

Agenda Item	13.
Report No	CPPB/15/26



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership

Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd

na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Community Planning Partnership Board – 12 June 2026

Title of report – Highland Community Justice Partnership Interim Report, June 2026

Report by – James Maybee (HCJP Independent Chair), Kevin Flett (HCJP Manager)

Report Classification (tick as appropriate):

Strategic Priority: People Place Prosperity

Cross-Cutting Theme (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting People and Places | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment / Employability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whole Family and Community-Based Approaches | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Approaches to Commissioning | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Wealth Building |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aligning Partnership Practices | |

Report Purpose (tick as appropriate):

- For Noting For Approval For Decision For Comment

Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- i) Note the contents of this report.

Executive Summary

This interim report provides an outline of the work of the Highland Community Justice Partnership (HCJP) for the year 2025 – 2026 to date. It will be followed by submission of the Partnership's Annual Return 2025 – 2026 to Community Justice Scotland (CJS) in September 2026, and publication of the HCJP Annual Report in December 2026, which will include information on the performance of local partners in progressing delivery of the National Aims and Priority Actions within the National Strategy for Community Justice.

The report is structured around the four aims of the National Strategy, providing a narrative about the activities of the HCJP, highlighting strengths and challenges, with a focus on priorities identified for the coming year.

1.	Background
1.1	<p>The Highland Community Justice Partnership (HCJP) was established in accordance with the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016. Uniquely, HCJP is hosted by the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) since its inception. Support of £62,500 is paid out to the local authority from 1 April each year as part of the annual General Revenue Grant in order to '<i>support local collaborative working arrangements across Community Justice Partnerships</i>'. In Highland an additional part-time post of Senior Development Officer (SDO) has been funded by Justice Social Work (JSW), which has underpinned much of the development work reflected in this report.</p>
1.2	<p>Under section 23 of the Act, CJPs must prepare a public facing report to be published by the end of December each year. The Annual Report must provide evidence of progress towards the delivery of the National Aims and Priority Actions within the National Strategy for Community Justice. In addition, CJPs must complete an Annual Return, normally in September, to support Community Justice Scotland (CJS) in the preparation of their Outcome Activity Annual Report.</p>
1.3	<p>With the Annual Return and Annual Report reporting activity in the full preceding year, the information in this report provides an interim reflection on the period April 2025 – March 2026.</p> <p>Statistical information is not normally provided by CJS until November, so will not be reflected here, although trend data (Appendix 1) is included to provide some context. The body of the report is structured in accordance with the National Aims, against which the Partnership's progress is measured (Appendix 2).</p>
2.	Aim 1. Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity
2.1	<p>Diversion from Prosecution (DfP) allows prosecutors to refer individuals to support or treatment to address underlying causes of offending. In practice this will normally involve Procurators Fiscal referring an accused person to Justice Social Work, if they believe this is in the public interest. JSW will undertake an assessment (including an assessment of risk) and prepare an individualised programme which may include elements such as Decider Skills, SMART (Self-Management and Recovery Training) or other community-based interventions. On completion the Procurator Fiscal will receive a report, which, if satisfactory, means the individual is diverted from prosecution with no conviction recorded.</p> <p>DfP can involve a range of professionals in the process. The Standard Police Report will provide information on suitability. For young people, assessment will be undertaken by the Youth Action Team and involve the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA).</p> <p>DfP is one area of focus for the HCJP Diversions and Interventions Delivery Group. Amongst the challenges addressed by the group have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the length of time for diversions to come through to JSW - the suitability of referrals (there is evidence that diversion is more effective for young people and for those with less offending history) - the need for clarification as to how central marking of cases impacts on the type of referral made for assessment.

