
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

27 April 2021

Cabinet

Title: Community Payback Order Annual Report

Purpose: To present to Cabinet the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2019/20 which provides information about the work undertaken in the last year through Community Payback Orders with a particular focus on Unpaid Work Requirements

Recommendation: That Cabinet note the Community Payback Order Annual Report

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Legislation imposes a duty on local authorities to submit an annual report on the operation of Community Payback Orders (CPO) to Community Justice Scotland. Community Justice Scotland then lays before the Scottish Parliament a collation and summary of the data contained in these reports and this report requires to be published as soon as reasonably practicable after the 31st March.
- 1.2 Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced in 2011 to replace Community Service, Probation and Supervised Attendance Orders for all offences committed from February 2011 onwards. This is now the eighth annual report submitted by North Ayrshire.
- 1.3 It is policy to promote community sentencing and build public and judicial confidence in this. The Community Payback Order (CPO) is designed to provide a viable alternative to custody and ensure that people who offend payback to society and their communities. This is done in two ways. Firstly, by requiring the person to make reparation, often in the form of an Unpaid Work Requirement, and secondly, by requiring them to address and change their offending behaviours, thereby improving the safety of local communities and providing opportunities for their reintegration as law abiding citizens.
- 1.4 Due to the Covid Pandemic, and taking into account the additional demands that this has placed on Justice Services, it was decided that the template for this annual report should be truncated. The period covered by this report is from 1st April 2019 to the 31st March 2020 so therefore does not cover the period of Covid restrictions. However, it would be important to highlight briefly the effect that Covid-19 has had on Justice Services.
- 1.5 Justice Social Work Services has faced enormous challenges since the first Lockdown in March 2020, as it continues to deliver community based interventions while supporting the safety and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in

our communities. Justice Social Work Services have continued to provide services to those requiring reports or who are subject to community orders. Most contacts with service users have been via phone or social media platforms. However, where necessary and due to the level of risk or vulnerability, contact has continued to be face to face. On the advice of Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Unpaid Work has been suspended since the 18th January 2021 and it is expected that this will not recommence until the 19th April. Other Justice Services, such as groupwork for women and sex offenders has had to be suspended and work in these areas is being done on a one to one basis.

- 1.6 The Community Orders (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021, introduced on the 11th March 2021, has allowed us to reduce outstanding Unpaid Work Orders by 35% (except for those convicted of domestic violence, sex offences or stalking). This has helped with our backlog which is steadily building again due to the suspension of face to face work.
- 1.7 As a result of the pandemic and related public health restrictions, there is now a significant backlog of cases before the courts which could not be brought to trial in 2020-21. It is anticipated that a return to "normal" operating levels will not be possible for some time due to the public health measures required, and that the number of cases in the system will continue to grow until additional court capacity is introduced (likely from September 2021), disposals from which will then need to be effectively resourced across community and custodial options. The immediate priority in 2021 is recovery and addressing the growing backlog of cases.
- 1.8 A range of CPO initiatives have been developed and progressed in 2019/2020 that have benefitted services users and the communities of North Ayrshire. This past year we have made considerable progress in developing our Employability Project which seeks to support service users into work or further education/training. We have also continued to develop our service user engagement group Making a Difference (MAD) as well as our desistance approach with service users and our work with the Mutual Aid Group (MAG). Similar to last year's report, we have included some case studies which demonstrate the effectiveness of Justice Social Work Intervention in helping service users desist from further offending and engage in a pro-social lifestyle.

2. Background

- 2.1 Justice Social Work Services in North Ayrshire engage with approximately 450 service users at any given time. National statistics on CPO's for 2019/20 showed that North Ayrshire had the third highest number of CPO's imposed per 10,000 population in Scotland at 64 per 10,000 population. Clackmannanshire had the highest at 69 followed by West Dunbartonshire at 68. The Scottish average was 43 CPO's per 10,000 population. These figures have clear implications for the workloads of Justice Services' staff. In addition, North Ayrshire's Justice Social Work Services has seen a reduction in its funding year on year since 2016.
- 2.2 In 2019/20 we received 366 Unpaid Work Requirements from the courts with a total of 49,698 hours being imposed. North Ayrshire has a diverse range of unpaid work projects and the following are examples of some of our current projects.

