



# NEWS LETTER



**Welcome to the first CJS bulletin of the 2026–27 financial year, bringing you a brief overview of key updates from across CJS and the wider national community justice landscape for quarter 1 of the financial year.**

It aims to keep partners informed and connected by sharing current priorities and offering a forward look at what's ahead.

## 2026 Scottish Parliament Election results

Following the recent election, Neil Gray has been appointed as Scotland's new Cabinet Secretary for Justice. For community justice partners, this is likely to signal a forthcoming review of the Community Justice National Strategy. Should revisions be made, a new National Strategy and Community Justice Performance Framework will be developed. Engagement and consultation on both the strategy and any associated framework are expected to begin in quarter 2 of this year.

# Insights & Intelligence

The team has launched a new data dashboard and is working closely with Scottish Government colleagues to better understand the drivers behind pressures contributing to the prison population.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, partners took part in a workshop to review national data on short-term remand and Community Payback Order (CPO) breaches across local areas.

A summary of the findings will be shared with attendees shortly.

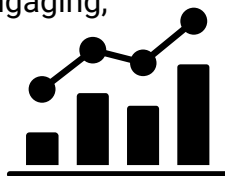


## S26 Data Dashboard

The CJS Data Dashboard has now been published!

This dashboard presents national-level performance information to support Community Justice Scotland's statutory duty under Section 26 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act to assess progress against nationally determined community justice outcomes using agreed national indicators.

It has been developed to make performance information more accessible, intuitive, and engaging, providing an alternative to traditional written reporting.



## Links to annual reports

Annual Reports on how Community Payback Orders are delivered and the Community Justice Outcome Annual Activity report for the year 2024-25 can be accessed here:

1. [Community Payback Order \(CPO\) report](#)
2. [Outcome Activity Annual Report \(QAAR\) for Community Justice](#)

# Engagement, Learning & Development

CJS's engagement, learning and development team has been working on:

- The roll out of the **Caledonian programme** to local authority areas in Scotland.
- Series of **improvement workshops for 2026-27**
- Developing & delivering training programs including restorative justice, LSCMI, developing stable & Acute 2007 (SA07) training, Unpaid work training,



## Learning & Development

Roll out of Caledonian Programme:

- 1 Inverclyde
- 2 North Lanarkshire
- 3 Renfrewshire



Photograph of Gill McKinna, head of the Caledonian programme at CJS.

The Caledonian System uses an integrated whole family approach to address domestic abuse of women by men in Scotland. It works with men who abuse, to change their behaviour, while also offering separate support to their partners and children.

## Discussion Sessions on Community Justice Topics

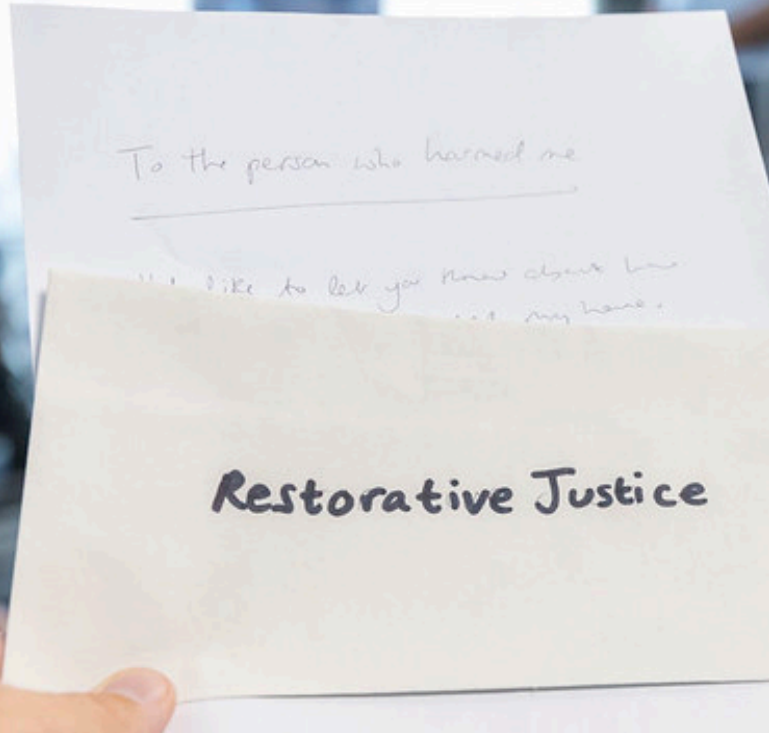
The feedback from last years online sessions delivered by the engagement team was really positive, so CJS are continuing to develop a programme of online sessions for this year.

A schedule of sessions for 2026–27 will be shared with partners in June—please feel free to circulate invites to any colleagues who may be interested.

Summary reports from previous sessions are available [HERE!](#)

# Projects, Policy & Partnerships

CJS's projects, policy, and partnerships team is working on numerous projects this quarter, including work on restorative justice and the review of the Community Justice Performance Framework.



## Restorative Justice

The RJ team has been progressing an options appraisal for the Scottish Government, alongside a range of key activity to support development of Restorative Justice:

- Stakeholder sessions are being held in May and June to help inform and shape the options appraisal
- The team will attend the European Forum for Restorative Justice international conference in June 2026
- Commissioned research on the uptake and demand for RJ is near completion with publication to follow
- A survey on RJ uptake has also been completed, with findings expected in June 2026

**[Read the latest news on restorative justice in the quarterly report from CJS, CYCJ & Scottish Government with this link.](#)**

## National Partnership working

CJS are currently recruiting a new Head of Engagement, a pivotal role that will lead our national partnerships work and strengthen how we connect across the justice system.

This post will bring strategic leadership to relationship-building at a national level, ensuring our partnerships are impactful, coordinated, and aligned with our wider aims.

## Serving the Community

The team will be building on the success of the Serving the Community digital campaign, launched in October 2025, which reached over 4 million people across Scotland. The campaign shares images and stories from unpaid work projects across the country, promoting them on social media to the people living in those areas.

## Got a Great Project to Share?

The team are looking for standout ideas for the next campaign phase – especially with strong before-and-after photos. Check out the Serving the Community Toolkit and get in touch!



## Bitesized Second Chancers Exhibition

We now have a 'bitesize' (A3) version of our Second Chancers exhibition to allow for display across community centres, schools, universities, arts venues (etc!) around the country. If you have any ideas for where Second Chancers bitesize could visit next, please get in touch!

