

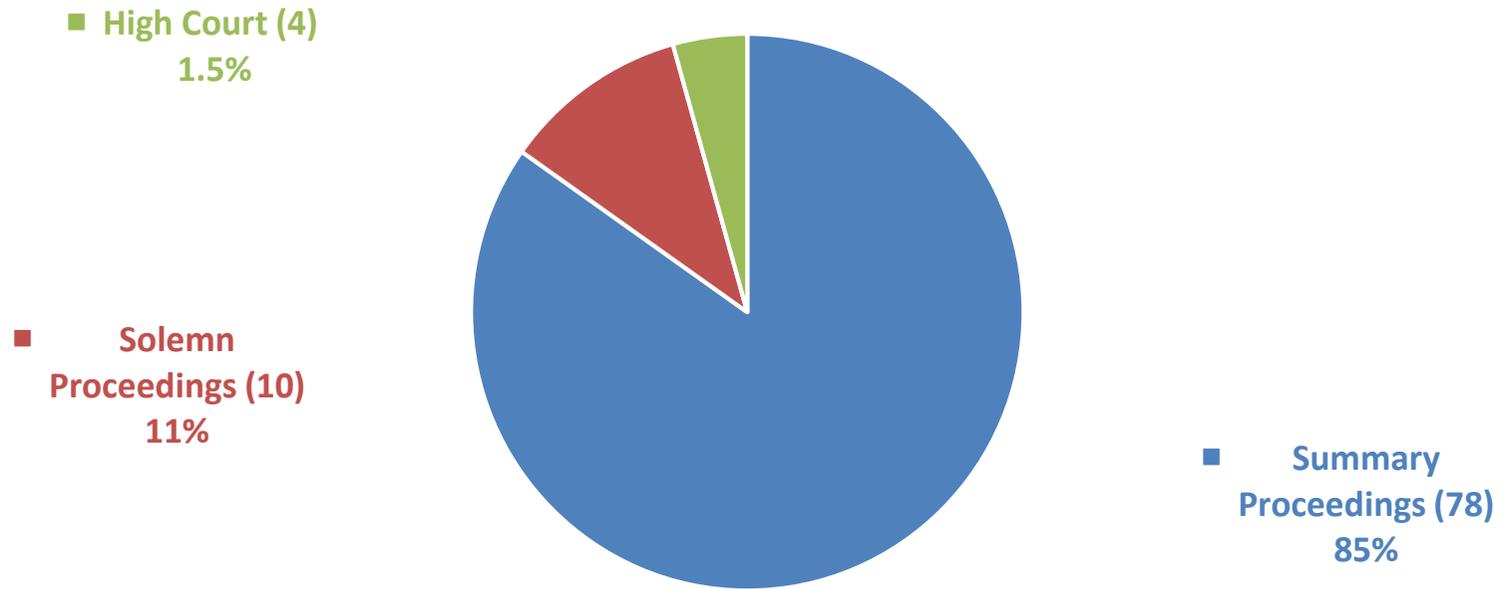
Criminal Justice Services

Quarterly Bulletin (January – March 2019)

Criminal Justice Social Work Services in East Lothian provides a statutory service to people who offend, their families and victims of crime. The key outcomes are community safety and public protection, the reduction of re-offending and promoting social inclusion to support desistance from offending. We are committed to reducing the imposition of custodial sentences by offering a wide range of community disposals. These services take into consideration the needs of the people who offend, the victims of crime and public protection.

