

# What's Community Justice?

Community justice is all about partnership and collaboration, recognising that keeping people safe and reducing reoffending is a joint responsibility.



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# What's the problem?

In Scotland we have more people in prison than any other European country.

Imprisonment perpetuates the cycle of disadvantage and trauma.

Incarceration is not effective at reducing crime, in fact, within two years of release, 58% of ex-offenders are rearrested.



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# The Community Justice Partnership



mygov.scot



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# “ Community Justice Scotland

We all want Scotland to be a place where we can all feel safe. That's why we need a justice system that we can rely on. We'll achieve that goal through constant innovation and by working closely with our partners to develop new ways of supporting people who have committed a crime, their families and the various agencies that help to break the cycle of reoffending, allowing people to make a positive contribution to society. CJS

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1 in 3 men and 1 in 10 women  
in Scotland have  
a criminal conviction



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# Community Sentences First

Sentences served in the community are more effective than those served in prison. A community-first approach keeps people, who are not yet tried or who pose little or no danger, in their communities. There they are connected to all the important relationships and support networks needed for a productive life, resulting in less crime being committed.



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A community sentence can change a  
person's life for the better for everyone  
**#LifeChangingSentence**

**“**  
I GOT ALCOHOL TREATMENT AND AM DEALING WITH MY EMOTIONS BETTER.  
**”**  
THAT'S A  
**#LIFECHANGINGSENTENCE**

**COMMUNITY JUSTICE**  
IS WHEN PEOPLE WHO'VE BROKEN THE LAW SERVE A SENTENCE IN THE COMMUNITY. IT MEANS LESS CRIME AND FEWER VICTIMS ACROSS SCOTLAND.

THAT'S A  
**#LIFECHANGINGSENTENCE**

**“**  
MY NEIGHBOUR DID UNPAID WORK AND NOW WE SHARE PRIDE IN OUR PARKS.  
**”**  
THAT'S A  
**#LIFECHANGINGSENTENCE**

COMMUNITY JUSTICE SCOTLAND



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# Fewer Victims



The evidence shows community justice can help people stop breaking the law leading to fewer victims and safer communities.

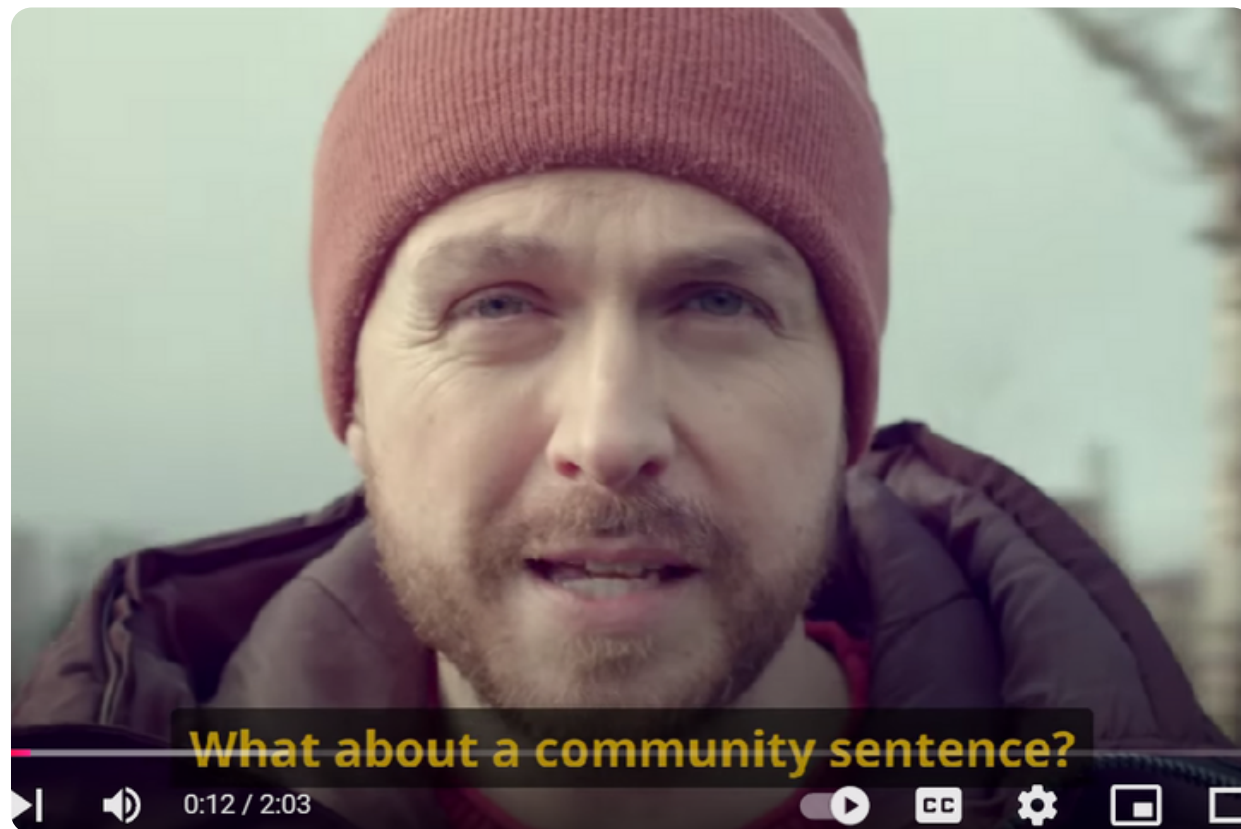
The Scottish Government's latest reconviction data (published: 6 Oct 2020) shows that of those who had been given sentences of less than one year, 49% were reconvicted within a year. In comparison reconviction rates for community sentences were much lower, 30% down from 32% the year before.



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# Giving back to the Community

Community justice is where people who have broken the law are held to account and supported to reconnect and contribute to their communities.



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# Community Payback Projects



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# Offence-focused Programmes Addressing Underlying Issues

Where needed community-based sentences can include treatment for underlying issues such as drug or alcohol addiction, offence-focused programmes, unpaid work, fines and compensation or restrictions of liberty such as electronic tagging and curfews.



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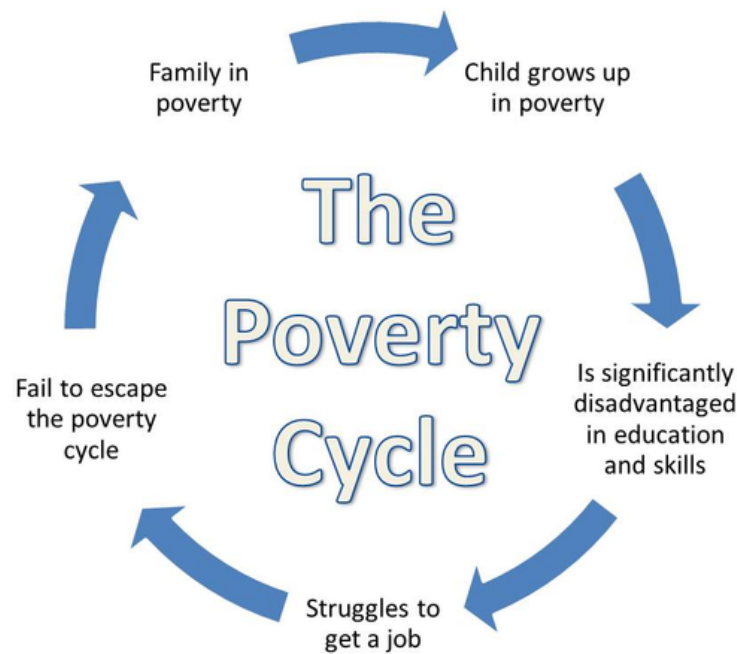
# Families pay the price of a family member in prison

Imprisonment creates, sustains, and deepens poverty amongst children and families. Single women on low incomes overwhelmingly bear the cost of prison with significant negative effects for their physical and mental health.



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# The Vicious Cycle



The vicious cycle of poverty refers to a self-perpetuating pattern where poverty leads to conditions that make it difficult for individuals or families to escape, resulting in continued poverty across generations.



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# What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?

ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in a child's life:



Physical Abuse



Emotional Abuse



Sexual Abuse



Domestic Violence



Parental Substance Abuse



Mental Illness



Suicide or Death



Crime or Imprisoned Family

Causing lifelong medical, mental & social suffering



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# Adverse Childhood Experiences

A hard childhood can lead to criminal behaviour. Prolonged exposure to stress in childhood disrupts healthy brain development. This can manifest as emotional and conduct problems in childhood, and risk-taking and criminal behaviours in adulthood.

6/10 people who broke the law suffered early childhood trauma.



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# A Trauma-Informed Approach



“It changes how you look at a person - whether you look at them as just a criminal or someone who had trauma in their background.” ([acestoohigh.com](http://acestoohigh.com))



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# Our Justice System is Broken

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Prisons dehabilitate rather than rehabilitate. Imprisonment tends to slow maturation, to sever social ties, to stigmatise and reinforce a criminalised identity, and to entrench institutional routines. In other words, prisons are as likely to ‘dehabilitate’ as to rehabilitate, diminishing life chances rather than enhancing people’s capacity to live well (McNeill and Schinkel, 2016).

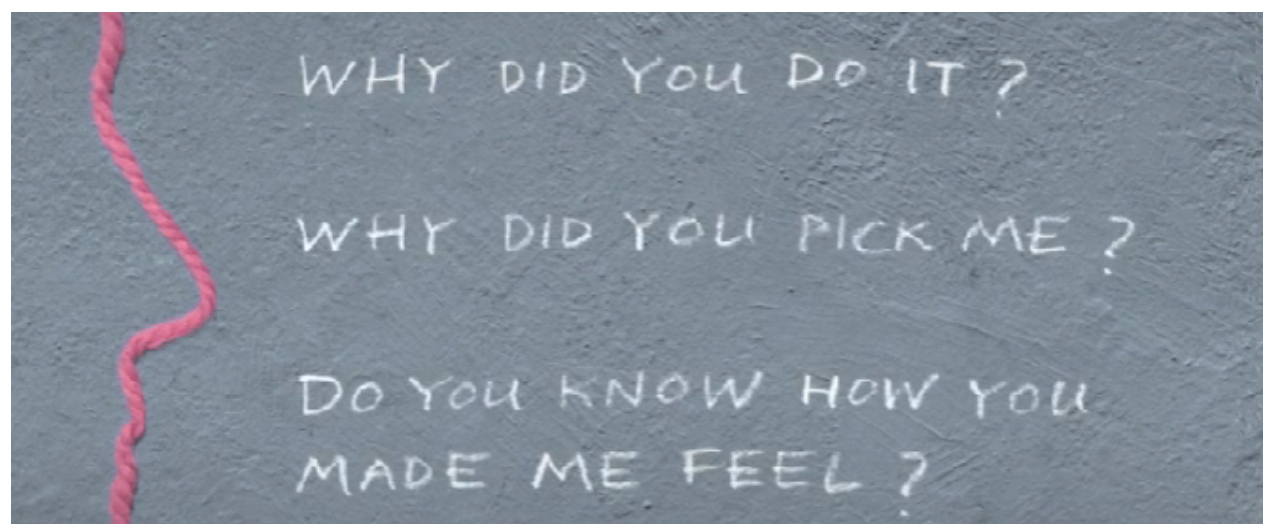
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# Restorative Practice

Restorative practice is a way of working with conflict that puts the focus on repairing the harm that has been done. It is a carefully facilitated, victim-led approach to conflict resolution including all the parties involved.



