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**Participation Statement**

To understand the current landscape and how community justice statutory partners currently contribute to safer communities, a range of strategic scoping work took place during 2016-2017. Supported by Scottish Government Transitions funding and led by Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshire’s Criminal Justice Partnership, this high level scoping work involved all named community justice organisations, third sector interface leads and a range of local and national third sector organisations.

We established that:

* The current strategic and operational functions/service delivery make a significant contribution to the new community justice model
* There is opportunity to strengthen our partnership working to improve outcomes
* We need to improve our collective understanding of the impact of crime on victims, people with convictions, families and communities
* We need to improve our collective understanding on what leads citizens into crime and develop our services to support pathways out of crime
* Prevention and early intervention are critical areas of focus if we are to secure longer-term improvements that lead to safer communities

A summary of activity is noted in the tables below, all of which contributed to the four structural outcomes for community justice:

* Improve community participation and understanding
* Improve strategic planning
* Equal access to services
* Effective use of evidence-based interventions

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| **Activity** | **Who was involved**  | **Learning Points** |
| Scoping and review work of current activity and how this links with Community JusticeDeveloping an understanding on what works for reducing reoffending | Police Scotland L DivisionIntegrated Joint Board/Health Board - Criminal Justice, Youth Services, Children’s Services, Mental Health and Community Addiction ServicesLocal Authority Economic Development, Housing and Working4U Services Community Planning West DunbartonshireScottish Prison Service (HMP - Low Moss, Greenock, Cornton Vale and Polmont)Skills Development ScotlandScottish Fire and Rescue ServiceCrown Office and Procurator Fiscal ServiceScottish Courts and Tribunal ServiceAlternativesPositive Prisons? Positive FuturesTurning Point Scotland West Dunbartonshire Community and Volunteering ServiceArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires’ Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support) | * Identified that each of the Statutory Partners and Third Sector organisations nationally and locally are significantly contributing to West Dunbartonshire Safer Communities agenda, either directly with people affected by crime and/or in a supporting role
* Identified a range of areas where existing structures and service delivery can be enhanced to improve outcomes
* Identified the ongoing development and embedding community justice within *CPWD Your Communities* model was vital to involving communities meaningfully
* Identified an improved understanding of the routes into the criminal justice pathways as a gap
* Identified an improved understanding of barriers to accessing services as a gap
* Identified opportunities to improve overcoming learning, skills and employability barriers
* Identified that the impact of welfare reform brings challenges to improving outcomes
* Identified our understanding of the role that health services contributes as a gap
* Identified opportunity that exist through commitment to implementing the Care Leavers Covenant
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| **Activity** | **Who was involved**  | **Learning Points** |
| Full day development session with statutory partner management and frontline staff, local Third Sector Interface Lead and national Third Sector user representation organisation.Workforces identified an extensive and varied range of strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats in relation to current service delivery that contributes to community justice. | Police Scotland L DivisionIntegrated Joint Board/Health Board - Criminal Justice, Youth Services, Children’s Services, Mental Health ServicesLocal Authority Economic Development, Housing and Working4U Services West Dunbartonshire Community and Volunteering ServiceCommunity Planning West DunbartonshireScottish Prison Service (Low Moss)Skills Development ScotlandScottish Fire and Rescue ServiceStreet ConesArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshire’s Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support) | **Strengths/Opportunities:*** Extensive and diverse range of partnership working exists, communication and information-sharing protocols/pathways for community justice should be prioritised
* Commitment of workforces to adjust and adapt service delivery to improve outcomes for community justice was clearly evident
* Multi-agency development sessions to reflect on existing practice and explore opportunities for continuous improvement were highlighted as an effective method of learning and development
* Staff and service user attitudes were explored, developing an improved understanding, processes and protocols were identified as critical to improve experiences and outcomes
* L Division Concern Hub model and Youth Engagement Officer roles should be further developed to progress improved outcomes for community justice
* Health and Social Care Children’s/Youth Services ‘Whole Systems Approach’ model should be developed for adults to progress improved outcomes for community justice
* Health and Social Care Criminal Justice Service Community Payback Orders for Unpaid Work delivered extensive personal and skills development, identified as a critical area of development
* Health and Social Care Mental Health and Community Addiction Services were critical to improving outcomes for community justice and identifying enhanced partnership working opportunities should be prioritised
* Housing and Employability Services and the extensive range of support available within housing and homelessness services, Working4U (welfare, money, adult learning, skills training and employment) were critical to improving outcomes for community justice
* Economic Development Working4Business and Social Enterprise services play a key role with employers to assist with overcoming barriers to work for people with convictions
* West Dunbartonshire Community and Voluntary Services provide access to 940 voluntary organisations, this is a critical communication pathway that should be more fully capitalised on
* Scottish Prison Service (HMP Low Moss), partnership with Turning Point Scotland (PSP) and strengthening the links with community services was identified as a key priority to improve citizenship and reintegration
* Scottish Prison Service (HMP Low Moss), activity to raise awareness of impact of violence against women through 16 Days of Action initiatives, provided opportunities to strengthen partnership working with community-based services
* Skills Development Scotland West Dunbartonshire provided critical prevention and early intervention support to ensure positive destinations for young people, opportunity exists to further develop this area of work to improve outcomes for community justice
* Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Fire Reach Training, Fire Home Safety visits and Young Firefighters were identified as key contributions to community justice. Further development and implementation of workforce domestic abuse training and awareness was identified as an area for progress
* Street Cones performance and discussion forum with attendees contributed significantly to improving understanding of the challenges people with convictions face on the custody to community pathway. The impact and effectiveness of performing arts within the criminal justice pathways and for staff development was identified as a key strength for further development

**Weaknesses/Threats*** Reducing resources for public bodies and wider services delivering community justice-related support
* Communication, information-sharing and processes to deliver more effective multi-agency working can be challenging
* Welfare Reform agenda and reducing DWP/JCP resources bring significant challenges to improving outcomes for community justice
* Current strategic and operational planning arrangements are not as effective as they have the potential to be
* Community integration plans do exist to support custody to community pathways, however engagement for many is voluntary
* Communication pathways between Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services and Scottish Prison Service require strengthening
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| **Activity** | **Who was involved**  | **Learning Points** |
| Two North Strathclyde regional events attended by HSCP (Criminal Justice and Youth Services), Police Scotland L Division, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and Crown Office and Prosecution Services. | Police Scotland L DivisionCrown Office and Procurator Fiscal ServiceIntegrated Joint Board/Health Board - Criminal Justice, Youth and Community Addiction ServicesScottish Fire and Rescue ServiceArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires’ Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support) | * Improved understanding relating to early intervention and diversion from prosecution to improve long-term outcomes.
* Identified a number of areas for improvement particularly relating to communication for consideration by Community Justice West Dunbartonshire
* Contributed to the development of an Early Intervention Strategy for North Strathclyde Local Authority Areas
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| **Activity** | **Who was involved**  | **Learning Points** |
| Scoped current structures for engagement through the developing Community Planning *Your Communities* model, Police Scotland *Your View Counts* and West Dunbartonshire *Community and Volunteering Service* | Police Scotland L DivisionCommunity Planning West DunbartonshireWest Dunbartonshire Community and Volunteering ServiceArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires’ Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support) | * Established a baseline of current interest/engagement that includes community justice
* Clear understanding of the priorities of our community in relation to crime
* Identified opportunities to improve engagement with 940 voluntary organisations
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| **Activity** | **Who was involved**  | **Learning Points** |
| Initial scoping work through discussions with Criminal Justice staff and national Third Sector organisation staffDiscussions with Sheriff Principal | Health and Social Care Criminal Justice ServiceArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires’ Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support)Turning Point Scotland (Turnaround Service)Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service | * Identified the pressure on resources due to increased disposals for Community Payback Orders
* Established the extensive and varied range of interventions delivered to support people on a range of Community Payback and Supervision Orders
* Identified a range of opportunities for improvement for consideration by Community Justice West Dunbartonshire
* Identified further work to understand how we best capitalise on the assets and skills to assist citizens to desist from crime
* Identified opportunity to establish a user group, supported by Turnaround Service
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| Engagement and visits to four Scottish Prison Service establishments. HMP Low Moss, HMP Greenock, HMP Cornton Vale and HMP Polmont | Scottish Prison ServiceArgyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires’ Criminal Justice Partnership (Transitions support) | * Established the extensive and varied range of interventions delivered to support men, women and young people in the care of SPS establishments
* Identified further work to understand how we improve planning for release from custody on any length of sentence
* Identified that maintaining communication between citizens in the care of SPS establishments and community services as a gap
* Identified opportunities to improve communication, information-sharing and assessment processes
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| **Activity** | **Who was involved** | **Learning Points** |

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| Initial scoping work to ascertain levels and diversity of service demand and delivery.  | Health and Social Care Criminal Justice ServiceVictim Support Scotland (West Dunbartonshire) | * Established the numbers of people accessing Victim Support, by gender, age and crime type
* Identified opportunities to explore more effective methods of sensitively engaging with victims of crime
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