- 2.3 As alluded to above, we need to build public confidence in community sentencing and the setting of tighter statutory timescales for the completion of the CPO Unpaid Work Requirements was one way of doing this. Level 1 Requirements (under 100 hours) have to be completed within three months and Level 2 Requirements (between 101 and 300 hours) have to be completed within six months. Our performance continues to improve year on year. In the last year 99% (95/96) of Level 1 Requirements were completed within three months (up from 95%) and 98% (161/165) of Level 2 Requirements, the same as last year, were completed within six months.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the varied and worthwhile work that takes place with people subject to a CPO. This work benefits the service users but also the people and communities of North Ayrshire.
- 3.1.1 The ongoing larger scale projects provide most of the Unpaid Work placements. Smithstone House is an established long-term project. It is run like a market garden producing vegetables, fruit and flowers. Produce can be sold at Sale of Work days which are open to the public and this generates income to help sustain the project and any excess is donated to charity. Likewise, in our workshop we build garden furniture which again is sold to the general public. At Christmas 2018 and 2019 we held Christmas Fayres which showcased our work and helped raise money for charity. The main beneficiaries of this income generation in 2019/20 were Children 1st, Headstart and the George Steven Community Hub. Each received a cheque for £1,000.
- 3.1.2 The teams frequently deliver large furniture items to residents who could not ordinarily afford delivery costs. We continue to provide support to the North Ayrshire Foodbank and undertake weekly collections from local supermarkets and offices across North Ayrshire Council and deliver these to the Foodbank for sorting. The teams then deliver the packs to community centres across North Ayrshire for distribution. Vegetables grown at Smithstone House also go to the Foodbank.

3.2 Anticipated Outcomes

That the Council and the people of North Ayrshire are made aware of the positive benefits of CPO's and the contribution they make in helping to transform lives and in allowing service users to give something back to their communities.

3.3 Measuring Impact

Impact can be gauged by reading the case studies in the annual report as well as the statements from service users and beneficiaries.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The CPO Income Generation Fund is used to provide donations to local charities and good causes.

Human Resources

4.2 None.

Legal

4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 Many service users embarking on CPOs are unemployed with few employment skills. While completing their CPO with an Unpaid Work Requirement, service users are given the opportunity to learn new skills such as gardening and joinery, which better equips them to find employment opportunities when they complete their orders. We have two Employability Mentors in Unpaid Work who support service users into employment, training and further education.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 Many of the CPO Unpaid Work projects enhance communities, schools, nurseries and green spaces.

Key Priorities

4.6 This report covers matters which contribute to the Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, namely a Safer North Ayrshire and a Working North Ayrshire. It also contributes to the priorities of the HSCP, such as Tackling Inequalities and Engaging Communities.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Anticipated greater knowledge and understanding of CPO's and the positive impact they can make to the lives of service users and the wider community.

5. Consultation

5.1 Promotion and consultation regarding CPO's has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing process and priority.

Caroline Cameron
Director North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

For further information please contact **David MacRitchie, Chief Social Work Officer and Senior Manager, Public Protection**, on **01294 317781**.

Background Papers

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COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2019/20**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **North Ayrshire**



Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out (list of bulletpoints will suffice); the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and one example that helps to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work (max 300 words).

This is the ninth Community Payback Order Annual Report prepared by North Ayrshire. Previous reports have identified that North Ayrshire has provided a wide range of projects and services that have had tangible benefits for the residents of North Ayrshire, whilst providing service users with opportunities to desist from further offending as well as opportunities to provide payback and learn new skills. We have several long-term Unpaid Work projects that provide positive placements that have been noted in previous annual reports and we will once again provide a summary of these as they reflect the good work undertaken.

What's new in this year's Report? During this past year we have continued to make progress in developing our service user group, MAD (Making a Difference). We have expanded the services provided by our Employability Project which seeks to support service users into work or further education/training. We continue to make progress with our desistance approach with service users and our work with the Mutual Aid Group (MAG). Similar to last year's report, we have included some case studies which demonstrate the effectiveness of Justice Social Work Intervention in helping service users desist from further offending and engage in a pro-social lifestyle.

This year there has been 366 Unpaid Work Orders with a total of 49,698 hours imposed overall. We continue to respond to a range of referrals for work to be undertaken in the community from individuals, Councillors, Social Workers and Community Organisations.

The Unpaid Work teams undertake a variety of tasks for the benefit of local communities;

Foodbank

We have a dedicated team to aid the foodbank in undertaking collections and distribution of goods.

Schools

Many schools across North Ayrshire continue to request outdoor furniture, planters, mud kitchens and wig wams for their premises. The feedback received on these items continues to be very positive.



