



**Performance Report 2024/25**

**Published May 2026**



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## Introduction

This is the second Community Justice Performance Report produced by East Lothian Community Justice Group (the Group). This Report is the product of three self-evaluation sessions held from 2024 - 2026. These sessions focus on assessing the Group's performance towards meeting the National Outcomes (the Outcomes) as detailed in the Community Justice Performance Framework.

The Group carried out the third self-evaluation in January 2026, where they identified new priority areas for action (for 2026/28) based on the scoring towards meeting the Outcomes. These are:

- National Outcome 4. More people access services to support desistence and successfully complete community sentences
- National Outcome 9. More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice

Ongoing priority:

- National Outcome 7. More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

The table below shows the Group's progression and regression towards meeting the National Outcomes from 2022 - 25. The lowest scoring Outcomes of the assessment are made a priority for action and improvement measures are put in place – aimed at improving performance the following year.

National Outcome	Reporting Year 2022/23	Reporting Year 2023/24	Reporting Year 2024/25
1. More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution	8	9	9
2. More people in police custody receive support to address their needs	7	8	9
3. More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision	8	8	9
4. More people access services to support desistence and successfully complete community sentences	9	9	8
5. More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence	9	9	9
6. More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence	8	9	9
7. More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment	7	8	8
8. More people access voluntary throughcare following a short-term prison sentence	9	9	10
9. More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice	9	9	8

The self-evaluation sessions follow the same format asking “how close are we to meeting the Outcome” and the Group score themselves against this using a simple format of a rating from 1- 10, with 10 being fully meeting the Outcome. It is worth noting here that a rating of 6 would be classed as the Outcome being achieved. However, to keep the work of the Group focused on improving performance, the self-evaluations are based on the implementation of new activity (to drive improvement).

It is worth noting, that for a number of the Outcomes, the Group have limited control over in terms of increasing “more people”. For example, we do not influence a sentencing decision other than completing a Justice Social Work (JSW) Report or Assessment, e.g. a Bail Supervision assessment. Therefore, this Performance Report is reflective of what we can control and focuses on the quality of the service we provide.

## Legislative Requirements

This Report has been produced to meet the requirement of Section 23 of the Community Justice Act (2016). The Act states Community Justice Partnership are required to publish a Performance Report annually outlining the progress they have made in achieving each ‘National Outcome’ (as detailed in the [Community Justice Outcomes – improvement planning and reporting: statutory guidance 2024](#)).

The Report must set out:

- the **activity** they have taken in the period concerned to achieve the outcome
  - whether, at the end of the period concerned, the **outcome was being achieved** in the area
  - the **progress** in the period concerned towards its achievement (if the outcome has not been achieved)
  - the national indicators partners have used in their assessment
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## 2024/25 in Summary

### Community Justice Group Successes

- ✓ embedding of the **Arrest Referral Service** delivered by partners Apex Scotland (showing impact on National Outcome 2)
- ✓ embedding of the **Community Justice Outreach Nurse** (CJO Nurse) post (showing impact on National Outcomes 4, 5, 8)
- ✓ although a small number of people were marked for **Diversion from Prosecution**, our local delivery was seen as a strength (showing impact on National Outcome 1)
- ✓ the delivery of the **Community Engagement and Participation Plan 2024** (showing impact on National Outcome 9)
- ✓ the launch of the **Community Justice eLearning** module available to all staff and community groups (showing impact on National Outcome 9)
- ✓ the development of “**On the Move**” – a business card with a QR code to local services for use by JSW staff and people leaving prison (showing impact on National Outcome 8)
- ✓ we continue to deliver excellent work around **TRANSITION** (prison pre-release planning) (showing impact on National Outcome 6) and the delivery of the in-house Voluntary Throughcare (VTC) service (showing impact on National Outcome 8)
- ✓ despite budgetary pressures, the **Local Employability Partnership** (LEP) has continued to fund specialist employability support for those involved in the justice system (showing impact on National Outcome 7)

- ✓ the development of a **self-evaluation framework and performance measures** to show progress towards meeting the National Outcomes.

### Community Justice Group Challenges

While this Performance Report highlights the achievements of Community Justice Partners there are some significant challenges they continue to face. These are not new challenges but are challenges where there is no immediate solution at a local level.

- 👤 **housing and housing supply vs demand** remains an issue across the County, particularly with the removal of 'Local Connection' in Homelessness legislation, and increased demands on limited housing stock.
  - 👤 **short custodial sentences** continue to be imposed which is not in line with the presumption against short sentences.
  - 👤 CJ Partners continue to operate on **limited and unsecured budgets**.
  - 👤 **Community Justice Partnership Funding** to support collaboration is not enough to deliver any meaningful development work. CJ Partners are legislatively required to improve Outcomes and deliver life changing activity and interventions for people on an "in kind" and shoestring budget.
  - 👤 quality placements for **Unpaid Work** can be difficult to source due to the semi-rural nature of East Lothian. Many providers do not want to work with people convicted of domestic, sexual, or schedule 1 offences.
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## Review of the Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 & Action Plan

A review of the current Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2024 (CJOIP) was undertaken in line with statutory guidance which states:

A review of the CJOIP must also be undertaken in the following circumstances:

- When a revised National Performance Framework for Community Justice is published
- When a revised National Strategy for Community Justice is published
- When a revised Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for the local authority area is published

The East Lothian Partnership (now known as the East Lothian Community Planning Partnership) published a new East Lothian Plan in March 2026 and the National Community Justice Strategy is due for renewal in 2027.

In advance of the self-evaluation process, and in line with the above statutory guidance, the CJ Group reviewed the CJOIP & Action Plan. This review demonstrated that most actions were complete. The Group decided to produce an Interim CJOIP to cover a two-year timeframe from 2026/28 to allow for the period covering the review of the National Strategy. The interim CJOIP will be published in August 2026.

### The review of the CJOIP and Action Plan showed

While the delivery of the **Understanding the Views** project was slightly delayed, it is now under way and will be complete in September 2026. Baseline totals were revised accordingly and the project carried over for 2026.

The development and implementation of an **Arrest Referral service**. This is now complete and operating as Business as Usual (meaning it is fully embedded in operational delivery).

The **Referral Pathway** implementation is now complete, and a new action agreed to take the referral pathway to the next stage.

A **Remand Pathway** was in place for 2024/25 with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector partners Heavy Sound and the Community Justice Lead Officer (CJLO). This pathway was to ensure those held on remand were offered VTC. This was a temporary measure while the commissioning of the new national VTC service took place. This action is now complete. **Upside** (delivered locally by Access to Industry) now provide VTC and they attend the monthly TRANSITION meeting. VTC for people on remand is now Business as Usual for 2026 onwards.

**Developing Restorative Justice practices in adult services.** This action had limited progress during the reporting period and it was agreed to carry this over for 2026/27.

**Developing Restorative Justice practices in youth justice services.** While Youth Justice services noted a low uptake for intervention, they will continue to provide this service for those who need it and this action is now complete and Business as Usual.

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## The Performance Report

This section gives detail on how well the Group are performing in relation to meeting the National Outcomes.

### The High Level National Indicator<sup>1</sup>

The [Community Justice Performance Framework 2023 presents](#) a “High level national indicator” on disposal group split (custody, community, monetary, and other disposals). The graph below presents this split for East Lothian from 2017/18 (our base year) to 2024/25.

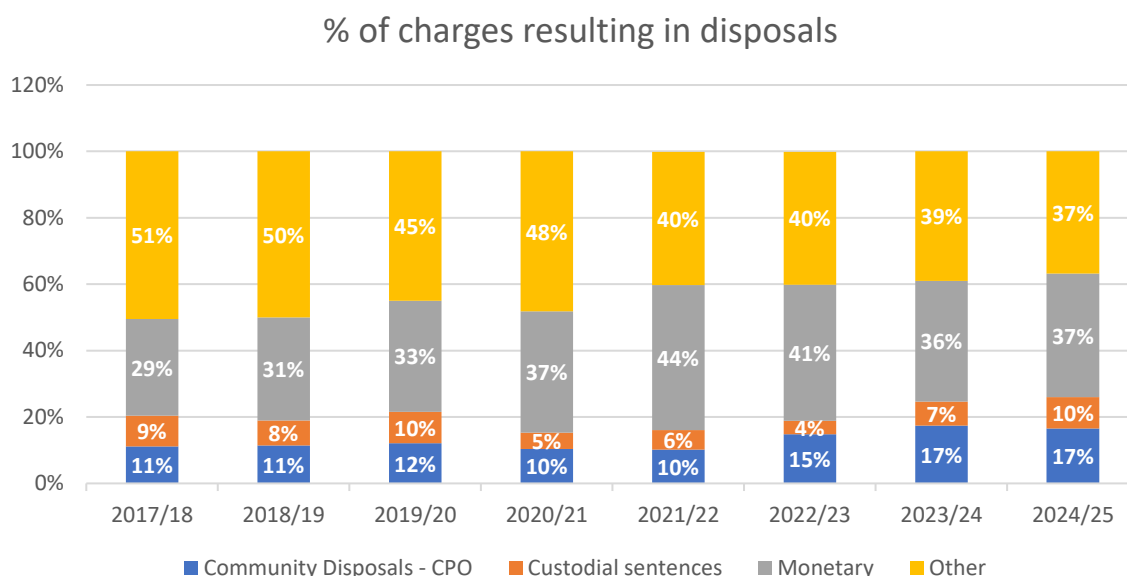
The disposals under the four main categories are:

- Custody: Including Imprisonment, Detention in a Young Offenders Institution, Supervised Released Orders, Extended Sentences, Orders for Life Long Restriction (OLR) and Life Sentences.
- Community: Including Community Payback Orders (CPO), Restriction of Liberty Orders (RLO), Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO), and other community disposals not already mentioned.
- Monetary: Including fines and compensation.
- Other disposal: Any disposal which does not fall in any of the previous categories, including: admonishments, absolute discharge and a range of orders relating to mental health and other issues.

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<sup>1</sup> **Reference:** Data taken from the Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services Criminal Disposals Dashboard (<https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-criminal-disposals-dashboard/>)

