



Beginnings Belonging Belief

A Community Justice Plan for Ayrshire
2017-18

Welcome

We all want our communities to be safer and stronger, and for everyone to be able to live a good life. To do this, we are working together to prevent and reduce re-offending in Ayrshire. This Community Justice Plan will help us to do this. Community Justice means:

- Tackling the causes of offending to prevent it happening
- Working with people who are at risk of re-offending
- Supporting people who have committed crimes to move away from offending.

This Plan is for all of those affected by crime. That includes people involved in offending, their families, victims, communities and those working in the justice system. We need everyone to work together to succeed. To help with this we have made a new partnership called **Community Justice Ayrshire**. You can find out more about this at the end of this document.

Our Plan is called **Beginnings, Belonging, Belief**. We know from talking together that these three **Ambitions** are the most important steps to moving away from crime and leading a better life.

We know it can be hard to change, and some people will need more than one **Beginning**. Others will only take the first step when they (or others) have a **Belief** that change is possible. Some need a sense of **Belonging** in their family or community before they can see a different future. So these three **Ambitions** are not a straight line or set of steps, they are maybe more like a circle or a spiral.

Our Conversations together have helped us understand how these three **Ambitions** feel.

Beginnings

I know that the first step can be the hardest one. I would like the opportunity to build a new, positive life for myself. I want to move on from my past and to plan for a new future – one where anything is possible. I will take responsibility and use my skills and strengths to overcome the setbacks that life may throw at me. I hope that those around me will support me if I need more than one new beginning.

Belonging

I live in a place where I feel I belong. I have somewhere I can call home – and it feels like home. I have people around me who understand me and who support me. They might be family, friends or workers. I feel part of my local community. I am not judged or labelled for my past decisions or actions – people just see me for who I am now, not who they think I am or who I was before.

Belief

I have hopes and dreams for the future. I believe in myself. I can reflect on what I have done and the impact this has had on others. I accept I have made some mistakes but know that I am on a different path now. I believe I can lead a full and active life and can contribute to my local community. Other people believe this about me too – my family, friends and workers.

We have had lots of **Conversations** to shape this Plan, including two ‘Creative Justice’ events at HMP Kilmarnock and at Ardeer Community Centre in October 2016. 100 people attended these events, including prisoners, service users, families, victims and practitioners. You can see some quotes from **Our Conversations** throughout this Plan.

The Plan describes what we will do to achieve our three **Ambitions** in 2017-18. We call these **Our Commitments**. Each year we will review our progress and update our list of **Commitments**. So we will publish a new **Beginnings, Belonging, Belief** plan by April each year.

About the Artwork in Our Plan

We are extremely grateful to artists John Andrew and Andrew O'Prey for giving us permission to use their artwork in our Plan. John painted the two portraits and Andrew produced the Tree screen print. We are delighted to have found such powerful images to represent our three Ambitions of Beginnings, Belonging, Belief.

You can contact the artists at:

Email enquiries@centrestagecommunities.org.uk / Tel 01563 590300.

Starting from Strengths not Needs

Most Plans start by looking at needs, gaps and weaknesses – What is wrong? What needs fixed? What are our problems? Who is to blame? What is missing?

We are taking a different approach. We want to start by looking at our Strengths. To do this we are using a model called **SOAR**.¹ This stands for:

- Strengths
- Opportunities
- Aspirations
- Results.

To do this we ask different questions – What are our greatest assets? What are the best possible opportunities? What future do we want to see? What results will we achieve?

We know that this approach is more positive, it helps us all work together, it makes us more creative and innovative, and it lets us build on what has worked well. Here are some examples of strengths we can build on Ayrshire. (You can read more about our SOAR approach in our 'Starting from Strengths not Needs' document).²

A long tradition of good partnership working

Strong and resilient local communities

A wide range of support and services to help people

Our skills, talents and gifts

Service users' own views, ideas and experiences

What we have learned about 'what works' in reducing reoffending

A commitment to keeping service users at the centre of what we do together

Our links with other partnerships and other parts of Scotland

Our focus on three Ambitions: Beginnings, Belonging, Belief

¹ <http://www.soar-strategy.com/>

² www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk

Beginnings

I know that the first step can be the hardest one.