Auchenharvie Academy Benches

Community Councils

Community Councils ask us to undertake work within their areas ranging from renovating pathways, clearing overgrown areas and litter picking. We were involved placing a boat planter, stones and bark as a feature to visually improve the area. Teams cleared bedded areas in Saltcoats shore front in preparation for planters to be removed and undertook painting of benches along the sea front in Irvine.



Saltcoats Community Council



Towerlands Sports Club

Maritime

We continue to support important community resources such as the Maritime Museum and undertake painting tasks and grounds maintenance.

Removals

We support local Charity shops by collecting donated furniture and delivering purchased items. This is a valuable resource for those who might find it difficult to pay for uplift and delivery of large items.

The team also receives a number of requests from individuals and social work colleagues for removals to new accommodation. This would tend to be when a family has received a new tenancy but would have difficulty meeting the cost of a removal company. There are also instances where a person has no family to support them with a move.

Grit Bins

The teams undertake filling of approximately 500 grit bins throughout North Ayrshire to allow residents to grit their own pathways throughout winter months. We also took part in filling sandbags for Millport flood defence.

Workshops

Our three workshops are equipped to undertake training in woodwork skills and creative art. Service users who have disabilities or health issues may be unable to undertake heavier work and have an opportunity to make items which are sold with the funds going to the Income Generation Fund.

Income Generation Fund

The funds raised from the sale of items above enabled us to make three donations of £1,000 to Children 1ST, Heartstart, and the George Steven Community hub.



Children 1ST Cheque

Art Work

Once again we submitted to the Koestler Trust for the 2019 competition. Several commended award certificates were received for the work submitted..

Sales Days

At Smithstone house we have our horticultural base and are fortunate to have a polytunnel within a large garden where we are able to produce a range of vegetables and herbs. We make up hanging baskets for our sales day which we sell alongside a range of plants and garden furniture.

The 2019 Christmas Fayre

We sold a variety of crafts, baking and winter planters. Entry included a cup of tea or coffee and a freshly baked shortbread biscuit. Santa found time to pop in and see the local children and gave out selection boxes.



Painting and Decorating

Referrals are received from other services requesting assistance in decorating the homes of elderly or disabled people within the community.

Arran

Our team on Arran continue to be productive in painting community halls and refurbishing of multiple benches around the island.

Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement (max 300 words).

Please provide details only in circumstances where there have been changes to the information submitted last year. If there are no changes please insert N/A below.

N/A

Please provide an example of how consultation with prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities, helped determine which projects were undertaken (max 300 words).

North Ayrshire Council Social Services and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board entered into the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NA-HSCP) on the 1st April 2015. Justice Social Work Services sit within this partnership. A presentation on this CPO Annual Report will be given to the NA-HSCP Integration Joint Board, which has Elected Member representation. A report will also be presented to North Ayrshire Council Cabinet, which is the main decision making body of the Council.

Health and Social Care locality planning is part of the new locality approach being adopted across Scotland. North Ayrshire has six localities. Justice Services use locality planning forums as opportunities to engage with local people, including the Third and Independent Sectors, to inform of the work of Justice Services and showcase our work.

We continue to use every opportunity to communicate the value of Unpaid Work both to Elected Members and through the media to the public.

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 (max 300 words).

Please provide details only in circumstances where there have been changes to the information submitted last year. If there are no changes please insert N/A below.

N/A

Any other relevant information, which may include:

- An example of any work carried out with people on CPOs to address their offending behaviour but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.
- An example of work carried out in partnership with the third sector
- Any areas identified for improvement and planned next steps

Please provide details only in circumstances where there have been changes to the information submitted last year. If there are no changes please insert N/A below.

MAD ("Making A Difference") Service User Engagement Group

The the last financial year, members worked on the second edition of the MAD magazine which was completed March 2020. This was due to be printed and shared with partners. However, this was unfortunately postponed due to COVID-19. One of our MAD members attended a justice meeting to publicise MAD and share his experience in October 2019 – this was in partnership with Turning Point Scotland Addiction Services:

"I was at a social work team meeting today on invite to talk about the M.A.D project and share my own experience of justice services, I have never felt so valued and respected in my life. Wow! To have a voice for others today and have it heard was amazing. Thanks for having me."

Feedback from staff members was as follows:

"As practitioners we must learn from people, like Paul who have been through this journey and are now a positive role model to others in recovery."

"By Paul attending the meeting it gave the overall team a realistic insight into how far he has come in his recovery journey and the obstacles that he encountered along the way"

"He was very inspiring, and it would be great if he could be more exposed to a vulnerable client group as he clearly will occupy the mentor/role model role with complete success!"

MAD cooking

Over the past year, MAD group have facilitated 3 cooking groups and make the following recipes:

- MAD lentil soup (25 pence a portion)
- MAD loaded mac and cheese (79 pence a portion)
- MAD chicken chow mein (£1.26 a portion)



Our most recent cooking group (chicken chow mein) was very popular with 7 service users attending in total, alongside family members.

Pictures:



Feedback:

"Its not just about cooking, its about sitting with each other and connecting"

"This is so easy to cook and healthy too. It tasted brilliant"

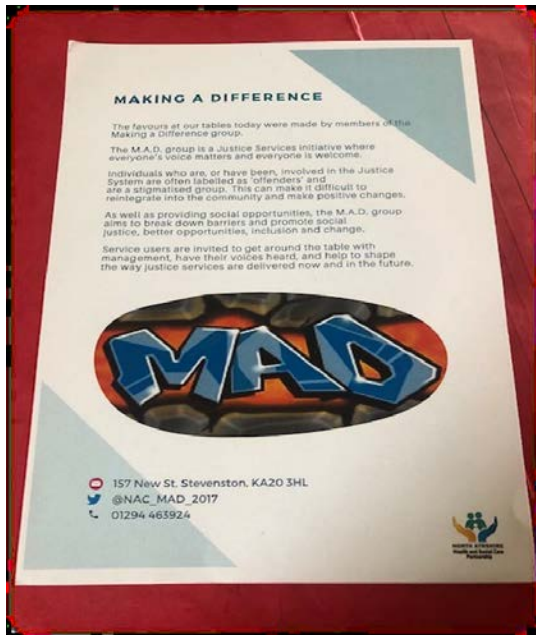
"The food was amazing, so cheap & easy to make. However, the most positive factor was the pride felt by those who had contributed to making it. True community spirit!"

"I'm never making a packet sauce again"



Partnership Awards

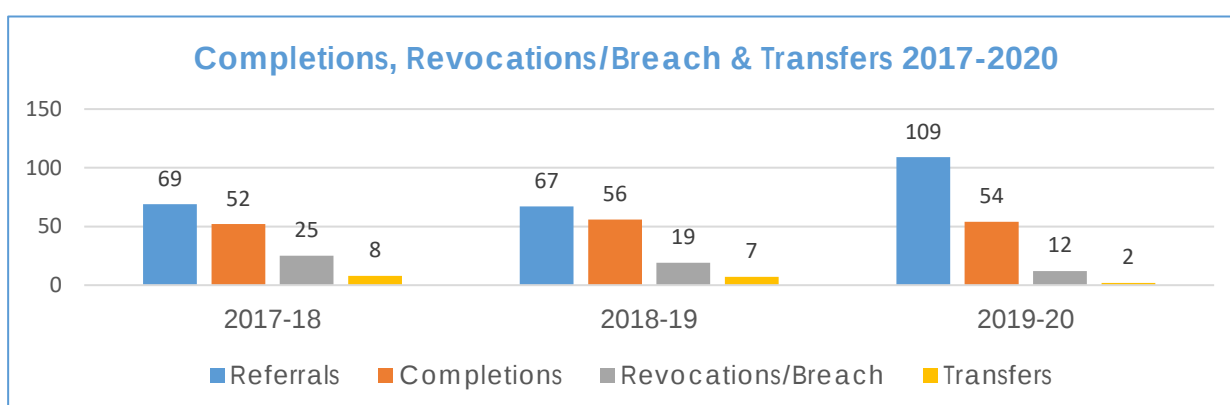
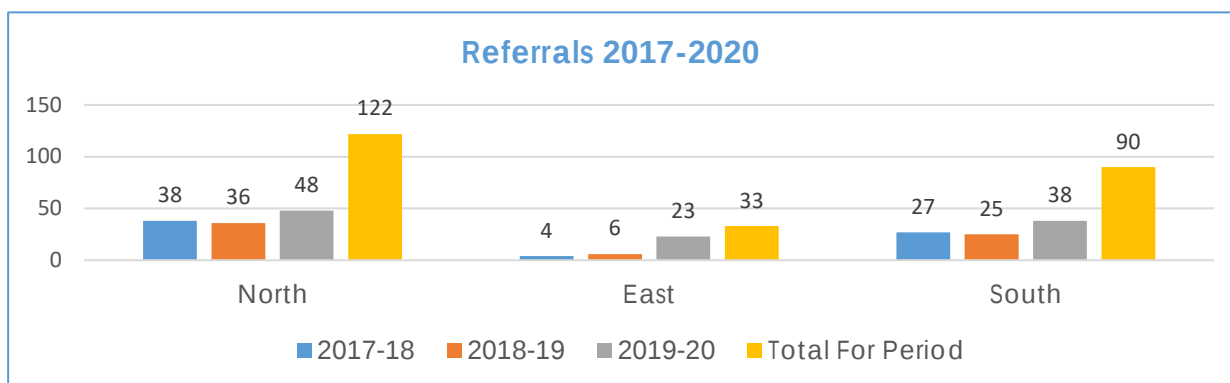
The M.A.D. magazine members made the favours for the North Ayrshire Partnership Awards in January 2020. All finalists for the award categories received a retro sweetie bag filled with lollies, love hearts and haribos!



