

Subject: **Justice Social Work Services – Demand and Funding**

Purpose: To present to the IJB the budget position regarding Justice Social Work Services and the anticipated increase in demand for these services as we come out of Lockdown.

Recommendation: That IJB note the position for Justice Social Work Services

Glossary of Terms

Please use this box to ensure that all acronyms etc are set out in full. All acronyms must be set out in full the first time they appear in a paper with the acronym following in brackets. Some examples have been listed below.

NHS AA	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	<p>The work of Justice Social Work staff includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing a range of assessment reports, including Justice Social Work Reports for the courts • supervising service users in the community who are subject to statutory supervision e.g. a Community Payback Order with a Supervision Requirement imposed by the court or a Parole Licence on release from custody, and assisting them to desist from offending • providing supervised Unpaid Work to service users placed on Community Payback Order Unpaid Work Requirements by the courts
1.2	A range of shared Justice Social Work Services are hosted by North Ayrshire and operate across Ayrshire. These services were established approximately 10 years ago due to issues of economies of scale and our wish to develop specialist services to meet the specific needs of particular service user groups, e.g. women involved in the justice system and sex offenders.
1.3	Justice Services receive a 100% ringfenced annual grant from the Scottish Government to run their services. This money cannot be used by the Council or the IJB for any other purposes and any underspend has to be returned to the Scottish Government at the end of the financial year.
1.4	The Government grant for Justice Social Work Services across Scotland since 2016 has generally been a flatline settlement. However, during these five years North Ayrshire has seen a reduction in its funding year on year of approximately 5%. This is despite Government statistics showing that for 2019/20, North Ayrshire had the third highest number of Community Payback Orders 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.
1.5	Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact across the justice system. Justice Social Work Services has faced enormous challenges in continuing to deliver community-based interventions while supporting the safety and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.
1.6	To support the recovery process, the Scottish Government has recently announced the additional allocation of approximately £11.8M for the use of Justice Social Work Services across Scotland in 2021/22. North Ayrshire's share of this will be £336,234. In addition, there will be an increase of around £2.5 million across Scotland in relation to community justice services. This is ringfenced for use specifically in commissioning third sector services in order to support and bolster Justice Social Work Services. The funding for North Ayrshire of these monies will be £71,236. There is a potential that these monies will be recurring, but this has still to be confirmed.
2.	BACKGROUND
2.1	With the introduction of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, the eight Community Justice Authorities across Scotland were disbanded and the responsibility for Community Justice went to the Community Planning Partnerships in the 32 local authorities. We have a Pan-Ayrshire Community Justice Team but all other local authorities, including Dumfries and Galloway which was part of the former South West Scotland Community Justice Authority, manage Community Justice within their own local authority area.
2.2	In the previous Community Justice Authority structure, North Ayrshire was the "host authority" and therefore received the total budget for South West Scotland (the three Ayrshires and Dumfries and Galloway) and they disbursed it to each local authority. Following the reorganisation of Community Justice in 2016, and the responsibility for Community Justice transferring to each Community Planning Partnership, North has seen its funding decrease by around 5% year on year. In contrast, East and South Ayrshire have seen a corresponding increase. The original allocation for Justice Services in North Ayrshire for 2021/22 was £3,407,091.
2.3	In order to fund the range of Partnership Social Work Justice Services across Ayrshire, East and South Ayrshire currently transfer funding to North. Therefore, each year the managers of Justice Services in the three Ayrshires and their respective accountants meet to decide on the level of transfer of funding required. We met in March this year in order to come to this agreement.
2.4	During the pandemic our 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 18 th January 2021 and it is expected that this will not recommence until the 26 th April. Other Justice Services, such as groupwork for women and sex offenders has had to be suspended and work in these areas is being undertaken on a one to one basis.
2.5	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.

2.6	<p>Work based on court modelling shows the impact in terms of the increase in community orders when the courts fully open and start to deal with the significant backlog of cases.</p> <p>Increase in community orders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21/22 – 32% • 22/23 – 37% • 23/24 – 25% • 25/26 – 20% • 26/27 – 20%
2.7	The additional Government funding for Justice Services of over £400,000 for 2021/22 is welcomed and will allow us to expand our workforce and capacity. We will also liaise with the third sector as we look to commission services to increase capacity.
3.	PROPOSALS
3.1	It is proposed that IJB note the current position and future demands on Justice Social Work Services as we come out of Lockdown and the courts resume “normal” business.
3.1.1	The IJB should also note the additional funding from the Scottish Government which will allow us to expand our services to address demand. We have commenced recruitment of additional staff in line with this.
3.1.2	The current Government funding arrangements for local authorities takes no cognizance of the position in Ayrshire, where we have a range of Partnership Services. We have arranged a meeting with the Scottish Government to try to address this funding issue.
3.2	<u>Anticipated Outcomes</u>
	That the Justice Social Work service users in North Ayrshire continue to receive an efficient, effective and quality service and that these services continue to have the confidence of the courts, victims and the general public. The additional funding will ensure that we can respond effectively to the increased demands from the courts but it would be important that this funding is confirmed as being recurring.
3.3	<u>Measuring Impact</u>
	Impact can be gauged by the performance measures we currently collect which include regular consultation with service users.
4.	IMPLICATIONS
Financial:	Additional funding from the Scottish Government as detailed above
Human Resources:	Additional staff will be appointed
Legal:	None.
Equality:	None.
Children and Young People	Consider the impacts on children and young people in North Ayrshire.
Environmental & Sustainability:	Many of the CPO Unpaid Work projects enhance communities, schools, nurseries and green spaces.
Key Priorities:	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.
Risk Implications:	Include any risk implications in this section.
Community Benefits:	Anticipated greater knowledge and understanding of Justice Social Work Services and the positive impact they can make to the lives of service users and the wider community.

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both <i>(where Directions are required please complete Directions Template)</i>	Direction to :-	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	

5.	CONSULTATION
5.1	Promotion and consultation regarding Justice Social Work Services has been, and will continue to be, an ongoing process and priority.
6.	CONCLUSION
6.1	The IJB should note the budget position for Justice Social Work Services and the expected increase in demand for services as we come out of Lockdown.

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