

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

A Time for Reflection

As 2025 comes to an end, we take great pride in celebrating the achievements of East Ayrshire Council's Community Payback Team. Over the last year the team's dedication has brought real change; enhancing local resources, supporting organisations, and making a positive difference to countless organisations and individuals. For those completing unpaid work, the experience has offered far more than simply fulfilling an obligation. It has been a chance to build skills, grow in confidence, access support and prompt change - creating a lasting impression not only for the individuals involved in Community Payback but for those in receipt of their efforts. The team has welcomed feedback from local communities' and embraced the act of giving back, not only through their community contributions but through their 'Random Acts of Kindness'.

A Season of Second Chances

Community Payback is more than a sentence – it is an opportunity to rebuild trust and foster belonging. As the wider community prepares for festivities, some service users may find themselves excluded from traditions or struggling with fractured relationships. Christmas is often portrayed as a time of joy, family gatherings, and celebration. Yet for many, especially those completing Community Payback, this season can heighten feelings of loneliness and social isolation. By recognising the challenges of loneliness and actively creating opportunities for inclusion, the festive period can be a reminder that everyone deserves connection, dignity, and a second chance.

"Small acts of service can spark big feelings of belonging"

Sharing Festive Kindness

The Community Payback Team embraced the spirit of giving by wrapping and delivering festive selection boxes and chocolate treats to young carers within East Ayrshire. Young carers are children and young people who take on significant responsibilities at home, supporting family members who may be ill, frail, disabled, living with mental ill health or substance misuse. By extending our support to these individuals and organisations we foster a stronger sense of community. Gifts were also donated to the resettlement families of Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan for their Christmas party held by the Howard Centre in Kilmaronock. This reflects the values of kindness, compassion, selflessness and care that lie in the heart of our work.



Supporting the Foodbank

The Community Payback Team have once again done a phenomenal job of supporting the foodbank this year. From collecting donations every week and distributing tonnes of foodbank stock to hubs across East Ayrshire. These supplies provide vital support to vulnerable households, ensuring access to nutritious meals, strengthening community connections and reducing stigma around food insecurity. Over the festive period the team were busy collecting additional donations from schools, workplaces and local organisations demonstrating teamwork, practical support and compassion.



*"We truly couldn't do everything
we do without you"
Ayrshire East Foodbank*



The Killie Community Hub

Killie Community has now settled into its new base at The Hub; a former gym transformed into a vibrant, modern community facility with assistance from the Community Payback Team. This revitalised space hosts a variety of programmes for people of all ages, offering everything from football activities to mental health, ASN, employment and addiction support. The Hub is quickly becoming a place where individuals feel safe, understood and empowered.

This winter, the team played a key role in supporting their Mission Christmas initiative, where service users helped assemble 550 hampers filled with nutritious food and essential toiletries, to ensure families and individuals across East Ayrshire received meaningful support in time for Christmas. Their contribution helped people feel seen, valued and cared for during this challenging time of year.

The Killie Community (SC045968) Ayrshire's Charity of the Year 2025
11a Rugby Road, Kilmarnock KA1 2DP (Tel: 07813 761597)



East Ayrshire Community Hospital, Cumnock

Community Payback participants recently contributed their skills to a meaningful project at East Ayrshire Community Hospital. Working in partnership with the Physiotherapy Department, the team constructed a new set of training stairs and parallel bars designed to support the rehabilitation of NHS patients.

This practical contribution not only enhances the hospital's therapeutic facilities but also demonstrates how Community Payback can deliver tangible benefits for local services whilst giving back to the community in a constructive and purposeful way.

"The Community Payback Team did a great job, thank you very much for the help"
**Robert Rolston – Physiotherapy Service
 Manager, HSCP**



Honouring Remembrance Sunday



"WOW! That is amazing amount of work and quality, thank you and your teams for your support on this"
**Paddy Millar – Greener Communities, Team
 Coordinator**