I would like the opportunity to build a new, positive life for myself.

I want to move on from my past and to plan for a new future – one where anything is possible.

I will take responsibility and use my skills and strengths to overcome the setbacks that life may throw at me.

I hope that those around me will support me if I need more than one new beginning.



Beginnings: Our Conversations³

Everybody needs a starting point – somebody needs to see that need.

It's like I've just got control of myself.

Find something you're good at with your hands, head or heart.

Give many chances, not just one.

Trust is critical.

It's OK to not succeed – try again. Services need to support people to try again.

Think of it as building a whole new life with new 'supports'.

It's about relationships! Getting a good match – personality matters.

Fear of the unknown? It's knowing what's going to happen that's scary.

³ These are direct quotes from our two 'Creative Justice' events held at HMP Kilmarnock and Ardeer Community Centre on 19th and 20th October 2016. These conversation events brought together over 100 people involved in the justice system, including prisoners, service users and practitioners.

Beginnings: Our Commitments⁴

What are we going to do in 2017-18?

These Commitments are for all of those affected by crime. That includes people involved in offending, their families, victims, communities and those working in the justice system.

Let's Start at the Very Beginning

We know from our conversations and from research that there is a link between certain childhood events, childhood development and later offending. For example this includes early experiences of bereavement and loss; trauma; emotional and physical abuse and neglect; domestic abuse; mental health problems; parental imprisonment; exposure to parental drug and alcohol use; speech, language and communication difficulties; and exclusion from school. Such events are sometimes described as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). We will develop an overview of what support is currently available for children experiencing ACEs. We will also raise awareness with people working with children and parents (including expectant parents) of the links between these experiences, children's development and behaviours, and later offending. This is one way we can promote prevention and early intervention. (Ayrshire)

Whole System Approach for Women

We know that the justice system should act as a 'whole system' where partners and services link together in a seamless way. We don't think it does act as a 'whole system' yet. We will develop a 'whole system' for women first to test out the best way to link everything together. (Ayrshire)

Keep Out of the Justice System!

We know that once people are involved in the formal justice system, it is very difficult to get back out, particularly if they get a criminal conviction. We will promote and champion all efforts to stop people being drawn into and escalated up through the formal justice system. This includes promoting arrest referral, Police and Procurator Fiscal direct measures, mental health triage, supporting people in distress, Prevention First, Early & Effective Intervention, Diversion from Prosecution and bail supervision – as appropriate. (Ayrshire)

Recorded Police Warnings - Signposting

Once a person has received three Recorded Police Warnings, the police will escalate their case to a more serious level. We will work with Police Scotland to encourage a referral to any support services people need as soon as they have had two Warnings. (Ayrshire)

A New Approach to 'The Tag'

The Scottish Government is looking at new ways of electronic monitoring ('tagging'). In this country it is generally used in a stand-alone way, without additional support or intervention. There is the opportunity to test out new ways of tagging, for example combining it with mentoring or other support. Evidence from other countries suggests this may be more successful in terms of reducing reoffending. We will work with the Scottish Government to deliver a local Electronic Monitoring Demonstration Project. (East Ayrshire)

Recruit with Conviction

We support the approach of 'Recruit with Conviction'⁵ which promotes the safe and sustainable employment of people with criminal convictions and promotes the business benefits of a diverse workforce. A number of our partners – especially in the third sector – already have a strong track

⁴ If you would like to find out more about each of these Commitments (e.g. who has lead responsibility) please see our more detailed Commitments Plan at www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk

⁵ <http://recruitwithconviction.org.uk/>

record in this regard. This includes peer worker/ mentor roles which can inspire and motivate others to achieve. We will look at our own partners' recruitment and procurement policies and practices as well as engaging with local employers. This includes offering work placements, volunteering, training and paid employment opportunities to people with a criminal conviction. (Ayrshire)

Community Justice Employability Initiative

In North Ayrshire we will offer additional support within the unpaid work team to assess strengths and needs, and link service users into an employability pathway. This is supported through European and local authority funding. (North Ayrshire)

Disclosure – why, what, when and how?

When someone has a criminal conviction it is important to be clear on when and how much they need to disclose to employers about this. We will seek funding for a Disclosure Service to help with this. (Ayrshire)

Be Your Own Boss

Not everybody wants to work for someone else. The justice system is full of enterprising people, but they don't always recognise their own skills and might need help to do this and stick with it. We will work with Catalyst, Centrestage Communities and Ayrshire College to support people to set up their own business. (Ayrshire)

Creative Industries

There are many talented artists engaging with creative learning programmes, unpaid work and community-based services. We will look for opportunities to promote their work to the wider public and develop opportunities for those who want to develop their artistic and creative talents into a sustainable career. (Ayrshire)

Learning Pathways

We will offer people involved in the justice system the opportunity to develop and gain qualifications in a range of vocational and essential skills in partnership with relevant organisations including Ayrshire College. (Ayrshire)

Mentoring works!

Many people in the justice system now have a 'Mentor' who offers one-to-one help and support to achieve their goals. Sometimes this Mentor is a 'Peer Mentor' who has lived experience of the justice system themselves. Through mentoring support people can build a trusting relationship with someone who will be there for them and who can help with all of their issues. We will promote all of our local mentoring services and help them to find ongoing funding. (Ayrshire)

Prisoner Support Pathway

HMP Kilmarnock and Turning Point Scotland are working together to run a new Prisoner Support Pathway service for short term prisoners. This is funded by the Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships. This service will make sure as much as possible is planned before release, so people are linked in with the support and services they need. Some prisoners will be recruited as Throughcare Champions/ Ambassadors (peer mentors) as part of this service to help promote throughcare, share information and offer support. We will continue this service in 2017-18. (Ayrshire)

Support and Protection for Adults at Risk of Harm

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 facilitates the support and protection of adults in Scotland who meet the criteria. This does not apply to adults in prison. However we recognise that on release from prison an adult may be at risk of harm, meet the criteria and benefit from support

and protection provided under the legislation. Adult Support and Protection (ASP) staff across Ayrshire are working to make sure that appropriate HMP Kilmarnock and Turning Point Scotland staff, and Prison Champions/Ambassadors, are able to take a proactive approach in determining if a prisoner to be released will be at risk of harm and an ASP referral is required. (Ayrshire)

Prepare for Liberation ...

Some prisoners have said it would be helpful to have a pre-liberation course in prison, covering issues faced on the outside, e.g. life skills, accommodation, benefits and money, health, substance use etc. This would include linking to useful services. Some prisoners already access this support through services working in prisons, but this is not available for everyone. We will work with HMP Kilmarnock Health Promoting Prison Group and local services to review what is currently running and how this could be rolled out more. (Ayrshire)

Pack Your Bags

We don't think it is acceptable that people who are leaving HMP Kilmarnock are given their belongings in a clear plastic bag. For example it can feel humiliating to be travelling on public transport with everyone knowing where you have been. We will work with the prison and partners to develop a 'Pack Your Bags' scheme which recycles sports holdalls and rucksacks to be used by prisoners to carry their belongings on release. (Ayrshire)

Welcome Home from Police Scotland

Police Scotland has, in recent years, sent a standard letter to individuals released from prison where they have served a sentence for violent crime. The purpose of this letter was to advise these individuals of the consequences of re-offending. This practice has been suspended at present and, together with Police Scotland we believe that this message can be communicated differently, seeing prison liberation as an opportunity for a fresh start and emphasising individual responsibility. We will work with Police Scotland and other partners to review the content of this letter and agree the most effective and supportive means of communicating with persons leaving custody. (Ayrshire)

Home from Hospital to Home from Prison

The Red Cross provides a service where volunteers take people home from hospital and resettle them at home – this is more than a taxi service and includes e.g. helping someone into their home, making them a cup of tea and settling them in. We will explore a similar model for people leaving prison. (South Ayrshire)

24/7 not 9 to 5

We know that people in crisis often need help 'out of hours' not 'office hours'. Yet very few services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many services seem to be designed to suit those *delivering* the service rather than those *using* the service. We will build a picture of local service provision and use this to campaign for better access to support – how, when and where people need it. (Ayrshire)

Belonging

I live in a place where I feel I belong.