Programme Delivery Team: Women's Service

Women's Service staff are part of our Partnership Delivery Team and provide Pan-Ayrshire supervision and case management of Community Payback Orders (CPOs) imposed by The Court for women who have more complex risk and needs as referred by Justice Services locality teams. This involves - statutory supervision and monitoring requirements of CPOs; providing reports to the Court as required; liaising with and making referrals to other services and departments; offering support and guidance to encourage desistance; advocacy; and completing offence focussed work in accordance with risk principles. In addition, the service incorporates group work programmes for both women and men across all localities; the Court Screening service for women and the Bail Supervision service.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS



Positive Outcomes

Positive outcomes include a reduction in the number of revocations. Completions show a reduction however this is due to Orders being 18 months and two years. Reduction in offending behaviour whilst subject to a CPO; excellent advocacy provided by case managers regarding mental health issues; and improved pathways to Health Services in North and South Ayrshire due to collective work with the Justice Services Occupational Therapist. There has been collaborative work in all localities with services such as Money Matters and the Financial Inclusion Team, resulting in maximised income for service users and numerous women receiving significant amounts of backdated benefits. It is also recognised that, for some women who display persistent offending behaviour, there has been an increase in multiple Orders and extensions placed on the duration of Orders.

CPO Example:

T G, chaotic substance use and very negative traumatic lifestyle . Completed Womens Group, supported by Justice Officer to engage with the North Ayrshire Drugs and Alcohol Service, and counselling service, managed to achieve stability and has maintained this, no further offending behaviour. Then re-established relationship with family and is now invited to family gatherings etc (hadn't happened for some years). Her brother informed staff that he and the family are so proud of her and that she has inspired him to engage with services to reduce his own drug use.

Feedback: "I couldn't have done it without the support from Tina and the Womens Group".

Third Sector example:

Service user, L, had no previous involvement with Justice Services and no prior convictions until she was made subject to a CPO: Supervision Requirement. Her offence was identified as directly linked to her alcohol use and mental health issues. Alcohol use was not a dependency issue but an unhealthy coping mechanism. A referral was made to Ayrshire Council on Alcohol (ACA) for one to one counselling support and provision of tools to address and reduce alcohol use. L was provided weekly counselling sessions with ACA for 1 year before it was reduced to every third week. During this time she has been given the safe space to talk about previous trauma, mental health difficulties and the issues contributing to alcohol use. She was provided with techniques and alternative coping mechanisms and as a result has been abstinent from alcohol use for around four months. She is able to manage this on her own with phone contact with ACA staff now reduced to every three weeks due to progress made. It is likely that this will significantly reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Womens Group: Example

There was a joint effort with NAC Unpaid Work Team and the Womens Group to make the table decorations for NAC Partnership Awards in 2019.

The Unpaid Work Team supplied the wood and the women decorated and named each decoration as an inspiration for others (courage, hope, trust, respect, change, belief and future). Two of the women attended the awards ceremony and were overjoyed at contributing and being a part of such a day. These women have experienced trauma and abuse the most of their lives and it was a significant boost to their self-esteem and self-worth leading to their participation in other community based groups.

The table decorations were raffled after the awards and money raised went to local charities.



COMPLETED BY: David MacRitchie, Senior Manager, Public Protection

DATE: 04th December 2020

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