in the following table.

The Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2024-29 aims to build on the work already undertaken in the previous CJOIPs for Ayrshire. A decision was made to move from a three-year plan to a five-year plan to provide better alignment to the national strategy and national performance framework.

The plan mirrors the four aims within the National Strategy for Community Justice:

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

Participation Activities

Stakeholder	Activities
Statutory Partners	The Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership (CJAP) is a pan Ayrshire partnership working across East, North and South Ayrshire local authority areas. The CJAP Board provides strategic leadership and oversight of the work of the partnership and is made up of both statutory and third sector partners. It is chaired by a local elected member and vice chair support is provided by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

	<p>To support and deliver activities within our CJOIP, the following groups have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Community Justice Delivery Group • South Ayrshire Community Justice Delivery Group • East Ayrshire Community Justice Delivery Group • Community Reintegration Delivery Group • Diversion, Intervention and Alternatives to Custody (DIAC) Group <p>Membership of each group is inclusive and open to any service or organisation working in Ayrshire to support people affected by the justice system. We have built on the previous support received from our local Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) to ensure a wide representation from third sector organisations.</p> <p>The delivery groups were integral during the development of the CJOIP and provided support through baselining activities against the national outcomes for community justice and participated in inference development workshops based on the results of the previous Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA).</p> <p>The CJAP has representation on a number of strategic groups relating to community justice. This helps to raise awareness of community justice issues amongst wider services and partners and provides a forum for partnership working. Groups include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (North, South and East Ayrshire) • Community Safety Partnerships (North, South and East Ayrshire) • Violence Against Women Partnerships (North, South and East Ayrshire) <p>During the development of the CJOIP, the CJAP Manager attended all relevant wider strategic meetings to consult on the draft CJOIP and encourage and influence key stakeholders to get involved in the community justice agenda.</p>
<p>Third Sector Partners</p>	<p>As a partnership, we want to ensure third sector organisations are placed in the centre of community justice activity across Ayrshire and play a key role in developing our local strategic plans.</p> <p>Third sector partners represented across the CJAP are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Children • Ayr Housing Aid • Barnardo's • Families Outside • North, South and East Ayrshire Women's Aid organisations • Patchwork Recovery Community • Recovery Enterprises Scotland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacro • Seascape • The Wise Group • Turning Point Scotland • Veterans First Point • Victim Support Scotland • We Are With You <p>Third sector representation at the Community Justice Ayrshire Board is facilitated through North, South and East Ayrshire’s Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs).</p> <p>Ongoing work takes places to engage with third sector partners involved in the delivery of community justice and to encourage participation in the community justice delivery groups.</p>
Communities	<p>Elected members from each local authority area sit within the CJAP, which provides an opportunity for the voices of local communities to be represented during the development and delivery of strategic plans.</p> <p>The CJAP website and social media continues to be updated regularly, providing information and resources for partners and the wider public to increase their knowledge and understanding of community justice issues. Branding has been developed to give the partnership a clear identity and increase visibility.</p> <p>Questions regarding awareness and understanding of community justice were included in a local People’s panel survey. The results were used to inform the evidence base for the development of our CJOIP.</p>
Victims and Witnesses	<p>Engagement with victims and witnesses is facilitated through Victim Support Scotland and Women’s Aid who are CJAP partners. They are able to provide input and advice on the key issues experienced by victims and witnesses and the quality of support provided within Ayrshire.</p> <p>The CJAP Manager sits on the Violence Against Women Partnerships (VAWP) within each local authority to support joint working on cross cutting issues and to continue to raise awareness of the impact of crime on victims and gain perspective from partners and communities affected by these issues.</p> <p>We recognise the importance of the participation of bodies representing victims and witnesses and will continue to build on this throughout the life of the CJOIP.</p>

<p>Lived Experience of Community Justice Services</p>	<p>Following the previous service user involvement project delivered by the University of Strathclyde, the CJAP has continued to build on a strong commitment to ensure the voices of those with lived experience of community justice are heard and represented throughout the work of the partnership.</p> <p>The CJAP delivered a series of 'Have your Say' sessions with people with convictions across Ayrshire serving community sentences and serving sentences in prison. The purpose of these sessions was to listen to the experiences of people who have received community justice services and hear about their journey through the justice system, from point of arrest; to appearance in court; within prison; and back into the community and/or on community orders.</p> <p>The sessions aimed to enable participants to tell us what they think needs to change and how we can provide better support around a range of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and employment • Housing • Addiction • Mental health and wellbeing <p>A pan-Ayrshire Community Reintegration Workshop in took place with the objective to discuss throughcare from prison and community reintegration. The workshop was aimed at practitioners, community members and people with personal or family experience of returning to the community after serving a custodial sentence. As well as presentations, participants took part in round table discussions and considered case studies. Feedback was added to the evidence base for CJOIP development and progressed through the Community Reintegration Delivery Group. This work is linked to the pathfinder work with Scottish Government on the development of GIRFE which includes a people in prison theme.</p>
<p>Community Justice Scotland</p>	<p>A four-week consultation period took place on the CJOIP where a draft version was shared widely, and comments sought through an online survey and via e-mail. As per the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, the draft plan was shared with Community Justice Scotland during this consultation period and feedback was received prior to publication.</p>

For more information please visit: [Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership](#)

Email: communityjusticeayrshire@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Website: www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk