



NEWS LETTER



COMMUNITY JUSTICE
IS WHEN PEOPLE
WHO'VE BROKEN
LAW SERVE
SENTENCE IN
COMMUNITY.
IT'S LESS
AND FEWER
ACROSS
SCOTLAND.

THAT'S A
LIFE-CHANGING SENTENCE



MY
NEIGHBOUR
DID UNPAID
WORK
AND NOW
WE SHARE
PRIDE IN
OUR PARKS.

THAT'S A
#LIFECHANGINGSENTENCE

Welcome to the second CJS E-Newsletter 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 2 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.

Newsletter Update

- This quarter, we've refreshed the way we share updates. Rather than organising content by CJS teams, the newsletter is now structured around the Priority Actions of the Community Justice Strategy.
- We hope this new approach better reflects our collective efforts and makes it easier to see how work across CJS and our partners is contributing to shared national priorities and improved outcomes.
- We hope you find this format more accessible and informative as we continue to work together to deliver change in community justice across Scotland.



Priority Action	Description of work
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.	• The revised <u>Diversion from Prosecution Guidance</u> has now been published. To support implementation, two online engagement sessions were delivered in July, providing practitioners with an overview of the updated guidance and opportunities for discussion. Feedback on both the guidance and the sessions remains welcome and can be submitted via the online feedback form <u>HERE</u>. • The Learning and Development Team have developed a new online diversion from prosecution training module. The training is currently in the testing phase, with a provisional launch date of 17th of August 2026. This date remains subject to completion of user testing and any final refinements identified through that process. Therefore the 'go live' date may change but an email will be sent to partners when the product is ready.
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	• Police Scotland with partners have developed options and associated funding proposals for arrest referral services. These are now being considered by Scottish Government. • Local practice examples needed: Academic Ruth Friskney is undertaking research looking at developing an understanding of how Police Scotland works with partners to improve community wellbeing. If you are aware of local initiatives or approaches that you think they could explore, please contact Ruth Friskney at <u>ruth.friskney@strath.ac.uk</u>.



Priority Action	Description of work
3. Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively.	Following the recent Bail Policy Sprint, the Scottish Government has awarded funding to support pilot activity in three local authority areas, working alongside third sector partners to strengthen and expand bail supervision services.
4. Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies.	Improvement activity remains underway to review operational processes within electronic monitoring services and identify opportunities to remove barriers, improve efficiency and support effective delivery.
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	Local partners are currently preparing their annual Community Payback Order (CPO) reports for reporting year 2025-26, which provide an overview of local delivery, performance and impact. Deadline for the CPO template returns is 30th of October 2026. - The Community Justice to Rehab (CJ2R) Pilot continues to progress. Coordinated by CJS, the pilot is exploring whether a targeted pathway for those on community sentences to access rehabilitation at the same time as completing their sentence can improve recovery outcomes, compliance, increase completion of community sentences and reduce re-offending.



Priority Action	Description of work
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	• Since April, the RJ team has been busy progressing the options appraisal, including facilitating workshops with almost 50 stakeholders from a range of organisations and local authorities. The team presented learning from RJ test cases at the 13th International Conference of the European Forum for Restorative Justice and promoted restorative justice alongside colleagues at the Children and Young People's Conference. • Nationally, the team continues to explore a range of referral pathways into RJ, including through health services, and is working with colleagues from the Scottish Prison Service to test the RJ prison protocol. The team will also soon welcome a new Policy and Public Affairs Officer, who will support efforts to raise the profile of RJ with the new Parliament. Alongside this, the team are actively recruiting new test cases involving both adults and children and young people, helping to build the evidence base for future RJ delivery in Scotland.
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	• CJS is working with the Scottish Government to begin grant management of the Prison to Rehab (P2R) Grant Fund. • This change in management of the fund aims to provide enhanced operational oversight, strengthen governance arrangements and support access to rehabilitation services for individuals leaving custody.



Priority Action	Description of work
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.	• Following a housing focused workshop delivered by CJS during the previous financial year, discussions are underway regarding opportunities to revisit and build on this work during 2026-27 in support of the continued implementation of SHORE standards across Scotland. • You can read the summary report on the CJS website: HERE
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	• Partners continue to highlight the importance of addressing barriers created by disclosure requirements and stigma. Strengthening awareness of disclosure periods and supporting pathways into employment remain important areas for ongoing development, with an important contribution anticipated from third sector organisations.
10. Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services	• CJS continues to oversee delivery of the National Voluntary Throughcare Grant, awarded to Upside. Through ongoing grant management and monitoring arrangements, this funding supports voluntary throughcare services across Scotland, helping individuals access tailored support as they transition from custody back into their communities.



Priority Action	Description of work
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.	• The Scottish Government, supported by CJS, will deliver a programme of workshops during September and October as part of a review process on the current National Strategy and Community Justice Performance Framework. • These sessions will provide partners with opportunities to shape future priorities and performance measures for community justice in Scotland. The Scottish Government will send out dates for these workshops at the end of August.
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.	• Earlier this year, CJS hosted a workshop exploring the application of a human rights-based approach to community justice. The event showcased examples from local partners, including the development of lived experience panels, and highlighted practical approaches to supporting meaningful participation and engagement. • A summary report from the workshop is available on the CJS website and can be accessed <u>HERE</u>.



Priority Action	Description of work
13. Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice	- On 12 August, CJS hosted a national online session focused on promoting community justice and increasing public understanding of its impact. Contributions were provided by Rebecca Worrall (CJS), Ainya Taylor (Moray) and Kirsty Brophy (Ayrshire). A summary report will be published shortly. - New publication of a blog by Dianne Thompson, National Trainer and Adviser for the Caledonian System, exploring <u>improved approaches to working with neurodivergent men in domestic abuse perpetrator interventions</u>. - Continued delivery of the Serving the Community communications campaign across Meta and LinkedIn platforms, highlighting the positive impact of unpaid work and community payback. Some examples include: <u>Meta - Perth</u> <u>Meta - Glasgow</u> <u>LinkedIn - Perth</u> <u>LinkedIn - Glasgow</u> - Serving the Community press releases for <u>Perth</u> and <u>Glasgow</u> were sent out to the media. Coverage included The Courier and Perthshire Advertiser. - Growth of CJS Chief Executive newsletter, <u>Justice Disrupted</u>, which has attracted more than 500 subscribers within its first two months, providing fortnightly insight and commentary from Karyn McCluskey.