



**REPORT**

Item No: 15

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Community Payback Annual Report 2015-16
<b>TO:</b>	Integration Joint Board
<b>Lead Officer for Report:</b>	Janice Hewitt, Chief Accountable Officer
<b>Author(s) of Report</b>	Manager Justice Services
<b>DATE:</b>	23 Dec 2016

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Integration Joint Board about the Community Payback Annual Report 2015-16 and developments during 2016.

This paper is coming to the IJB

For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	For endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>	To note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**2. ROUTE TO THE BOARD**

This paper has been:

Prepared By; Liz Coates	Reviewed By;	Endorsed By ;
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**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Integrated Joint Board note the content of the Community Payback Annual report 2015-16.

**4. BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Section 227ZM of the Criminal (Procedure) Scotland Act 1995 imposes a duty on local authorities to submit annual reports on the operation of the CPO.
- 4.2 North Lanarkshire Community Payback Team aims to be a credible service which addresses offending behaviour, the risks and needs of the service user, is value for money and is community focussed. Our Communication Strategy raises awareness and confidence in the positive benefits of Community Payback and through meaningful community engagement we carry out unpaid work projects which have been identified as priorities by the community and make a positive impact for local residents and community groups.
- 4.3 During the 205-16 financial year, through partnership working and community consultation, the Community Payback Team carried out a wide range of environmental and community

projects involving service users who completed a total of 117,500 unpaid work hours. For example:

- Large scale projects involved supporting a family with two young children with autism. This involved the Community Payback Team undertaking specific landscaping work within the family's back garden to create a safe play area for the children. Over 4000 unpaid work hours were invested in this project.
- In August 2015 the Community Payback Team assisted with the placing of a Remembrance Stone for David Ross Lauder VC at Greengairs Parish Church. The memorial site was prepared by both service users subject to an Unpaid Work Order and several members from the Justice Veteran Service. Over 750 hours were invested in this Project and the 2 week timescale was met by the team.

4.4 The Community Payback Team continue to utilise a variety of charity shop placements across North Lanarkshire including the Salvation Army, Debra, Cancer Research, Helping Hand and Barnardos. In recognition of the excellent contribution of their input some of our service users have been asked to continue on a voluntary capacity once their unpaid work has ended.

4.5 In addition to the above the Community Payback Team has made increased efforts to utilise service users existing skills, interests and experience. Examples of these are captured below:

- Service users with joinery skills are provided with the opportunity to undertake a placement in the wood workshop assisting other service users to develop their skills.
- Service Users on Fiscal Work Orders have been using their existing skills within the Community. For example, four qualified painters and decorators have carried out work in church halls, people's homes and community centres. In addition to this 3 landscape gardeners have been undertaking work for Community Groups and Charitable Organisations.

4.6 As a means of developing service users new skills, significant developments in relation to the provision of unpaid work are also underway. These include the provision of a bike repair workshop, a computer skills workshop, a gardening machinery repair workshop and a home improvement workshop. Additionally a working kitchen, laundry room and craft workshop are available in the justice office in Wishaw. Such developments will provide service users with an opportunity to acquire new skills as well as repaying to the community. The cycle workshop became operational in November and attracted positive publicity both locally and nationally. Staff are currently being trained for the other new workshops which aim to be operational by Feb 2017.

4.7 All staff within the Unpaid Work team have been trained in the 'Outcome Star'. This framework enables staff to have a more focussed and structured way of engaging service users in a process of change. This tool also enables the collation of data which provides a means for measuring and reviewing the individuals agreed outcomes. For example, the Outcome Star visually highlights and identifies particular areas of improvement or deterioration in relation to the service users circumstances. The worker and service user meet on a regular basis to review the areas of support required which are then entered onto the computer system by the worker to produce data on outcomes.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The Community Payback Team will continue to work with communities to identify and provide support to a range of projects to benefit local communities.

At the same time justice staff will continue to develop a range of opportunities for service users. Justice staff will work with individual service users to identify their risks, strengths and needs to support them in the process of moving away from offending behaviour and reintegrate into their communities.

**6. IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1 NATIONAL OUTCOMES**

The Annual Report demonstrates North Lanarkshire Council Justice Services commitment to delivering the Person Centric Outcomes as outlined in the National Community Justice Outcome, Performance and Improvement Framework which was launched in Nov 2016:

- Life chances are improved through addressing needs, including health, financial inclusion housing and safety
- People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute
- through Education, employment and leisure activities individuals' resilience and capacity for change and self management are enhanced

**6.2 ASSOCIATED MEASURE(S)**

**6.3 FINANCIAL**

This paper has been reviewed by Finance:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**6.4 PEOPLE**

There are no significant future implications as a direct result of the Annual Report being published.

**6.5 INEQUALITIES**

EQIA Completed:

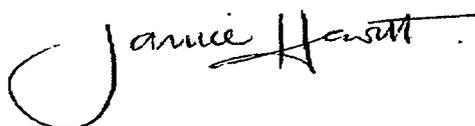
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**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**8. APPENDICES**

Community Payback Order Annual Report (Appendix 1)



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CHIEF ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER (or Depute)

Members seeking further information about any aspect of this report, please contact Alison Gordon on telephone number 01698 332004

# **COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT**

**FINANCIAL YEAR: 2015/16**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY: North Lanarkshire Council**

**Community  
Payback** 

**Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out; the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and information and examples that help to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work.**

The Community PayBack Team during 2015-2016 financial year have developed and provided a range of individual and groupwork placements. Alongside these placements the Team have utilised partnership working to increase the variety and availability of unpaid work opportunities for all service users. Within the twelve month period more than 117,500 hours of unpaid work has been undertaken. The local community have benefited from these hours through a wide range of environmental work being undertaken as well as supporting the community via specific projects, assisting charitable organisations and a range of activities as noted below. Work carried out consisted of both large scale projects and shorter term tasks.

**Work Undertaken within Communities:**

**Large Scale projects:**

- In 2015 a request was made to support a family with two young children with autism. This involved the Community Payback Team undertaking specific landscaping work within the family's backgarden to create a safe play area for the children. The redesign of this garden involved extensive work being carried out to specifically meet the needs of the children and their parents. For example, safe play areas were created alongside seating areas for the children as well as storage, raised beds and a shed so the family could enjoy the space and freedom that would give them peace of mind, some respite and somewhere that the children could play safely. A range of recycled materials were used to make this a comfortable, safe and less costly play area for the family. Over 4000 Unpaid Work hours were invested in this Project and one that the family viewed as being a huge success.
- In August 2015 the Community Payback Team were asked to assist with the placing of a remembrance stone for David Ross Lauder VC at Greengairs Parish Church. The memorial site was prepared by both service users subject to an Unpaid Work Order and several members from the Justice Veteran Service. Over 750 hours were invested in this Project and the 2 week timescale was met by the team.
- Following a request to support St Bridgids's Primary School in Newmains extensive work has been undertaken to support the children to learn about healthy living through the production of growing fresh fruit and vegetables. Over 2900 hours of unpaid work has been completed by the Community Payback Team to create vegetable patches, seating areas, potting sheds etc. The pupils from St Bridgid's School were also involved in the creation of this Project. It is positive to note that the children continue to be involved in the maintenance/upkeep of the Project.
- Between April 2015 and December 2015 a project at Holytown Primary School has successfully delivered 7900 hours of Unpaid Work. In partnership with the school the Community Payback Team have created a wildlife area that includes a pond, an outdoor classroom, a pirate ship and football goals. The surrounding outdoor area has been decorated with raised beds and several seating areas.

- The Wood Workshop within the Restorative Justice Team continues to provide a high volume of good quality play equipment and garden furniture for a range of community groups, local residents and schools. The individual projects for wooden equipment are designed in consultation with community groups and educational staff recognising the diversity of needs of all individuals within the community. This has greatly benefitted many outdoor spaces of organisations and residents within North Lanarkshire Communities. The projects have included a range of garden benches and other types of seating, garden sheds, wooden plant pots, gazebos and wooden fencing.
- The Clydesdale Market Garden and Townhead Allotments are supported by the Community Payback Team to produce a high volume of fresh fruit and vegetables which are grown, picked, washed, put into baskets and given to the local community. During May – September 80% of produce (220 baskets of fruit and vegetables) were given to childrens units, local community groups and sheltered housing complexes throughout North Lanarkshire Council. In addition to this over 60 hanging baskets have been handed out to the local community. Consideration has been given to developing the allotment area to include people from the local community becoming involved in the growing of their own produce. There are currently 5 local residents who have taken up this opportunity and secured a plot of land within the Townhead Allotments.

#### **Smaller Scale/Individual placements:**

- Some of the shorter term tasks have included 8000 hours of unpaid work being undertaken to support grass cutting and other types of gardening work for vulnerable individuals within sheltered housing complexes throughout North Lanarkshire. Further unpaid work has also included painting, litter picking and leaflet drops. Referrals for these projects have been received from Community Councils, Education, Regeneration Managers and local residents.
- 60 women have participated in the craft workshop where women continue to make a range of items such as knitted items of baby clothing and blankets, greeting cards, dream catchers and plant pots all of which are donated to charities and the local hospital. A Christmas Fayre was held on 16 December 2015 which displayed a range of items which were handmade by women as part of unpaid work – the £252 proceeds of this event were donated to St Andrew's Hospice. Over 3600 hours have been carried out within the craft workshop.
- During the reporting period, 13 women took part in a 6 week rolling programme in horse care which covers horse physiology, feeding, grooming, tack, bedding and safety precautions in working with horses.
- The Community Payback Team continue to utilise a variety of charity shop placements across North Lanarkshire including the Salvation Army, Debra, Cancer Research, Helping Hand and Barnardos. In recognition of the excellent contribution of their input some of our service users have been asked to continue on a voluntary capacity once their unpaid work has ended.

In addition to the above the Community Payback Team has made increased efforts to utilise service users existing skills, interests and experience. Examples of these are captured below:

- Service users with joinery skills are provided with the opportunity to undertake a placement in the wood workshop assisting other service users to develop their skills.
- Service Users on Fiscal Work Orders have been using their existing skills within the Community. For example, four qualified painters and decorators have carried out work in church halls, people's homes and community centres. In addition to this 3 landscape gardeners have been undertaking work for Community Groups and Charitable Organisations.
- The Veterans Project which includes 26 ex-veterans who are either subject to Community Payback Order or have completed an Order are involved in mentoring others who are new to the group. Support is focussed on managing their transition back to their families and communities. This includes weekly support groups as well as activity based weekend placements. These are delivered to enhance lifestyle changes. The members of the group have been involved in projects previously detailed and have participated in charity events such as the Kilt Walk and Pedal for Scotland. All monies raised have been donated to specific charities.

In order to accommodate the individual circumstances of service users i.e. health, age, employment and child care commitments some service users have worked from home. They are routinely visited at home to oversee their work and to collect finished articles. This has allowed individuals who have previously been assessed as unsuitable to complete unpaid work. Examples of work undertaken at home have included knitting baby items of clothing and blankets, cross-stitch and greeting cards.

#### **Quotes from people on CPO and beneficiaries about the impact of the unpaid work on them and/or the community.**

North Lanarkshire Council seek feedback from both service users and beneficiaries. A Service Information Leaflet is issued at the first point of contact. The feedback gathered from this process is collated, analysed and contributes towards the development of the service.

Some examples of feedback include –

#### **Beneficiaries**

“Thanks very much for the work carried out by the Community Payback squad within the grounds of the school. Thank you so much for the fantastic Holy Family Express which has been a huge success with the children. They are so impressed they have written to me in their jotters to request something for the back yard!”

“Garden is looking great Willie and the squad have done a brilliant job.”

Marjory Murphy  
PT, St. Brigid's Primary, Newmains

"Hi, I was not in school when the Community Payback Squad finished the work. They have done a grand job. Can you pass on my thanks to Chris and each of the groups that made it possible for the greenhouse area in Kilsyth to be completed. Thanks to you also for agreeing to allow groups to come and spend time in our school to help us with this project. We will soon be able to grow things in the greenhouse."

Thanks,  
Sheila Wright,  
PT Science,  
Kilsyth Academy

"I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for taking the time to arrange my visit to the Veterans Group at Hunter Street, Bellshill on 10 December. It was heartening to hear first hand about the work being done in North Lanarkshire to support veterans who have become involved in the Criminal Justice System. I was particularly impressed by the reports of low reoffending in the group and the unpaid work Projects being carried out as part of Community Payback Orders. It was a real pleasure to talk to the staff who are involved in developing and delivering this unique group, and to those who attend who were all clearly very enthusiastic about it, and how it has helped them address their offending behaviour. Please pass on my thanks to Billy, Sandy, Willie and all those involved within Restorative Justice Services for assisting with the arrangements for the visit and for those group members who gave up their own time to come along."

Michael Matheson  
Cabinet Secretary for Justice

### **Service User Comments:**

The service evaluates outcomes by regular case reviews and evaluation questionnaires. Some quotes from these include -

- I enjoyed the experience of my workshop placement especially the joinery work shop
- I enjoyed getting out of bed and having a routine
- I learned skills such as turfing
- Teaches you to be good/positive
- Helps you realise that I take things for granted
- Do not want to do unpaid work again
- Doing bigger projects gives a sense of achievement for self
- Teaching basic painting/DIY skills
- Getting supports for housing and addictions

- Working at Parkinsons Centre enjoyed sense of achievement doing this
- Realising having problem and having support for addictions
- Didn't like listening to other guys or them asking about my offences
- Enjoyed getting a routine and structure when I've had nothing

Several women on unpaid work have been involved in consultation events regarding potential service developments. These have included:

- Consultation exercise facilitated by SACRO regarding the need for an Early Effective Intervention Service in North Lanarkshire
- 4 women subject to unpaid work and with previous experience of custody met with SPS staff to give their thoughts and ideas on how a new female estate should develop. In particular their views on the new model of community Custodial Units.
- A senior officer involved in delivering Safe Talk carried out a consultation exercise to explore women's opinions and ideas about suicide prevention messages for women. These will be utilised in local campaigns.
- An option appraisal event was held in November 2015 to explore the effectiveness of various models of service delivery. 8 women were involved in a similar exercise.

Women spoke positively about the impact of the above on their confidence and self esteem.

### **Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement.**

North Lanarkshire Council deliver a number of services and programmes that cover the "other activity" requirement of unpaid work. These include the following:

#### **Rolling Programme**

This service provides a gender specific rolling programme of information and education sessions. The programme is delivered by justice staff and a range of partner agencies which include the following:

- Housing
- Welfare rights/money advice
- Fire and rescue service
- Community Learning and Development
- Routes to Work
- Mentoring project
- Keep well vulnerable population team
- Addiction services

The aim of the programme is to improve health and well being and reduce re-offending by supporting lifestyle, attitude and behavioural change.

## **Training, Education and Employability Opportunities**

Service users are supported to develop their interpersonal, educational and vocational skills through individual and group interventions. A range of partners include New College Lanarkshire, Community Learning Development and Routes to Work. They provide information and follow up support to enhance opportunities to access education and training.

### **Veterans Mentoring Group**

The veterans mentoring group was set up in February 2014 to support those from the armed forces who subsequently became involved in the criminal justice system. Membership of this group has increased steadily and there is also participation of veterans who have had no previous involvement with Criminal Justice. There are a number of positives to this mentoring group including the focus on peer support, support from a number of partner agencies which not only offer practical advice and guidance but also offer a range of supports which include psychological, emotional and other supports which promote healthy wellbeing. The group operates weekly and a structured approach to delivering the various topics is adopted. The group is managed by two members of staff who are ex-veterans.

### **Individual Work with Service Users**

Individuals can be subject to stand alone unpaid work or combined orders. The introduction of the 'Outcome Star' assessment framework provides a focus for intervention that enables workers and service users to identify a range of supports that will meet individuals needs and goals. This interactive tool has been effective in engaging service users to identify areas of their own lives that require support/improvement whilst encouraging positive opportunities for meaningful discussions and interventions to reduce the risk of re-offending.

The "other activity" component of unpaid work is determined by the case management plan which requires a co-ordinated approach by case managers and unpaid work staff. The following gives an overview of some of the support and intervention provided as part of "other activity" –

- Relapse prevention – identifying triggers to behaviour and developing strategies to prevent /manage relapse to substance misuse.
- Intervention to challenge and change attitudes, values and beliefs i.e. racism and sectarianism
- Building interpersonal skills i.e. anger management, communication and relationship skills

### **Group work Services**

Group work programmes delivered within the twelve month period include:

- Road Traffic Group
- Following the withdrawal of the CHANGE Programme – (this groupwork programme focussed on challenging the behaviours around domestic abuse) it was recognised that further developments were required to deliver a fuller programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse. There is a new Intimate Partner Violence Programme which is in the latter stages of development

which will have the capacity to provide interventions on a 1-1, 2-1 or groupwork basis. There are currently discussions taking place to decide the framework for delivery of this programme and it is hoped the programme will commence in the near future.

- **Moving Forward Making Changes.** This programme is a rolling programme which commenced in February 2015. The programme looks at assisting individuals who have committed sexual offences make changes to their behaviour whilst enabling them to address their issues and assist them to reduce their chances of reoffending in the community.

### **Promotion of Health and Wellbeing**

The service continues to provide the following range of activities to promote the individuals health and wellbeing:

- Keep Well Vulnerable Population team continue to deliver health checks and during the reporting period 91 women have received a health check and referred to mainstream health services when required.
- Regular health checks and subsequent referral into mainstream health when required
- Access to registering with a GP practice
- North Lanarkshire access leisure cards and referral into get active by health colleagues
- Living life to the full CBT intervention to promote emotional health
- Overdose and Naloxone awareness sessions for service users and their families
- Home safety checks
- 2 health fayres were held in April 2015 in a local leisure facility which gave service users the opportunity to visit a range of stalls providing information on local services and health promotion, participate in physical activity sessions and sample holistic therapies.
- A walking group facilitated by Get Walking Lanarkshire commenced in June 2015 which combines the opportunity to increase physical activity with visiting local places of interest. This has been further developed with 2 members of staff being trained to lead safe, short local health walks.
- 5 women participated in safe talk suicide prevention awareness training.
- 4 Justice workers have been trained to deliver SMART Recovery (Self management and Recovery Training)

### **Services for Young People under 18**

Community alternatives are a dedicated service providing support and individual /group interventions to young people. This includes

- Youth Bridges
- Restorative Approaches
- Time to Grow
- One to one interventions
- Crisis support and intervention seven days per week

**Activities carried out to consult prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities and how the consultation results helped determine which projects were undertaken.**

Sustained service improvement is ensured through regular consultation with service users, voluntary, statutory and community groups.

Service users are regularly consulted on existing and potential new unpaid work placements by the use of suggestion boxes, entry and exit questionnaires, case reviews, focus groups and working groups with service user representation.

The undernoted provides a flavour of the activities carried out to consult organisations and the wider community and communicate the benefits of Community Payback Orders:

- Presentations at community councils
- Presentations to elected members
- Presentation at the Voluntary Sector network event
- Consultation with Social Work colleagues – knitting baby items, refurbishing and landscaping gardens for families in need
- Information leaflets
- Multi-agency optional appraisal event
- Regular article in housing and social work newsletter
- Regular article in Community Justice Authority newsletter
- Restorative Justice newsletter circulated to council staff and accessible to the general public
- Article in local newspaper
- DVD – explaining purposes of unpaid work and show case work undertaken
- Council Website – accessible to the general public
- Justice representation on strategic steering groups including additon partnership board, community safety partnership, women's service and Justice/Addiction Steering Group
- Information in Alcohol Drug Patnrship Strategy document
- Social Work Scotland unpaid work sub group

In an effort to increase awarenesss and visibility of unpaid work undertaken in the community Community Payback Order signage is erected on community projects and all wooden furniture made in the wood work shop. Members of the public have postively commented on the environmental improvements in their community.

Whilst the majority of unpaid work projects are generated from requests from Social Work Colleagues, Elected Members, North Lanarshire learning and leisure, Religious organisations and NHS Lanarkshire a significant number of requests are due to word of mouth.

**Use by the courts of CPO requirements other than unpaid work, for example what, and in what way, different requirements are being used for those whose offending is driven by drug, alcohol and mental health issues; or how requirements such as programme or conduct are being used to address offending behaviour.**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Supervision	861	947
Compensation	32	44
Unpaid Work or Other Activity	1308	1327
Programme	15	12
Residential	2	1
Mental Health	1	2
Drug Treatment	3	4
Alcohol Treatment	15	15
Conduct	105	157
Restricted Movement	0	0

The table above provides a breakdown of the CPO requirements for the financial years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. There were a total of 1724 Community Payback Orders imposed in this financial year. This reflects a slight increase in the amount of Orders imposed by the court.

The principal requirements used by the Court are unpaid work (53% CPO) and supervision (37% CPO). The use of the compensation requirement within the Community Payback Order has increased in comparison to last year's figures.

In relation to the programme requirement social workers at the report writing stage recognise that it is beneficial that an assessment should be undertaken in the first instance to determine if the person is suitable for groupwork or not. To this end practice has developed in that social workers are recommending that the Order stipulates that the person will be required to attend a programme once they have been suitably assessed. This flexibility has been built into the Orders from the Court and this therefore may account for the reduction in the use of the programme requirement.

The conduct requirement within the Community Payback Order is viewed as appropriate in tackling re-offending behaviour, addressing victim issues, community safety and public protection. In response to addressing addiction issues within North Lanarkshire it is encouraging that a commitment has been made to training all Justice staff in brief intervention and motivational interviewing. This training enables the staff to deliver interventions within the supervision process without having to go to a more specialist service. However, where it is deemed appropriate for specialist support referrals are forwarded to the designated addiction team.

**Any issues affecting access to services which are provided by other partners (e.g. drug and alcohol services) and, where such issues have been identified, what work is underway to resolve them.**

As noted above staff within Community Payback Team have been trained in the use of the 'Outcome Star' assessment framework. This has enabled staff to work in partnership with their service user to readily identify specific areas of support that will

assist in the reduction of re-offending. It is recognised that due to the complex needs that service users experience this can impact on their ability to meaningfully engage in support or services being provided and to undertake unpaid work. As a result of this North Lanarkshire take a very structured approach to supervision/unpaid work which includes joint work with partner agencies such as money advice, welfare rights, keep well nurses and mentors. This has proved successful in raising the attendance rates from service users.

As already noted earlier in the report a commitment has been made to train all justice staff in alcohol brief intervention and motivational interviewing. This has allowed staff to deliver brief advice and preparatory motivational work to enhance the likelihood of engaging service users with specialist services. Four workers have recently been trained in delivering SMART Recovery

It is of equal importance to note that Justice Services in North Lanarkshire are represented at key multi-agency strategic and operational steering groups such as the Addiction Partnership Board, the Justice and Addiction Drug Death Review Group and locality planning groups. This has allowed services to develop a shared understanding of desired outcomes for people in the criminal justice system and a shared agenda for improving provision.

**Any other relevant information. This might include details of work which is carried out with individuals on CPOs to address their offending behaviour but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.**

North Lanarkshire Council's efforts are focusing on supporting individuals to address the underlying factors behind their offending which has necessitated working in partnership with health, voluntary and universal services to provide a range of interventions and support. This partnership working has been evident in the ethos of the women's service and the contribution partner agencies provide for males on unpaid work. The introduction of mentoring services for male/female service users provide the additional support required for many individuals at risk of breaching their order as well as providing practical support to engage with services and assist them to make positive lifestyle changes.

### **Community Bridges Project**

In August 2011 North Lanarkshire Council Justice Services and SODEXO (HMP Addiewell) established a new partnership working across organisational boundaries to improve the service to men serving less than a 4 year custodial sentence in HMP Addiewell. The Lanarkshire Community Bridges Project targets men who are dependant on alcohol/drugs and who are subsequently released into Lanarkshire by providing supports which intend to interrupt the 'revolving door' scenario. Participation in the project is voluntary. This Project has proved very successful and ongoing evaluations continue to produce positive results. The Project has also won awards as well as successfully being shortlisted on a number of occasions for a variety of categories relating to the provision/quality of service delivery.

## **Youth Bridges Project**

This service works with young people through their time in custody to support a positive transition back into the community. The Project offers a comprehensive support package to young people coming out of prison so that they can make positive choices, gain employment, address their health issues, accommodation issues and engage with other relevant services which will divert them from future offending behaviours. The service is responsive to need and offers support over weekends and evenings as well as week days.

All of the above services continue to run within the North Lanarkshire area. These also include the new developments identified in last year's annual report such as the Women's Community Justice Services and the Veterans Mentoring Services.

## **Women's Community Justice Service**

The North Lanarkshire Women's Community Justice Service was set up in response to recommendations in the Commission on Women's Offenders Report 2012 and with the support of short term funding provided by the Scottish Government.

The service has been operational since 1 April 2014 and works in partnership with health, social work, community and voluntary colleagues to provide a range of interventions and supports to reduce reoffending. Services are also focussed on having an effective response to addressing the health and wellbeing of women in the criminal justice system.

The Women's Community Justice Service has developed significantly in the first year of operation, moving disconnected services for women within the criminal justice system to a single service. It has been acknowledged that addressing the multiple problems faced by women in the justice system can be difficult within the current structure of treatment and support but the service has taken a creative and flexible approach to working with women. Securing the support from a range of other providers and using feedback from the women has not only helped shape the service but has also given the women a sense of ownership and control over their own future.

COMPLETED BY: Jane Gilmartin

DATE: 18 October 2016

## **CONTACT FOR QUERIES ABOUT THE REPORT**

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