



Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority update September 2011



Welcome

This is the quarterly e update for September from Lanarkshire CJA which publicises developments that will be of interest to you and circulates updates to a wide range of partners.

This update is one method we use to communicate how we and our partners contribute to reducing re-offending and community safety.

Lanarkshire CJA website provides additional information on the role of Community Justice Authorities and includes information on Board Members, staffing, contact details for the team and links to partner's websites. Current LCJA publications, such as, the Area Plan (2011-14), previous Annual Reports and all Board papers are also available for information.

If you would like any further information about the updates contained in this document or you are interested in supplying information for the next update, please visit our website at www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk or contact the team on 01698 454234 or at the following email address: roberta.reid@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Reconviction Rate Falls

Two year reconviction rates by Community Justice Authority area were published on 30 August 2011 by the Scottish Government. Lanarkshire CJA reconviction rate has substantially fallen to **41%** (for the year 2007-8) compared to **43%** (for the year 2006-7). This is the second lowest reconviction rate across Scotland and it is below the Scottish average of 42.4%.

The figures also show that people released from custodial sentences of three months or less have the highest reconviction rate compared with all other sentences. The CJA will continue to discuss this issue with our partners in order to ensure we are doing everything possible to maintain this significant drop in re-offending and continue to build on this success.



Children's International Games August 201

A successful bid was made by North and South Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Social Work Teams for over 12k from the 'CashBack' Fund. It is estimated that unpaid work squads provided in excess of 6,000 hours of work. The bid meant that offenders were able to have the opportunity to engage in meaningful work that benefited the community. For example, landscaping, improving outside pitch areas and painting of facilities such as changing rooms will ensure that local communities are able to continue to benefit from the work undertaken.

Commission on Women Offenders

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice has announced an independent Commission on Women Offenders. The Commission has been tasked to come up with practical recommendations to help improve the outcomes for women in the Criminal Justice system. The remit is hugely challenging, but finding more effective ways of dealing with Scotland's female offenders will deliver enormous benefits to those directly affected and more widely to society as a whole.

The Commission will review the existing evidence base from the UK and internationally. This will allow the Commission to examine: characteristics of female offenders and patterns of offending; patterns of sentencing and impact on the prison population; re-offending and risks to the public; needs that predict/do not predict re-offending in women and what works to reduce re-offending in relation to women.



Lanarkshire's Employability Pathway

As part of the Lanarkshire CJA's work on ensuring effective transition between prison and community North Lanarkshire's Working hosted a consultation event to assist in developing a pathway for offenders from HMP Addiewell to local communities in South and North Lanarkshire.

This event was well attended and the programme for the morning included presentations from Routes To Work, The Wise Group and Routes Out of Prison. The feedback from group work session will form the basis of further work with Lanarkshire CJA and key partners on employability issues for offenders and ex-offenders.



the Howard League for Penal Reform

North Lanarkshire Council Restorative Justice Team won the Howard League Award for unpaid work at a national award ceremony for Community Programmes in London on the 6th of July.

The Howard League for Penal Reform is the oldest penal reform charity in the UK and is independent of government. The Howard League for Penal Reform believes that ‘community sentences make a person take responsibility and live a law-abiding life in the community’.

The Community Programme Awards were launched in November 2005 as part of the Howard League for Penal Reform's aim of increasing public and government support for community sentences. These annual awards celebrate best practice in community sentencing and champion the cutting edge of the criminal justice system, with work in the community that challenges and changes people for the better – be it unpaid work, drug and alcohol treatment programmes, or restorative justice.



Community Payback Orders Imposed in Lanarkshire

Community Payback Orders (CPOs) were introduced from 1st February 2011 replacing Community Service Orders, Probation Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders. CPOs give courts the flexibility to impose one or more of a range of requirements, depending on the nature of the crime and the underlying issues that need addressed to stop the offending behaviour.

In our first e update we provided information collated by the Scottish Court Service on the initial number of CPO's imposed in Lanarkshire and now provide the following update on CPOs imposed for the time period February 2011 to June 2011, as follows:

- Hamilton Sheriff Court imposed - 107
- Airdrie Sheriff Court imposed - 64
- Lanark Sheriff Court imposed - 25



Annual Report 2010/11

Lanarkshire MAPP (Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements) Annual Report 2010/11 was published on LCJA website www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk on Friday 9th September.

It is important to highlight the crucial work that MAPP carries out in bringing agencies together in order to protect the public from potentially high risk offenders.

The Annual Report highlights work undertaken, changing policy and legislative context, resource issues and future challenges.



SPS Delivery Plan 2011-12

The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) has published their Delivery Plan for 2011-12. This document illustrates how SPS will improve links between custody and the community by working with Community Justice Authorities to support outcomes for offenders and to develop further the 'community facing' approach. The delivery plan also provides key performance indicators, for example:

- 92.6% of ICM (Integrated Case Management) Conferences were held with Criminal Justice Social Work in attendance
- the average annual cost per prisoner place for 2009-10 was £31,703.00
- the percentage of education classes targeting numeracy issues was 9.63%

Further information can be found on our website www.lanarkshirecja.org.uk



Lanarkshire Community Bridges Project

This project has been developed in partnership with the above agencies. The project aims to improve the quality of life for short term prisoners and their families affected by alcohol and drug misuse by enabling continuity of support and treatment from prison to the community. The project is for prisoners whose home address is in Lanarkshire and:

- serving sentences of four years or under
 - due to be released from HMP Addiewell between 1 November 2011 and 31 July 2012
 - who will receive no statutory intervention on release and
 - who have an identified alcohol or drug misuse problem and associated difficulties
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Improving Access to Mental Health Services

'Living Life' is a free, confidential service and is available to anyone suffering low mood, mild to moderate depression or anxiety and has been developed with support from the Scottish Government. Lanarkshire CJA is happy to identify opportunities to improve joint working which may impact positively on take up of services. 'Living Life' is part of a range of services provided by NHS 24 to improve access to mental health services to the people of Scotland. The service is available to anyone over the age of 16 and can be accessed either by GP referral or by phoning the number directly on 0800 323 9655. NHS 24 has asked that partners circulate this information as widely as possible.