

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2021/22**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **The City of Edinburgh Council**



1) In this section, please give examples of work with people subject to CPOs specifically to **address offending behaviours and the risk of reoffending**. (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

- 71% of CPOs had a supervision requirement; relationship building between the supervising officer and the individual subject to supervision can be an impetus for positive behavioural change, and is central to people being supported to reduce their risk of reoffending
- the health treatment requirements: alcohol, drugs, and mental health, were contained within those 71% of CPOs (where those issues were linked to the offending behaviour), with these issues being addressed through supervision plans
- recovery hubs in Edinburgh and positive working relationships between justice social work, mental health, substance misuse and homelessness services ensured a clear pathway into services for people subject to a CPO with health treatment requirement
- The Edinburgh Alcohol Problem Solving Court uses community payback legislation with frequent court reviews to support people to engage and maintain engagement with services aimed at addressing alcohol use linked to offending. Justice social work provides the court with speedy assessments with a focus on alcohol to ensure streamlined access to services through close partnership working. Justice social work and Third Sector organisation Change Grow Live (CGL) work in partnership to actively assist those with an alcohol treatment requirement to complete their CPO.
- To manage particular offending risks presented, conduct requirements in conjunction with supervision requirements were employed to manage particular risks. For example, in domestic abuse cases with identifiable victims, the requirement may stipulate that the victim(s) should not be approached or contacted in any way. For internet offences, the conduct requirement may be used to place restrictions on internet access/ devices with internet access.
- Specific interventions also included the [Caledonian System](#) to address domestic abuse, and the Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders (CISSO) which delivers the Moving Forward: Making Changes group work programme. Where a person is unsuitable for group work, individual work can be delivered on a 2:1 basis.

2) In this section, please give a summary of feedback, may include quotes, from people subject to CPOs about the **impact on them of a Supervision Requirement**. (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

Men and women subject to a CPO with a supervision requirement may attend Crossroads and Willow respectively.

Crossroads for men provides a range of individual and group interventions, and courses informed by research in a safe, supportive environment to facilitate change and create opportunities to consider how they can:

- Reduce the risks associated with offending behaviour
- Understand and manage difficult emotions

- Realise the impact of life experiences
- Make changes around activities and relationships
- Recognise skills and develop new abilities
- Enhance self-esteem and self-efficacy
- Take care of their physical fitness and mental health
- Participate in an employment/education course
- More effectively manage their communication with Children and Families Social Work
- Participate in other groups e.g., Men's Health and Wellbeing group, Caledonian programme
- Address outstanding practical matters around benefits and housing

Willow for women brings together a range of professionals from social work, NHS, and the Third Sector to deliver trauma informed interventions for women under one tailored, shared, agreed plan for individual women. The service ensures women can access:

- relationships, offending and planning for a safe future
- mental health support, psychological therapies, and trauma interventions
- physical health programme, including support with substance use
- mentoring support, welfare rights and benefits advice
- sexual health and sex worker support services
- social opportunities, recovery support, and links to community activities
- education, training, and employability

Feedback from CPO participants included:

"This has helped me to deal better with situations"

"There should be other alternatives like this to pay for your crimes; I think it educates you on what's right and wrong"

"The social worker has helped me with many stuff"

"I gained perspective on my life"

"I felt better each week and dealt with things in a calmer way"

"Trust was so important, and I am now more open to try new things"

3) In this section, please report on the following:

- Types of **unpaid work projects** carried out
- Example(s) that demonstrate(s) **how communities benefited** from unpaid work (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

Types of unpaid work projects carried out included:

- Environmental clear ups and improvements such as planting, weeding, grass cutting, digging, pruning, reinstating, and building paths, painting, slabbing, clearing snow, litter picking, removing graffiti, repairing gravestones
- Gardening for vulnerable members of the public
- Improving play structures for in public play areas/nurseries
- Creating scenery backdrops for school and nursery events
- Constructing planters in public green spaces/community facilities
- Building tyre islands
- Repairing and recycling bicycles

- Basic joinery and refurbishing furniture
- Painting walls and decorating care homes
- Sorting charity donations and cleaning clothes
- Knitting items for the most vulnerable such as those who are homeless

The environmental projects and clear ups not only improve local communities aesthetically but create safer spaces for the public, free of debris and hazards. Communities experiencing poverty and disadvantage also benefitted from the unpaid work carried out to repair and recycle old, broken, and discarded bicycles. The bicycle repair and safety workshop unpaid work participants working alongside a workshop supervisor, refurbished and repaired the bicycles and conducted final safety checks overseen by a qualified bike mechanic. Completed and checked bicycles were then donated to a range of charitable organisations which support healthy living and sustainable transport for those living in poverty/disadvantage.

4) Summary of feedback, may include quotes, from people subject to CPOs about the **impact on them of an Unpaid Work Requirement**. (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

People subject to a CPO were invited to give their views anonymously on participating in unpaid work. Feedback included:

"I like the active part of the community service, going out and helping the community and feeling productive"

"It made me contribute to the community what I may not have ordinarily in terms of unpaid labour; it afforded me the opportunity to meet other people and I also realised the importance of not having a breach of the law"

"I like the unpaid work because my supervisor throughout was very fair, friendly and always understanding and also I did not feel unsafe, and most importantly had the chance to repay for my crimes in a safe environment"

"I enjoyed being out and about and assisting with projects that were of benefit to local communities"

"I love the fact that I can pay my time back into the community constructively"

"Stops me from going to jail, I learn new skills, I meet new people"

"While I am doing unpaid work, it gives me the opportunity to balance my work and family. It also gives me the chance to give some help to those who need it like gardening work or clearances"

"I like that the work that is being done will benefit the community in some way; seeing the progression if the project gives a sense of accomplishment"

"I liked that I got to build things and learn new skills"

5) **Types of 'Other Activity'** carried out as part of an Unpaid Work Requirement. You may want to comment on the impact of completing Other Activities, for individuals or for the community. (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

All unpaid work participants attend an induction whereby they receive information about 'other activity' and the opportunity to participate remains available throughout their Order. Justice services collaborated with Third Sector providers to offer flexible, person-centred opportunities designed specifically to enable participants to learn new practical skills, including skills to improve their circumstances and live crime free

lives. 'Other activity' is designed to offer inputs that suits all needs and abilities and examples of provision included:

- Employability support; CV preparation, job searching, interview and presentation skills, disclosure of offences
- Personal empowerment; emotional wellbeing, physical health, overcoming life challenges
- Active citizenship; emotions, thoughts, and behaviours, dealing with conflict and building positive networks
- Understanding stress and anxiety
- Paediatric First Aid
- Diet and healthy eating
- Benefits and budgeting
- Alcohol and drugs educational sessions
- Understanding gambling and addiction
- Home energy advice

'Other activity' was delivered flexibly through a combination of online 1:1 mentoring and group supports and tutored and non-tutored activities with supported learning were available during office hours, evenings, and weekends. 'Other activity' contained specific inputs to address offending behaviour and to increase pro-social attitudes and perspectives; empowering participants to build resilience and in turn contribute to safer communities.

Feedback from those undertaking 'other activity' included:

"The main thing I will take away is how to resolve anger issues in a positive way"

"I understand now how to look at and understand a job application and how to put down relevant experience that I have for the job in a clear way"

"I have developed different coping tools to overcome anxiety in a good way"

"The session helped me to open up and realise that I'm not on my own"

"I learnt a lot about how certain foods affect my mood, I suffer from depression so I will take all of this on board"

6) Summary of feedback, may include quotes, from beneficiaries **about the impact of Unpaid Work on the community.** (Bullet point will suffice. Max 300 words.)

Beneficiaries of unpaid work provided the following feedback in relation to:

- *Nature strips in the south of Edinburgh - "The community benefitted by having an improved green environment"*
- *Volunteer for a Friends of Parks Group – "community payback has helped carrying water to plants, cutting down saplings, collecting and distributing bark, removing weeds and cleaning gutters; performing tasks which were beyond the capabilities of our volunteers"*
- *Currie Community Council – "helped set up our fair, did odd jobs at our community centre and they did a good job, were supervised very well, and always polite; I feel it does benefit the community"*
- *Edinburgh Tenants Federation – "Willowbrae removal of branches and tidying of open space complex work was done very well and is a real benefit to our residents and community". "Hailesland Park snow clearing during bad weather was carried out well and benefitted all people in our area"*
- *Craigmillar Now - "Craigmillar Now is a community-led charity and we have*

relied heavily on the work of the Community Payback team to get our work off the ground. Without the hard work of the team over the last few months our outdoor spaces would be overgrown and inaccessible. Instead, they are tidy, welcoming, and safe and have been used by many people in the community at a time where opportunities to meet outdoors in pleasant surroundings has been extremely important. The improvements to the outdoor space have been fantastic. We feel the Community Payback team has repaid the community and are very grateful to have received this support - thank you!"

7) What **organisational challenges** have there been in completing orders effectively this year, both those with Unpaid Work and those with Supervision Requirements? Issues may or may not be related to the covid pandemic. (Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words.)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the restrictions on face-to-face contact and the need for social distancing continued to present a key organisational challenge. To continue to offer an effective service to those completing CPOs, and to facilitate group work interventions, it was necessary to make adaptations to buildings and other workspaces so that practical workshops could be delivered safely. Although adaptations were made to existing Council venues, there was a particular challenge relating to delivering activity workshops safely during the winter months when bad weather made outdoor work impractical and potential beneficiaries were unable to accommodate additional visitors to their buildings.

Additionally, the restrictions impacted on accessible transport for people attending unpaid workshops as the Council was unable to use its vehicles to transport groups of individuals to workshop locations. To address this and to ensure the continued operation of the unpaid work activity, justice services hired a large hall, accessible by public transport, between December 21 and March 22 to accommodate the service and enable staff to deliver the workshops safely and in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

For other non-practical intervention activity, group work numbers were limited to comply with social distancing requirements. In relation to supervision, the main focus was to maintain contact with individuals and to prioritise higher need/risk appointments face to face.

Additionally, staff had to manage CPO participants wellbeing concerns in relation to COVID-19 as well as ensuing colleagues supervising and delivering unpaid work projects remained connected and supported during those periods of increased restrictions and remote working.

Latterly, there have been recruitment challenges including high staff turnover, and work is ongoing to address these issues.

8) Outline the **main barriers, if any, to accessing community support and wider services** (eg drug and alcohol services, mental health services). How have these barriers been addressed?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the requirements for physical distancing placed additional burdens on service delivery particularly in relation to group work and face

to face appointments. To manage this, and where possible, a blended approach was adopted for example, alternating face to face meetings with telephone contacts. Appointments for those presenting higher risk and need continued to be prioritised, including home visits where this was necessary to achieve effective supervision. Throughout this time, essential health services such as medication prescribing for people subject to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders, remained operational and accessible.

Barriers were addressed through delivering services either at reduced capacity or differently for example, online interactions, telephone appointments, meetings outdoors, and 'walk and talk' check in supports for those where this was appropriate, while ensuring crisis interventions were available for urgent assistance.

To overcome digital poverty, justice services purchased mobile telephones and Third Sector organisations supported people to maintain contact through supplying them with other digital resources such as tablets where required. For those who preferred workbooks to online resources, that option was available. Third Sector service providers adapted their interventions to suit the individual's circumstances for example offering mental health supports in a variety of formats such as self-help tools, tutored group supports, and 1:1 mentoring programmes.

9) Is there **any other relevant information** you wish to highlight? For example, this may include:

- Areas for improvement and planned next steps
- New ways of working and benefits achieved from these.
- Examples of work carried out in collaboration with community justice partners and wider community partners, including the third sector, to deliver CPOs

(Bullet points will suffice. Max 300 words).

Areas for improvement and next steps

Staff working in the unpaid work teams would benefit from structured, focussed training provided nationally.

Staff within unpaid work teams are working on improving the lines of communication between them and supervising social workers given that they are based at different locations.

Justice services has also taken steps to increase the choice and flexibility of activity available for those undertaking unpaid work through introducing a new gardening skills project. This workshop will also be available to attend at weekends therefore will be particularly useful for those who may find it challenging to complete their unpaid work during traditional office hours. The project will also offer sustainable meaningful activity for those who wish to continue to participate in workshops beyond completion of their CPO.

New ways of working

The rapid upskilling required to meet the challenges of social distancing was a huge learning curve both for staff and people using services however, it has led to a blended approach to service delivery as described under section 8 above, which is both efficient and flexible to meet most needs and preferences.

Work carried out in collaboration with the Third Sector and partners

- Bicycle refurbishment, repair, and safety checking where those undertaking unpaid work are supervised and trained by a qualified bike mechanic from the [Bike Station](#)
- Mentoring interventions delivered by Shine (for women)
- Digital skills mentoring delivered by the Wise Group through its CPO Connect programme and covering employability, personal wellbeing, learning and citizenship
- CPO Men's Programme and separate Women's Programme delivered by Apex Scotland
- Co-locating staff members from Third Sector organisation CGL within existing services to improve co-ordination within justice supports for men and women subject to community payback

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