I have somewhere I can call home – and it feels like home.

I have people around me who understand me and who support me. They might be family, friends or workers.

I feel part of my local community.

I am not judged or labelled for my past decisions or actions – people just see me for who I am now, not who they think I am or who I was before.



Belonging: Our Conversations⁶

What about communities – are they ready?

Nearly every kid I met when I was in the care system, I've met in the jail.

The community should have sense of responsibility – everyone has come from the community and will go back to the community.

You get to the stage that you think no-one believes that you belong anywhere but here [prison]

Volunteering changed my life!

I grew up lost – falling through life.

I hung about with people who accepted me at the time – I turned to crime.

Acceptance is a huge thing – where do we belong?

The ideal prison is a hospital – we are all damaged.

⁶ These are direct quotes from our two 'Creative Justice' events held at HMP Kilmarnock and Ardeer Community Centre on 19th and 20th October 2016. These conversation events brought together over 100 people involved in the justice system, including prisoners, service users and practitioners.

Belonging: Our Commitments⁷

What are we going to do in 2017-18?

These Commitments are for all of those affected by crime. That includes people involved in offending, their families, victims, communities and those working in the justice system.

Support for Families

We know that families can be a big support when people are trying to move on from offending. We also know it can be stressful having a family member involved in the justice system, and so the family may need support in its own right. We will work with HMP Kilmarnock's Family Strategy Group and other partners to promote local information, support and services for families of people in the justice system. This includes understanding more about family conferences and other forms of involvement before liberation to help prisoners and their families prepare for release together (where this is appropriate). It also involves rolling out information materials for families such as court information posters and police contact cards. (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

Out of the Shadows

It is important that practitioners understand the impact of the justice system on children and families, the way this is often hidden, and the stigma they can feel. We will continue to support Families Outside to deliver a range of training opportunities for practitioners, including the 'Out of the Shadows' multi-agency practitioner training and in-prison Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training for teachers. We will also support local partners to implement the national Framework for the Support of Families Affected by the Justice System, originally developed in Lothian and Borders and endorsed by Scotland's Community Justice Authorities.⁸ (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

Positive Play in Prison

East Ayrshire Council and HMP Kilmarnock are working with families to promote play as a way to improve relationships and resilience for prisoners and their families. Activities include weekly bonding sessions focusing on play; play activity visits; table top play packs; family bookshare; and larger scale seasonal family events. We will promote both this award-winning Positive Play in Prisons programme⁹ and other play-based support for children and families. (Ayrshire)

Housing First and First Home

People involved in the justice system often have unstable housing situations. Many find themselves repeatedly homeless as they come and go from prison, and they can find it hard to keep their tenancy. East and South Ayrshire Councils will continue their joint Housing Advice Service at HMP Kilmarnock (at time of writing this was delivered by a third sector partner). North Ayrshire Council has introduced its own Housing Advice Officer at HMP Kilmarnock, with active links to other prisons. North Ayrshire Council will pilot a 'Housing First' service in 2017-18, supporting 6 people who are leaving prison and who are at risk of repeat homelessness. South Ayrshire Council will also expand its 'First Home' project to include people liberated from prison. This will link ex-prisoners into intensive support on release, alongside training courses to develop decorating and furniture-making skills to improve their own homes. We will learn from these services and also work with all local housing providers to map out an 'accommodation journey' so people returning to Ayrshire from prison can access appropriate housing on release. We will explore the development of more supported accommodation options for people

⁷ If you would like to find out more about each of these Commitments (e.g. who has lead responsibility) please see our more detailed Commitments Plan at www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk.

