

PAYBACK ORDER

ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2017/18**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **West Lothian Council**



Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out; the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and information and examples that help to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work.

We have continued to work largely on a core set of projects that have been running for several years. New and one-off projects are considered on an ongoing basis. Work undertaken can be roughly categorised across the following areas.

- Abandoned Property clearance
- Faith communities ground maintenance
- Football/Rugby Club facilities and ground maintenance
- Various town gala days, preparations and clean up
- Local heritage venue and restoration projects
- Bike project recycling of bikes for individuals/community groups
- Workshop Furniture recycling and joinery tasks
- Environmental clean-up in multiple wards within council areas
- Furniture removals for several local charitable organisations
- General Gardening & environmental projects
- Occupational/recreational therapy/help
- Painting & Decorating
- Removals/collections and furniture/house clearance to individual recipients referred to us by partner and third sector social care agencies
- Supporting local Charities, sorting, distributing, and collecting goods.(foodbanks)
- Snow Clearing

Our range of personal placements continues to vary year on year due to a variety of factors. One such factor is the continuing management changes in several recipient organisations making the smooth facilitation of placements difficult. Personal placements are reviewed regularly. We have more personal placements available than the service can use often due to the criteria recipient organisations place on who they will/will not accept. We also complete our own risk assessments which can also result in a number of individuals on Orders not being suitable for a personal placement. Due to our ongoing projects, specifically occupational/recreational therapy work, individuals on this group may have be suitable for Personal Placements but we require to deliver our core activities thus a balancing act is required. We continue to have good working relationships with a number of organisations, which include:

- a local Heritage Centre
- a number of charity shops addressing a range of social need
- a local charity working to help people in need to set up their homes
- West Lothian Food Banks
- a local charity for children

Working with a total of 467 new Orders relating to 442 individuals, 301 individuals had an Unpaid Work or other Activity requirement imposed during 2017/18. A total of 34,732 hours of Community Payback Unpaid Work were carried out during 2017/18. We note a drop of approximately 15% of new CPOs than the preceding year (2016/17) and 17% drop in CPOs with an UPW requirement. It is noted that the total number of hours completed in 2017/18 has also dropped slightly by 5% which initially does not correlate with the drop in new orders but may be explained that hours calculated are for all current open orders, regardless of the year of imposition. If one

takes the total number of hours imposed in 2017/18, 39717.00, and number of hours completed, 34,732, a crude calculation taking into account the aforementioned variance, might suggest an 88% successful completion rate.

We work with West Lothian Housing, Construction and Building Services clearing abandoned properties of furniture and white goods. Subsequent work will often involve return of items to their owners. From goods obtained from these properties we refurbish furniture and PAT assess (Portable Appliance Testing) white goods for the use of other organisations to pass on to their own needy service users or provide items to the service users of our own council. For example, work with our partners in DASAT (Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team).

We continue to respond to many 'one off' requests from workers in a range of West Lothian services for practical assistance for service users unable to afford the costs of moving home, e.g. fleeing domestic violence.

Work is ongoing supporting local rugby clubs and a boys' football club which includes ground-maintenance work. These are local organisations that provide opportunities for young people in the community. We also complete landscaping projects on behalf of various faith communities across West Lothian.

Working with the Neighbourhood Environment Team we carry out ground-clearance work in locations where the council does not normally provide services improving the area and the sense of public safety.

We support local 'housing with needs' age care establishments with community outings to various locations in the central belt. An evaluation of this project found overwhelming support and appreciation from recipients. Some of their comments are noted later in this submission.

As reported last year the UPW team obtained 'Revolve' accreditation and EFQM 'Committed To Excellence' for the bike recycling project. As a result of moving premises recently, and having a dedicated workshop specifically for bike recycling, we anticipate output from this project to increase and will report further on this in next year's submission. From the resale of scrapped material from this project we are also make donations to local charities. At the point of writing the money available to be distributed to local charities in in excess of 8.5K. During the year we purchased a football kit for a women's football team who would not have had the resources themselves that enabled them to partake in an amateur female football league.

Litter picking continues to provide UPW with useful 'fill-in' activity across the council area when other projects have been postponed or completed earlier than expected.

The service continues to work on stretches of the Union Canal within West Lothian which is of a major attraction for locals and visitors alike. This involves ongoing environmental clean-ups/restoration work.

Quotes from people on CPOs and beneficiaries about the impact of the unpaid work on them and/or the community.

Quotes from people on CPOs (anonymous comments)

“Helped a number of charities and motivated me to do more for the community....”

“Working together and getting into a routine”

“I feel I have paid back, we done a lot of work for charity shops – helping with uplifts/removals and deliveries”

“We did a lot of heavy lifting, I enjoyed it!”

“I helped people get new furniture and making the community look nicer”

“I liked UPW, it was great”.

“I learned new skills”

“I enjoy being involved it feels good particularly being able to help people. They don't usually have the opportunity to get out like this and I enjoy talking to them and sharing their stories.”

“I will not be back”.

From our own internal research 83.3% (50) of respondents reported a change in attitude to offending, with 96% (52) reporting that supervision has helped reduce or stop offending.

Quotes from beneficiaries (anonymous comments)

“I enjoy getting out and going on there trips. ... If I'm stuck in the house I get fair depressed, “It's wonderful...!”

“Very good team effort”

“we were delighted in your response sending a team out to tackle the work”

“great help getting the bed upstairs, could not have done it without you”

“Attending these trips makes a great difference to me, getting out in the fresh air...these trips make me feel good”,

“it makes a difference having people to help”.

“ I feel involved....I wouldn't attempt to go to these places by myself”

“Thank you all so much, you are great”

Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement.

Service users are assessed at the beginning of their order during induction by their case manager and any needs that could be met through the 'other activity' are identified. Where there is a supervision requirement in place, this will usually occur as part of a more extended scrutiny of criminogenic need. Other Activities are used to address risk/need factors.

Options available for Other Activities include:

- group work sessions from our Citizenship Modules.
- employability development, including employability courses, Adult Basic Education and other adult learning activities;

- engagement with other services that should increase personal and social development (e.g. addiction services)
- CSS (Construction Skills Certification) and other employment enhancement courses, fork lift certificates and driving courses for example.

Other activity provided by third sector, for example, Rock Trust, employment interviews skills, securing and maintaining an employment.

Activities carried out to consult prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities and how the consultation results helped determine which projects were undertaken.

In accordance with section 227ZL minimum consultation should take place with

- The Chief Constable (in practice the local Police Commander) for the area of the local authority;
- the Sheriff Principal within whose jurisdiction the local authority area lies;
- organisations representative of victims of crime;
- voluntary organisations within the local authority's area;
- one or more community council within the local authority's area;
- one or more Community Planning Partnership within their area; and
- one or more Community Safety Partnership within their area.

Governance and service management structures continue to form the basis of our consultation activity. These include: the West Lothian Court Standing Committee; the West Lothian Safer Communities Strategic Steering Group; the West Lothian Community Justice Subcommittee and the West Lothian Community Safety Partnership. A significant conduit for consultation takes place in the monthly West Lothian Joint Tasking Group where membership includes Police Scotland, Fire Service and Victim Support, providing a forum for consultation and discussion about potential projects for Unpaid Work.

We continued to welcome discussion and receive referrals from Councillors about potential projects in their areas.

The absence of a forum to consult with groups representing ethnic minorities continues to limit opportunities for us, but to an extent reflects the demography of West Lothian. The same issue also applies to the category of religious, inter-faith and belief groups within the local authority's area. We are confident however, from continuing requests for assistance from such groups, that they are aware of the existence of the service.

Use by the courts of CPO requirements other than unpaid work, for example what, and in what way, different requirements are being used for those whose offending is driven by drug, alcohol and mental health issues; or how requirements such as programme or conduct are being used to address offending behaviour.

REQUIREMENTS made 01/04/16 to 31/03/17	Male	Female	Total
Supervision Requirement	301	52	353
Compensation Requirement	19	4	23
Programme Requirement	6	0	6
Residence Requirement	1	0	1
Mental Health Treatment Requirement	2	0	2
Drug Treatment Requirement	5	1	6
Alcohol Treatment Requirement	11	5	16
Conduct Requirement	28	0	28

Overall there has been a small increase in the use of additional requirements. Conduct Requirements continue to relate to public protection and include the monitoring of IT equipment and contact with minors in general. These cases are also monitored through the MAPPA arrangements.

There has been a small increase in the use of Programme requirements which predominately related to attendance at the Community Intervention Service for Sex Offenders (CISSO) who operate the Moving Forward Making Changes (MFMC) and Internet Offenders Programmes for the Lothian and Borders. West Lothian Criminal & Youth Justice also operate a Citizenship Programme in the form of 12 modules covering areas such as substance use, self-care, problem solving and empowerment. This can be facilitated under the general supervision requirement.

Although Alcohol Treatment Orders have increased from 11 to 16, their use by the Courts remains low taking into account the prevalence of substance misuse related offending and it remains a significant factor in cases heard in the local Court. However, it is perhaps a reflection on the legislative requirement of the Order? Alcohol clinical dependence and the service user being receptive to treatment is the key criterion.

