

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2022
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Community Payback Annual Report 2020-2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ notify the Committee of South Lanarkshire's Community Payback Order annual report 2020-2021 and the Community Justice Scotland summary report 2020-2021 of all 32 local authorities Community Payback Order Annual Reports being laid in Parliament
- ◆ to highlight the main themes and trends from South Lanarkshire's Community Payback annual report 2020-2021

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that that the content of the Community Justice Scotland (CJS) summary report 2020-2021 be noted; and
- (2) that that the content of the South Lanarkshire's Community Payback Order (CPO) annual report 2020-2021 be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The CJS summary report was laid in Parliament on 30 March 2022. This report provides a Summary of Local Authority Annual Reports on CPOs, covering the period 2020-21. It provides an overview of activity undertaken in local communities by people subject to a CPO. Key themes were:

- ◆ considerable evidence of resilience, commitment and innovation shown by Justice Social Work Services and partners during the pandemic
- ◆ nationally 4,704 hours of unpaid work were completed in 2020-21 compared to 11,805 hours in 2019-20
- ◆ nationally 8,169 CPO orders were made in 2020-21 compared to 16,800 in 2019-20
- ◆ for the first time more supervision requirements were issued than unpaid work requirements
- ◆ full impact of reduced personal contact for service users is not known at this stage. Virtual interventions have appeared to benefit some.

3.2. Within the report, South Lanarkshire's Unpaid Work (UPW) Service was highlighted for its work on survival blankets for homeless people and the hot meal service (both of which are also included within the South Lanarkshire Community Payback Annual Report 2020-2021).

- 3.3. South Lanarkshire Justice Services produced their Community Payback Annual Report 2020-2021 which was submitted to the Scottish Government in March 2022 (Appendix 1). Key features were:
- 3.3.1. A combined total from UPW and Other Activity (OA) of 10,306 hours provided. This is a difference of 51,542 hours compared to what delivered in 2019-2020 - for example, represents 20% of the activity undertaken in that earlier period. The fundamental driver for this was the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically:-
- ◆ due to necessary restrictions put in place for non-essential services, UPW services operated at a reduced capacity for approximately seven months of 2020-2021, with a suspension of service for five months during that time
 - ◆ the Community Orders (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 imposed a reduction of 35% of UPW for certain categories of offences. Application of this reduction commenced in March 2020 and continued until July 2021.
- 3.3.2. Due to the restrictions in place during 2020-2021 the service identified new ways to allow service users to undertake UPW and indeed contribute to the wider pandemic response. Examples included:-
- ◆ the rag rug service where old worn clothing and bedding were braided to make rugs that were then donated to animal welfare centres
 - ◆ the Meals at Home initiative - developed in conjunction with Community Planning Partners - where UPW staff delivered meals to vulnerable families
- 3.3.3. Justice Social Work Services continued to be provided in response to risk and need whilst also taking account of social distancing requirements at the time, utilising digital technologies where possible. A triage system - informed by assessed risks and needs - was introduced to inform the type of contact required, with the frequency of contact adapted in response to what was required. When restrictions permitted, walk and talk sessions also took place to support service users struggling with social isolation, poverty, mental health, and substance use issues.

Innovation

- 3.3.4. The Winter Clothing Campaign undertaken by the UPW team and South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) Education colleagues was an example of an innovative scheme driven locally. This involved the UPW Service collecting, laundering and sorting over 1000+ winter jackets. The laundered jackets were then distributed, as needed, amongst SLC primary and secondary schools. Any additional clothing was donated to local charities and homeless projects.
- 3.3.5. A Justice Support Assistant with lived experience of addiction was recruited to support people with substance abuse issues who were subject to diversion from prosecution. This worker provided support to people at the outset of diversion orders and continued working with them after they exited justice to ensure ongoing links to treatment and recovery networks to support harm reduction for these people.
- 3.3.6. The Justice Social Work Service commissioned a creative arts organisation (Street Cones) to facilitate a 12-week programme with a group of young men with justice experience. Participation in this programme has increased confidence and provided new opportunities for the young people involved.

Feedback

- 3.3.7. The report includes just some of the feedback provided by service users, which speak to the impact of staff during what was an extremely challenging period.

“I have a second chance and will grasp it with both hands and will prove to my family and friends that I am the guy that can overcome, be forgiven and move on and have a successful life.”

“I am a firm believer in respect being a ‘two-way street’, and I thank my worker for showing me respect despite my previous conviction. For me, her nurturing ability is second to none - she found the correct balance on when to be firm and fair, serious and funny, and this is what a person on an order needs.”

4. Employee Implications

- 4.1. Additional staffing in all areas of Justice Social Work Services have been supported through the use of non-recurrent Scottish Government Recovery Covid-19 funding in 2020-2021. These are fixed term posts secured until March 2023. Recruitment to existing establishment posts continues with a focus for UPW Supervisors in both permanent and sessional posts.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. It should be noted that the additional funding from Scottish Government Recovery Covid-19 fund is non-recurrent and secured until March 2023.
- 5.2. There are no additional financial implications identified in this report.

6. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability, or the environment in terms of information contained in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. The activity set out within the Community Payback Annual Report 2020-2021 contributes to the mitigation of the following high-level risk within the Council's risk register:-
- ♦ the Council does not provide an adequate response to the effects of a global Pandemic illness within communities; maintaining critical services; providing support to the community and business; deliver emergency response commitments as a Category One Responder; South Lanarkshire Council 45 No Risk Lead Organisation and protecting the wellbeing of employees and service users as far as reasonably practicable. Responding to a Pandemic will impact on everything else the Council does.
- 7.2. The activity set out within the Community Payback Annual Report 2020-2021 contributes to the Connect: South Lanarkshire Council Plan 2022-17 and specifically the priority that our people live the healthiest lives possible.

7.3. Further work will be required in the following areas:-

- ◆ retaining and improving digitalisation inclusion to ensure those subject to CPO's can access the services they need
- ◆ analysis on benefits and limitations of face-to-face and digital contact to inform appropriate balance of modes of service delivery
- ◆ addressing the current backlog of UPW hours (for example. through remote projects)

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy, and therefore no impact assessment is required.

Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

5 July 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ focused on people and their needs
- ◆ working with and respecting others
- ◆ accountable, effective, efficient, and transparent
- ◆ ambitious, self-aware and improving

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ community Justice Scotland (CJS) summary report 2020-2021.
<https://communityjustice.scot/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/community-payback-order-annual-report-2020-21.pdf>

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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