⁸ This Framework was developed by Lothian and Borders Community Justice Authority's Families Outcomes Group <http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk/support-services/tools-for-professionals/>

⁹ <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/SocialCareAndHealth/ChildcareAndFamilyCare/CareOutwithTermTimeOrSchoolHours/PositivePlay.aspx>

leaving prison, and we will link into the new national 'Housing and Reintegration' developments led by the Scottish Prison Service (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

Safe at Home

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service offer free Home Fire Safety Visits for anybody in the community. These visits can be carried out exclusively by SFRS employees or in partnership with community-based volunteers who have previously been service users and have undergone a robust selection criteria. We will work with Fire and Rescue to increase awareness of home fire safety issues for people on unpaid work and in custody, and we will link people in with Home Fire Safety Visits. We will also explore the development of further training, employment and volunteering and employment opportunities for people with criminal convictions. (Ayrshire)

Let's Just Talk ... About Justice!

We have been using a community conversations toolkit called 'Let's Just Talk' to help community groups discuss issues around justice. The toolkit helps people think about their own role in reducing reoffending and how they can support people to integrate into their own community. We will continue to use the toolkit whenever we can, and will offer training to people working in the community so they can deliver 'Let's Just Talk' sessions themselves. We will also look for opportunities to use the toolkit for staff training, to help reduce the stigma and prejudice some people with a criminal conviction experience when using frontline services. (Ayrshire)

Community Justice Champions

Community Justice Champions can be described as a network of designated people who can make the links between services/ support and community resources for prisoners, prison leavers and people on community sentences. They work within communities and influence communities. We will take the first steps in developing a network of local Community Justice Champions (South Ayrshire).

Faith Communities

We know that some local churches and faith communities already play a really important role in creating safer and stronger communities. We know they can help people to meet their spiritual needs and to feel part of their local community. We will support the chaplaincy at HMP Kilmarnock in its work to strengthen links with local churches and faith communities. (Ayrshire)

Equally Safe in Ayrshire

We support Equally Safe, Scotland's Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls. This states that men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response. We will work with our local Violence Against Women Partnerships and the Equally Safe Ayrshire Partnership to make sure that perpetrators are identified early; are supported to change their behaviour; and are held to account. (Ayrshire)

Connecting Our Community of Services

As well as our local communities, we also have a Community of Services who are all working to support people in the justice system. Many of these services already work together but we know there is a need to better connect everyone's activity. For example services could link together their separate training, volunteering or work experience opportunities for service users, or could improve referral pathways between each other. We will work with our Community of Services to help build new links and improve existing links. (Ayrshire)

Police Stations and Courts as Hubs for Change

Every day, hundreds of people come and go from our local police stations and courts. This includes people who have committed crimes, victims, families and people who work in the justice system. We think that police stations and courts could act as Hubs for Change. For example can we introduce mentoring services to people at this earlier stage, instead of waiting until they leave prison? Can we do more to make these justice institutions more part of our local communities? Can we share people's voices and lived experiences with each other to increase awareness, understanding and support? We will explore ways to use police stations and courts as hubs for change. (Ayrshire)

Volunteering with Conviction

As one of the participants in our Creative Justice events commented, 'Volunteering changed my life!' We will identify volunteering policies, practices and opportunities for people with a criminal record, and work with local organisations to develop their confidence and understanding of disclosure and rehabilitation. (Ayrshire)

Equalities for All!

We know that people who are involved in the justice system face many inequalities. This includes inequalities linked to both offending and to being a victim of crime. We have agreed 'Shared Equality Outcomes' with other local organisations, so we are all working towards the same equality goals. We want people in Ayrshire to experience safe and inclusive communities; have equal opportunities to access and shape public services; have the opportunity to fulfil their potential throughout life; and for public bodies to be inclusive and diverse employers. We will work with partners to help deliver the shared equalities action plan, and we will develop specific actions relating to people in the justice system. (Ayrshire)

You Are Not Alone

Loneliness and social isolation are not only issues facing older people in our communities. People in the justice system may have lost contact with their family, frequently re-located, moved on from an old peer group of friends, and lack the confidence and self esteem to get involved in their local community. We will promote training for practitioners in coping with loneliness and social isolation. (Other actions in this plan will help people access activities and support in the community). (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