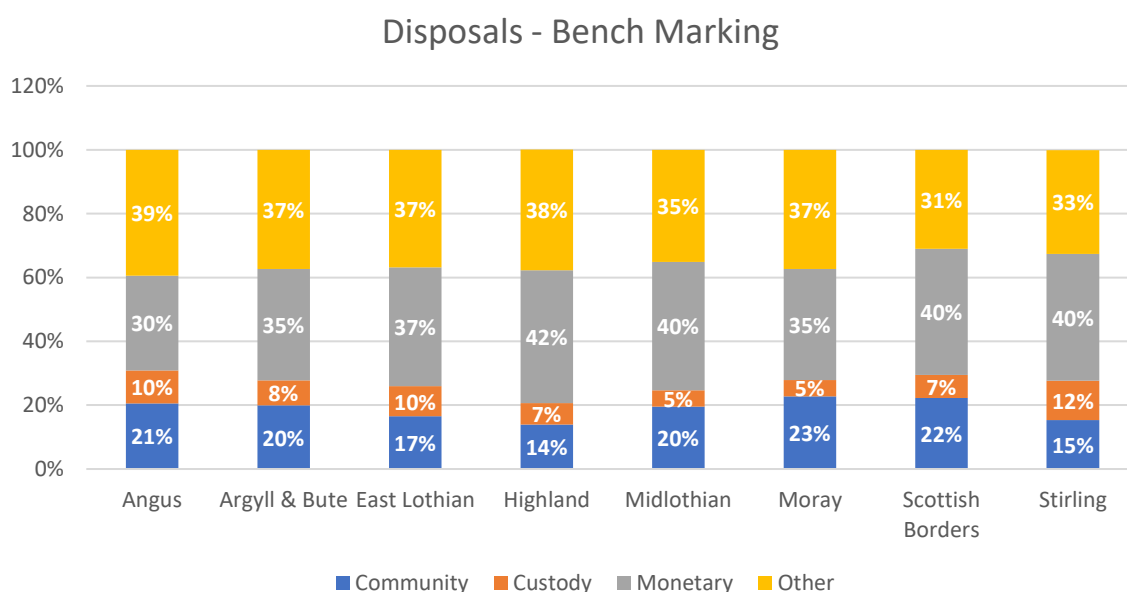
**Caveats:** This dashboard provides information on disposals issued at [charge level](#) in Scottish Criminal Courts. The dashboard does not tell you how many people received disposals as each accused person can have multiple charges and each charge is concluded individually at court with a disposal. This means that disposal data at charge level can look higher than disposal data at person level. Note that information is not included on charges for which the accused is not convicted. Note, anomalies for the reporting year 2020/21 due to the pandemic.



Graph 1 shows there has been a shift in the types of disposals given. With 'Other' disposals reducing consistently from 2017 to 2025. This is shown in the increase in the number of community, custodial and monetary disposals given. While there has been an increase in the number of community disposals given, there has also been an increase in the number custodial sentences given - this is not in line with the National direction of desired change.

Justice Social Work staff continue to make appropriate disposal recommendations in JSW Reports and the uptake of the recommendations is monitored locally.

Graph 2 shows disposal splits across the Social Work benching marking family groups for 2024/25 for comparison. Noting these disposals will be influenced by the types of crimes committed in these local authority areas.



## Performance Statements

This section presents national and local evidence that informs the Groups decision making on scoring each of the Outcomes. This allows for scrutiny and accountably to progression or regression. The “Performance Statements” include the rationale for the scoring and details improvement activity planned for the 2026/27 reporting period.

### National Outcome 1: More people successfully complete diversion from prosecution

#### Performance Data

Number of diversion from prosecution <sup>2</sup> :				
Year	assessments undertaken		cases commenced	cases successfully completed
2024/25		79	53	45
2023/24	↑	91	↑	85
2022/23		43		36
2019/20	↑	35	↑	31
2017/18*		41		34

#### Of the 53 cases commenced in 2024/25

55% were male/ 45% female

19% were 16-17yrs old (a drop from 29% in 2023/24)

50% were 18-25yrs old (an increase from 14% in 2023/24)

2% were 26-30yrs old (a drop from 13% in 2023/24)

4% were 31- 40yrs old (a drop from 21% in 2023/24)

25% were over 40yrs (a slight increase from 22% in 2023/24)

The employment status of the majority of cases commenced was ‘unemployed’. There were significant decreases in the number of people whose diversion commenced in most age groups aside from the 18-25 year age group. The number of cases referred to other services increased from less than 5 in 2023/24 to 14 in 2024/25. In part, this is why we are keeping focus on national Outcomes 8.

Year <sup>3</sup>	Total	Full Time Education	Employed / Self Employed	Unemployed	Economically inactive <sup>4</sup>
2024/25	53	15%	25%	57%	4%
2023/24	85	8%	28%	38%	26%
2022/23	36	17%	31%	53%	0%
2017/18 <sup>5</sup>	34	24%	29%	41%	6%

<sup>2</sup> Reference: Justice Social Work Statistics, Part 1, Scotland, 2024/25

<sup>3</sup> Reference: Justice Social Work Statistics, Part 1, Scotland, 2024/25

<sup>4</sup> "Economically inactive" includes those who are retired, housewives/husbands, sick/disabled (whether permanent or temporary) or caring for home/family.

<sup>5</sup> Baseline year



The numbers of Fiscal Work Orders have been steadily decreasing since 2016/17 from 20 to less than 5 in 2024/25.

Year	Total assessments	Number of orders commenced	Total orders completed/terminated
2024/25	5	Less than 5	Less than 5
2023/24	9	Less than 5	6
2019/20	8	6	Less than 5

### Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: Police Scotland/ COPFS/ JSW/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: delivery of direct measures (Diversion from Prosecution, Fiscal Work Orders)

#### Our self-evaluation scoring

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Score – 8	Score - 9	Score - 9

The achievement of this Outcome was maintained. The number of diversion assessments undertaken shows an increase (79 assessments) compared to the baseline year in 2017/18 (41 assessments), however there is a decrease (from 91 assessments) compared to the previous year. The desired direction is to increase. However, the number of assessments requested lies with COPFS<sup>6</sup> and the Group agreed that completion rates should be the focus of their work, not assessments.

The Group agreed that processes established in JSW were clear and staff have a good understanding of the expectation to deliver this work. Cases are passed from JSW business support to COPFS in a timely manner. Issues relating to Diversion from Prosecution (DfP) can be raised at the Lothian and Borders Community Justice meetings and Group members attend this. The Procurator Fiscal (PF) has a marking structure - the marking depends on the types of crimes committed and whether they are suitable for DfP. Therefore the number of DfPs passed to social work for assessment will vary year on year. The average time of a DfP intervention is 3 months and some may not include social work involvement. JSW report that 12 people did not show up for the assessment in this reporting period.

### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Actioning the findings from the Understanding the Views Project
- Complete an audit of case records (on MOSIAC) and follow up with the Procurator Fiscal regarding cases open without an outcome. Further actions to be considered after the Audit.
- Discuss options for increasing assessments at the Lothian and Borders Community Justice meeting.
- Take responsive action to the updated DfP guidance when it is published.

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<sup>6</sup> Decisions in relation to when to offer referral for diversion from prosecution are made by prosecutors within COPFS, acting independently and in the public interest.

## National Outcome 2: More people in police custody receive support to address their needs

### Performance data

#### National Indicator data

Number of:

- referrals from custody centres

In 2024/25 there were 16 referrals from custody centres (this covers referrals from all custody suits in Scotland for people with an East Lothian postcode). Nationally, the number of referrals from police custody shows no emerging pattern due to insufficient data<sup>7</sup>.

#### Local evidence

**Apex Arrest Referral Service** - the service began in September 2023 and referrals are made to a range of services, predominately the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.

#### Performance Indicators (Feb – Dec 2024)<sup>8</sup>

Number of referrals	44
Number who engaged first appointment	27
Active Case Load (Number who are actively engaged in the service)	28
Number of planned exits	Less than 5
Number of unplanned exits	10

The Arrest Referral service actively refers on to other organisations and partners including MELD, Heavy Sound, Court Liaison service, Aid & Abet, ELCA, ELHA, the Rock Trust, Four Square, the Welcoming. They have developed effective referral pathways to do this.

The MAT Standards Improvement Plan was complete in 2023 and the implementation of MAT Standard 1 is ongoing.

The Justice Social Work service fund a CJO Nurse to support people with mental health and substance use issues. The post holder started in January 2024 and early evidence suggests this post has been very effective. This post is a conduit between community justice and the local ADP. Both services are members of the CJ Group.

#### Performance statement

Local delivery partners: APEX Scotland/EL Substance Use Service/ Police Scotland/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: Implementation of an Arrest Referral service

Our self-evaluation scoring		
<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Score - 7</b>	<b>Score - 8</b>	<b>Score - 9</b>

<sup>7</sup> **Reference:** Trend data source Data from SG/ JSWA/Police Scotland

<sup>8</sup> This data is for referrals from Lothian Custody suites

The Group agreed the development and implementation of the arrest referral service had been a strength. The scoring for this Outcome has progressed from 7 in 2022/23 to 9 in 2024/25.

Locally, data from Apex Scotland continues to support a local shift towards more people receiving support in custody and the Arrest Referral service was successfully implemented during this reporting period.

This Outcome was a priority area for action in our CJOIP 2024 and its successful implementation means it is no longer a priority and work is now embedded as business as usual.

The Group agreed that MAT Standards were working well due to the Substance Use service (SUS) having a team in the custody suite. The Group concluded there was an improvement in the progress of the MAT Standards in this reporting timeframe (this is independently evaluated). From an Arrest Referral perspective, there are no access issues to people in custody, and pathways are in place to other services hosted in the custody suite. The CJ Group are confident that people's needs are met in accessing SUS services, this includes access through the CJ Outreach Nurse. Locally, the Patient Safety Experience Advisory Group (PSEAG), Care Programme Approach (CPA) and Appropriate Adult Service ensure vulnerable peoples' needs are met.

The Group were confident that people leaving custody (and prison) can access on-the-day substance use treatment programmes.

The East Lothian approach to care is to "make the service fit the person and not the person fit the service". Local services are proactive at supporting people to engage with SUS and action taken through PSEAG to encourage engagement with service when they have been lost. e.g. MELD send out letters.

However, some issues were identified by the Group:

- accessing Psychological Services and assessment in a timely manner in custody and
- there was a gap recognised in the provision of SUS in Court settings.

It was noted that ADPs were to be inspected in 2026 the findings from this will provide an opportunity for local improvement.

#### **Local improvement actions for 2026/27**

- work with Psychological Services to have a more proactive approach in assessing people in custody.
- use the ADPs inspection findings to improve services locally.

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## **National Outcome 3: More people are assessed for and successfully complete bail supervision**

### **Performance data**

#### **National Indicator data:**

Number of:

- assessment reports for bail suitability
- bail supervision cases commenced
- bail supervision cases completed

Year <sup>9</sup>	2023/24	2024/25
Assessment reports for bail suitability	8	14 (11m/3f)
bail supervision cases commenced	6	14
bail supervision cases completed	Less than 5	Less than 5*
% of cases commenced to completion	33%	tbc

8 bail supervision cases in progress at close on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Of the 14 assessment reports in 2024/25

- 7 had 'Bail with supervision only', and
- 7 had 'Bail with supervision and electronic monitoring'

In 2024/25 16 people received an **EM Bail Order** - down from 22 in 2023/24<sup>10</sup>.

### Local evidence

Mechanisms are in place to support a high-quality bail assessment, and referral pathways are in place via MOSIAC (and local recording systems) to access other supports.

### Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: JSW/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: Bail Supervision

Our self-evaluation scoring		
2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Score - 8	Score - 8	Score - 9

The achievement of this Outcome was maintained. The Group agreed that work had progressed locally and the number of bail supervision commencements is increasing (in line with the national ambition). The number of EM Bail Orders has decreased.

The Group agreed that delivering high quality bail assessments remained a strength and this was reflected in the number of completions. Pathways are in place for partnership working (Mental Health, and Substance Use). The MAT Standards are well established in East Lothian and escalation pathways in place. The PSEAG, Care Programme Approach and Appropriate Adult service are in place and working well. The CJ Outreach Nurse having a dedicated treatment room was also seen as a strength.

The Group agreed improvements could be made regarding commencing more cases prior to the accused being given bail (before the assessment is returned) and there is a recognised gap is when Bail Supervision is recommended but standard bail is given. Working with COPFS could improve the uptake of bail supervision requests.

### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Work with COPFS and Sheriffs at a national level to improve bail supervision requests.

<sup>9</sup> Reference: Justice Social Work Statistics, Part 1, Scotland, 2024/25 and CJS EM Bail Order: 2023/24

<sup>10</sup> Reference: Justice Social Work Statistics, Part 1, Scotland, 2024/25 and CJS EM Bail Order: 2023/24

- Review caseloads to identify people held on remand and JSW to instigate bail review in cases where the risk is deemed manageable in the community?

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## National Outcome 4: More people access services to support desistence and successfully complete community sentences

### Performance data

**National Indicator data** was not available at the time of the self-evaluation.

### Local evidence

Our local reporting system shows that in 2024/25 there were 226 CPOs commenced. These were:

CPO with Supervision and Unpaid Work Requirement (68 people)

CPO with Supervision Requirement (90 people)

CPO with Unpaid Work Requirement (68 people)

19 people had

- Supervision Other - Conduct
- Supervision Other - Compensation
- Supervision Other - MH Treatment
- Supervision Other - Alcohol Treatment
- Supervision Other - Programme

Of these:

- 12 had multiple orders
- 50 has the order revoked due to non-compliance
- 22 had the order transferred<sup>11</sup>

In February 2025 there were 8,200 hours of Unpaid Work **imposed** in East Lothian<sup>12</sup>.

**Structured Deferred Sentences** were introduced in March 2023.

In 2024/25 there were 9 sentences imposed (up from 5 in 2023/24). Of the 9 sentences 7 were males and 2 female aged 21+<sup>13</sup>

Detail gleaned from CPO Entry & Exit Questionnaires shows that in terms of **improving Outcomes for people**:

Feedback from people using the service was positive. People commented that their experience of the service was very good and they were treated with respect and their needs were understood. Referral pathways are in place and show that the JSW Team ensured that people were able to access the other supports that they needed to help them reduce their offending. Feedback shows that the Team were supportive and helped them move on from their justice experience in a positive way.

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<sup>11</sup> **Reference:** ELC JSW Entry & Exit Questionnaires

<sup>12</sup> **Reference:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-payback-orders-unpaid-work-requirements-february-2025/documents/>

<sup>13</sup> **Reference:** Justice Social Work Statistics, 2024/25

Comments from people include:

- It has been a long journey, and I am proud that I have completed the programme. I did not miss one session - the group work helped me a lot, - on how to manage things and I have come out a better person for the programme. The Justice team - the job you do is challenging and you need to take credit for what you do.
- I would like to say thanks to the Unpaid Work team for being treated respectfully at all times and also to my work placement (Recycle First) where I enjoyed my time working.

The CJO Nurse was a valuable resource identified in several case studies included in the CPO Annual Return for 2024/25. These included a service user placed on a CPO with Supervision and Unpaid Work (UPW) or Other Activity Requirement for drug supply offences. He was also subject to a Conduct Requirement to engage with drug support services as instructed. The CJO Nurse worked with the service user for a number of sessions and to improve use of time, an UPW placement at a furniture recycle company was sought. On completion of his CPO, he had no outstanding matters for the first time in his adult life. Another service user with a conduct requirement 'to engage with substance use services when directed' agreed to meet with the CJO Nurse and this led to a referral for in-patient detox and rehabilitation.

**There are a range of programmes** available that help people change their behaviour. These are MF2C, CPORT/CASSIC – sexual offending assessment tool (pilot stage), Safe & Together and Stop It Now.

**The Caledonian System** supports around 20 people at any given time and all Orders last around two years. All partners and ex-partners are offered a service and around half choose to engage.

#### **Justice Outcome Star for 2024/25**

- 99 people had the JOS completed at the start of the order
- 91 people had the JOS completed at the end of the order and
- 58 people has the JOS completed at the start and end of the order

See Appendix 1 for detail on 'Other CPO Activity & Partnerships'

#### **Performance Statement**

Local delivery partners: JSWS/ Heavy Sound/ Access to Industry/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: CPO, SDS, SHINE, Cockenzie Garden

#### **Our self-evaluation scoring**

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Score - 9</b>	<b>Score - 9</b>	<b>Score - 8</b>

The Group felt, while there remained to be good work in practice to support people to complete community sentences, the loss of partners Heavy Sound had limited opportunities and UPW options for people. Shine is no longer in operation, and we do not offer DTTOs. The Group recognised that evidence to backup what has been measured, and demonstrating improved outcome for people could be improved. There are several service strengths however it was agreed that progress on meeting this National Outcome had regressed due to the above.

Nationally, the percentage of CPO completions shows a decrease which is not in line with the National direction. Local data shows that completion rates are stable.

This is now a **“Priority Action”** as the scoring has regressed from 2023/24 from a 9.

#### **Local improvement actions for 2026/27**

- to implement the findings from Understanding the View project
  - to implement the ‘Model for Practice’ for Unpaid Work
  - to develop the referral pathway project to increase opportunities for people post intervention and explore what happens after a referral has been made
  - gather data from the use of the SUS service/ CJO Nurse
  - to review the Entry & Exit questionnaires so complete data can be sought
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## **National Outcome 5: More people have access to, and continuity of, health and social care following release from a prison sentence**

The evidence for this section is expanded on under Outcomes 6 & 8 as there is overlap between the work of the TRANSITION Group, the JSW inhouse Voluntary Throughcare service, the CJO Nurse and support for people leaving prison.

#### **Performance data**

#### **National Indicator data**

Number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community increased to 79 in 2024/25 from less than 5 in 2023/24<sup>14</sup>.

#### **Local data**

A case study taken from the **CPO Annual Report 2024/25** that demonstrates “Health and social care circumstances/care plans are reflected in collaborative plans for release”

FJ has a long-term condition which affects his cognitive functioning and memory after he sustained a head injury. He was being released from a long-term sentence and needed to have a care package in place for care at home (with the expectation that a similar package would be provided as was there prior to his incarceration for historical offences).

In advance of FJ’s release he was discussed at the multi-disciplinary meeting TRANSITION and the importance of having FJ’s medication on his day of release was recognised, as well as support to register with a GP and to access neurology services in the community. A referral was made for a package of care well in advance of FJ’s date of release, and the CJO Nurse engaged with local GP practices to ensure there was no break in continuity in regard to his medication.

FJ was released as planned with a prescription for his medication, and communication between the CJO Nurse, SPS, Adult Wellbeing Social Work, Justice Social Work and GP meant that any medication concerns were address appropriately and prescriptions were filled as required.

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<sup>14</sup> **Reference:** National drug and alcohol treatment waiting times - 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 - National drug and alcohol treatment waiting times - Publications - Public Health Scotland

## Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: SPS/ TRANSITION Group/ JSW/ ELSUS/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: Pre-release Plans, TRANSITION, Statutory & Voluntary Throughcare

### Our self-evaluation scoring

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Score – 9	Score - 9	Score - 9

Nationally, the number of transfers in drug/alcohol treatments from custody to community shows no emerging pattern due to insufficient data. There is no local data to show movement for this reporting period. Locally, the TRANSITION Group ensure that anyone leaving prison can access health and social care services as soon as possible post release.

The achievement of this Outcomes was maintained and this continues to be seen by the Group as a service delivery strength. Particularly the established ways of partnership working across agencies, e.g. new services including the Care When It Counts (CWIC) access service (for mental health support) and the Riverside GP practice providing joined up care. This Outcome has consistently scored a 9 from 2022.

The CJO Nurse post is now embedded within the Justice Social Work Team and secures continuity of care from prison to community. The work of the TRANSITION Group and the in-house VTC service helps ensure a smooth transition from prison to community.

However, it was recognised that not all people have JSW/ VTC involvement on release, particularly those released from Court who were held on remand.

### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Improve communication with Scottish Prison Service regarding those being released from prison on an unplanned release or those on Remand going to Court to allow for planning the services required
- SPS will provide an update for the Prison Health and Social Care meetings
- MACRIBs (a new method to improve pre-release planning by SPS) are to be brought into the CJ Group
- Copy of the SPS MAT Standard Review Report to be sent to the CJ Group and tabled for discussion when available.

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## National Outcome 6: More people have access to suitable accommodation following release from a prison sentence

### Performance data

### National Indicator data

Number of homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from <sup>15</sup>	
Year	number of applications

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<sup>15</sup> Reference: from CJPF data trends



<b>2024/25</b>	<b>25<sup>16</sup></b>
2023/24	10
2022/23	5
2019/20	20

### Local evidence

An analysis of TRANSITION data shows that pre-release planning ensures that the person leaving prison and any relevant local services are prepared for the release. For people who accept the offer of support from our inhouse VTC service, the evidence shows that longer term outcomes improve. Information recorded at TRANSITION is clear that having benefits set up, accommodation planned for, help with medications, and onward referrals made, increases the chances of successful reintegration on release and this being sustained.

**Accommodation Outcomes** – Significant efforts have been made to support people to access suitable accommodation following release from prison, and in the longer-term. This shows successful outcomes as detailed below.

During 2024/25, 29 people were discussed at TRANSITION, comprising 18 homeless individuals and 11 individuals considered to have appropriate accommodation on release.

### Not Homeless

Of the 11 not homeless, they either had an ELC tenancy or moved in with parents / partners. Everyone who had their own tenancy, had sustained their tenancy at 31 March 2025 and at September 2025. The people who moved in with parents and partners were all still with parents / partners at 31 March 2025, and further to September 2025. 100% of individuals continued to maintain their accommodation at 31 March 2025 and beyond to September 2025.

### Homeless Households – Short-term Outcomes

Of the 18 homeless households, all presented as homeless / already had an existing live homelessness case.

- 5 were placed in B&B – and were either subsequently moved into self-contained temporary accommodation, deported or placed in shared accommodation
- 8 were placed in self-contained accommodation (most individuals were accommodated immediately upon release although a small number were accommodated by relatives or placed in hotels for 1-3 days initially prior to accessing self-contained accommodation)
- A small number moved in with parents, which was considered appropriate for the individuals concerned, with family being a protective factor

### All Households – Longer-term outcomes

Of the 29 households,

- 8 have permanent tenancies at September 2025
- 7 are in self-contained temporary accommodation
- A small number are living with relatives / partners and a small number no longer live in EL.

In terms of numbers considered to have had a positive housing outcome / housing is at risk / returned to prison,

- 14 have positive housing outcomes

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<sup>16</sup> **Caveat:** these numbers are rounded up/ down to the nearest 5 for disclosure control purposes

- 8 have housing at risk
- 5 returned to prison.

#### Homeless Households - Longer-term Outcomes

Of the 18 homeless households, a small number were permanently housed within 3 months of release. This is particularly positive, noting the current wait time for permanent rehousing for single homeless households is circa 3-4 years in EL. All have maintained their tenancies.

A small number returned to prison, and are considered to have accommodation at risk. The remainder all having positive housing outcomes, sustaining existing accommodation and awaiting permanent offers of housing.

The Group recognised this is not the experience for people leaving prison who had been held on remand. A new mechanism was put in place for 2024/25 to support to this group of prison leavers including access to VTC delivered through JSW and partners Heavy Sound. This was to bridge the short-term gap for the start-up of the new national Voluntary Throughcare service in April 2025.

#### **Performance Statement**

Local delivery partners: Housing Options Team/ JSWS/ TRANSITION Group

Local activity undertaken: SHORE Standards, Housing First Tenancy Model, TRANSITION, STC, VTC

#### **Our self-evaluation scoring**

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Score – 8</b>	<b>Score - 9</b>	<b>Score - 9</b>

Nationally, the number of homelessness applications where prison was the property the main applicant became homeless from, shows an increase and the desired direction is to decrease. Locally, TRANSITION Group partners work together to ensure that appropriate accommodation is available for people leaving prison who need it. The Group agreed that TRANSITION continues to be a strength and national data is not reflective of those being released from prison and being allocated suitable accommodation.

All people needing accommodation were allocated suitable housing on release and there were good outcomes for people in terms of tenancy sustainment. We offer a seamless service for people leaving prison from TRANSITION, in house VTC and access to the CJO Nurse. In term of risk management, it was agreed that accommodation needs were met and good partnership working allowed for this. The work of the TRANSITION Group is pivotal to this success, however an area for improvement is the reliance on B&Bs while more permanent options were sought.

Operational challenges were identified due to changes in housing/ homelessness legislation. The only point that stopped this Outcome scoring 10 was the reliance on B&Bs for short term accommodation but it was recognised that these were always used, short term, until suitable temporary accommodation could be sought. Housing support was recognised as a partnership strength to assisting people sustaining accommodation.

The role of the Social Work Assistants was recognised as being a partnership strength through the provision of VTC and the outcomes for people who accepted VTC were greatly improved. The person-centred approach to providing housing and support was seen as a strength and recognised the complexities of the people the service work with.

### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Continuing to improve on moving individuals from Bed & Breakfast into safe and suitable accommodation.

## National Outcome 7: More people with convictions access support to enhance their readiness for employment

### Performance data

#### National Indicator data

Percentage of those using No One Left behind (NOLB) employability services with convictions was down in 2024/25 to 2% (from 4% in 2023/24)<sup>17</sup>.

#### Local evidence

- LEP representation on CJ Group and making employability a standing item on the meeting agenda in 2025
- Employability made a priority for action for the CJOIP 2024

Local delivery partners who are members of the CJ Group (EL Works/ Access to Industry/ Heavy Sound/ VCEL) deliver a range of activities to help people access employability support. For this reporting period, there were a range of specialist employability services such as the Offender Recovery Service (ELORS) which is delivered by Access to Industry, the Ridge, and Heavy Sound. These providers focus on delivering services for those furthest away from employment, addressing immediate needs and removing barriers to progression.

For this reporting period, National No One Left Behind Indicator data shows that for East Lothian

No of participants with Criminal convictions	No of participants with no Criminal convictions	No of participants unknown for Criminal convictions	Total: No of all participants
6 (2%)	352 (96%)	10 (3%)	<b>368</b>

Noting, the above data only includes people with convictions who are using Scottish Government funded employability services. There are other local employability services funded from alternative sources so the above figures are not an accurate reflection of the number of people accessing employability services.

During 2024/25, **Access to Industry** provided key work support to 42 people where offending was a barrier to employment, of which,

- 29 felt they were job ready and participated in active job searching support,
- Less than 5 gained employment
- Less than 5 people progressed into volunteering and
- 14 people achieved vocational training and qualifications.

Local evidence from **East Lothian Works** shows the number of unique individuals with a criminal conviction who have engaged with ELW or through funded provision (e.g. Access to Industry). The

<sup>17</sup> **Reference:** The Scottish Government's 'Scotland's Devolved Employment Services: Statistical Summary', released on 23 July 2025

table shows the other issues people were experiencing coupled with convictions. The table shows that employment outcomes have remained consistent through 2023/24 and 2024/25.

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Total	48 Clients	51 Clients
Homeless	7	7
Living in a jobless household	Less than 5	Less than 5
Long term physical illness	9	8
Long term unemployed	26	19
Low skilled (below SCQF 4)	6	Less than 5
Mental health issues	15	13
No or ltd work experience	5	Less than 5
Substance related condition	12	13
Care experienced	Less than 5	Less than 5
<b>Job outcomes</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

### Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: EL Works/ Access to Industry/ Heavy Sound/ VCEL

Local activity undertaken: ELORS

### Our self-evaluation scoring

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
<b>Score - 7</b>	<b>Score - 8</b>	<b>Score - 8</b>

The Group agreed there are a range of specialist employability services in place, such as the Offender Recovery Service delivered by Access to Industry, and the Ridge that provided choice. These have been provided consistently across the reporting period.

The percentage of people referred to NOLB funded employability programmes with a criminal record shows an emerging pattern of decrease where the desired direction is to increase. Locally, there are number of employability services carrying out work in East Lothian so the number of people accessing support for employment is higher. This Outcome scored 8 in 2023/24 and is no longer a priority for action.

Funding continues to be an issue for service providers and limits the longer-term commitments they can make. The nature of East Lothian's employer base hinders employment opportunities along with the nature of the offences that people have committed. It was noted that paid work experience had been successful. Group work programmes are very positive for supporting people in to volunteering and employment opportunities.

### Local improvement actions for 2026/27:

- Continue to work on Employer Engagement in East Lothian through a Community Participation Plan. Targeted at local small employers and larger organisation such as ELC and NHS.
- Look at LS/CMI data and criminogenic need to identify relevant employment pathways.

## National Outcome 8: More people access voluntary throughcare following a short-term prison sentence

### Performance data

**National Indicator data** - Number of:

- voluntary throughcare cases commenced

Year	Vol Throughcare cases commenced <sup>18</sup>
2024/25	28
2023/24	28
2022/23	22
2019/20	22

### Local evidence

#### JSW inhouse Voluntary Throughcare

In March 2025, the SW Assistants (who deliver in-house VTC) were working with 26 people in the community and 14 in custody. A number of these people had multiple needs from chronic health conditions (mobility, head injuries, heart conditions), learning disabilities, poor mental health (agoraphobia, anxiety, depression, personality disorders), and substance use. A number of people were on long term treatment plans for substance use and mental health issues - the connection back into the JSW service and the CJO nurse was clearly beneficial for these people.

