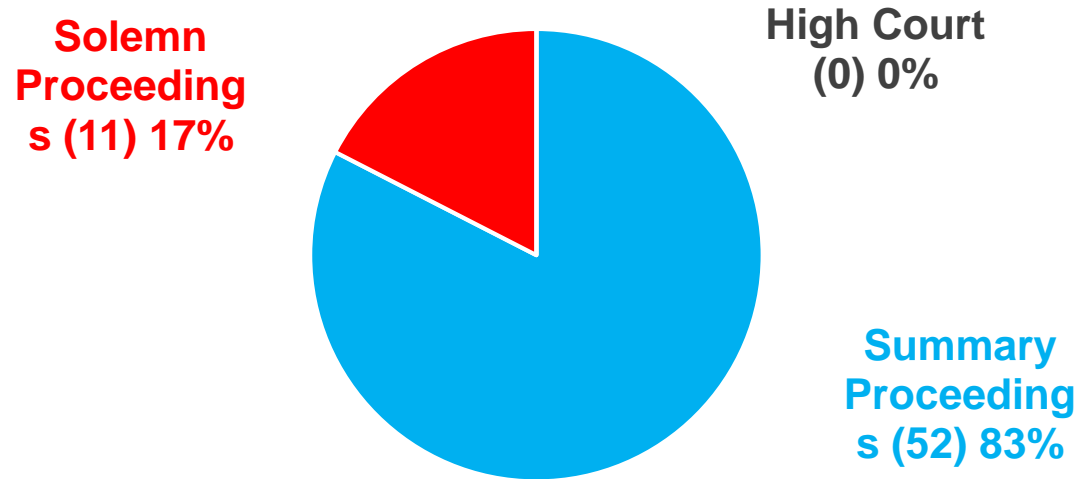


Criminal Justice Services

Quarterly Bulletin (April- June 2018)

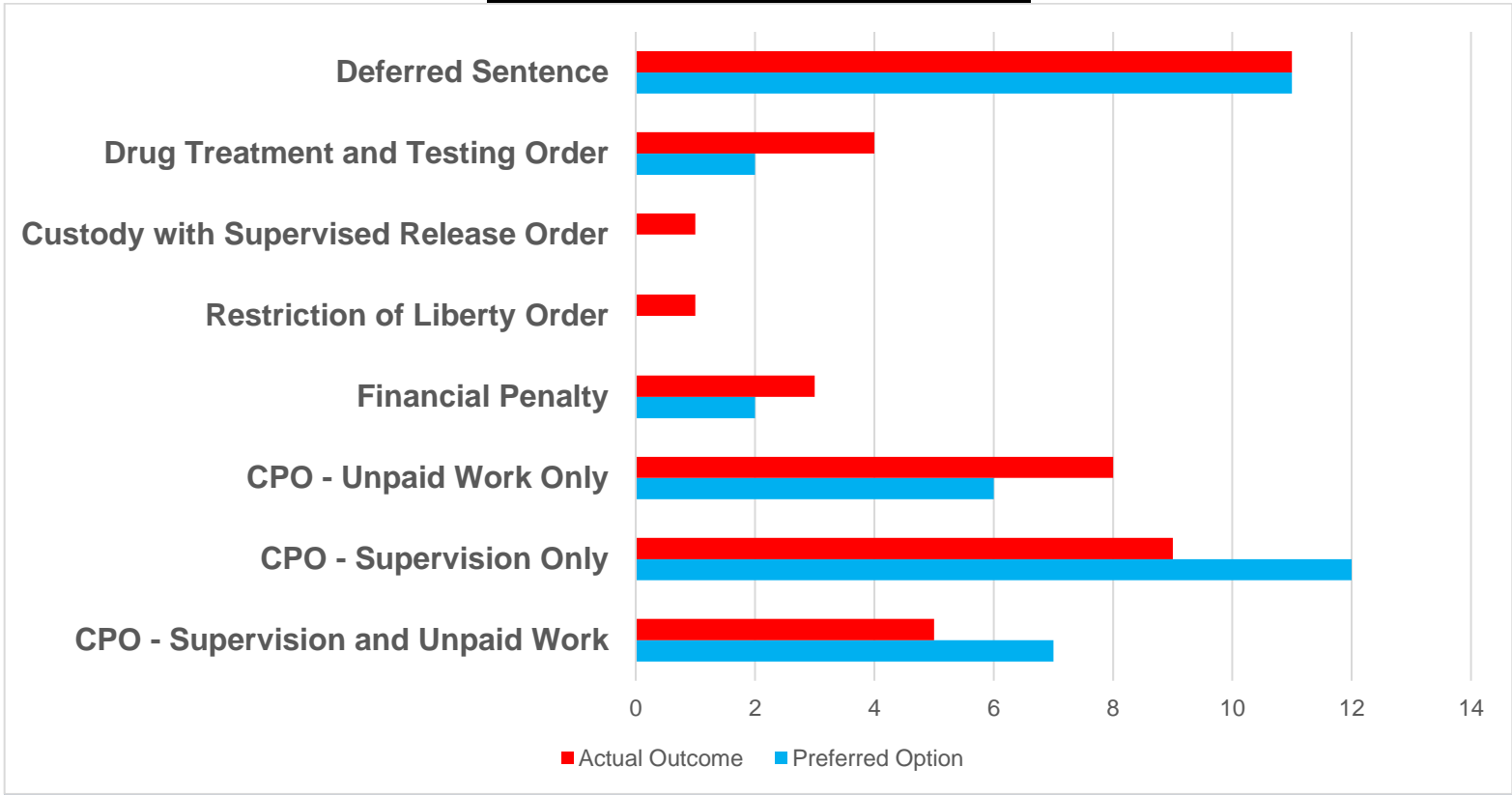
Criminal Justice Social Work Services in East Lothian provides a statutory service to people who offend, their families and victims of crime. The key outcomes are community safety and public protection, the reduction of re-offending and promoting social inclusion to support desistance from offending. 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.