Belief

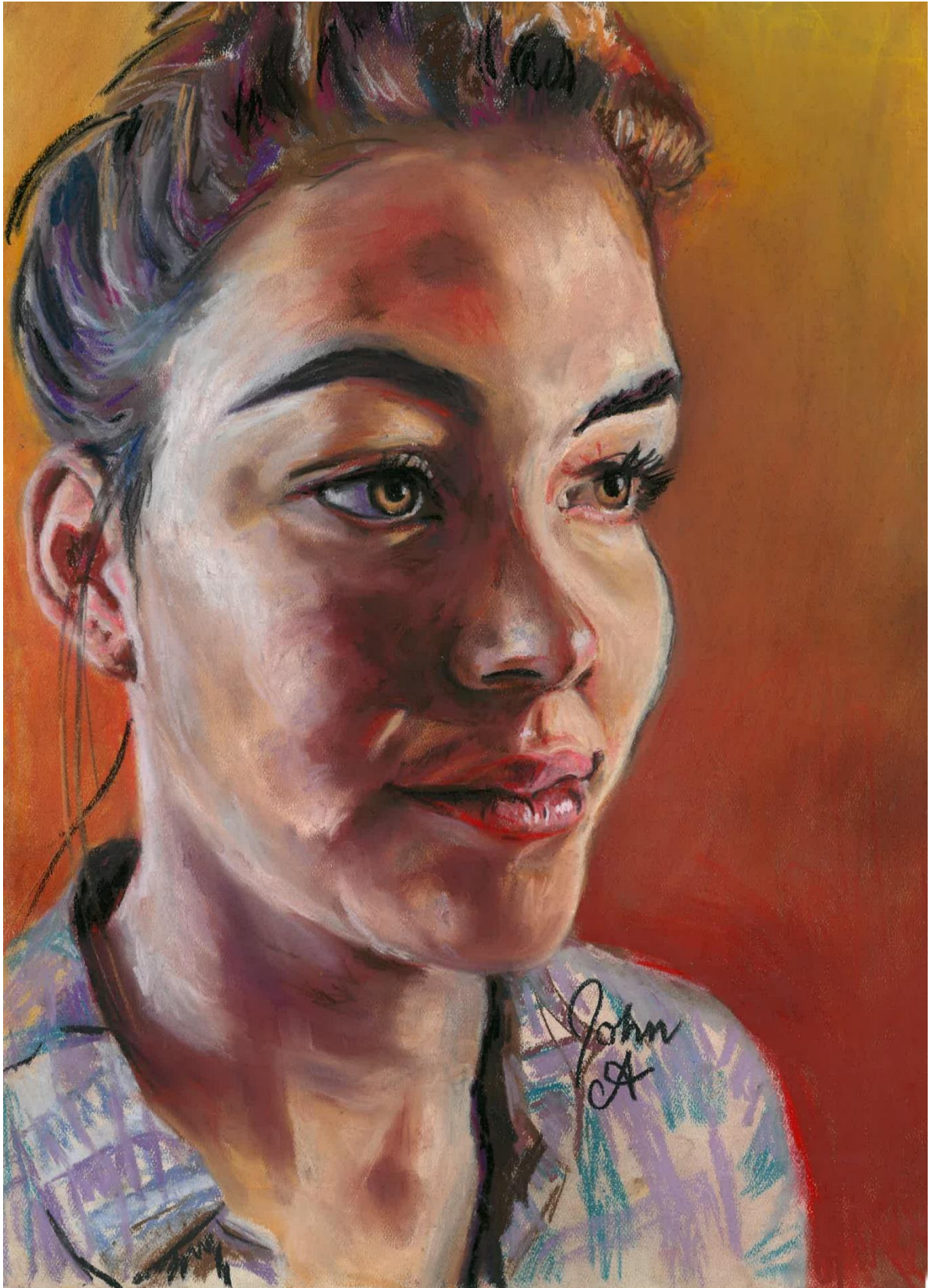
I have hopes and dreams for the future. I believe in myself.

I can reflect on what I have done and the impact this has had on others.

I accept I have made some mistakes but know that I am on a different path now.