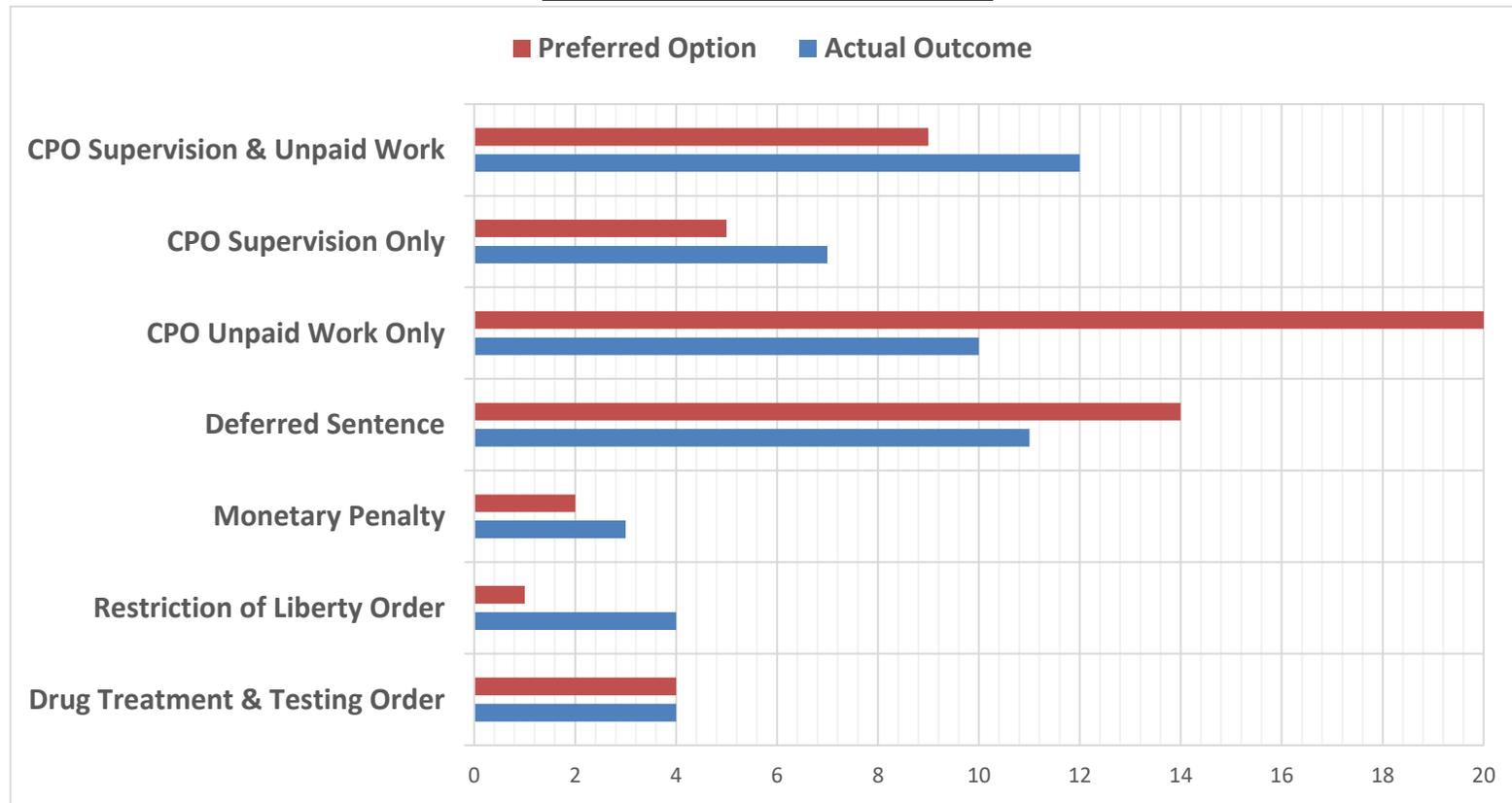
The Criminal Justice Team provide reports to the Court to aid sentencing as well as the Parole Board to support people returning to the community after a period in custody. People with convictions can be subject to supervision and/or unpaid work as part of a community-based disposal – these are known as Community Payback Orders. For those who have been in custody, on their release they are provided with support – this may be as part of a Statutory Throughcare Licence which forms part of their sentence or as Voluntary Throughcare. In all cases, social work staff will develop an action or case management plan to support the individual to avoid further offending and resettle back into their community.

Criminal Justice Social Work Reports



NOTE – the figures relating to CJSWRs outcomes were received within the given quarter only.

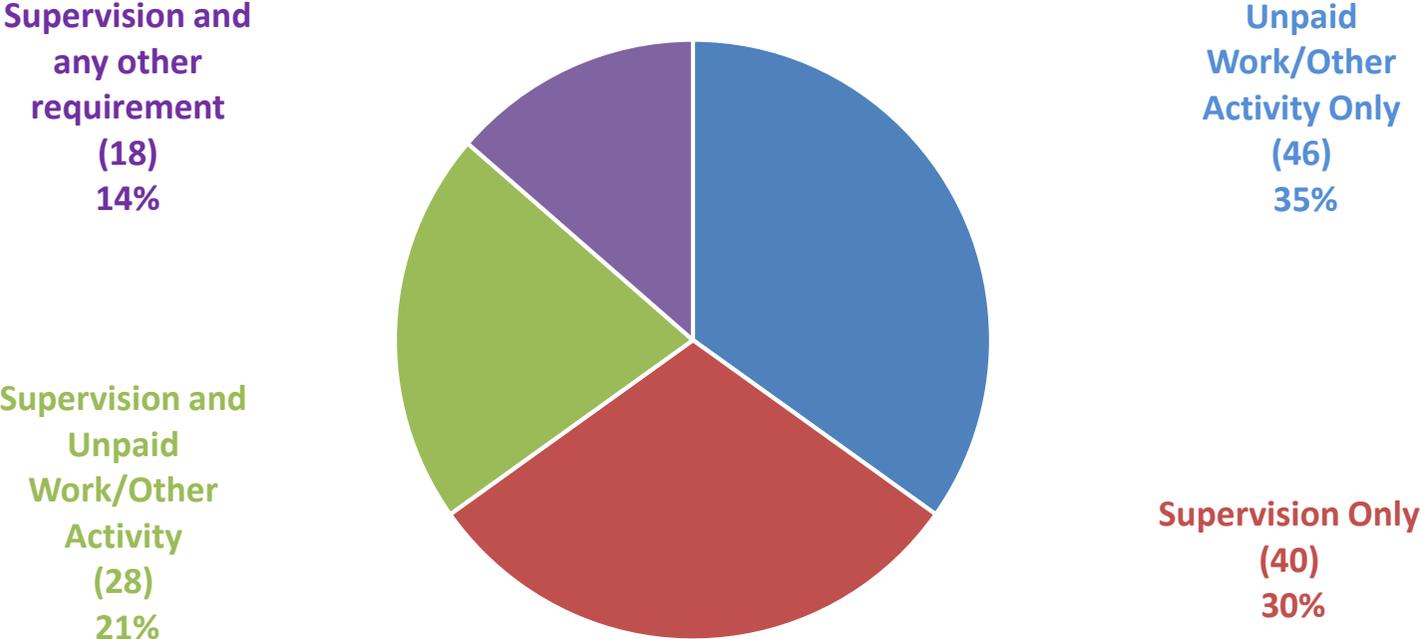
CJSWR Outcomes



- There were **NINE** custodial sentences imposed in this quarter.

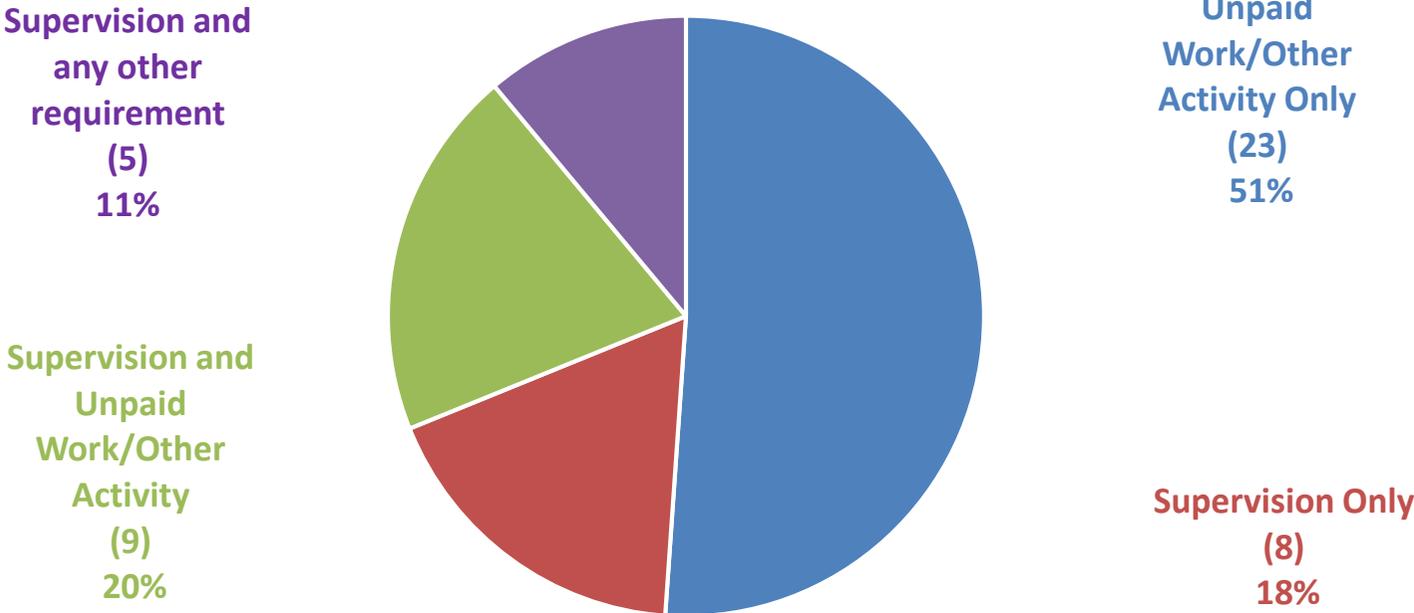
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Community Payback Orders



