

**Community Payback Order Annual Report 2015/16****Report by Eibhlin McHugh Joint Director****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide a context for the Community Payback Order (CPO) Annual Report 2015/16 which is attached below.

**2 Background**

Section 227ZM of the Criminal (Procedure) Scotland Act 1995 imposes a duty on local authorities to submit an annual report on the operation of the Community Payback Orders (CPOs) to Scottish Ministers. Circular LJ/02/2013, which was issued to local authorities on 23 September 2013, explained that local authorities would be expected to fulfil this requirement in two ways:

- by continuing to submit statistics for each financial year to the Scottish Government on the operation of community sentences in their areas; and
- in addition to these statistics, by providing a narrative account of the implementation and operation of the CPO in the financial year to which the statistics refer.

This is the fourth CPO Annual Report provided for Scottish Ministers since CPOs were introduced in February 2011. The Scottish Government provided a template for the report prior to the compilation of the 2012/13 report and confirmed that the same template was to be used for subsequent reports. The template focuses on Unpaid Work to a greater extent than other aspects of CPOs.

**3 Report Implications**

3.1 The report includes extensive feedback from service users (individuals subject to CPOs) and from the beneficiaries of Unpaid Work projects. The Criminal Justice team, now in conjunction with Community Justice staff members, are very keen to consult with communities as fully as possible about Unpaid Work and other aspects of Community Justice. In 2014/15 Midlothian Criminal Justice Team set up an interactive facility on the Council website where members of the public can suggest ideas for Unpaid Work projects, comment on completed or ongoing projects and ask any questions about how service users are supervised on CPOs. Suggestions have been forthcoming for Unpaid Work projects that the team take on where possible and appropriate. Briefing sessions to other community groups and elected members have also generated referrals.

3.2 As can be seen from the report, feedback from service users and beneficiaries is generally positive. The Unpaid Work team has increased the number of individual placements over the past year. Team members have also focused on increasing the number of projects and placements where service users have face to face contact with the beneficiaries of the work they have carried out. The work done by individuals on Unpaid Work on large projects, such as in the country parks, is very much appreciated by the forest rangers. However staff members are keen to maximise the number of projects and placements where the person on the order can directly appreciate the positive impact of the work they carry out. This is more meaningful for clients and beneficiaries and therefore more likely to change attitudes.

3.3 The Criminal Justice team continues to look at ways to communicate to the public the challenging work that clients undertake when on a CPO with a supervision requirement. This would previously have been known as a Probation Order. There is often an impression that if an individual does not receive a custodial sentence they do not have to face up to the consequences of their behaviour. In fact Criminal Justice social workers spend much of their working lives assessing and managing risk and delivering offence-focused interventions to their clients. The impact of offending behaviour on victims and encouraging individuals to confront the issues that have led to them becoming involved in offending in the first place are key components of supervision. Individuals subject to CPOs who have committed sexual or domestic abuse offences are usually required to undertake lengthy and challenging programmes that combine group and individual components.

3.4 The new structure for Community Justice in Scotland is now looming ever closer, with CJAs being disestablished in March 2017, and a major consultation exercise is currently underway in Midlothian. A questionnaire, including an easy read version, has been issued as widely as possible, including on social media. The survey asks respondents for their views on the priority issues relating to offending and reoffending in Midlothian. The survey was launched in August and closed on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The results are being analysed by the Community Justice Partnership Planning Officer. Midlothian Community Safety and Justice Partnership will take the results into account when creating the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan which will be submitted to the new national body, Community Justice Scotland, at the end of March 2017. This further consultation activity will help the planning of unpaid work projects to be more community focused.

3.5 The Community Safety and Justice partnership hopes that the new structure, and the requirements for community consultation inherent in it, will reinvigorate conversations about offending behaviour and the responses to it in Midlothian. In the past year the partnership has created local profiles and gap analyses of the 9 priorities identified by the Scottish Government as most associated with criminality. This will help to prioritise resources going forward.

#### **4.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications from this report. Criminal Justice Social Work continues to be paid for by ring-fenced Section 27 funding that comes from the Scottish Government through the Community Justice Authorities. A

new funding formula will be introduced when the new structure is established in April 2017. Although the detail of the Section 27 allocation for 2017/18 is not yet known, assurances have been made by the Scottish Government that Midlothian's funding will not reduce.

Over the past two years every local authority has received an extra £50,000 per annum to help with the transition to the new structure. It is expected that this will also be made available for 2017/18. It is not clear what will happen after that and this is an area of some concern, given the performance reporting requirements in the new structure.

