

# **Criminal Justice Services**

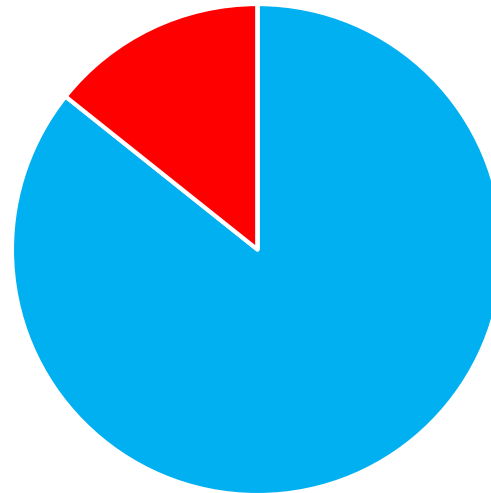
## **Quarterly Bulletin (July- September 2018)**

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.

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

**Solemn  
Proceedings  
(10) 14%**

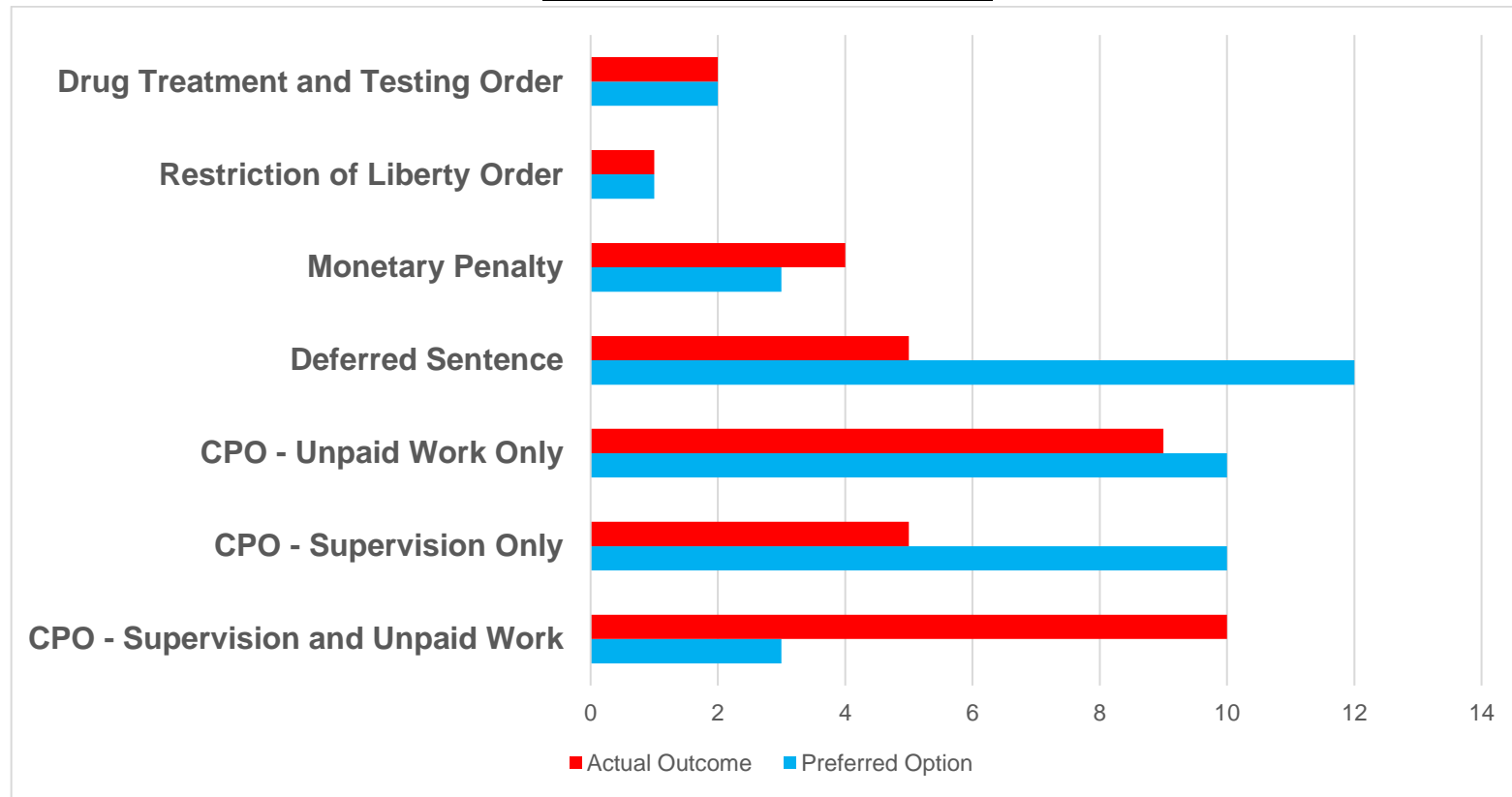


**High Court  
(0) 0%**

**Summary  
Proceedings  
(60) 86%**

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

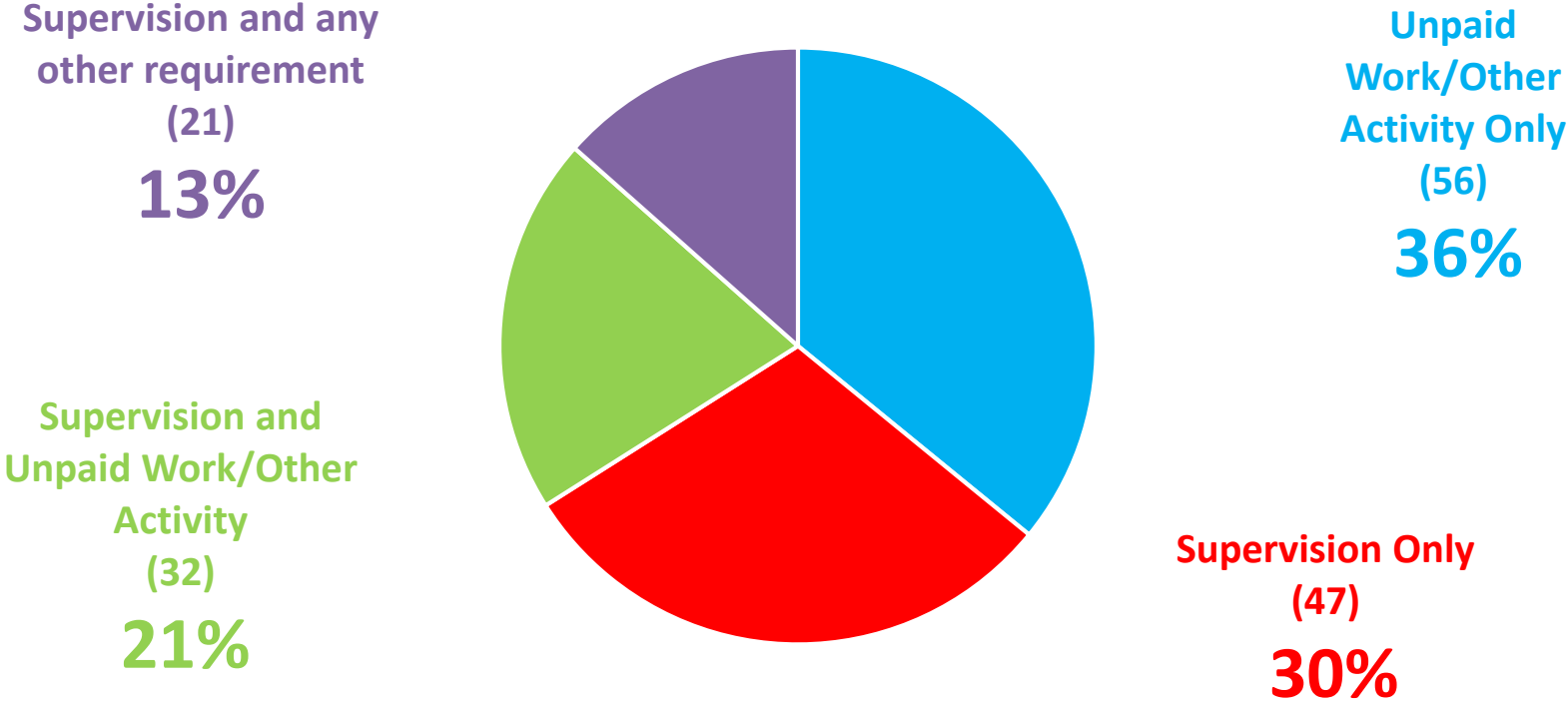
## CJSWR Outcomes



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

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

# Community Payback Orders

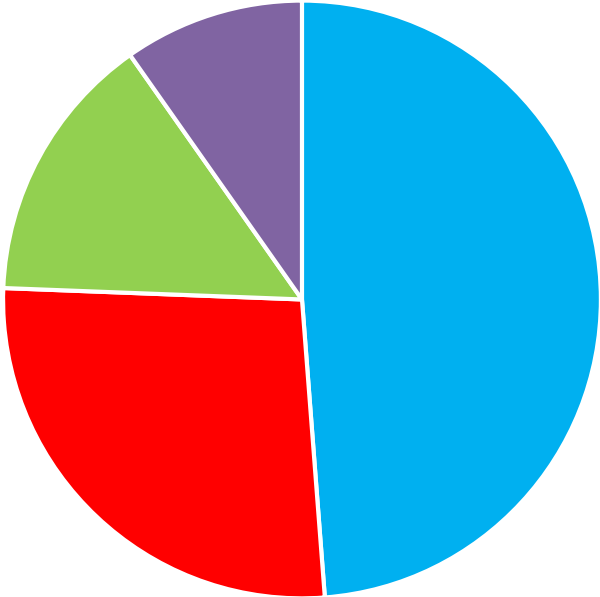


NOTE – the figures relate to the number of open CPOs on 30 September 2018.

# Community Payback Orders

Supervision and any  
other requirement  
(4)  
**10%**

Supervision and Unpaid  
Work/Other Activity  
(6)  
**14%**



Unpaid  
Work/Other  
Activity Only  
(20)  
**49%**

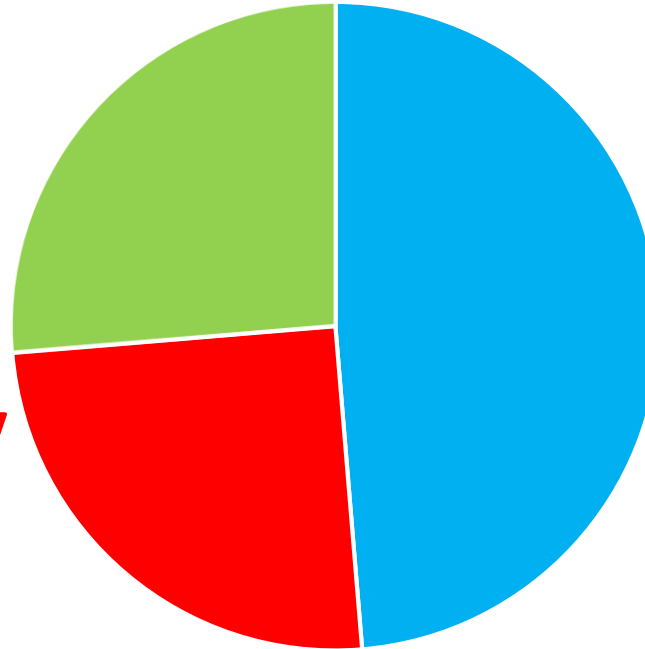
Supervision Only  
(11)  
**27%**

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

## Throughcare – Open Cases

**Voluntary**  
**(20)**  
**26%**

**Community**  
**(19)**  
**25%**



**Custody**  
**(37)**  
**49%**

**NOTE – the figures relate to the number of open Throughcare cases on 30 September 2018.**

## Unpaid Work/Other Activity

**July 2018** - one of our work teams supported Friends of The Tyne clean-up day on 22 July. We have continued to use additional staff to engage work groups to continue the painting work at East Linton and ground clearance at Elphinstone Miners Welfare. In July, there were more work requests and a number remained outstanding for assessment – there was a reduction in the number of unpaid work projects we could complete as the number of Community Payback Orders reduced.

**August 2018** – the team continue to progress improvement works supporting the Rangers at Whitesands beach. The supervisors started forward planning and looking for projects that are appropriate for the winter months. We made a special effort to make sure that all the supervisors were aware of the Other Activity options via Access to Industry and Bruce Robertson for people completing unpaid work to undertake the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). All people employed on construction/building sites must have this card before they can start work, so this partnership supports people back into employment. We managed to complete the ground clearance at Elphinstone Miners Welfare so the site is prepared for development – we have offered to support their activities and plans for the future development. The team are forward planning by contacting Countryside Rangers for potential winter ground care and development projects on paths and beach sites.