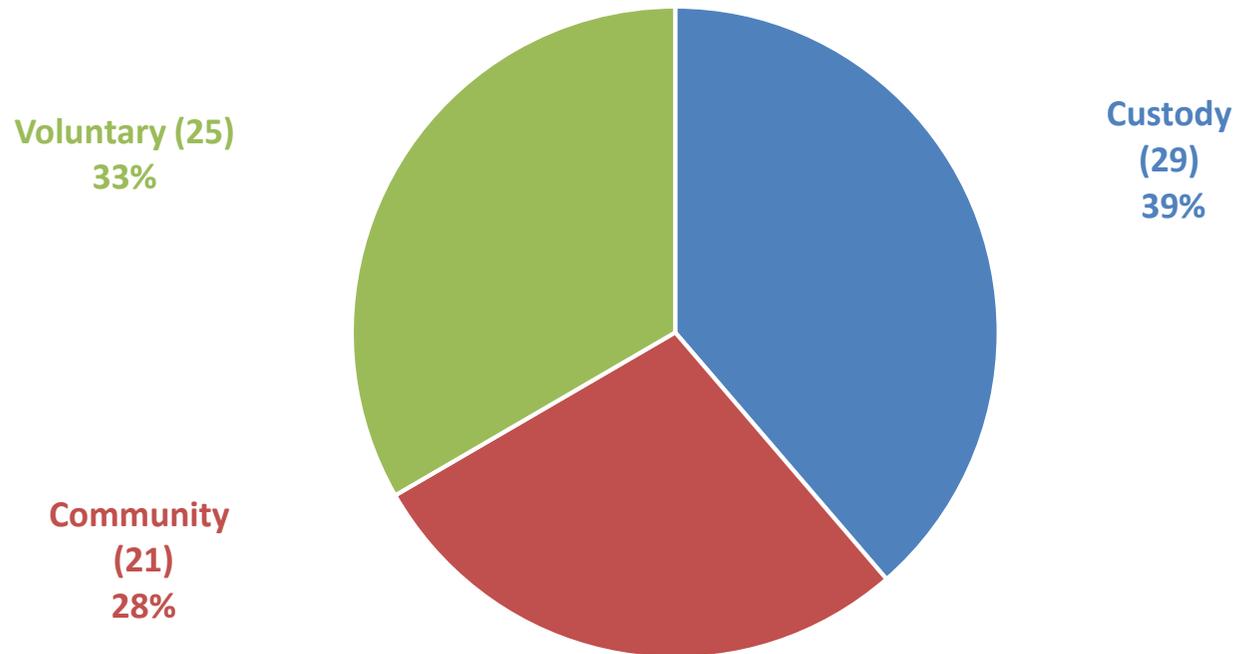
NOTE – the figures relate to the number of open CPOs on 31 March 2019.

Community Payback Orders



NOTE – the figures relate to the number of CPOs imposed in the given quarter only.

Throughcare – Open Cases



NOTE – the figures relate to the number of open Throughcare cases on 31 March 2019.

