
Report To:	Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Date:	31 October 2023
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership	Report No:	SWSCS/35/2023/AH
Contact Officer:	Audrey Howard- Interim Head of Service	Contact No:	01475 715372
Subject:	Justice Social Work Statistics - People Dying on Community Payback Orders (CPOs) - Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel regarding a paper previously submitted to the former Health and Social Care Committee in 2022. This report was in relation to individuals on Community Payback Orders (CPOs) where the reason recorded for the termination of their order was death. The initial report recommended a further update following completion of a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment being led by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership.
- 1.3 The initial report provided background to the use of CPOs in Scotland, information in respect of a paper submitted to a Scottish Parliament Criminal Justice Committee session on '*Reducing reoffending, offering community justice solutions and alternatives to custody*', and the Inverclyde context of CPOs being terminated due to death. The paper also outlined some work being carried out to better understand the issue.
- 1.4 With respect to this specific paper, there are updates from Justice Social Work detailing ongoing work to address multiple vulnerabilities within the Justice Social Work population and the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership on the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment and the preparatory work being undertaken to produce the forthcoming Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work & Social Care Scrutiny Panel notes the content of statistical information (3.5) and updates on behalf of Inverclyde Justice Social Work (3.8 and 3.9) and Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 through to 3.11.

Kate Rocks
Chief Officer- Inverclyde HSCP

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Section three of the report provides the panel with background to the delivery of Community Payback Orders (CPOs) in Scotland, an update from Inverclyde Justice Social Work with respect to work to support individuals made subject to a CPO and an update from the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership regarding the national arrangement of community justice in Scotland, the development of a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA) and future publication of the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP).

BACKGROUND TO COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

- 3.2 The governance arrangements for justice social work services are set out in legislation, making local authorities responsible for delivering a range of services for those involved in the criminal justice system.
- 3.3 Statutory social work orders include Community Payback Orders (CPO) which can be imposed by courts in Scotland as an alternative to a custodial sentence. A person subject to a CPO can be required to comply with the terms of a supervision requirement and / or undertake an unpaid work requirement. The court can supplement a CPO with a number of additional requirements tailored to specific identified need.
- 3.4 The annual publication 'Justice Social Work Statistics in Scotland' presents national level information on criminal justice social work activity in Scotland. The report includes data on justice social work services and social work orders, as well as characteristics of the individuals involved. The current publication for the period 2021-22 was published in [January 2023](#).
- 3.5 Within this annual publication is a data set on CPOs terminated by outcome. Whilst locally and nationally a significant majority of CPOs are terminated due to being successfully completed/early discharge, there is a total where the CPO has been terminated due to death.

The previous report focused on the figures for the reporting year 2019-20 whereby 230 CPOs were terminated in Inverclyde, 7 of which were reported as being due to death. The report also indicated that in 2020-21 the anticipated figures were 143 orders terminated, 11 due to death. In 2021-22, the overall number of orders terminated was 179. Of these, 3 are recorded as being due to the death of the service user.

Reporting Year	Terminations Total	Terminations due to Death
2019-20	230	7
2020-21	143	11
2021-22	179	3
2022-23 (Anticipated)	135	0

- 3.6 The figures recorded above show a significant reduction in deaths of individuals subject to CPOs with preliminary figures for 2022-23 (not yet published) showing 0. This is an encouraging trend, and it is hoped that this is indicative of improving overall outcomes for this population.
- 3.7 As noted in the previous report to the Health and Social Care Committee, cause of death is not recorded within the annual publication '*Justice Social Work Statistics*'. Gaining a national understanding of this data is therefore not possible. However, Inverclyde Justice Social Work did undertake an exercise locally using existing social work records with the aim of establishing any general conclusions which might assist with the work of the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment. This exercise reinforced the conclusion that the population of individuals subject to CPOs experience multiple complexities and vulnerabilities, with many having had current or recent involvement with other HSCP services.

INVERCLYDE JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK UPDATE

3.8 Justice Social Work have a number of strands of work ongoing to address the vulnerabilities of the service user population which we would hope are contributory to the improved outcomes in relation to death whilst on CPO noted:

- As part of the Early Actions System Change Project – Women involved in the Criminal Justice System; there has been significant work carried out in regard to trauma- informed practice. Through this project STILT (Scottish Trauma informed Leadership Training) has been delivered to 73 staff from the HSCP and key third sector partners. 24 frontline practitioners from Justice Social Work; Homelessness and Your Voice Inverclyde have now undertaken Level 3 Safety and Stabilisation Training. Training for business support staff at Level 2 is currently being rolled out.
- Justice Social Work made a successful application to the Alcohol and Drug Partnership for funding to recruit an additional temporary Justice Support Worker who took up post in early January 2023. This additional resource has, to date, provided additional resilience in respect of supporting our most vulnerable service users; strengthening our links with both statutory and voluntary alcohol and drug recovery services and providing targeted support in an early intervention context.
- The services covid-recovery plan has included a return to a face-to-face appointments and the resumption of in-person unpaid work services. This is a contrast to periods, primarily in 2020-21, where a majority of routine justice social work contacts were made via telephone.
- Staff in Justice Social Work recognise that statistical information identifies that individuals open to Justice Social Work predominately reside in the areas known for the highest levels of deprivation. As such, staff continue to be encouraged to make active use of Inverclyde Council's extension to provision of Section 12 funding to address heightened financial vulnerability due to the cost-of-living crisis. The service has supplemented this with initiatives such as the ongoing provision of bus tickets to those who require support to attend appointments and the purchase of food pantry memberships to offer sustainable lower-cost solutions.

INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

3.9 As noted in the paper '*Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics 2019/20- People Dying on Community Payback Orders (CPOs)*' to the previous Health and Social Care Committee, Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership undertook a Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment (SNSA). A SNSA is one of the first steps in the planning and reporting cycle for Community Justice Partnerships. It is a crucial step that will underpin understanding of both service provision and population needs in Inverclyde and forms a baseline for planning decisions and measuring outcomes. In a general sense, the SNSA concluded that:

- The police custody suite at Greenock is one of the largest in Scotland with an annual throughput of over 4000 people on an annual basis. Information extracted from the National Custody System indicated that approximately one-fifth indicated they were dependent on drugs or other substances, one-third had indicated they had ever attempted self-harm or suicide and nearly half had indicated they had mental health problems or had ever received treatment for mental health problems. It is important to note that not all individuals entering the police custody suite at Greenock are from Inverclyde but account for between 30% to 40%.

- For individuals on community based orders in Inverclyde, analysis indicates that over 75% live in the 20% most deprived areas of Inverclyde. By comparison the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 survey, 'crime domain', data zones in the 20% most deprived had decreased by 8 from 32 to 24.
- As noted in 3.7 the SNSA considered justice social work records of the deceased to establish any general conclusions. Sadly, some of those individuals died from drug-related death or alcohol-related death, most had current or recent involvement with other HSCP services and justice social work and for many their justice experience had been frequent.
- In Inverclyde there is a regular male remand population that mirrors the national picture; i.e. approximately one-third of the prison population is made up of individuals on remand at any given time. The female remand population is regularly reported to be in single figures but makes a significant proportion of our entire female prison population.
- People leaving prison (from remand or from completing their sentence) frequently access homelessness services on their liberation. There was an increase in 2020 due to prisoners released early under COVID-19 regulations but has reduced in the following years. Inverclyde continues to differ from national statistics in relation to the prevalence of those leaving institutions i.e., prison/hospital/care consistently appearing within the top 3 reasons for homelessness since 2015/16 to 2021/22.

3.10 Preparatory work for the delivery of the Inverclyde CJOIP has been undertaken during 2022 and 2023 following publication of the national community justice strategy, performance framework and national delivery plan. There is consensus within the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership that the Inverclyde CJOIP will better respond to the needs of those individuals in the justice system accused of or convicted of an offence. This is premised on significant work around the Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment, contributing to national consultation exercises in respect of national publications, and cross-cutting issues with other strategic partnerships in Inverclyde. In addition to the Inverclyde CJOIP responding to the four national priorities a further local aim has been proposed which seeks to *'improve housing and homelessness outcomes for individuals in the justice system'*.

3.11 As noted in the content of the Inverclyde Justice Social Work update, significant work has been undertaken in the service becoming trauma informed and trauma responsive and a commitment that engagement and co-production with communities assists in service delivery. These approaches in addition to understanding poverty and inequality and the impact on those in the justice system, are values which will underpin the CJOIP and the improvement actions carried out by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 In respect of section 3.5 the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the statistical information and at 3.7 and 3.8 note some of the actions by justice social work in supporting individuals.

4.2 Regarding the update from the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership, the Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the general contents of the SNSA and preparatory work for the publication of the Inverclyde CJOIP.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

None

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics 2019/20 - People Dying on Community Payback Orders (CPOs) (SW/11/2022/AG)