## **4.2 Risk**

There is no risk implication deriving from this report.

## **4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ✓ ☐ Community safety
- ✓ ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ✓ ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ✓ ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian

## **4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

This report is relevant to the following priorities:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Reduce re-offending
- Reduce violent crime
- Violence Against Women
- Crimes of Dishonesty
- Protecting Midlothian's Children
- Protecting Adults at Risk
- Community Involvement in Setting and Delivering Community Safety Outcomes

## **4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The Criminal Justice team in Midlothian performs well in relation to National Outcomes and Standards for Criminal Justice Social Work and significantly contributes to safer communities in Midlothian. The team works closely with partners such as police, particularly in managing individuals assessed as at risk of causing significant harm and Midlothian Criminal Justice social workers are perceived by other agencies as being strongly committed to partnership working.

## **4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The Criminal Justice team works to prevent re-offending but only becomes involved once an individual has offended. One exception to this is the "Spring" service for women with multiple and complex needs, where women at risk of offending are eligible as well as women already involved in the Criminal Justice system.

#### **4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

The CPO Annual Report is to a large extent based on feedback from communities and other stakeholders, particularly in relation to Unpaid Work. However the current wide-ranging consultation exercise as part of the transition to the new structure will enhance our ability to take the community's views into account when planning and delivering services.

#### **4.8 Ensuring Equalities**

The Criminal Justice team set up the "Spring" service in 2014 as a result of recommendations in the Commission for Women Offenders report (April 2012) that women in the Criminal Justice system cannot be expected to engage successfully with services set up originally for male offenders including community disposals such as CPOs.

#### **4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

No implications.

#### **4.10 IT Issues**

No implications.

### **5 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council notes the contents of the Community Payback Order Annual Report 2015/216.

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**Background Papers:**



# COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

**FINANCIAL YEAR:** 2015/2016

**LOCAL AUTHORITY:** Midlothian Council

**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.**

In 2015/16 A total of 18097 hours of unpaid work was completed by 250 clients, over 279 orders.

Types of unpaid work projects carried out by Midlothian unpaid work team in the year 2015/16 include;

- Landscaping
- Removing fly tipping and undertaking a waste amnesty
- Litter picking
- Improvements to school/ nursery playgrounds and to community facilities
- Painting and Decorating
- Gardening
- Constructing garden furniture in our workshop
- Personal placements in local charities
- Recycling projects producing outdoor and garden materials and furnishing
- Helping increase the safety of victims of domestic violence and stalking

Landscaping

Landscaping was carried out by the unpaid work team in various locations and for numerous organisations including:

- Public parks and walkways in Midlothian. This involved partnership working between the Countryside Rangers and the unpaid work team. Tasks completed included the maintenance of walkways in Vogrie Park, Gore Glen, Burghlee Park, Nine Mile Burn and Roslin Glen. We have also assisted with the construction of a roundabout to help the flow of traffic within the country park.
- Fence repairs, reinstatement of subsided land, pruning and general tidying up of public parks and walkways.
- We continue to work in partnership with Newbattle Abbey College who provide a rural skills taster course for clients on CPOs every quarter. CPO service users have done a significant amount of gardening and landscaping work in the grounds of the college, including the maintenance of a community garden that is used by local schools and other community groups.

Fly Tipping/ Waste Amnesty

A need was identified by the local fire service and Midlothian's Community Safety partnership to reduce the number of unsanctioned bonfires in the county to help protect the community and especially youths who may become involved in fire-raising around 5<sup>th</sup> November. A waste amnesty was agreed where for a week prior to Bonfire Night the unpaid work team, working in association with partner agencies, collected and disposed of flammable materials that had been dumped in areas of waste or common ground or that had been abandoned in stairways. The team collected from 60 locations and this work contributed towards a reduction in call outs to the fire brigade on 5<sup>th</sup> November and the following weekend, 5<sup>th</sup> November falling on a Thursday last year.

Fly tipping continues to be an ongoing problem in the rural areas of Midlothian as well as occasionally on common ground in local housing estates. We receive referrals from community councils and other council departments and have developed close relationships with community partners to identify and respond quickly to new incidents.

### Litter Picking

Midlothian unpaid work team carries out regular litter picking projects in Midlothian at the request of various Community Councils and voluntary groups. Rather than simply clearing the area we work alongside members of the community, enabling the community to maintain their local environment with our assistance.

### Improvements to School Playgrounds and Community Facilities

The unpaid work team have been involved with various secondary and primary schools as well as nursery and Midlothian Sure Start centres undertaking a range of work including:

- The construction of raised flower beds, bird boxes and playground furniture.
- Removal and disposal of waste.
- The construction of seated areas.
- Improving access to community facilities for disabled people.
- Regular grass cutting and maintenance at local playgroups and nurseries
- Creating eco friendly sensory gardens for children to play in.
- Cutting back overgrown trees.
- Painting the interior and exterior of schools and buildings used by community groups.

### Painting and Decorating

Painting projects have been carried out for community organisations including a local charity, nursery, and community centre. We have worked alongside colleagues in the Community Mental Health Team to renovate and decorate clients' homes to support the individual's rehabilitation and also ensure that they meet the requirements of occupancy agreements.

### Gardening

We continue to undertake gardening projects for vulnerable people in the community including the elderly and those affected by disability. This has helped beneficiaries access and make full use of their gardens. For some beneficiaries we have ensured that their tenancies are not at risk when due to health problems they have been unable to maintain their garden to an acceptable standard. We have also developed gardens for local nurseries and schools to enable children to play in a safe environment and learn new skills through growing their own fruit and vegetables in the raised beds that we have created.

### Constructing Garden Furniture

Midlothian's unpaid work team have constructed garden furniture that is requested by community organisations. The furniture is built to a high standard and costs to the beneficiary are kept to a minimum with beneficiaries paying only for the cost of the materials. We have produced furniture for schools, community groups, sports facilities and public parks.

Garden Furniture which is built by the unpaid work team includes:

- Garden benches
- Memorial benches
- Picnic tables [large and small]
- Love seats
- Bird tables
- Wishing wells.
- Sand pits
- Bird boxes

#### Personal Placements with Local Charities

We continue to develop opportunities for service users to use their time and skills to complete their unpaid work on placement with local charities and community groups. This provides an opportunity for individual clients to carry out work that benefits the charity as well as the wider community. It assists service users to make connections with their local communities and learn new skills. Often clients remain involved in a voluntary capacity with the charity once their CPO has ended. Our placements include local charity shops, a furniture recycling project, a charity supporting ex-service personnel, a community food growing project, a food bank, sports organisations and a lunch club for older people.

#### Recycling projects producing outdoor and garden materials and furnishing

The team is continuing to develop relationships with local firms where we can recycle items like pallets, leftover materials, tyres and other things that otherwise would have been disposed of. We have been able to use materials like tyres to build fun planters that look like cartoon characters including Olaf (from the film Frozen) and Minions. We have used wood that would have been thrown away to construct garden furniture for a local nursery. Wood donated by a tree surgeon was used to create chairs and tables for a school. We are continuing to develop and expand this aspect of the service and are currently working on a cycle track at a primary school made from recycled tyres.

#### Helping increase the safety of victims of domestic violence and stalking

In the past year we have developed closer links with the local MARAC and agencies supporting victims of domestic abuse and stalking. We have worked with these agencies to complete projects that assist in increasing women's safety. Examples of work have included: cutting back a garden to reduce places where a stalker could hide, erecting fencing round a garden to provide a safe and secure area for the family, and helping a victim and her family move to new accommodation.



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

### Feedback from Service Users

In total we had 250 clients undertake a total of 279 Orders in the year 2015/16. This resulted in 18097 hours of unpaid work being completed to the benefit of the local community. At the end of each order clients are asked to complete an exit questionnaire. Some of the key findings from these questionnaires are:

- 94.5% of clients felt they had made “payback” to the community through their placements which is a 1.5% increase from last year.
- 64% felt that they had gained new skills during their order which is an 11% increase from the previous year.
- 87% of client’s felt that their attitude towards offending had improved during the course of their order.
- 99% of clients felt they were treated with respect.

### Quotes from service users in relation to impact on likelihood of offending:

- ‘I would like it noted that everyone during my order gave me fantastic support and guidance. This has helped me to be in a better place, situation and a better person. I won’t be offending again.’
- ‘I am going to make it one of my goals, not to get another order.’
- ‘I have enjoyed how it went; it has given me a positive attitude towards my future.’