I believe I can lead a full and active life and can contribute to my local community.

Other people believe this about me too – my family, friends and workers.



Belief: Our Conversations¹⁰

If it can work for me, it can work for others.

Gie folk self worth – believe in yourself.

All the things you can't do, you just haven't learned yet.

Stop asking, 'What is your problem? What's wrong with you?' but 'What's your passion?'

If I can live like this in here, then maybe I can do it outside?

Anything is possible – plant a few seeds.

If you focus on the negative, nothing will be achieved.

Everyone has gifts and talents.

Maybe I need to find who I am.

¹⁰ These are direct quotes from our two 'Creative Justice' events held at HMP Kilmarnock and Ardeer Community Centre on 19th and 20th October 2016. These conversation events brought together over 100 people involved in the justice system, including prisoners, service users and practitioners.

Belief: Our Commitments¹¹

What are we going to do in 2017-18?

These Commitments are for all of those affected by crime. That includes people involved in offending, their families, victims, communities and those working in the justice system.

User Engagement Project

We know that people are the best experts in making changes to their own lives. Sometimes organisations and services don't listen to the people who are most affected by what they do. We are working with the University of Strathclyde on a User Engagement project for community justice. This is funded by the Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships. This will help us to understand the best way to involve people in everything we do and to introduce new ways of working together with service users. We will continue this project in 2017-18. (Ayrshire)

A Champions Board

A number of areas have set up 'Champions Boards' for Looked After Children as part of their corporate parenting responsibilities. These Boards provide a platform for looked after children to engage with their 'corporate parent' and make their views and needs known. The Board is made up of senior staff, councillors, young people and their supporters. The agenda is set by the young people themselves, and focuses on informing change in culture, systems and practice. We will explore a similar model for community justice, linking in to the User Engagement Project above. (Ayrshire)

Health Promoting Prisons

Health and wellbeing should be embedded into the core business of every prison to benefit both prisoners and staff. We will work with the HMP Kilmarnock Health Promoting Prison Group to support the priorities within their action plan. (Ayrshire)

A Healthy Mind

Many people in the justice system experience poor mental health. This includes for example anxiety, low mood and poor self esteem, as well as psychiatric conditions which may require specialist services. We will develop our understanding of current access to and experiences of local mental health support and services, including suicide prevention. We will use this information to develop specific Commitments around mental health. (Ayrshire)

Trauma-Informed Practice

Many people involved with the justice system have experienced multiple trauma as children and/ or as adults. This makes it difficult for people to believe in themselves. We will promote training for practitioners in trauma-informed practice, so that they understand why people sometimes act as they do, and to help services to respond appropriately. This includes linking to other local and national training opportunities (Ayrshire)

Celebrating Good News

It is important that the media reports on the impact of crime on individuals and communities so that people are aware of the harm caused and the actions being taken to support victims and tackle crime. However it is also important that we share positive stories and celebrate achievement where good progress has been made by people in the justice system (including people who committed crimes, victims and families). We will celebrate and share good news to show that change is possible, and that people can learn from their mistakes, lead a different life and contribute to their local community. (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

¹¹ If you would like to find out more about each of these Commitments (e.g. who has lead responsibility) please see our more detailed Commitments Plan at www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk.

Creative Justice

In preparing this Plan we held two Creative Justice events in partnership with Centrestage Communities, bringing together all those involved in the justice system to discuss issues and solutions. 100 people attended these events, around a third of whom were prisoners and service users. We will build on this model of working together and hold further events in 2017-18. (Ayrshire)

Take a Walk in My Shoes

It is important that we all understand what it is like to be involved in the justice system – as someone who has committed crimes, as a victim of crime or as a family member. We will help the voices of people with lived experience of the justice system to be heard and will promote experiential learning opportunities to help raise awareness and understanding. This includes work with schools, young people, communities and practitioners. This also includes our film and drama based workshops – The Ripple Effect and Leaves on the Track. (Ayrshire)

Hearing the Voice of Victims

We know that victims of crime can feel invisible in the justice system and that their needs and experiences are overlooked. We want to make sure that victims' voices are heard and are championed at local and national level. This includes understanding that some people involved in offending have also been victims of crime – not just children, young people and women, but men too. We will promote the new national statutory guidance on Restorative Justice¹² to help those who have caused harm and those who have been harmed to communicate about what happened and find a positive way forward. We will also continue to deliver our Ripple Effect training to practitioners to raise their awareness of the impact of crime on victims. (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

Yes In My Backyard!