Alcohol education and awareness work is also undertaken by supervising officers, as part of the service users Community Payback Order Supervision, where this has been identified as a criminogenic need following the assessment process. Service users are also often signposted to the local "Breakaway Group" of the West Lothian

Addictions Care Partnership for support with alcohol treatment.

Once again Domestic Abuse cases continue to remain the single biggest type of offending and interventions to address this are tailored to meet the risk and needs of service users who have committed such offences. This can range from intensive 1:1 domestic abuse work to completing work on healthy relationships and attitudes and beliefs etc. There remains strong relationships with partner agencies including the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Team (DASAT), Police Scotland, Housing, Addictions Services and Social Work Children and Families Teams with the aim to share relevant information and support robust, risk management.

We continue to work well with our internal and external partners to address the considerable difficulties that our service users are faced with and often form a significant part of their criminogenic needs. We continue to be co-located with the Police, Court, Housing, DASAT, NHS and Social Work Addictions Services. This has enhanced joint working with key partners.

Any issues affecting access to services which are provided by other partners (e.g. drug and alcohol services) and, where such issues have been identified, what work is underway to resolve them.

We are aware that there will be challenges ahead in the next year and beyond. Imprisonment will always be required for those individuals whose offences are so serious and they present an ongoing imminent risk of harm that prison is the only appropriate form of punishment Short-term imprisonment can disrupt families and communities, and adversely affects employment opportunities and stable housing - the very things that evidence shows support desistance from offending.

There are several important factors involved in reducing the use of short sentences. The availability of robust community alternatives is a critical element. The presumption against short periods of imprisonment, introduced via the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, provides the opportunity to consider nationally how we positively influence the futures of those who offend. Access to support services in the community and in a timeous manner will be paramount if future alternatives to custody are to be effective. Unfortunately many services we would have used in the past are either now not available, have changed their criteria for referral, or, waiting lists make it unlikely that our service users will be able to engage. It is unlikely to improve in the near future.

Any other relevant information. This might include details of work which is carried out with people on CPOs to address their offending behaviour but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.

We continue to work in collaboration with key partners including NHS Addictions services, third sector addictions partners, Police Scotland, Offender Management Unit and Housing/Homelessness services. Criminal Justice Assistants and Support Workers compliment the work with our service users and often the focus of their work is wider welfare related issues affording social workers time to address more

overt criminogenic needs. For example, our support staff facilitate a locally constructed course called 'Citizenship' with focus of sessions signposting and supporting participants to develop a set of personal skills that will help them in their own life and reduce the propensity to re-offend.

We continue to refer service users to non-statutory services that they could access in their own right thereby trying to promote independence.

Considering young people who offend, since the initial introduction and implementation of the Whole System Approach: Getting it Right for Every Child and Young Person who offends, the Service has continued to develop and enhance flexible and dynamic approaches for young people 16 –under 21 years who are subject to Community Payback Orders and/or Unpaid Work. All Orders imposed on those under the age of 21years are supervised by the Youth Justice Team which should meet the service users age and stage of development. This includes utilising and developing creative methods of engagement with young people to address offending behaviour that meets both risk and need.

The Whole System Approach is underpinned by a partnership and collaborative approach to reducing youth offending and the service continues to develop and enhance service provision through liaison with statutory and third sector partners to achieve positive outcomes for young people. Such a holistic approach enables young people to address their offending, whilst acknowledging and addressing the often underlying and complex needs implicit in youth offending. As the impact of the current financial climate evolves, it may be more challenging in the future to access required services when they are needed.

Finally, whilst key areas are identified during an initial assessment and Court Report stage, it is likely that as the service user progresses through their Order, other areas that would benefit from some focus can emerge. All Orders with a Supervision Requirement undergo internal statutory reviews where risk and need are reviewed. Where possible, a mutual agreement is sought when identifying the focus of intervention during the next review period. However, where required, Social Workers can instruct those on an Order under "AND requires the offender to comply with any instruction given by the responsible officer in that capacity".....Any additional instruction does require to be reasonable and proportionate.

COMPLETED BY:

Kevin Russell, Team Manager, Criminal & Youth Justice Service, West Lothian Council

DATE: Nov 2017

CONTACT FOR QUERIES ABOUT THE REPORT

Name: Gillian Oghene (Group Manager, Criminal & Youth Justice Service, West Lothian Council)

E-mail: Gillian.oghene@westlothian.gov.uk

Telephone: 01506 280999