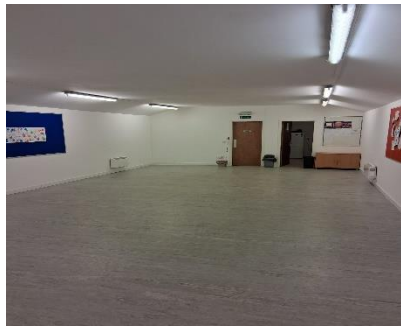
In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday, the Community Payback Team worked quietly but purposefully across our local area, cleaning and tidying war memorials ready for the commemorations ahead. This work ensures that these important sites of reflection are treated with dignity and respect, providing a fitting space for communities to gather and honour those who gave their lives in service. What might look like simple tasks; brushing leaves, clearing pathways and stonework - carry a deeper meaning for everyone involved. One service user commented **"you can see how much these places mean to the community"**. Even local residents noticed the difference and many paused to say thank you, not just for the practical work but for the respect shown to spaces that hold so much collective memory. Benefits of this work not only include community pride where general maintenance helps to reduce weathering and neglect but preserving heritage; safeguards for future generations and by supporting remembrance allows families and communities to reflect together. Promoting this inclusion within our communities highlights the work Community Payback do creating a positive force for supporting accountability while enabling service users to give back.

Galston Mother & Toddler Group

The Community Payback Team recently completed a full refresh of Balmoral Hall in Galston, a well-used space that supports Mother and Toddler groups alongside a range of other local community organisations. The team carried out a careful repaint of the interior, bringing new life to a valued community venue. The team carried out detailed painting work, building skills in surface preparation, cutting-in, roller application, safe tool use and coordinated team planning. Over the summer months, participants also supported the hall by cutting the grass, maintaining the garden area and keeping the outdoor space tidy and accessible. Their contribution has helped create a warm, well-kept environment for families and community groups who rely on the hall throughout the year.

"Thank you so much for allocating us your services. We are delighted with the works completed. The team were great & very hardworking completing all the works within two days and the hall was left clean and tidy. This has made such a difference to the community hall and has made the environment so much nicer, not just for the toddler group but for all the organisations that use the hall"

Stephanie MacKenzie – Committee Member / Group Leader



Litter Picking at Garlaff Recycling Centre

Recycling plays a vital role in protecting our environment - reducing landfill waste, conserving natural resources, cutting pollution and helping to tackle climate change. Local recycling centres at Western Road in Kilmarnock and Garlaff in Cumnock are central to these efforts, offering an essential service for residents across the area. However, these busy sites can quickly become cluttered and windblown litter that often spreads into surrounding spaces. To support the community and protect the local environment, the Community Payback Team stepped in to assist with a clean-up at Garlaff. Their efforts helped prevent litter from drifting into the countryside and ensured the site remained accessible, welcoming and safe for everyone who uses it.



Autumn Leaf Clearance– Promoting Safer, Cleaner Communities

Throughout the autumn and winter months - despite spells of challenging weather; the Community Payback Team have remained hard at work across local neighbourhoods. One of their key seasonal tasks has been clearing fallen leaves from over-65s' Sheltered Housing Complexes, helping to keep both individual and communal pathways free from slip and trip hazards. Their efforts ensure that elderly residents can safely access their gardens, bin areas and drying greens. Beyond residential spaces, the team continues to maintain public areas and resource centres, keeping them tidy, welcoming and free from fallen leaves and litter. This ongoing work not only improves safety but also supports a cleaner, more accessible environment for everyone.



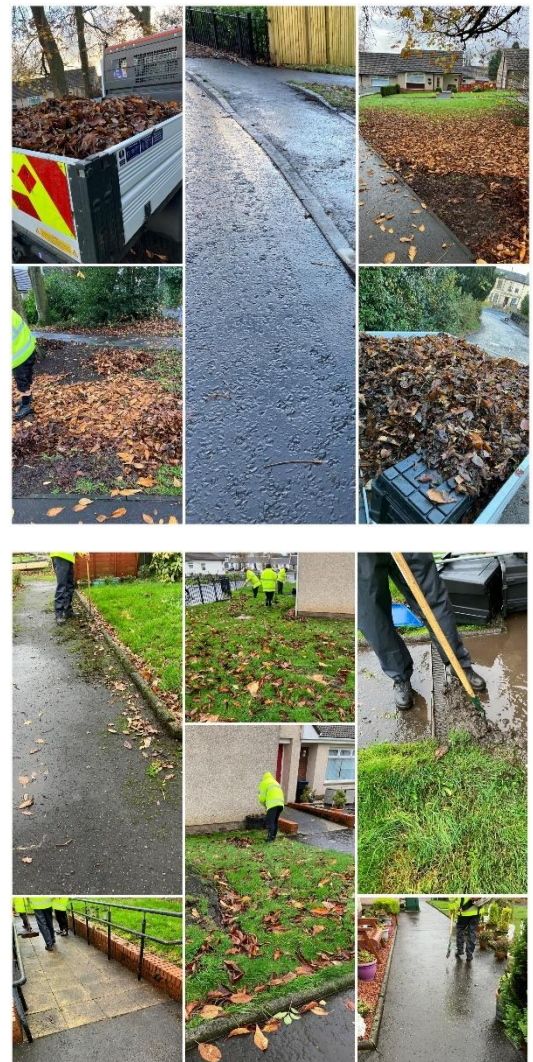
"The results look amazing and will certainly benefit the tenants. They couldn't access their bins due to mobility issues and were conscious of falling. This work being carried out allows the tenants to fully access their back gardens"