In 2024/25 The Community Justice Lead Officer and the Peer Coordinator from Heavy Sound met monthly to discuss people who were being held on remand to ensure that they received an offer of VTC support on release. This was a short-term plan until the new VTC service Upside was commissioned and they have since taken over offering this support in April 2025.

The "[Moving on](#)" webpage has been produced, and business cards produced/distributed to assist people access support when leaving prison through a QR code. The connection for those coming back into the JSW service and the CJO nurse was clearly beneficial.

#### Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: SPS/ JSWS/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: VTC

Our self-evaluation scoring		
2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Score – 9	Score - 9	Score - 10

The achievement of this Outcome progressed. The Group agreed that this was a delivery strength and the evidence clearly showed that outcomes were improved for the those that engaged with the inhouse VTC service. This Outcome scored 9 in 2023/24 and is no longer a stretch aim for the CJ Group.

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<sup>18</sup> **Reference:** Justice social work statistics - gov.scot, Throughcare, Part 1, 2023/24)

Nationally, the number of VTC cases commenced shows an emerging pattern of stability where the desired direction is to increase. Locally, data show that a number of people engage with the JSW VTC service and have good outcomes from this.

100% of people coming out of prison had an allocated worker.

#### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Inhouse VTC service to be re branded and promoted in 2026.

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## National Outcome 9: More people across the workforce and in the community understand, and have confidence in, community justice

### Performance data

Nationally, there has been no significant change in this indicator across Scotland. Locally, there were a number of developments during the 2024/25 including the embedding of the new model of Community Justice in East Lothian and the publication of the EL CJOIP 2024. The CJ Group devised and implemented a reporting and self-evaluation framework to support ongoing performance improvement.

### Local Evidence

Work on the promotion of justice services across groups from the community, H&SCP, and third sector events to place in the reporting period and these included a stall in the Brunton Hall for World Social Work Day and an annual month of service user engagement.

The CJ Group delivered the actions in the CJ Participation and Engagement Plan. The output from these activities included a “month of engagement” and the findings from this are detailed below. The month of engagement activities includes actively seeking feedback on service delivery for users of JSW services. ELC Consultation Hub is used to gather detail and provide analyses of the responses.

	Strongly Agree	Agree
My worker treats me with respect and is reliable	100%	
I understand what my supervisor is asking me to do	100%	
I feel comfortable talking to my worker	92%	8%
If I need help with something I feel I could ask my supervisor for advice	96%	4%
My worker has challenged my thinking/decisions when this has been needed	92%	8%
My worker has made me think differently about some things.	92%	8%

In 2024/25 the CJ Group launched an East Lothian specific eLearning module available on two platforms so staff and community groups can access it.

The CJ Group also produced “induction packs” for new members of the Group to assist with their understanding of the context of the work.

The CJ Lead Officer undertook service evaluation work for people subject to Statutory Throughcare. Work is underway to develop a Gold Standard of service and a range of leaflets to assist people understand relevant licences etc. while they are subject to STC are being devised.

### Performance Statement

Local delivery partners: CJLO/ CJ Group

Local activity undertaken: Service User Voice/ Lived Experience Work/ Community Consultation & Engagement

#### Our self-evaluation scoring

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Score – 9	Score - 9	Score - 8

Progress on meeting this Outcome has regressed. While good work continued it was felt that more work could be delivered to improve on this Outcome. This Outcome scored 9 in 2023/24.

The issue of the relocation of the JSW service Fisherrow Community Centre has caused community apprehension. Negative feedback on social media has shown that many of the issues faced by the client group are misunderstood by the community. However, some social media had positive engagement, with people understanding the role of community in justice too. The Group agreed a Community Engagement Plan was needed on the role of JS and the issues – the number of domestic offences and the benefits of community awareness around this.

#### Local improvement actions for 2026/27

- Deliver a new Community Engagement Plan for 2026/28 to identify and improve on Community Engagement, and include work with the Comms Team to produce a myth busting article to inform community perception linked with the JSW teams move to the Fisherrow Community Centre.
- New improvement actions to be developed based on the findings from the Understanding the Views project once it is completed in 2026 and feedback to CJ Group in March and September 2026.

## Appendix 1

**Venture Trust** co-locate a member of staff with the Justice Social Work team for one day a week to encourage and progress referrals. Venture Trust delivers intensive personal development for people, at any stage in their life, struggling with issues such as involvement in the justice system, long-term unemployment, recovery from substance use, homelessness or risk of homelessness, isolation, and a history of trauma or harm.

**Basic First Aid Courses** - service users learn the following skills: CPR, Resuscitation, Defibrillator use, ABCs (airway, breathing, circulation).

**The Multiply Project** supports people to become more confident with numbers and uses formal and informal learning, with the latter being delivered through 'activity' work that is relevant to learners e.g. cooking, budgeting, and working in partnership with other organisations such as The Ranger Service in practical conservation. The project offers and delivers accredited qualifications with Qualifications Scotland, ranging from SCQF Maths Level 2 - 5.

**Access to Industry** offers a range of services to people such as gaining their CSCS construction cards, Driver Theory, CV building/ Interview skills/techniques, work placements.

**Blended Learning Pack** - service users can work through a sequence of wellbeing questions/tasks and can receive support if required.

6 people in East Lothian received support from **Shine Women's Mentoring Service** in 2024/25. The Support is available to women serving short-term prison sentences as well as those on remand or with a CPO or DTTO. Note, the Shine service ended on 31st March 2025 and has been replaced by a new national voluntary throughcare service, Upside.