	<p>In addition to the use of DfP, Police Scotland have powers to consider alternatives to prosecution in accordance with the Lord Advocate’s guidance on the use of Direct Measures.</p> <p>In spite of the challenges, the trend data indicates continuing improvement in the assessment, commencement and completion of DfP in Highland.</p> <p>It is also helpful to note that HCJP partners are mindful of the negative perceptions that the use of DfP can engender amongst victims and survivors of crime. Over the year JSW colleagues met with colleagues from Victim Support Scotland to discuss the use of diversions and of community sentencing more generally in order to mutually enhance understanding.</p>
2.2	<p>The provision of person-centred care within police custody is well developed in Highland. Data collection is at an early stage, but in 2024 – 2025, the 121 referrals made from police custody settings across Highland for support for individuals, amounted to 12% of all such referrals across Scotland.</p> <p>Within the custody suite at Burnett Road in Inverness, there is effective partnership working between Police custody staff, the NHS custody nursing team and the third-sector Custody Link Worker project.</p> <p>This interaction between partners offers an opportunity to begin addressing issues such as drug and alcohol use, mental health, physical health, housing and homelessness, finance and poverty (including food poverty) and family circumstances (including the needs of children and others being cared for).</p> <p>Police Scotland invested in upgrading the facilities in the custody suite 2024 – 2025. The upgrade work caused some disruption during the year, but benefits of the improvements are now being felt.</p> <p>NHS Highland reviewed their provision within the custody setting and introduced changes in structure and personnel with the service now delivered by advanced nurse practitioners. The review included service delivery in Wick, where the context requires a different model based on the use of a trigger checklist and screening tool.</p> <p>Another challenge raised over the year was the impact of custody on young people, especially within more remote settings. There were concerns over the delay in cases being dealt with by courts, which coupled with issues of transport and supervision of vulnerable young people in custody, places great strain on the young people themselves, and the professionals tasked with supporting and supervising them. The numbers are low (estimated at around six young people a year) but the impact is severe. Whilst work with people under 18 is outwith the formal remit of the CJP, there has been a commitment to work collaboratively with partners, especially regarding the needs of 16-17 year olds in the context of the implementation of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024.</p>
3.	<p>Aim 2. Ensure that robust ... community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available</p>
3.1	<p>The use of bail as an alternative to remand was identified as a challenging area in Highland. The trend data, particularly around completion, is very limited, but comparison with national figures indicates that whilst the number of assessment reports in Highland are comparable, the number of commencements is very low</p>

	<p>(6% of assessments in Highland become commencements compared to 26% nationally) and it follows that the number of completions compared to assessments is also low.</p> <p>Several steps were taken by members of the Diversions and Interventions Delivery Group to address these concerns. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved communication between partners (JSW now have a named single point of contact within the Police) - the Police reviewed their process for responding to breaches of bail, and communicating these to partners - JSW trialled a screening process of daily custody lists to reduce the risk of bail assessments being missed (however, it was concluded that this had no observable impact) <p>There was also ongoing effort to draw learning from other parts of Scotland. Any improvement will not be evident until the statistics for the year are complete; however, there is recognition that this is an ongoing challenge requiring focused effort into the coming year.</p>
3.2	<p>Whilst there is no nationally determined outcome associated with widening the use of electronic monitoring (EM)—the increased use of EM could strengthen bail supervision by balancing the need for community safety with the benefits of individuals maintaining family connections, employment and housing. EM technologies are available which have demonstrated benefit in other jurisdictions, including the use of GPS systems and remote alcohol monitoring. CJPs have limited ability to affect the development of EM, as the contract is managed centrally. However, CJS have, in the course of the year, used their powers to issue a National Improvement Recommendation to Scottish Government on EM.</p>
3.3	<p>In Highland there is a wide range of options offered for community sentencing, delivered by JSW, at times in partnership with third sector partners. The national indicator is linked to the delivery and completion of Community Payback Orders (CPOs), with the trend indicating consistently high levels of completion as well as a steady return to pre-covid levels of the number of CPOs ended.</p> <p>CPOs can incorporate a range of requirements. There are 10 in total, including unpaid work (the most used), supervision, programmes (including specialist programmes addressing domestic abuse or sexual offences) and treatment (including to address drug or alcohol use).</p> <p>Also available in Highland, and overseen in partnership between JSW and the NHS, are Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO). The DTTO is an intensive intervention, and the trend indicates some fluctuation in the percentage of those successfully completing. This fluctuation reflects the relatively small numbers who are sentenced to undertake a DTTO, but also that completion numbers can run from one recording year into the next. Beyond the data, practitioners point to a reduction in drug use and offending behaviour, along with improved health and well-being in most, if not all clients.</p>
3.4	<p>The final community intervention included in the National Strategy relates to the provision of Restorative Justice (RJ). The strategic ambition of the availability of</p>

	<p>RJ across Scotland has not yet been underpinned with the resources necessary to deliver this, and there is no national indicator.</p> <p>It was agreed by the CJP that as part of the remit of the Senior Development Officer, time would be given to explore potential options for delivering RJ here, believing that such a provision could bring benefit to those who had been harmed by crime, as well as those who had caused harm.</p> <p>A Working Group was formed which, in partnership with UHI, delivered a Restorative Justice event in September, using impactful drama and a number of informative presentations to open up discussion on the subject.</p> <p>Subsequently there was growing interest amongst CJP partners and beyond. The working group went on to consider options for delivering RJ locally. With the lack of funding any initiative is envisaged to be a pilot project rather than a service, to assess innovative delivery models within different Highland contexts (adult justice services, prison-based settings, youth justice services and community settings). Several RJ practitioners were trained, building on strong collaboration with CJS and with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice, linked to Strathclyde University.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Aim 3. Ensure that services are available and accessible to address the needs of those accused or convicted of an offence</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The formation of the Transitions and Communities Delivery Group has supported ongoing development in this area.</p> <p>Within HMP Inverness the Highland Community Integration Plan continued to be used to coordinate services offering support to prisoners who are approaching transition back to their communities—this is primarily for those living in the inner Moray Firth area who have known drug or alcohol issues. The process is comprehensive, addressing health, housing and employment issues. One challenge faced by many leaving prison was being able to sign up with a local GP practice, which could also have knock on effects on continuing alcohol and drug treatment or support with mental health issues. The Scottish Government issued fresh guidance removing from GPs the option to use being in prison as reasonable grounds for refusing registration.</p> <p>An increasing challenge within SPS has been the number of individuals who require care and support packages and end of life care. The ability to develop facilities in the current prison is limited; however, this will be addressed in the development of HMP Highland, scheduled to open in late 2026.</p> <p>As part of a HCJP self-evaluation exercise in February, housing was identified as a challenging aspect of the transition process, and a number of steps have been agreed to address this, including ensuring that both housing providers and housing support providers are fully included in the pre-liberation processes and SPS training would be made available to partners to address housing issues. Unfortunately, during the year Albyn Housing ceased to offer its FitHome provision for individuals leaving prison which had previously proved to be of real benefit to more vulnerable individuals who had left prison.</p> <p>Also identified as an area for improvement is the transition from prison to residential rehabilitation. There was initial exploration of possible collaboration</p>

	<p>between the prison and CrossReach in creating pathways that will be more supportive to individuals during the transition process. During the year the rehab wing in the prison was reopened, with a clearer focus on reintegration. Whilst the trend indicates a slight reduction in the number of individuals transferring from prison to community rehabilitation, generally the numbers are stable.</p> <p>A key national policy driver during the year was the implementation of Emergency Early Release initiatives. It will not be possible to assess the impact of these on the range of transition processes until analysis has been completed, however the immediate impact on the prison population has been very limited. The population at Inverness Prison has at different times exceeded 140 (against a capacity of 93). This impacts on the delivery of prison-based initiatives to support education, rehabilitation and other programmes.</p> <p>Addressing barriers facing individuals leaving prison and who have a criminal record was also addressed by the Delivery Group, which provides a forum for partners across the spectrum who have a focus on education, employability and employment opportunities. This includes statutory partners such as Skills Development Scotland, the Department of Work and Pensions and Highland Council Employability Service, private sector employers such as Amey and Balfour Beatty, Third Sector partners, including those developing innovative approaches to address the challenges faced, such the Scottish Drugs Forum and education partners including UHI.</p> <p>Over the year, coordination of learning opportunities within the prison was passed to People Plus, a UK wide employability organisation with significant previous experience of delivery in prisons across England and Wales.</p>
4.2	<p>One of the most impactful developments over the year was the introduction of Upside, the National Voluntary Throughcare service, commissioned by CJS on behalf of the Scottish Government. SACRO coordinates the service nationally, which is a partnership between a number of third sector partners. In Highland (which is part of the North 'Pod') the service is delivered by Turning Point Scotland, with team members based both in the prison and in the community.</p> <p>The trend information indicates how challenging an area this had become across Scotland. Full figures are not yet available for 2025 – 2026, but by December 2025 Upside reported having received 101 referrals. One area of success was that all 40 of those referred who were at risk of homelessness were successfully accommodated on release.</p> <p>There were ongoing challenges for voluntary throughcare. For example, prisoners liberated through the tranches of the Emergency Early Release programme became a priority due to the imminence of their liberation. A further challenge in Highland was that around 50% of supported individuals were accommodated in prisons outside the Highland area making relationship-building and resource allocation difficult (for example, a whole day can be spent visiting a prisoner in the central belt prior to release).</p> <p>It is testimony to the professionalism and dedication of all partners that the integration of the new service has been so effective, this included coordination with statutory throughcare services provided by JSW for individuals serving</p>

	<p>sentences of more than four years who were released with particular conditions and restrictions. JSW are also required to offer voluntary throughcare to any prisoner for up to 12 months post-release who is not subject to statutory throughcare (i.e. a prison licence). An agreement was reached between Upside and JSW to avoid duplication.</p>
5.	Aim 4. Strengthen leadership, engagement and partnership working
5.1	<p>The HCJP agreed new structures in 2024 – 2025, which were fully embedded during 2025 – 2026. The revised Terms of Reference were agreed by the CPP Board in June 2026. The creation of the two Delivery Groups brought greater focus to the work of the CJP, with the Strategic Group delivering a strong leadership role and providing guidance and structure to the Delivery Groups. The strategic direction and delivery priorities have become more closely aligned to the National Strategy for Community Justice, streamlining reporting to CJS and creating clearer lines of accountability.</p> <p>More closely aligned planning has underpinned the HCJP’s ability to identify areas for development, particularly when set alongside the CJS s26 Report (progress towards national outcomes) which is published in November each year. This clarity will also support our local planning processes, particularly when coming to review the Highland Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (HCJOIP). The current plan ends in 2029, but it is anticipated this will be brought forward to better align with recent structural developments.</p> <p>For the first time, the HCJP undertook a self-evaluation exercise in February which was helpful in identifying delivery priorities for 2026 – 2027. It has been agreed that we expand this exercise to facilitate wider reflection next year.</p> <p>In Highland there are good connections across a range of partnerships, with several partners represented in different strategic and operational bodies. Of note is the positive relationship with the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (HADP) with whom the HCJP has several shared priorities.</p> <p>There were still some gaps in representation on the HCJP; however, there was a degree of understanding that the pattern of meetings does not make it easy for all partners to attend (for example for those who are tied to the structures and timetables of the court system). Planning for the coming year will introduce greater flexibility in terms of the timing and location of meetings. The final meeting of 2025 – 2026 was online, with good attendance and a strategically focused agenda.</p>
5.2	<p>Gaps had been identified in our engagement with both victims (survivors) of crime and with those who have lived experience of the justice system. HCJP team members welcomed the opportunity to meet with colleagues from Inverness Women’s Aid, and from Victim Support Scotland. As mentioned above was a meeting between JSW managers and VSS team members to share insights and perspectives around such things as community sentencing, diversion from prosecution and victims’ experiences of the court system.</p> <p>Some initial work was done by the SDO to undertake engagement with those who have lived experience of the justice system. This was facilitated by the JSW Manager with responsibility for the CPO teams, and supported by the Scottish</p>

	<p>Drugs Forum, an organisation with significant experience in the field of engagement, and who already undertake this work on behalf of the HADP. This ongoing development is amongst the HCJP's priorities for the coming year.</p>
5.3	<p>In addressing stigma and improving public understanding of and confidence in community justice, there are two initiatives to note from across the year. The SDO has continued to engage with partners and with the wider public through expanded use of social media and ongoing involvement with community groups, local development trusts and others.</p> <p>The second initiative has been undertaken by colleagues in JSW who have planned and delivered several open days. The first was in Wick in September, followed by others across Highland. These have brought in community members, representatives from Community Councils, professionals from across council and NHS services, Community Groups and others. Through a process of dialogue, presentation and conversation there has been improved public awareness, as well as better understanding on the part of professionals of public perceptions and how these are reinforced by often unsympathetic media and uninformed social media.</p>
6.	Risks and Mitigations
	<p>The CJP supports the strategic priority set out in the Scottish Government's Vision for Justice (2022) that prison should be reserved for those at risk of causing serious harm. On 6 May the prison population in Scotland hit 8,531 which includes an acute remand population crisis (c.30%). This places SPS in a '<i>negative space</i>' position, resulting in a real and imminent risk to people within their care and the staff who support them. This risk is likely to manifest as increased violence, substance misuse, mental health needs and a lack of ability to meet the legislative obligations of those in custody.</p> <p>To help mitigate this risk, the CJP is committed to promoting a community-first approach. Why? Because the research evidence is that this is more effective than prison, particularly for short-term prisoners (<12months)—reconviction rates in Scotland 2021–22 Offender Cohort: 43% custodial sentence vs 28% CPOs. The CJP will focus on increased use of diversionary measures, bail, community orders etc. and in addition will consider the impact and use of breach proceedings instigated by JSW, information and routine meetings with local Judiciary (e.g. the June CJP meeting is in the Justice Centre with shrieval attendance), bail accommodation, and the high number of FTA Warrant appearances from custody.</p> <p>The CJP has also started to consider the many recommendations from <i>Justice That Works: Report of the Scottish Sentencing and Penal Policy Commission</i> (2026) which was established to examine how Scotland can achieve a sustainable prison population, to ask what is working, what is not and why, and how we can build a justice system that better serves the people of Scotland, in terms of the applicability to Highland, e.g. increase the use of fiscal work orders.</p>
7.	Resource Implications
7.1	Financial or staffing – none

Impact Assessment

The impacts of the work of the HCJP are viewed to be generally positive, namely:

- Better health and social outcomes for those on justice pathways
- Improved, evidence led partnership working, focused on reducing offending and reoffending
- Greater accountability of justice partners in delivering on the actions and outcomes of the National Strategy and local priorities
- Enhanced understanding of community justice across wider Highland communities

In the future revision of the HCJOIP, it is anticipated that a full Impact Assessment will be required, particularly around the impact of developments on those who access services and the impact on equality and human rights for residents of Highland.

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Date: 26 May 2026

Appendices:

Appendix 1

Highland CJP Trend Data for 2025-2026

Appendix 2

National Strategy for Community Justice Table of National Aims and Priority Actions

Appendix 1.

Local Authority Name: Highland

Date sent: Apr-2026

The trend data to 2024-25 below is to support improvement planning for 2025-26. The third reporting year on the CJPF will be 2025-26, and further data relating to 2025-26 will be sent out via email links during June to September 2026 when it is officially published.

This trend data supersedes any previous versions as there may have been revision to figures. This is normal for CPO and DTTOs, please check original publication for reasons for change.

[n] - information was not collected for this year

[u] - it was not possible for organisation to provide the information.

[c] - information was suppressed by the producers of the statistics

[z] - means it has been disclosure controlled and this figure lies between 1 and 4.

Please refer to latest guidance when reporting this data.

[Community Justice Performance Framework 2025.](#)

National Outcome: High level national indicator

Disposal grouping split

Year	Local Authority [note 1, note 2]	Community	Custody	Monetary	Other Disposals
2017-18	Highland	12.1%	7.0%	36.1%	44.8%
2018-19	Highland	11.8%	8.1%	35.4%	44.8%
2019-20	Highland	13.8%	5.8%	34.2%	46.2%
2020-21	Highland	11.2%	5.2%	42.3%	41.3%
2021-22	Highland	10.2%	5.1%	45.4%	39.2%
2022-23	Highland	12.6%	5.5%	43.8%	38.1%
2023-24	Highland	13.8%	6.5%	41.8%	38.0%
2024-25	Highland	13.9%	6.8%	41.6%	37.8%

Number of all charges relating to disposal



Only percentages to be published in reports. The number is to put percentages into context. The numbers are only be released to support community justice planning. Publishing both may break disclosure control measures of previously published data.