Cheryl Burns – Neighbourhood Coach

"Thank you so very much for sending your team out. They worked really hard, were polite and friendly and made a really fantastic job of clearing things up around the unit. It has made a tremendous difference to everyone who lives here, so, on behalf of all the tenants and myself will you let the Community Payback Team know how grateful we all are for their hard work"

Janie Campbell – Wellbeing and Development Officer

"This will benefit the residents who will be more confident going out into the garden areas of their property and encourage them to engage with neighbours. The Community Payback Team have done a great job and I would like you to pass on my thanks" **David Murray – Neighbourhood Coach**



Outdoor Education Support across East Ayrshire Schools

The Community Payback Team continue to play a vital role in enhancing outdoor learning environments across East Ayrshire. Their ongoing efforts ensure that children and young people have safe, welcoming spaces to learn, play and grow. In recent months, teams have carried out a range of maintenance and clearance tasks at Newmilns Primary School & Early Childhood Centre, Patna & St Xavier's Primary School, and Logan Primary School. This has included cutting back overgrown shrubs, laying bark, strimming grassed areas, litter picking and clearing pathways to make school grounds more accessible for outdoor learning activities. These improvements help schools make the most of their outdoor spaces, supporting wellbeing, creativity and hands-on learning for pupils of all ages.



"We visit the woods most Fridays and the nursery are usually there on Wednesdays too. We love using the space. We really appreciate all the hard work to make it a nice space for us. It's all looking so much tidier now and the kids can retrieve the balls without the brambles hurting them. The Community Payback Team honestly did such a great job. Thanks so much"

Danielle Young - Depute Head Teacher, Newmilns PS & ECC

Random Acts of Kindness

The Community Payback Team embraced the spirit of giving during the month of October by donating their home-grown pumpkins to the 12th Kilmarnock Boys' Brigade. This thoughtful gesture, offered as part of a wider commitment to 'Random Acts of Kindness', arrived just in time for the group's Halloween activities and brought a welcome boost of excitement to their celebrations. Random acts of kindness like this do more than brighten someone's day — they help strengthen community connections, build trust, and promote a culture of empathy. For those completing Community Payback, these moments also reinforce positive social contribution, encourage personal pride, and demonstrate the meaningful impact their efforts can have on local groups.



The **Main Objectives** of an unpaid work requirement as part of a Community Payback Order are:

- To provide courts with a community based penalty which has the potential to achieve a positive outcome in respect of the individual's likelihood of reoffending.
- To ensure the courts have access at all times to a community sentence for use as a first response which requires the individual to undertake unpaid work for a specified number of hours in the community (from 20 hours to 300 hours).
- To provide a high quality community based intervention which balances pay back to the community with opportunities to address offending behavior whilst supporting individuals towards positive change; and
- To provide individuals with an opportunity to gain the skills and to access the supports required to lead positive lives and desist from offending.

When considering a project for Unpaid Work it must meet the following criteria ...

- It must benefit the local community.
- It must not deprive others of employment opportunities.
- It must be worthwhile and constructive for the individual/team.
- There cannot be funding available for the task.
- No individual can profit from the work.

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 Co-Ordinator.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Responsible for the Provision, Co-Ordination & Delivery of Unpaid Work Placements across East Ayrshire

Justice Services

EAST AYRSHIRE

**Health &
Social Care
Partnership**