The Scottish Government and Scottish Prison Service are working together to develop five new Community Custody Units for women in Scotland. These would operate as open prisons for lower risk female prisoners, with each housing around 20 women. This model will enable women to be held closer to their families and communities. Ayrshire is an area with a high number of women in custody, so it may be an appropriate site for one of these new Units. If we have this opportunity, we will use this development as a focus for our conversations on community justice with local communities. (Ayrshire)

Our Recovery Communities

Ayrshire has a number of very active Recovery Communities for people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse. They offer for example hope and aspiration for the future, companionship and a sense of community, a broad programme of activities to help people structure their day, as well as peer training, volunteering and work opportunities. We will build stronger links with our local Recovery Communities, including delivering SMART recovery at HMP Kilmarnock in partnership with North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.¹³ (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

I Believe in You

Everyone has hopes and dreams. We don't hope and dream of a life of offending, but some people end up there. Through all of our engagement with prisoners and service users we will communicate the message that we believe in people and we have hope and aspiration for their future. We will also communicate this message in our work with other organisations and partnerships. (East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire)

¹² It is anticipated that this will be published in 2017-18.

¹³ SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) is a model which helps people recover from addictive behaviour using motivational, behavioural and cognitive methods. For more see <https://www.smartrecovery.org.uk/>

About Community Justice Ayrshire

What is Community Justice Ayrshire?

Community Justice Ayrshire is a new partnership covering East, North and South Ayrshire. We have been set up as part of a new approach to preventing and reducing reoffending in Scotland. This was introduced by the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#). Each local area in Scotland has something similar and there is also a new national organisation called Community Justice Scotland.

This new approach replaces the previous arrangements led by Scotland's eight Community Justice Authorities (CJAs). This included South West Scotland CJA which covered this area and Dumfries and Galloway.

Who is involved?

The Community Justice Ayrshire partners are listed here. Each of these organisations already plays a role in preventing and reducing re-offending. Community Justice Ayrshire brings these organisations together to share information and learning, and to look at new opportunities for joint working.



Over time, other organisations will also be asked to get involved in our work. This includes local voluntary sector organisations who work with people involved in the justice system.

How does Community Justice Ayrshire make decisions?

The Community Justice Ayrshire partners meet together as a Board four times a year. These meetings are open to the public.

The Board reports to each of the three Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships. This helps us to link to wider issues (like housing, health and work) and keeps us in touch with priorities for local communities across Ayrshire. So this Plan links closely to the Community Planning Partnerships' plans, such as their Local Outcome Improvement Plans and Locality Plans.



How will we know we are making progress?

In 2017 we will be setting up action groups in East, North and South Ayrshire to support the Community Justice Ayrshire Board and to help deliver the Commitments Plan. At every Board meeting, the groups will report back on the progress they have made. This will include both achievements and areas for improvement.

The way we measure our performance is described in our 'Starting with Strengths not Needs' document (add link). This also shows how we are helping to deliver the new [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) at a local level. In 2017-18 we will look to improve the way we measure our performance. We will work with Community Justice Scotland and other community justice partnerships to do this.

Where can I find out more?¹⁴

www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk

[East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

[North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

[South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership](#)

[Community Justice \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)

[National Community Justice Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework](#)

[National Guidance for Local Partners in the New Model for Community Justice](#)

[National Strategy for Community Justice](#)

Contact Us

Community Justice Ayrshire
c/o North Ayrshire Council
1st Floor East, Cunninghame House
Friars Croft, Irvine KA12 8EE
Tel 01294 317203
Email communityjusticeayrshire@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Website www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk

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¹⁴ The full Community Justice Ayrshire Operating Arrangements document can be viewed at www.communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk.