

COMMUNITY JUSTICE NEWS MORAY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MORAY COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP OCTOBER 2022

WHAT IS COMMUNITY JUSTICE?

‘COMMUNITY JUSTICE IS WHERE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BROKEN THE LAW ARE HELD TO ACCOUNT AND SUPPORTED TO RECONNECT AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES’

Community Justice Scotland



WHO ARE WE?

The Moray Community Justice Partnership was formed in 2017. It comprises national and local organisations, including Police Scotland, Moray Council, NHS Grampian, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Prison Service, Families Outside, Skills Development Scotland, TSI Moray and Victim Support

Scotland. All work together to reduce offending in Moray. The Partnership aims to improve outcomes for victims, witnesses and the wider community as well as helping those who have committed offences as they reintegrate into the community. This newsletter provides an over-

view of Community Justice activity in Moray between April 2021 and March 2022. A more detailed report in a format determined by the national oversight body, Community Justice Scotland, can be found on the Community Justice Partnership page at www.yourmoray.org.uk

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

A Community Payback Order is a sentence imposed by the Court. An Order can have different features: unpaid work, supervision, financial compensation to the victim, attendance at programme events (for drug and alcohol use), residence (requiring an individual to live at a particular address), conduct and treatment (for mental health, drug or alcohol use).

In 2021-22, 217 orders were issued to 179 people in Moray. This is a big increase on 2020-21 when 138 orders were issued to 117 individuals. This rise reflects the impact of the reopening of the Courts following extensive closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNPAID WORK

This is the most common type of Order and can comprise anything from 20 to 300 hours of unpaid work. This work can take many forms and will always benefit communities - clearing overgrown community paths, refurbishing sheds and benches and painting and decorating community areas.

In a survey of organisations and groups that benefited from this work, 100% said they were 'very satisfied' with the work undertaken and would 'definitely' use the service again. A survey of people undertaking unpaid work found that 86% thought that their work had benefitted the local community. Approximately 15,400 hours of unpaid work were undertaken in Moray in 2021-22. Examples of some of the projects that have benefitted from Unpaid Work can be found here: www.twitter.com/MorayUnpaidWork



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Part of a person's hours of unpaid work (up to 30% to a maximum of 30 hours) can comprise 'other activities'. These can include learning skills, such as help to complete a CV or preparing for a job interview. Finding employment is a key factor in reducing reoffending.

Other activities can also include engagement with money advice services, offshore skills, adult learning, public service vehicle and first aid training.

SUPERVISION

Supervision is the second most common form of Order. It requires people to attend regular supervision with a Justice Social Worker. Supervision aims to change the way people think and behave.

Of those people taking part in supervision who completed surveys, 90% indicated that their thinking and behaviour had changed during the course of supervision and 100% indicated that supervision had helped them to stop or reduce their offending.

EARLY & EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

Moray has a dedicated Youth Justice team that works closely with other agencies (Police, Fire Service and Education) using Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) to keep young people out of the Justice system.

In 2021-22, 212 young people aged 8-17 were diverted by Police Scotland to a range of agencies, including Youth Justice, to address the underlying

issues that contributed to their behaviour.