### Quotes from service users about the benefits of their Unpaid Work requirement:

- ‘I have learned to use machinery that I had not used before. This will help me get a job.’
- ‘I learned new skills at the rural skills course and am now confident gardening.’
- ‘I have learned joinery skills from supervisors and other people.’
- ‘I have better communication skills with working with members of the public and working as part of a team to achieve our goal.’
- ‘I improved my people skills working with drug users. It felt that I was able to help them.’
- ‘I learnt basic joinery, carving and painting skills.’
- ‘I now have a certificate in first aid.’
- ‘It helped me get into a routine.’
- ‘The fact that I was treated with respect by all staff made the order bearable.’
- ‘We always worked hard no matter what we were doing.’
- ‘I helped to make various items for the community, which gave me job satisfaction.’

Quotes from service users about what they see as the benefits to the community of their Unpaid Work:

- ‘I took part in work that improved the community.’
- ‘Things I have made have been used throughout the community.’
- ‘We have combined skills and strengths which have resulted in us producing some good work for nurseries and charities.’
- ‘We have helped nurseries who do not have much money by building things for their playgrounds.’
- ‘All the staff have been good with me. I am happy I have been able to help the Community. I learned new skills.’
- ‘I have helped people with needs and kept nature walks tidy and looking respectable.’
- ‘My time spent cleaning & tidying paths and other activities carried out made Midlothian a cleaner and tidier place.’
- ‘The best thing was helping people with no money, getting things done.’
- ‘Great staff – fantastic service making benches and items for a kids’ nursery.’

Feedback from Beneficiaries

We gather feedback from beneficiaries, both individuals and community groups through asking them to complete and return a feedback questionnaire. Of the feedback received 94.5% of respondents described the quality of the work as excellent with 5.5% describing it as good.

Quotes from beneficiaries about Unpaid Work carried out:

- ‘The team were nice, friendly and very helpful’ (individual beneficiary).
- ‘After a cut in funding this year the team’s ability to recycle material has really benefited our service users’ (Community Centre).
- ‘It was worth the wait as the garden looks good now and is easy for me to access’ (individual beneficiary).
- ‘Service was delivered as promised and on time’ (individual beneficiary).
- ‘The team worked well together, were helpful and considerate of those around them. They were positive and pleasant when in contact with our service users’ (day care centre for the older people).
- ‘If we were paying for the assistance provided it would have used up our limited financial resources. Being flexible with us helped minimise the disruption to our service users’ (community centre).
- ‘Friendly and approachable’ (Residential Children’s Service).
- ‘They did a very good job and I could not have managed without them’ (individual beneficiary).
- ‘The team completed the work with no fuss and done everything that was needed’ (victim of crime).
- ‘All work was completed quickly and efficiently. The whole team were exceptionally respectful and they helped to enhance the school and therefore all pupils benefited from this service’ (primary school).

### Suggestions from beneficiaries:

- 'I am looking forward to seeing if the team could become involved in community projects to support individual unpaid carers to support tasks that allow carers to do things at home e.g.: erecting sheds, laying slabs to give access to gardens, putting furniture together so carers can pursue hobbies at home' (community group).
- 'Increase public awareness so victims and communities know that your service is available to them' (individual beneficiary).
- 'Develop more opportunities to help single parents and OAPs' (individual beneficiary).

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

The take up of the other activity in Midlothian remained low during the 2014/15 financial year and during the 2015/16 we have sought to develop the opportunities available for clients. Current activities include:

- A Rural Skills taster course that was developed in partnership with Newbattle Abbey College. The course is delivered quarterly over a 5 day period and lasts for 30 hours. This partnership has been running now for five years and during the past year we have had 19 individuals successfully complete the course. In this financial year we developed the course further to include an Adult Achievement Award from the Scottish Qualification Authority. The two clients who completed this extended version of the course were amongst the first in the country to receive this award and met with Alasdair Allan MSP when he visited Newbattle Abbey College.
- The Spring service works with women who are involved in or at risk of becoming involved in offending behaviour. The opportunity to attend is made available to all women on CPOs. Spring provides a holistic service to women and focuses on mental health, experiences of victimisation, self-esteem and substance misuse as well as on reducing the likelihood of offending.
- Venture Trust have continued to offer their "Wild Living – Chance for Change" personal development course to clients subject to Unpaid Work. We have had several young people attend this programme as part of the "other activity".
- We are keen to help clients make contacts with local services so that support can be maintained when their orders have ended. Referrals to services dealing with substance misuse has allowed clients to initially use their "other activity" allowance of hours towards establishing contact with agencies including MELD, the Substance Misuse Service, ELCA and Transitions. These services then continue to support clients after their orders have been completed.
- Also available to our service users are literacy and numeracy courses which are delivered on a regular basis by MALANI, Midlothian Council's adult literacy and numeracy project.