Criminal Justice Social Work Reports



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

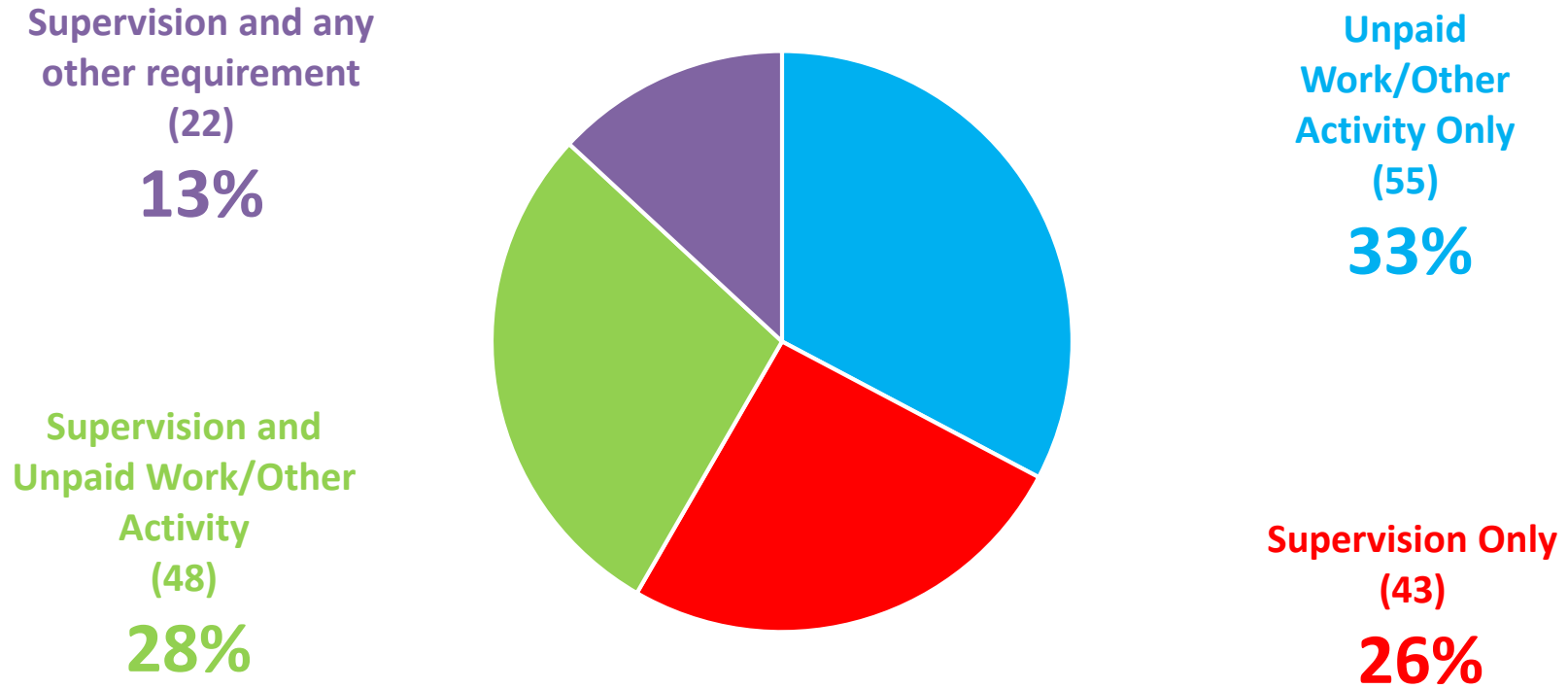
CJSWR Outcomes



- There were **EIGHT** custodial sentences imposed in this quarter (not including those subject to Supervised Release Order, as noted above)

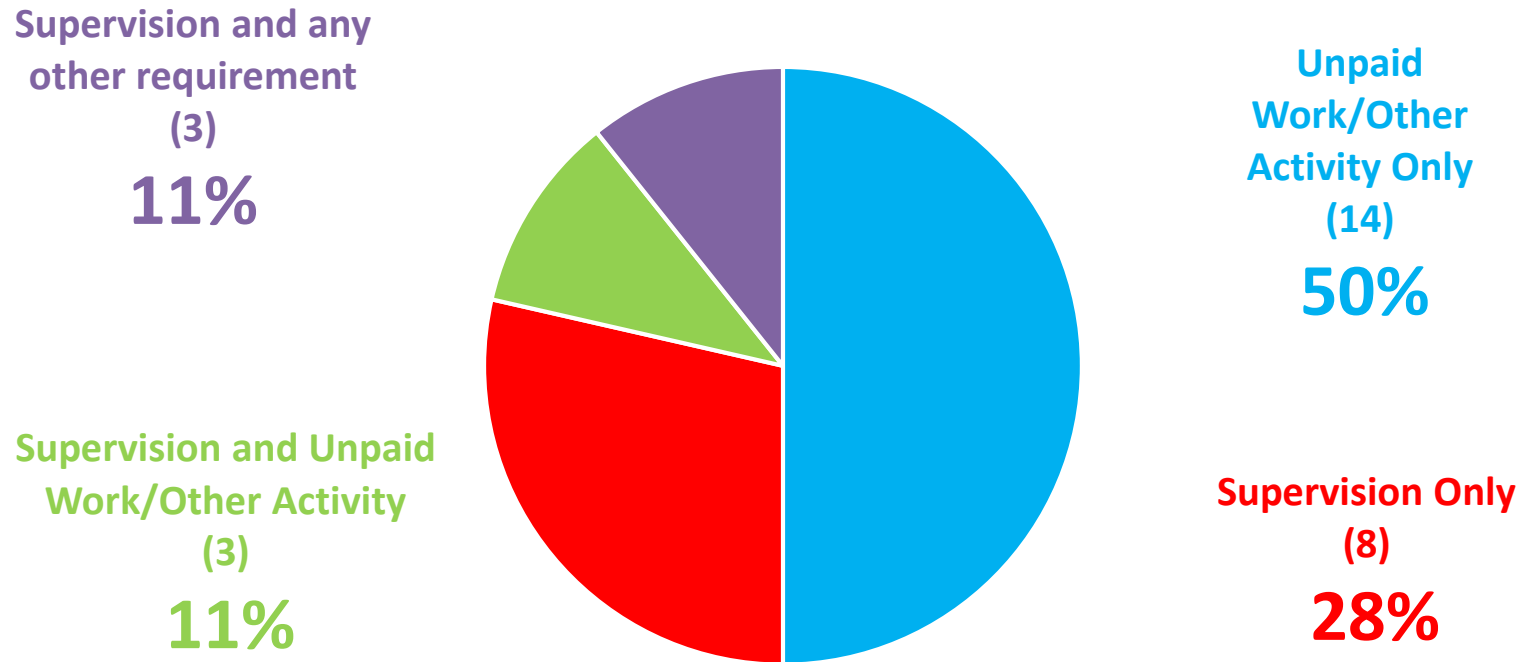
NOTE – the figures relating to CJSWRs outcomes were received within the given quarter only.

Community Payback Orders



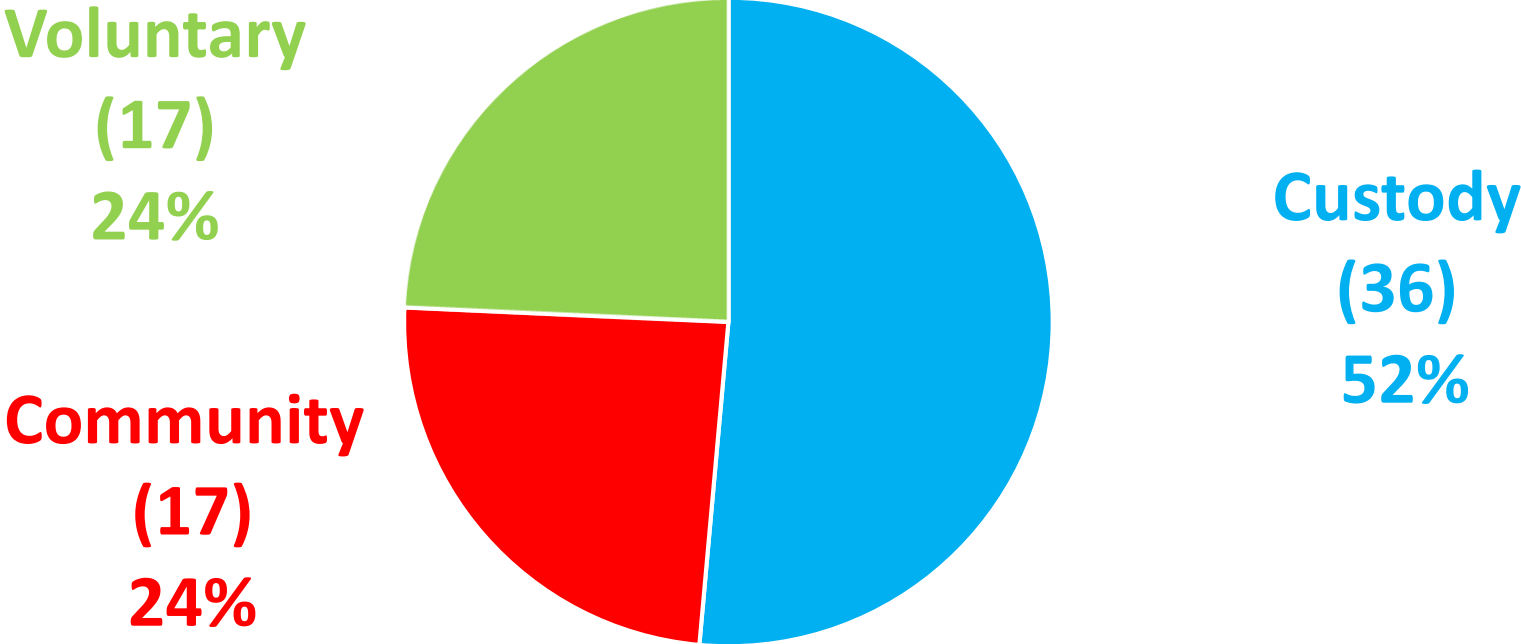
NOTE – the figures relate to the number of open CPOs on 30 June 2018.

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 30 June 2018.

Unpaid Work/Other Activity

The Unpaid Work Team complete projects across East Lothian and their work is designed to benefit the local community. Individuals and groups undertake tasks to enhance and develop the local area and to give those subject to Community Payback Orders the chance to offer reparation for their offences. Details of some of the projects the team completed in this quarter are below:

April 2018 – The Unpaid Work Team received new Garden Referrals from Tenancy Support Officers. One large garden clearance project was subject to a meeting between Housing, Criminal Justice and Amenity Services regarding disposal of garden waste. Regular seasonal groundwork projects at Belhaven Hospital and Cockenzie House have resumed. The Amenities Officer for Ormiston has requested additional support with path work at Ormiston, which will be accommodated using existing materials stored at East Lothian Council (ELC) Architectural Salvage Yard in Haddington. The Planning team who manage this yard have asked us to reconsider a previous project proposal regarding measuring and cataloguing antique doors and other ‘artefacts’ on site.

May 2018 – The Ranger for Yellowcraig submitted an extensive list of amenity improvement work requests for over the summer period – this went out to the team, including locum staff and will be progressed on an ‘as and when’ basis. Other new work requests have also been submitted and are in the process of being assessed.

June 2018 – The Unpaid Work Team returned to full staffing complement aside of some staff leave – outstanding work requests, particularly painting requests are now being progressed. Long standing work request at ELC Architectural Salvage Yard also undertaken.

The team continues to engage with other Council teams, particularly Amenity Services and Tenancy Support to support and enhance their services. Unpaid Work activity is also provided to support the activities of third sector partners, community trusts and social enterprises. Discussions have also taken place regarding ELC Community Learning and Development using the Mid Road Unpaid Work Team Unit (Prestonpans) after school time to deliver bike maintenance classes, to support the healthy living agenda.

Working with Women

Criminal Justice Social Work provides support, guidance and interventions to individuals with convictions to help them make more productive choices and become positive members of their local communities. In East Lothian, we have been working constructively with women some of whom have convictions at our Women's Group, CONNECT. The following is a snapshot of some of the work completed in this quarter:

- Group members have come from a wide range of settings (Women's Aid, Adult Services etc.) have presented as more settled in the group setting. Attendance has been occasionally problematic creating challenges around ensuring group facilitators proactively engage with the women and encourage them to stay for the whole day.
- The group has felt the lack of a medical nurse and this is an area which we hope to resolve in the next period.
- The day starts at 10.00am with a very light breakfast – toast/tea/coffee and fruit and then moves promptly to the Stepping Stones session which lasts approximately 1 ½ - 2 hours. This comprises of 12 sessions which deals with areas that research has indicated are relevant to women, addressing complex needs and providing for some of them an opportunity to move on in life with more positive aspirations and increased confidence. Sessions include:-
 - Understanding our Emotions- topics include:
 - Myths about Happiness – starting to discuss with the women some of the expectations about emotions
 - The Function of Emotions – Safety, socially and creatively
 - Distress Tolerance
 - Improving Distress
 - Mindfulness
- A new development over this period has been that the group has had the services of a CAB financial worker with the remit to work in-group with women; on financial issues including maximising income, debt management and budgeting. An extra session has been added to the morning where work can be continued on an individual basis. The CAB worker, also plays other parts in Connect (duty, afternoon worker) thus enabling her to create opportunities for women to talk about financial issues.

Working with those following release from custody

In East Lothian we have dedicated staff who engage with those released from custody following a short term sentence – these individuals are not subject to any post-release Licence or Order restrictions and work with us on a voluntary basis. In this quarter, there have been a number of key issues identified including:

- **Substance misuse** - Reducing drug related deaths remains a key priority for Voluntary Throughcare. When prisoners present themselves as drug free for liberation they are often reluctant to accept taking naloxone packs (to counter the effects of overdose) – many believe in doing so they indicate their intention to return to drug use. However, using drugs intravenously after a period of abstinence significantly increase the risk of accidental overdose. To support these vulnerable individuals Voluntary Throughcare, through their initial interventions, have started to distribute naloxone kits where there is a history of injecting opiates.
- **Housing instability** - From May 2018 East Lothian prisoners in HMP Edinburgh have been able to access specialist housing advice from Phase/Foursquare. Reinstating this service is a significant development that will benefit both the local authority in terms of retrieving rent and council tax income as well as the prisoners who need legal advocacy. Due to the low availability of temporary accommodation and B&Bs in East Lothian some people released from custody have to go to night shelters in Edinburgh and this perpetuates the cycle of housing instability. In some circumstances those receiving Universal Credit can have their rent paid throughout a short sentence – their accommodation is secure for release and they do not get into rent arrears. However, this only happens if you are in custody for less than 13 weeks – one day longer and you can trigger the full period of rent arrears.
- **Mental health** - Voluntary Throughcare works up to a year with many clients who experience chronic and acute mental health problems. Psychological services at Herdman Flat have been very helpful in coaching and supporting some long-term work with a complex client – this person does not offend when receiving such support. However, the challenges of poor mental health and associated vulnerabilities can exclude people from accommodation. Suicidal tenants or those at risk of self-harm face discrimination by being excluded from some B&B accommodation - owners can do this without explanation.

Welfare Support

Many people who have convictions also experience social exclusion – they find it difficult to access services that are designed to support vulnerable members of our communities. In East Lothian Criminal Justice Services, we recognise these additional needs and have a referral system to specialised colleagues who work to reduce inequality and signpost for services. In this quarter, there was a focus on the following:

Foodbanks:

We are aware that a growing number of our clients need to access foodbanks mainly due to the changes in the benefits system following the introduction of Universal Credit in East Lothian. Given our semi-rural environment and poor transport links, people have problems accessing such services, so we have inadvertently become a local 'hub' for the distribution of foodbanks. This has resulted in an increasing workload, not always directly involving people with convictions. We have therefore tried to increase our own knowledge of foodbank services in East Lothian and have now produced a booklet detailing referral and distribution information to help people access local foodbanks when in need. We continue to supply foodbanks on a needs based system.

TRANSFORM:

This multi-agency group targets support for those most vulnerable individuals who are at risk of anti-social or offending behaviour. The focus is on the significant few whose behaviour causes concern within their local communities and assessment identifies that they would benefit from additional support and input. This is a relatively new project with the welfare needs, specifically around housing, finances, health services and access to the voluntary sector, featuring as key to the referral process.

East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS):

Criminal Justice clients are continuing to benefit from the East Lothian Offender Recovery Service (ELORS) Caseworker working from the criminal justice office one day per week. As such, they can hold three-way meetings including the caseworker, the client and their social worker to formulate support plans – these set short and long term goals in terms of helping the individual address the issues which are preventing them progressing towards training and/or employment. Many people have complex and long-standing welfare needs that are closely linked to their offending such as substance misuse and mental health issues. Other, more specialist agencies can then become involved and ELORS will continue to assist at a more practical level in helping motivate the client to attend appointments as well as accompanying them to services when appropriate.

Working with Young Offenders

In East Lothian where a young person under the age of 18 years is part of the criminal justice system the support they receive is provided by social workers from Children's Services. We are committed to supporting and engaging all young people with convictions and work on the principle of prevention and early intervention. We also work to the Whole Systems Approach that is designed to take a holistic view of a young person who offends and promote smooth transitions if they are detained or have their liberty curtailed. In this quarter the key issues have been:

- Services have worked consistently to divert young people from prosecution. Of the four requests that came to the team from the Procurator Fiscal, three were successfully diverted. These individuals will not, therefore, have convictions on their records and this should support them in their future and avoid the stigma that can be associated with a criminal record.
- Early Effective Intervention – this is a service for those young people on the cusp of offending or involved in minor offending or anti-social behaviour - continues to involve a significant number of children and young people. Most result in Police warnings or support from Education, and most do not appear to re-offend. Most are very low level. Those who are assessed as posing a risk of harm or re-offending may be offered a service for a period of three months, during which time they are further assessed, referred on to relevant agencies if appropriate, and given advice and guidance in relation to their behaviour. We plan to develop this area including starting to gather data.
- The work being undertaken by the team is evidencing successful reintegration for a number of young people. Their risk and needs assessments are being reviewed and their engagement with services has indicated that they are at a reduced risk of further offending behaviour.