National Outcome: More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution

Number of diversion from prosecution:

assessments undertaken

cases commenced

cases successfully completed

Year	Local Authority [note 3]	assessments undertaken	cases commenced	cases successfully completed
2015-16	Highland	61	40	21
2016-17	Highland	89	46	36
2017-18	Highland	76	43	34
2018-19	Highland	126	73	50
2019-20	Highland	102	75	56
2020-21	Highland	126	70	36
2021-22	Highland	159	71	68
2022-23	Highland	161	73	45
2023-24	Highland	279	112	79
2024-25	Highland	356	179	107

National Outcome: More people in police custody receive support to address their needs

Number of:

referrals from custody centres

Year	Local Authority [note 4]	number of referrals
2023-24	Highland	82
2024-25	Highland	121

Some local authorities are combined due to nature of data collection.

National Outcome: More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

Year	Local Authority [note 5]	assessment reports for bail suitability	bail supervision cases commenced	bail supervision cases completed
2015-16	Highland	n	4	n
2016-17	Highland	n	0	n
2017-18	Highland	n	1	n
2018-19	Highland	n	0	n
2019-20	Highland	n	2	n
2020-21	Highland	n	1	n
2021-22	Highland	n	1	n
2022-23	Highland	15	15	15
2023-24	Highland	386	31	28
2024-25	Highland	358	22	23

National Outcome: More people access services to support desistence and successfully complete community sentences

Percentage of:

- community payback orders (CPO) successfully completed

Year	Local Authority [note 6]	successfully completed	number of CPO ended in year minus those who were transferred out of area
2015-16	Highland	71%	536
2016-17	Highland	71%	556
2017-18	Highland	73%	536
2018-19	Highland	74%	605
2019-20	Highland	76%	561
2020-21	Highland	75%	374
2021-22	Highland	66%	409
2022-23	Highland	69%	388
2023-24	Highland	74%	426
2024-25	Highland	69%	487

Percentage of:

- drug treatment and testing orders (DTTO) successfully completed

Year	Local Authority [note 7]	successfully completed	number of DTTO ended in year minus those who were transferred out of area
2015-16	Highland	29%	14
2016-17	Highland	67%	12
2017-18	Highland	43%	14
2018-19	Highland	11%	9
2019-20	Highland	56%	9
2020-21	Highland	67%	12
2021-22	Highland	57%	21
2022-23	Highland	61%	18
2023-24	Highland	65%	23
2024-25	Highland	41%	17

National Outcome: More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from:
custody to community

Year	Alcohol and Drug Partnership [note 8]	number of transfers from prison to community
2022-23	Highland	36
2023-24	Highland	30
2024-25	Highland	29

National Outcome: More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence

Number of:
homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from

Year	Local Authority [note 9, note 10]	number of applications
2015-16	Highland	45
2016-17	Highland	55
2017-18	Highland	40
2018-19	Highland	35
2019-20	Highland	25
2020-21	Highland	30
2021-22	Highland	30
2022-23	Highland	25
2023-24	Highland	35
2024-25	Highland	50

National Outcome: More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

Percentage of:
those in employability services with convictions

Year	Local Authority [note 11]	Percentage
2022-23	Highland	n
2023-24	Highland	4.9%
2024-25	Highland	6.1%

Number
n
31
33

National Outcome: More people access voluntary throughcare following a short term prison sentence

Number of:

voluntary throughcare cases commenced

Year	Local Authority [note 12]	cases commenced
2015-16	Highland	149
2016-17	Highland	120
2017-18	Highland	87
2018-19	Highland	74
2019-20	Highland	78
2020-21	Highland	26
2021-22	Highland	35
2022-23	Highland	5
2023-24	Highland	1
2024-25	Highland	6