- Clients have also been able to attend training courses to assist them gain employment, dependent on eligibility for funding through their ILA (Individual Learning Account). This has allowed clients to complete training on Health and Safety related issues and obtain the Health and Safety certificates needed for work on building sites, such as CSCS cards. Clients have also been able to gain their forklift truck driving licence.
- In partnership with the British Heart Foundation we have delivered numerous emergency first aid courses. Clients are trained to recognise the signs and symptoms of heart attacks and strokes and learn how to deliver basic first aid in emergency situations.

**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.**

We have undertaken a number of consultation activities since April 2015:

- Having set up an interactive facility on the Midlothian Council website during 2014 we have been receiving referrals directly from members of the public.
- We have visited Community Councils and met with local councillors; this has resulted in several referrals for projects being made to our team. A presentation was also given at two Community Justice events.
- We have been an active member of the Community Safety Delivery Group which has helped us work with partner organisations to the benefit of the community. An example of this work is the waste amnesty that took place before Bonfire Night in November 2015.
- We attended the Midfest Family Fun Day for the second year running to publicise our service and engage with the public about projects they would like our unpaid work team to take on. This has resulted in a number of new referrals from those who previously did not know our service existed. At this event we sought the public's views about unpaid work and 81% of respondents felt that the team should be helping the victims of crime. We had already started to develop this area of work, undertaking projects to support the victims of domestic abuse. To further increase our support for victims we have engaged with tenant participation officers and community link workers to identify projects within areas experiencing high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, with a view to improving the general environment for residents. We have undertaken a mapping exercise to identify the top three areas in Midlothian affected by crime and disorder and are proactively contacting community groups and organisations in these areas to increase the volume of work we undertake there.
- As part of the redesign of Community Justice we are currently carrying out an extensive engagement and consultation exercise with organisations, members of the public, service users, victims and witnesses of crime. As part of the engagement process we are asking for suggestions for work that the unpaid work team could undertake. Once the survey results are analysed we will incorporate the suggestions received into our future plans including the Midlothian Outcomes, Performance and Improvement Framework.

**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.**

In 2015/16 the use of CPO requirements were as follows:

<i>Alcohol</i>	2
<i>Compensation</i>	2
<i>Conduct</i>	6
<i>Programme</i>	6
<i>Restriction</i>	0
<i>Unpaid work</i>	179
<i>Supervision</i>	74
<i>Unpaid work as the only requirement</i>	142
<i>Supervision as the only requirement</i>	40
<i>Unpaid work and supervision</i>	37
<i>Total number of CPOs made</i>	219

Unpaid work remains the most commonly used CPO requirement with a 15.7% increase in its use as the sole requirement of a CPO compared to 2014/15. 37 CPOs were made with conditions of both supervision and unpaid work. The number of CPOs made with supervision as the sole requirement has decreased by 9% with 40 such orders compared to 44 the previous year.

Courts have continued to increase the use of the conduct requirement; with a 50% increase from 4 in 2014/2015 to 6 in 2015/16. The conduct requirement continues to be used to prohibit clients from a course of action such as contacting a named person, accessing the internet or having contact with persons under the age of 17. It is also used as a means of requiring individuals to do something, for example engaging with a service such as with alcohol counselling or attending a women's service.

This year has seen a decrease in the use of compensation as a requirement, down from 6 to 2. This requirement tends to be imposed in instances where supervision has not been recommended. If a client is not making the required payments we are instructing them to contact the Fines Section at Edinburgh Sheriff Court to have their case reviewed or alternatively breach action may be taken if appropriate.

The use of the programme requirement has also seen a decrease with there being 13 fewer such requirements made this year. A factor relating to this decrease is the roll out of the Moving Forward: Making Changes programme which is not deemed suitable for offenders assessed as low risk. Within Midlothian a programme requirement is required for inclusion in: Venture Trust, the Caledonian programme and Moving Forward: Making Changes.

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

The Criminal Justice Team in Midlothian work closely with staff from other agencies including. These include:

- Adults and Community Care
- Police Scotland
- Community Safety
- Housing and Homelessness teams
- Substance Misuse services
- Children and Families social work
- Health Inequalities
- Mental Health services, including SOLS
- Lifelong Learning team

For women placed on a CPO, with a condition of supervision, engagement with the Spring service continues to be an integral part of the case management plan. Where appropriate attendance at Spring can be considered as part of the 'other activity' of a CPO with unpaid work. Referral to the Willow Service in Edinburgh is also an option for women with complex psychological problems and this would be decided after ongoing assessment from Criminal Justice social workers and/or staff at the Spring Service.