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# Restorative Justice

Gives the opportunity for people harmed by a crime and the people responsible for the harm to share how the crime has affected them.

Enables everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Provides opportunities for victims to be heard and to have a say in the resolution.

Enables offenders to face the consequences of their actions and the impact it has had upon others.



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# Not a 'Soft Option'

Community sentences are penalties in that they have a punitive element, such as limitations on free movement or association plus mandatory attendance at treatment centres, recovery courses & unpaid work hours.

Basic upskilling can improve employability, reducing their risk of future offending.



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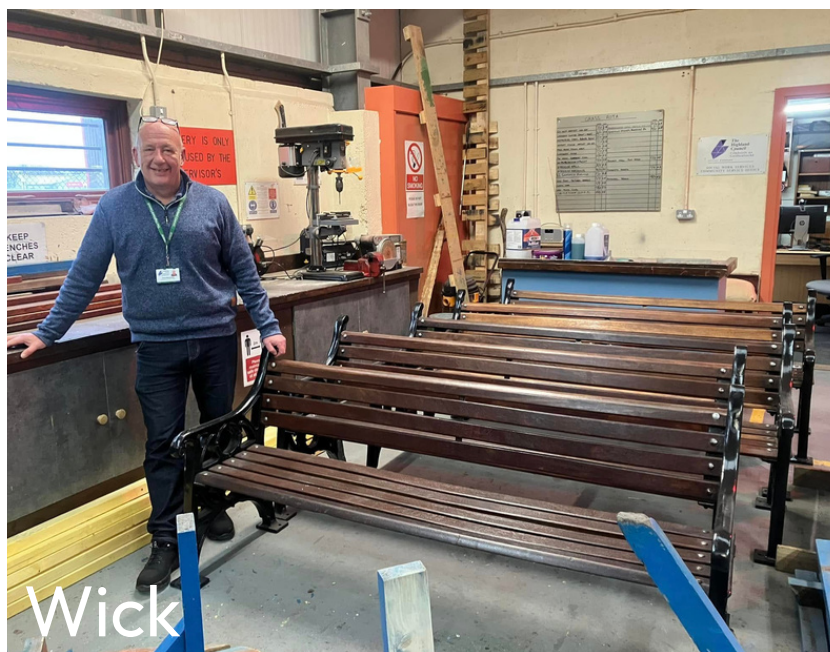
# Community Payback Projects



Alness



Inverness



Wick



Fort William



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# 10,000,000



Scotland's communities have benefitted from around 10 million hours of unpaid work carried out by people serving community sentences since 2011.



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# Safer Communities

We want to raise awareness of what community justice is and build confidence in it as an effective sentencing option that reduces offending, reduces the number of victims and improves lives...



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# Everyone Deserves a Second Chance

Timpson has been hiring people with prison experience for 22 years. 10% (650 staff) or 1 in 9 of their employees have a criminal record. They have employment hubs, training academies and mock up shops to get prisoners job ready. From 14% of prison leavers getting jobs within 6 months four years ago, it has increased to 33%.



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## **Community Payback Information**

### **Giving Back to the Community**

Sentences served in the community are more effective than those served in prison. A community-first approach keeps people, who are not yet tried or who pose little or no danger to the safety of fellow citizens, in their communities.

There they are connected to all the important relationships and support networks needed for a productive life, resulting in less crime being committed.



### **Do you have jobs that need done?**

There is a real need for group work projects and individual work placements in charities and community organisations around Highland.

\*Each project will be risk assessed and must meet criteria related to community benefit and not taking work away from local trades people.

#### **Contact Details:**

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#### **Telephone numbers:**

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**Skye & Lochalsh**  
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involved in the Justice System?  
**Don't go it alone!**

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Our **new** website will direct you to Highland  
specific services.

Visit: **[www.highlandcjp.org.uk](http://www.highlandcjp.org.uk)**

**Scan here:**

