

Culture and Communities Committee

Item 9.2

10am, Tuesday, 18 June 2019

Community Payback Order Annual Report 2017/18

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is recommended to note the Community Payback annual report at Appendix 1.

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Community Payback Order Annual Report 2017/18

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report presents to the Culture and Communities Committee the Community Payback Order annual report. The report outlines the range of interventions carried out to support behavioural and lifestyle change, including types of unpaid work undertaken and specialised programmes, for example for sex offenders and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Feedback from service users demonstrates that Community Payback Orders make a significant contribution to helping people stop or reduce their offending.

3. Background

- 3.1 Section 227ZM of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 imposes a duty on local authorities to submit an annual report to Scottish Ministers on the operation of community payback in their area.
- 3.2 The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 introduced a local model for the delivery of community justice services, effective from 1 April 2017. Service planning responsibilities have been transferred from the now abolished Community Justice Authorities to community planning partnerships, and a new national body, Community Justice Scotland, has been created to provide leadership for the community justice sector and assurance to Scottish Ministers on the delivery of improved outcomes.
- 3.3 The Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership (ECSP) is the strategic group responsible for co-ordinating a multi-agency response to community safety and reoffending across the city and is implementing the new community justice model on behalf of the Edinburgh Partnership.
- 3.4 Reducing reoffending is a priority for the ECSP, and community payback is an essential element of community based rehabilitation, conducted alongside interventions to address the needs and often complex circumstances of those who offend. A wide range of universal and specialist services are delivered through a multi-agency, multi-sector approach, including housing, employment, health, education and welfare.

4. Main report

- 4.1 894 Community Payback Orders (CPO) were imposed in Edinburgh in 2017/18, compared to 1121 the previous year. This represents a reduction of 17% over the average of the previous 2 years. In 2017/18 there was a decrease in the number of CPO's made nationally of 7%. 69% of orders had an unpaid work requirement, compared to 67% during the previous year.
- 4.2 The City of Edinburgh Council provides a wide range of unpaid work opportunities across the city. These include group placements, personal placements provided by charities and community groups, and workshops which offer a safe environment for those who cannot be placed directly in the community. People required to carry out unpaid work as a condition of a CPO receive an initial assessment to determine the type of work best suited to their skills and interests. Other factors, such as health and caring responsibilities, are also taken into account when matching a person to suitable work.
- 4.3 Examples of unpaid work in 2017/18 continue to include providing support to charity shops, help after extreme weather events, construction of basic wooden structures such as seating, planters and play equipment, environmental work in parks and greenspaces and gardening projects in a range of community facilities. Three long term projects, the Gravestone Project (restoring fallen gravestones), Brake the Cycle (the collection, restoration and recycling of unwanted bicycles) and the Vat Run (construction and maintenance of a BMX track, mountain biking trails and walkways) have continued. Other examples of how the community have benefited include the renovation of Bridgend Farmhouse to provide a sustainable community owned centre for people in the South of the city and work at Redhall Primary School for children with complex long term additional support needs to create a clean safe and welcoming outside play space for all the schools pupils.
- 4.4 CPO requirements other than unpaid work include a range of interventions to support behavioural and lifestyle change for offenders, such as health treatment requirements (alcohol, drugs), and specialised programmes for women (Willow), young people, male prolific offenders, sex offenders and domestic abuse perpetrators. The Caledonian System employs group work to address domestic abuse and is complemented by staff delivering a women and children's service. The Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders (CISSO) provides assessments for courts, training, staff consultancy and delivery of the 'Moving Forward, Making Changes' group work programme.
- 4.5 On 1 September 2017, Sacro commenced delivery of a commissioned peer mentoring and support service subject to statutory criminal justice social work supervision. The service uses a person-centred approach, working with individuals to build and encourage the creation of recovery capital, helping more people move away from issues that increase the likelihood of re-offending and also provide robust routes into a range of support services and networks, helping individuals

access support that is right for them. The service works alongside the service user and their criminal justice social worker to agree what type and level of service is required, as per the case management plan, to achieve the outcomes important to them.

5. Next Steps

51. The Council continues to provide a range of unpaid work opportunities across the city.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, however, as offender management in Edinburgh is a significant responsibility for all partner agencies, it requires considerable resource allocation.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The City of Edinburgh Council publishes its CPO annual report each year on its website. A public consultation takes place prior to the report's completion, which affords the opportunity to communities to engage with this work.
- 7.2 Development of community payback will continue to be informed by feedback from communities, service users, beneficiaries and the judiciary, as well as other stakeholders, in order to maintain a high profile for community payback and to increase its credibility with the courts and with the general public.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 The City of Edinburgh Council publishes its CPO annual report each year on its website. A public consultation takes place prior to the report's completion, which affords the opportunity to communities to engage with this work.
- 8.2 Development of community payback will continue to be informed by feedback from communities, service users, beneficiaries and the judiciary, as well as other stakeholders, in order to maintain a high profile for community payback and to increase its credibility with the courts and with the general public.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1:
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/2538/community_payback_order_s_annual_report