When working with service users on CPOs social workers use a number of interventions to support the process of change and to manage the risk of re-offending and harm. Examples of the types of interventions used within Midlothian are as follows:

#### Domestic Abuse offences

The Caledonian System provides a combined response to men's abuse of their partners and ex-partners comprising of a programme of work for men convicted of domestic abuse related offences and a support service for women, children and families affected by these offences. The system also includes inter-agency protocols for joint working.

The East and Midlothian Public Protection Team was established in March 2014 and brings together Lead Officers and staff involved in Adult Support and Protection, Child Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls. Also co-located in the team are Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) staff and the 'J' Division Police Public Protection Unit. The MARAC Co-ordinator is also part of this team. The MARAC process allows information to be shared about victims of domestic abuse assessed as being at a high risk of harm and Criminal Justice social work representatives attend MARAC meetings.

### Sexual Offending

The Community Intervention Service for Sex offenders (CISSO) provides support and consultation in our work with those convicted of a sexual offence. They deliver the accredited programme for sexual offenders: Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC). If a client is assessed as suitable for inclusion in Moving Forward Making Changes they will complete the pre-group work on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis with the local Criminal Justice team before undertaking the groupwork programme in Edinburgh.

There is also a Learning Disability Service delivered in conjunction with the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and CISSO and includes a group work programme.

The Sexual Offender Liaison Service (SOLS) team is based in the Orchard Clinic at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital and provides an invaluable consultation and assessment resource to Criminal Justice services across the NHS Lothian region.

### General Offending

When working with service users convicted of general offences the main focus of supervision is to reduce the risk of re-offending and harm through providing the individual with the opportunity to engage in a process of change. At the pre-sentence stage, if recommending supervision as part of a CPO, criminal justice social workers outline provisional actions plans for promoting positive change and increasing desistance. LS/CMI provides a more detailed framework of assessment leading to a individualised case management plans which seeks to target the identified risks and needs.

The following agencies/teams have supported the delivery of interventions as part of CPOs:

- Mid and East Lothian Drugs (MELD, which also works with individuals who have alcohol issues)
- Edinburgh and Lothian Counselling Service for Alcohol (ELCA)
- The Venture Trust
- The Edinburgh and Midlothian Offender Recovery Service (for substance misuse assistance in custody, arrest referral and voluntary throughcare)
- The Orchard Centre (for mental health issues)
- The local NHS Lothian Substance Misuse Service

- Substance misuse social work staff
- Midlothian Young People's Advice Service (MYPAS, for sexual health and substance misuse issues)
- The Willow Centre
- Spring Service
- The Sexual Offender Liaison Service (SOLS)
- Fairbridge/Prince's Trust
- Midlothian Adult Literacy and Numeracy (MALANI)
- Places for People (for tenancy support)
- The Joint Mental Health Team
- Recovery College (Transitions)
- Lifelong Learning
- SHINE mentoring service
- Number 6 (Autism support)

**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?**

Although we are fortunate in Midlothian to have Gateway Clinics to enable rapid access to substance misuse services, there is no doubt that the 23% reduction in ADP budgets will have an impact on the services available, particularly from 2017-18 and beyond. MELD normally employs a Criminal Justice worker but this post has been left unfilled for several months since the previous potholder left, due to uncertainties about funding, which is via MELDAP. Previously CJ social workers were able to make direct referrals to this worker so the current situation does affect access to services. MELD continues to provide support to the Spring service although the future of this support is unclear.

Also the Community Health Improvement Service (CHIT) currently provides a Health and Well Being session to Spring service users every fortnight and extended health checks for the Spring women and also anyone on a court order who wants one. CHIT funding has recently been secured until the end of March 2017 but there is no guarantee of funding after that. This is unfortunate as one of the priority areas for CHIT is people involved in the Criminal Justice system.

Access to psychological therapies is difficult with very long waiting lists: this is a problem in many parts of Scotland. We now have an Access service for individuals with common mental health problems that works in a similar way to the Gateway Clinics. However if someone needs psychological therapy, rather than other forms of support, the wait will still be a long one. Fortunately we have access to the SOLS service for high risk offenders, mainly sexual offenders but SOLS has also agreed to offer a service to help CJ social work with the supervision of violent offenders managed under the MAPPA extension.



**COMPLETED BY: Margaret Brewer**

**DATE: 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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**13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**