Unpaid Work/Other Activity:

January 2019 - Smaller group numbers during the week restricted activity on larger path upgrading projects to mainly weekends. Work continued restoring ancient kerb edgings at Ormiston on behalf of Community Council. Decorating and ground work at Muirfield Riding Therapy, a centre which promotes supported horse riding as a health benefit for people with disabilities, was completed, as was painting work at Wallyford Community Centre.

February 2019 - The team painted railings at Tranent Civic Square to enhance the physical environment as part of work for Tranent In Bloom. ELC Countryside Rangers asked for support to upgrade the path network at North Berwick and Pencraig. Dunbar Against Litter, a new community volunteer led organisation requested help with clearing several identified areas in the locality. Some groundwork was undertaken at Prestongrange to ready the museum for being open to the public.

March 2019 - A major project creating a hard path from Long Cram to the River Tyne walkway in Haddington was started. To date 60 tonnes of hardcore have been used. Repainting of Dunbar Harbour benches, bollards and railings commenced, as was the upgrading of railings at Port Seton seafront. We also received some new referrals for support with upgrading and clearing gardens through the Tenancy Support team. This work allows people who would otherwise struggle to maintain a garden due to health issues a fresh start prior to being referred to the Council's Garden Aid scheme.

Working With Women:

- After two successful years co-ordinating the multiagency group work programme for women at risk of being involved in offending, CONNECT is looking to move into a more concrete phase, with a focus on facilitation and the development of Stepping Stones (the psychoeducational component of the programme) – as a result, there has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes.
- The first stakeholders meeting took place, the aim of which was to secure staffing from a wider range of agencies, and to begin to develop greater links with health services. This re-structuring phase is set to continue for the next few months with the aim of having a more secure structure by the end of 2019. Greater promotion of CONNECT will also help to identify and target the women who would most benefit from the service.
- Representatives of CONNECT attended the ‘Your Voice Your Choice’ award ceremony. It was CONNECT’s first experience of applying for outside funding and, although unsuccessful, it was positive in terms of understanding the process and practicalities of funding applications. This is something that we expect to give greater focus to in the coming year.

Welfare Support:

- There has been a growing need for Social Work Assistants (SWA) to support service users to understand the changing benefits system with a noted increase in completing Personal Independence Payments (PIP) assessments - from the initial request of the online form to completion of the application and finally supporting the service user to their assessment interview. In addition the SWAs have been making referrals to and supporting attendance at CAPS Independent Advocacy appointments. CAPS are able to provide coaching and support on attending a PIP appointment as many people find this part of the assessment difficult and struggle to articulate themselves to relevant professionals.
- Advocacy and befriending is also part of the SWAs role and allows for individuals to be supported to access services and seek the appropriate support for their needs. This quarter has included making referrals to the Venture Trust outdoor programme and supporting veterans involved in the criminal justice system who are struggling with the transition to civilian life. In addition this has included referral to Access to Industry for back to work support, Recycling First for furniture & white goods and specialised health services. This role can be very diverse and has included supporting service users to attend a variety of courses and clubs from cooking to gardening based on their needs.
- The overall increase in welfare support has led to the planning of a weekly welfare clinic, which will be staffed by the SWAs. Referrals will come from social workers which will allow them to focus on managing risk and offence focused work, as well as unpaid work supervisors when a need is identified.

Working with those following release from custody:

Although the majority of work with service users is done immediately after release, our Voluntary Throughcare team also work with service users during their sentences to build relationships and complete practical tasks. Some of the work carried out in the early part of 2019 with those still in custody include:

- A partner-based intervention involving housing, substance misuse/health services, community wardens and criminal justice social work, to avoid the service users eviction, so that he was appropriately housed and supported for six months post-release prior to entering a residential rehabilitation centre in the west of Scotland. This focus on his welfare needs has promoted his chances of avoiding further offending and re-entering the criminal justice system.
- Work was also done with a first time offender who was recently incarcerated and concerned about the security of his partner's housing and benefits, given it was a joint tenancy. In situations such as this the Voluntary Throughcare service is able to liaise with housing and communicate with family. This holistic approach supports the whole family and can reduce the negative impact of imprisonment on families.
- The Voluntary Throughcare service also works with people who have no previous experience of the criminal justice system to come to terms with their situation and to plan for eventual release from custody – this can be in terms of both practical and emotional support.