

# COMMUNITY PAYBACK SERVICE

## NEWSLETTER

### A job well done ...

As the year draws to an end, we are incredibly proud of the achievements of East Ayrshire Council's Community Payback Team. Throughout the year, they have worked diligently to transform various resources, support organisations and help many individuals resulting in noticeable positive impacts. For those undertaking unpaid work, this has been a remarkable opportunity to develop and learn new skills while giving back to the community. The positive feedback received serves as valuable support and recognition of their efforts, boosting service user confidence, self-esteem and a sense of self-worth. Many service users may never have experienced such praise or had positive role models in their lives and have benefited immensely from this. It is crucial to acknowledge that an unpaid work requirement not only provides the chance to engage in meaningful work activity but the opportunity to receive support and encouragement which has the power to change lives, making 'Community Payback' a truly transformative experience for all involved.

*We are delighted to end the year with a summary of work tasks that have taken place over the autumn / winter months.*

### Howard Centre Family Room

The Howard Centre in Kilmarnock is a resource that adds positive value to the local community with its variety of groups and different services for all ages and needs. The Community Payback Team recently supported the Centre to remodel an unused office space. The team learned practical skills in surface preparation; cleaning, sanding and priming for a smooth application of finishes. Painting skills in both emulsion and gloss using brushes and rollers as well as skills in team work, communication and attention to detail. The room was transformed into a bright, beautiful, calming environment which will be used as a family space with a soft play area and sensory room.



*"We are excited to start using the space to its full potential.*

*We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Community Payback Team for all their hard work"*

**Elaine Wardop – Mission Development Worker, Howard Centre**

## War Memorials / Remembrance Day



Every year the Community Payback Team dedicate time and effort to ensure the war memorials across East Ayrshire are cleaned and tidied in preparation for Remembrance Day. This year the team concentrated their efforts in the towns of Hurlford and Muirkirk where railings were repainted with black gloss and distinctive red paint to enhance the poppy design, unsightly moss and leaves were removed from memorial pathways, walkways were edged to improve public access and both areas were given a general tidy up.



*"What a great job, thank you!"*

**Nick Kelly – Service Manager,  
Greener Communities**

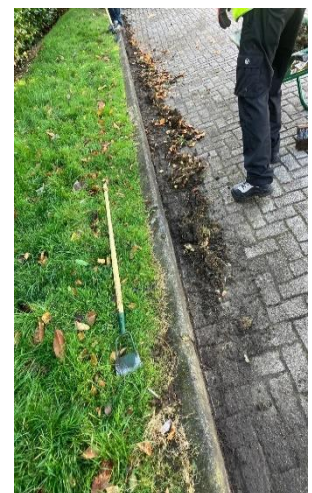
Service users feel a real sense of achievement when undertaking this task; conveying their respects to those in the community and those who have lost their lives.

*"Thanks so much, that made an amazing difference to the area"*

**Elected Member**

## Garven Court Sheltered Housing

Garven Court, Kilmarnock is a retirement housing complex with a range of self-contained, mobility and wheelchair standard properties that were built with the needs of older people and those with disabilities in mind. The complex was in need of some attention, with a vast amount of fallen autumn leaves, blocked drains and overgrown surfaces. The access pathways and communal areas were slippery and hazardous for those who reside there. The Community Payback Team were committed to improving the area and spent a number of days power washing, clearing walkways and generally making a difference to improve the safety of the complex. Many elderly residents were grateful for the support and thanked the team personally.



*"Thanks so much for this, it is really appreciated and has really improved the common areas within Garven Court"*

**Carol McLelland – Neighbourhood Manager**



## Catrine Community Garden & Mill Street, Square

The Community Payback Team has skillfully transformed a once-loved, overgrown and dysfunctional garden space into a revitalised area that now features access to a large polytunnel and polydome. The team utilised their brush cutting skills to trim bramble bushes and a densely shrubbed area to allow members of the community access in order to come together to foster a shared interest in gardening and encourage sustainable food growth. Although Catrine is a small village, it is full of community spirit and in preparation for their **'Make Catrine Sparkle'** event the team also supported a clean-up at Mill Street Square; power washing and weeding the town centre to enhance the area and encourage positive engagement and a strong attendance at their annual Christmas event.