National Outcome: More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice

Percentage of people who agree that:

people should help their community as part of a community sentence rather than spend a few months in prison for a minor offence

Year	Area [note 13]	percentage who agreed	Significant Difference from previous year
2017-18	Scotland	84%	none
2018-19	Scotland	84%	none
2019-20	Scotland	83%	none
2021-22	Scotland	82%	none
2023-24	Scotland	83%	none
2024-25	Scotland	87%	significant

Notes:

[1] = Source: [Extract from Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard](#)

[2] = Disposal Grouping definitions

For ease of analysis disposals are grouped into four main categories:

- Community: Including Community Payback Orders (CPO), Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLO), Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO), Electronic Monitoring Orders and other community disposals not already menti
- Custody: Including Imprisonment, Detention in a Young Offenders Institution, Extended Sentences, Supervised Released Orders, Orders for Life Long Restriction (OLR) and Life Sentences.
- Monetary: Including fines and compensation.
- Other disposal: Any disposal which does not fall in any of the previous categories, including: admonishments, absolute discharge and a range of orders relating to mental health and other issues.

[3] = Source: [JSW local authority tables diversion from prosecution - part 1 - 2024-25](#)

[4] = Source: [National figures: Police Scotland Quarter 4 SPA performance Reports April 2023 to March 2024. Extract supplied at lower geography.](#)

[5] = Source: [JSW local authority tables up courts and bail - part 1 - 2024-25](#)

[6] = Source: [JSW local authority tables community payback orders - part 2 - 2024-25](#)

[7] = Source: [JSW local authority tables drug treatment and testing orders - part 2 - 2024-25](#)

[8] = Source: [National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times](#)

[9] = Source: [Prison Service Homelessness 2024-25](#)

[10] = Rounded to the nearest 5.

[11] = Source: [Scotland's devolved employment services: statistical summary July 2025](#)

[12] = Source: [JSW local authority tables throughcare - part 1 - 2024-25](#)

[13] = Source: [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey - associated data tables - modules A, B, C and D - 2017-18 to 2023-24](#)

Table of National Aims and Priority Actions

National aim	Priority action
1. Optimise the use of diversion and intervention at the earliest opportunity	1. Enhance intervention at the earliest opportunity by ensuring greater consistency, confidence in and awareness of services which support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution
	2. Improve the identification of underlying needs and the delivery of support following arrest by ensuring the provision of person-centred care within police custody and building upon referral opportunities to services including substance use and mental health services
2. Ensure that robust and high quality community interventions and public protection arrangements are consistently available across Scotland	3. Support the use of robust alternatives to remand by ensuring high quality bail services are consistently available and delivered effectively
	4. Strengthen options for safe and supported management in the community by increasing and widening the use of electronic monitoring technologies
	5. Ensure that those given community sentences are supervised and supported appropriately to protect the public, promote desistance from offending and enable rehabilitation by delivering high quality, consistently available, trauma-informed services and programmes
3. Ensure that services are accessible and available to address the needs of individuals accused or convicted of an offence	6. Ensure restorative justice is available across Scotland to all those who wish to access it by promoting and supporting the appropriate and safe provision of available services
	7. Enhance individuals' access to health and social care and continuity of care following release from prison by improving the sharing of information and partnership-working between relevant partners
	8. Ensure that the housing needs of individuals in prison are addressed consistently and at an early stage by fully implementing and embedding the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone (SHORE) standards across all local authority areas
	9. Enhance individual's life skills and readiness for employment by ensuring increased access to employability support through effective education, learning, training, career services and relevant benefit services
4. Strengthen the leadership, engagement, and partnership working of local and national community justice partners	10. Enhance community integration and support by increasing and promoting greater use of voluntary throughcare and third sector services
	11. Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically
	12. Enhance partnership planning and implementation by ensuring the voices of victims of crime, survivors, those with lived experience and their families are effectively incorporated and embedded
	13. Support integration and reduce stigma by ensuring the community and workforce have an improved understanding of and confidence in community justice