

EL Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-2024 SUMMARY

This is a summary version of the **Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2021/24** and it contains the key activities (our improvement actions) being delivered by the Community Justice Partnership and workstreams.

What is Community Justice? In short, it is a way of working that supports people to prevent them from offending or to help them reduce their offending by addressing the underlying causes of their behaviour (often trauma related). There is a big focus on helping those who have offended by reintegrating them back into their communities. The community justice ethos is about do things differently to help people end the cycle of crime, homelessness, poor mental health, addiction and domestic violence/ abuse.



East Lothian Community Justice Partnership has 3 supporting workstreams:

1. **Community Engagement** – promotes and raises awareness of community justice, the work of the Partnership and the range of services that can help people with experience of the justice system.
2. **Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending** – focuses on making sure people with convictions get access to the support they need while in prison or in the community. This includes support with housing issues, substance misuse, mental health, welfare rights and employability.
3. **Early Intervention and Prevention** – works to ensure the right services and programmes are in place to prevent young people from entering the justice system

Recent Community Justice Partnership Activities

- ✓ Reviewing the Reducing Reoffending Group - originally set up in 2016 to support the formation of the Partnership. This group was disbanded and the Workstreams on Community Engagement, Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending (GRRR) and Early Intervention and Prevention were formed. These Workstreams are reflective of the needs of people using services and promote multi-agency and partnership working at an operational level.
- ✓ Undertaking a supported Self-Evaluation and Validation process in partnership with the Care Inspectorate. This process allowed the Partnership to take a reflective look at its work and its aspirations going forward. The findings from the self-evaluation process have helped the development of even more ambitious aims. A copy of the Care Inspectorate Validation letter can be found [here](#).
- ✓ Queen Margaret University (a key partner) compiled a Community Justice Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) which highlighted key issues the Partnership needed to reflect in this Plan.

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- ✓ Completing the Annual Reporting Returns for Community Justice Scotland which highlight the work undertaken across a broad range of service areas by community justice partners.

East Lothian Community Justice Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2021/ 24

This plan details our ambitions to improve the lives of people wherever they are on the justice pathway - working with children and young people to prevent them entering the justice system, with people who have convictions to help them move away from offending behaviour, with the families of people who have offended and supporting the victims of crime. We want our communities to continue to be and feel safe and this plan sets out how this will be achieved by detailing our approach to 'smarter justice – better outcomes' and using the workstreams to deliver on key improvement actions.

Smarter Justice – Better Outcomes

We know we want to start working with people long before they have been charged with a crime and before their behaviour escalates to that identified within their communities as antisocial or criminal. Therefore our approach to 'smarter justice - better outcomes' will focus on:

1. Training and Development - we will work with partners to develop a programme of community justice related training that supports a shared understanding of our community justice ethos around Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma informed practice, whole system approaches and Severe and Multiple Disadvantage.
2. Lived Experience – we want to do more than hear the voices of people with lived experience, we want them to work with us to design and deliver services that meet their needs.
3. Peer Mentoring - we will work with our 3rd Sector partners to develop and deliver a peer mentoring support service for young people at risk of offending and adults who have offended.
4. Equally Safe Priority 4 – we will work to support Scotland's strategy to take action on all forms of violence against women and girls.

Community Engagement Workstream Actions

1. Create a shared vision for Community Justice in East Lothian
2. Define the language used in Community Justice in both internal and external communications
3. Devise and deliver a Communication Strategy for a range of audiences that shares the vision and key messages of Community Justice

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4. Maintain the East Lothian Council Community Justice webpage
5. Develop an 'Information Hub' webpage to keep the community updated on developments
6. Develop a Community Justice eLearning module to increase community understanding and knowledge of the key issues and messages
7. Develop a Custody Release Information Pack for distribution prior to release from custody (with the GRRR Workstream)
8. Profile and increase the visibility of the valuable contributions that people undertaking Community Payback Orders (CPOs) make to local communities
9. Access funding to deliver Community Justice priorities
10. Give a voice to people with experience of the justice system
11. Provide and publish Annual Reports relating Community Payback Orders and the Justice Social Work Service

Getting it Right to Reduce Reoffending Actions

1. The Prepare a Housing and Homelessness Strengths & Needs Assessment (HHSNA) to guide and direct provision across the County
2. Develop a Custody Release Information Pack for distribution prior to release from custody (with Community Engagement Workstream)
3. Introduce a homelessness prevention approach for people leaving prison to increase pre-release accommodation planning
4. Implement SHORE Standards across all tenures
5. Implement Housing First so vulnerable service users with a history of convictions can sustain tenancies
6. Implement National Housing Options Toolkit
7. Deliver the First Phase of the Social Security Scotland "Outreach Operational Programme" to improve access to support
8. Deliver the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS – Access to Industry) - interventions for people with convictions who are seeking entry into Employment, Training and Education (ETE)
9. Deliver alternative ETE opportunities for people with convictions further along the Skills Pipeline (East Lothian Works)
10. Instigate a multi-agency process to support and plan for the release of all convicted prisoners who identify East Lothian as their place of residence
11. Convene TRANSFORM bi-monthly meetings
12. Review CONNECT to re-establish the Women's Service as a co-facilitated provision
13. Using shared resources recruit a dedicated SMS Social Worker to improve access to substance misuse and associated services from the Esk Centre for people with convictions who require a housing first approach

Early Intervention and Prevention Actions

1. Early Intervention in Education - dedicated officers working in secondary school with a remit across cluster primaries to provide pupil support
2. Embed the Youth Crime Oversight Group (YCOG) model of Community Resource Groups – focus on preventing entry into the justice system
3. Explore options for developing a missing children and young people pathway with partner agencies, to reduce risk of harm or offending and reduce pressure on resources
4. Reinstate Social Work lead Restorative Justice in East Lothian for young people with convictions and their victims
5. Implement Early Effective Intervention in line with the Whole Systems Approach for youth offending
6. Deliver the Fireskills Training Programme in secondary schools across the County
7. Instigate and promote The Wellbeing Academy to improve pupil and staff capacity to manage mental ill-health and wellbeing
8. Deliver the MYPAS project to provide individual support to address criminal behaviour and substance misuse
9. Deliver 'Engage Befriending' (by Volunteer Centre East Lothian) for hard to reach 8-14 year olds
10. Develop an offence-focused module for delivery by JSW to service users as part of Diversion from Prosecution interventions
11. Develop Structured Deferred Sentences as a credible sentencing option
12. Develop in-house modules relating to welfare need and/or social inclusion to be delivered as part of 'other activity' for those subject to Community Payback Orders
13. Secure monthly workshop presentations from 3rd Sector and other Public Bodies to increase access to vital services for those subject to JSW statutory management
14. Convene, Chair and/or attend Risk Management Case Conferences and Level 2 and 3 cases in line with the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements