

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SOUTH AYRSHIRE

The Unpaid Work requirement is one of the possible requirements that can be included in a Community Payback Order. It requires the individual to complete a set number of unpaid work hours which benefits the local community. The purpose of Unpaid Work is to repair harm caused by offending, promote responsibility and accountability for the offence and provide a constructive alternative to custody. Tasks can include:

- Environmental work such as core path clearance, ground maintenance, and park upkeep
- Painting, decorating, fencing, and repair work for community groups, charities, and local halls
- Woodwork and manufacturing items for community fundraising, including seasonal items like wooden reindeer, snowmen, and garden furniture
- Supporting healthcare and charity projects, such as creating tranquil gardens for hospital units or refurbishing charity offices.

Work is designed to be meaningful, constructive, and rehabilitative, giving participants the opportunity to gain new skills, build confidence, and take responsibility for their behaviour

Other Activity

Up to 30% of an unpaid work requirement (or 30 hours, whichever is lower) can consist of other activity, which includes educational programmes, skills training, addiction support, or personal development workshops. These activities complement unpaid work and support long-term rehabilitation and reduction of re-offending

Community Involvement and Referrals

Community groups, charities, schools, and non-profit organisations can refer potential projects for unpaid work. Referrals are assessed for suitability, risk, and planning, and the Unpaid Work Team coordinates the work.

Project Highlights

Community Garden Refurbishment – Maybole Town Hall

The Unpaid Work Team was approached by members of the Maybole community to help restore the community garden beside Maybole Town Hall.

Over the course of the project, the team carried out a range of improvements, including cutting back dead wood from the trees, power washing the paved areas, repainting the frames surrounding the historic tile display and removing and replacing raised planters, and refurbishing two memorial benches.

The completed work has transformed the garden into a cleaner, more attractive, and welcoming space for residents and visitors to enjoy. The project demonstrates the positive impact Community Payback can have by working in partnership with local communities to preserve and enhance valued public spaces.



Supporting Early Years Centres

Over the past year, the Unpaid Work team has continued to support a number of Early Years Centres by building outdoor furniture and creating activity items such as water feature walls and outdoor mud kitchens to enhance children's outdoor learning environments.

One of the teams most recent projects involved replacing an old play jeep that had reached the end of its lifespan. The team constructed a new wooden play vehicle, providing children with a safe, engaging and imaginative play resource.

These projects help create stimulating outdoor spaces where children can learn through play while also providing valuable support to local education providers. The continued partnership with Early Years Centres highlights positive contribution Community Payback makes by delivering practical improvements that benefit young people.



Improving Access in Barr Village

The Unpaid Work team was contacted by the Community Council in Barr Village to help improve the steps leading from Glebe Road, which had become difficult for residents to use safely.

The team restored the steps to a safe and accessible condition and the improvements have made the route much easier to navigate, particularly for older residents and those with mobility difficulties.

This project is another example of how Community Payback works in partnership with local communities to deliver practical improvements that enhance public spaces and make a real difference to the daily lives of residents.



Supporting Whitletts Victoria Pavillion

The Unpaid Work team was approached by the committee who manage the community run facilities at Whitletts Victoria Pavillion and Football Ground following an impressive refurbishment of the facilities.

To help complete the transformation, the team was asked to repaint the exterior of the building. Their work provided the finishing touch to the renovation, enhancing the appearance of the building and creating a welcoming environment for players, supports and the wider community.

This project highlights the value of Community Payback in supporting local organisations and volunteer groups. By contributing practical skills and labour, the Unpaid Work Team helped ensure the refurbished facilities can continue to serve as an important community asset for many years to come.



Other Local Examples

Girvan Community Garden: Overgrown land transformed into a community garden and allotment, with produce donated to local charities. Over 80 people completed more than 4,150 hours of work

Ayrshire Hospice Winter Fair: Handcrafted seasonal items by unpaid work teams support fundraising efforts.

Kyle Chemotherapy Unit Garden: Creation of a tranquil outdoor space for patients and staff

Moving On Ayrshire: Painting and refurbishment of charity offices, ensuring safety and high-quality results

Our teams continue to make a positive difference across the local area by completing projects that improve public spaces, support local organisations and give back to the community. Together, we're making a lasting positive impact!

Every project will be individually assessed for its suitability and health & safety implications. If you have a project you would like to be considered, please contact the Unpaid Work Officer.

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