*"The work of the 'Unpaid Work Team' to clear this site over 5 days has allowed a once valued community asset to be accessible for the community again and can be utilised for the betterment of health and wellbeing of the Catrine community. The input of the unpaid work force, and the fantastic job completed onsite, will have a long lasting legacy to the community of Catrine"*

**Craig Fulton – Team Leader Vibrant Communities**

*"I wanted to email you and the Community Payback Team for the exceptional work they carried out prior to Make Catrine Sparkle. The team carried out a sterling job and had the square sparkling!!"*

*Please can you pass our thanks onto the team – it made all the difference to showcase our village to the hundreds of visitors to the event!*

*Please extend our gratitude for all persons involved within EAC for their continued support; past and present, at the events held within the village of Catrine. It does not go unnoticed, and will remain an integral part of future planning"*

**Tracy Smith – Community Councillor & Chairperson**



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### Ayrshire East Foodbank / CVO

Ayrshire East Foodbank, managed by CVO has **8** distribution centres and around **200** volunteers who are committed to supporting individuals and families within East Ayrshire by providing nutritionally balanced food provision and welfare support to those referred to them in crisis. Together the centres distribute approximately **2.5 tonnes** of emergency food every month, relying on the generosity of the community for food and monetary donations and the help of the Community Payback for additional support. The team provide assistance twice weekly, sometimes more; to collect and deliver food donations. They also support the volunteers to sort and fill food crates into individual and family food packages. During the festive season, assistance is provided with large-scale appeals from schools, local council offices, community groups, supermarkets and most recently 'the big Tesco food drive'.



*"I wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the unpaid work teams invaluable help with Friday and today's foodbank collection. They made a significant difference this week by ensuring that the donations were collected and delivered with enthusiasm and a smile. Thank you once again for being such an integral part of this effort. Your willingness to help at short notice is deeply appreciated by all of us and most importantly, by those who will benefit from these donations. Please pass on our thanks to everyone for their help, we couldn't have done it without them"*

**Nicola Caldwell, Deputy Chief Executive CVO (EA) Ltd**

*"Thank you so much for organising this, we really appreciate everything you and the justice team do to help the foodbank"*

**Fiona Fawdry – Chief Executive CVO East Ayrshire**

### Logan Primary School & Early Childhood Centre

The Community Payback Team is dedicated to supporting schools and education centers throughout the authority. Our latest initiative involved clearing the unsightly weeds around the school perimeter fence which were obstructing the pavement and walkways. The team trimmed hedges around the Early Childhood Centre to improve light and visibility, cleared the poly tunnel to restore space for growing and removed moss and dead leaves from pathways to ensure children have access to outdoor learning and play spaces.



*"We at Logan PS and ECC would like to thank the Community Payback Team for the excellent work undertaken at our site. Their work has significantly improved our school grounds and their usability. Pupils, staff, parents and the community have all reported their delight with the improvements made"*

**Sarah Robson – Acting Head Teacher**



## The Killie Community Hub

The Killie Community is a charity that leverages football as a positive force to support everyone within the community. Operating from Rugby Park, they engage with people of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances across Ayrshire. The dedicated team of staff and volunteers focuses on promoting active lifestyles and addressing health and social inequalities. They run a variety of groups and initiatives, including weight management education, walking football, 'The Changing Room' in partnership with SAMH which uses football to connect men struggling with mental health issues, community 'walk and talk' groups, as well as recovery, employability, and dementia support programs. They also offer an impressive range of fun and educational programs for children and young people. Recently, the Community Payback Team assisted the charity with several internal and external maintenance tasks. This included removing old signage, repainting the entrance hall, and glossing and emulsioneing the walls, skirtings, and door frames of meeting rooms, corridors, and the training room. Additionally, the team will support the charity's Christmas care hampers by assembling, packing, and loading donation boxes for festive deliveries.

*"They are really going above and beyond, so we're extremely grateful. The entrance has been fixed, the interior downstairs rooms have all been freshened up, and externally we've had our graffiti removed and fire exit doors and rails all re-painted."*

*Can't thank you enough"*

***Jordan Allison – Head of Charity, The Killie Community***



## Random Acts of Kindness

During the festive season, the Community Payback Team have embraced the spirit of giving by engaging in 'Random Acts of Kindness'; extending their support to individuals and organisations they have assisted throughout the year by wrapping and delivering 90 boxes of Christmas mince pies. Studies indicate that acts of kindness can enhance social bonds, positively influence mental health, lower stress levels, improve physical health and boost emotional well-being. By lending a helping hand, we demonstrate that **everyone** has something valuable to offer. Through kindness, compassion, selflessness and care, we can foster a sense of community and reduce social isolation.

**The Community Payback Team and Justice Services would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas!**



## 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**