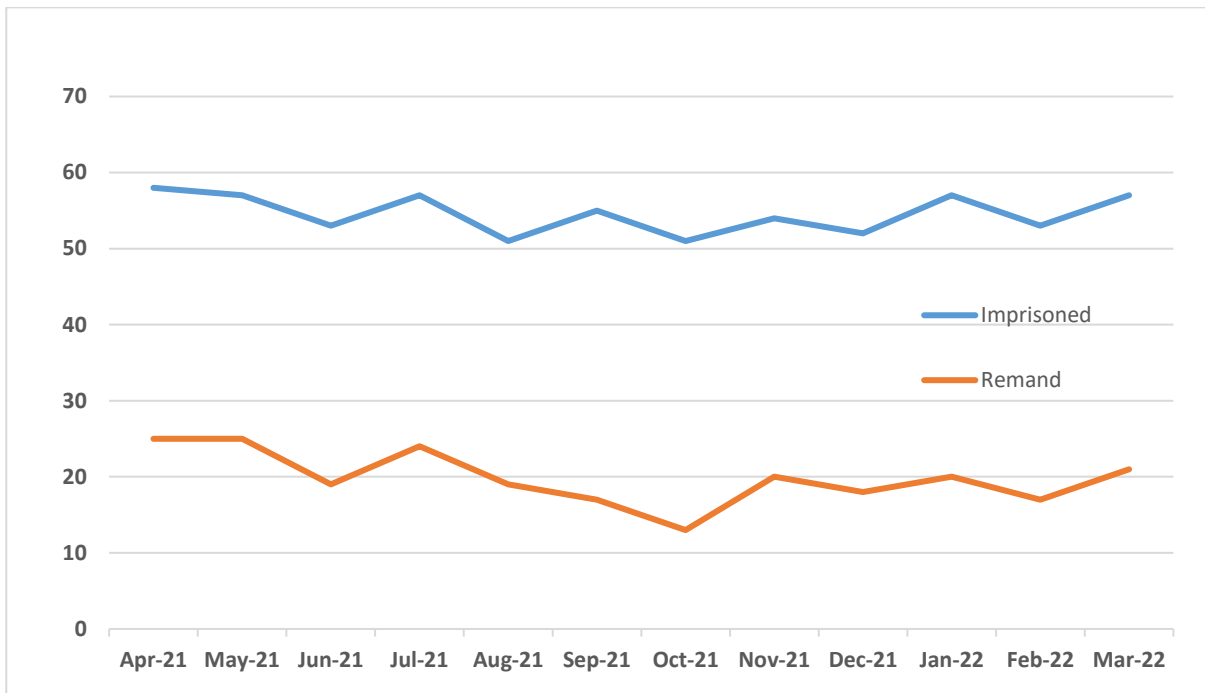
Statistics provided by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) show very few young people being referred to the Children's Reporter and Procurator Fiscal on Moray. This suggests that EEI is an effective tool in keeping young people out of the Justice system.

DIVERSION

For young people whose behaviour continues to be a concern, diversion from prosecution provides opportunities for them to engage in programme work with the Youth Justice team as an alternative to formal prosecution.

In surveys completed by young people undertaking diversion, 100% reported an improvement in the issues that had contributed to their offending behaviour and all agreed that Diversion had helped to stop them reoffending.

IMPRISONMENT



This chart shows the number of people from Moray who were in prison during 2021-22.

On average, one third of the people in prison are held there on remand. These are people who have not yet been convicted of an offence and are awaiting trial. People held in prison can be

housed in any of Scotland's prisons, making visits by family members difficult and expensive. 'Virtual visits' became more widespread during the COVID-19 pandemic and these have continued. Maintaining contact with family members helps people make a smooth transition when

they return to their community. Moray has agreements with the Scottish Prison Service to ensure that information is shared to enable services to prepare for an imminent release from prison. This aids planning and reduces instances of people presenting at services in a 'crisis' situation.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE

In 2021, the Community Justice Partnership commissioned a piece of research on Community Justice in Moray. This involved consulting widely with people who had committed offences, their family members, partner organisations and the wider community. It was undertaken by Families Outside and the Moray Wellbeing Hub and the findings were published in January 2022.. This work gave us a better understanding of what makes a difference for individuals at risk of offending or reoffending in Moray and will inform the development of our next improvement plan.

RISE

In March 2021, our Justice Social Work team created RISE ('Recovery, Inclusion, Skills, Energy') a Women's Group for clients of the Justice service. The group is open to women completing Community Payback Orders, Diversion from Prosecution, Structured Deferred Sentences and Drug Treatment and Testing Orders.

Initiated as a virtual group to provide support to women, many of whom are living in isolation with little or no access to other support services, early activities included issuing 'pamper packs' to clients to promote self-care, and training to help them make better use of technology and reduce their social isolation.

As COVID-19 restrictions eased, RISE began to meet outdoors, with a focus on improving the



wellbeing of the group. They utilised Moray's beautiful scenery to hold walking, photography and cycling events. Other activities include growing vegetables in a polytunnel and 'Nourish' sessions provided by Moray Food Plus.

The 'Nourish' sessions developed cooking skills, nutritional advice and explored the impact of food choices on health.

These links to other organisations and activities have provided pathways for women to move onto when their engagement with Justice Social Work comes to an end.

Building on the success of RISE, a Men's Group that follows similar principles has been launched.

and SHINE

SHINE is a mentoring service that provides support to women who are serving a prison sentence of less than four years, are on remand or who are completing a Community Payback Order. A dedicated mentor provides one-to-one support and helps women address issues in their lives, including those that contributed to offending behaviour.

In Moray, the service is delivered by the Scottish Community Justice charity, SACRO. Women are referred to SHINE by the Scottish Prison Service and Moray's Justice Social Work team.

Photographs courtesy of Community Justice Scotland



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MORAY COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP
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