**September 2018** - two staff completed Mental Health First Aid as we have seen a rise in individuals presenting to their unpaid work with mental health support needs. We managed to complete a large project where we undertook the painting of extensive park railings at East Linton for the Community Council and the Community Hall at Bogg's Holdings. We undertook a visit to Muirfield Riding Therapy at West Fenton as we are hoping to explore options for future supervised projects and personal placements. A meeting was held with Strive Adventure to explore possible collaborative work in respect of Other Activity focussing on an individual's personal and social development using both classroom-based and outdoor education activities. Supervised work groups have also supported a request from Wallyford Community Council to prepare the ground for a beacon as part of the village's participation in the UK Government's 'Battle's Over' programme to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWI.

## Working With Women

East Lothian CJ team work with women individually via Community Payback Orders (CPO) as well as voluntarily through the Caledonian Women's Worker and as part of Voluntary Throughcare provision and within a group setting as part of the multi-agency group CONNECT.

In this bulletin, we highlight our partnership working with Musselburgh Citizens Advice Bureau, which is delivered in large part through CONNECT but is also accessed by women on CPOs or working with us voluntarily. The focus is the Women's Fund Project that provides services to work with women around financial emancipation who are:

- at risk of reoffending and/or
- affected by domestic abuse, including financial abuse and/or
- experiencing issues of substance misuse, poor mental health Issues or facing isolation

The project aims to increase financial awareness and build women's confidence in money matters, by empowering them to understand their financial needs. It is hoped that as a result there will be a positive impact on their health and well-being, both physically and mentally. The worker also attends CONNECT regularly to meet with women and she has managed to practically engage with them so that work can be tailored to the individual's specific needs. There will also be group work to look at:

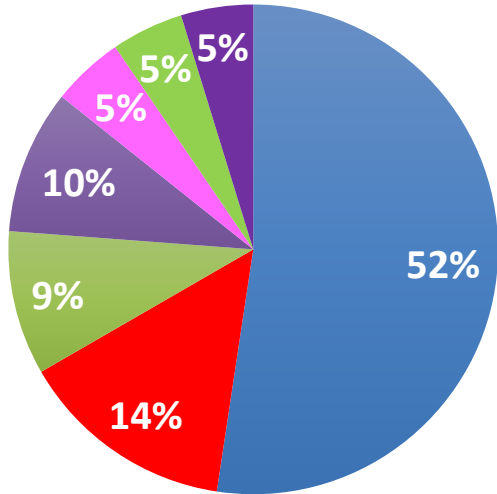
- Issues with benefits
- Assisting to reducing expenditure
- Maximising income - for example through grants
- Promoting budgeting and saving

Through this work we help women create their own financial identity - whether this is by setting up their own bank accounts or ensuring access to benefits. The participants will be given the necessary tools to take control of their own financial matters and help them plan for the future.

The following graphs give details about referrals to CONNECT:

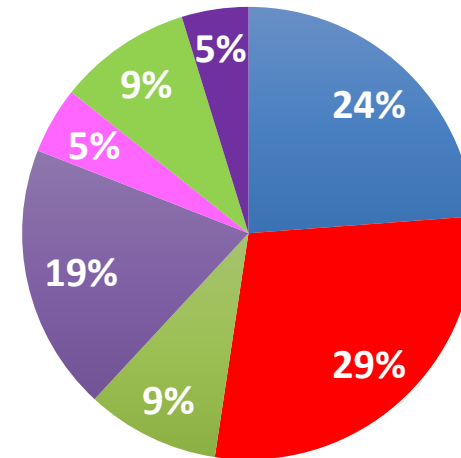


**Referrals by Agency (21)**



- Criminal Justice (11)
- Adult Wellbeing (3)
- Strive (2)
- Domestic Abuse Service (DAS) (2)
- Women's Aid (1)
- East Lothian Substance Misuse Service (1)
- Childrens's Wellbeing (1)

**Current Group Stats (21) End of Dec 2018**



- Attending (5)
- Due to Start (6)
- To be Inducted (2)
- Deferred until 2019 (4)
- Waiting List (1)
- Didn't Attend then Removed (2)
- Moved On Successfully

## Working with those following release from custody

**Safe and Together Training** – the Voluntary Throughcare (VT) worker undertook initial training on this model of working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. As a non-statutory service with expertise in engaging people VT may be ideally placed to develop this work. We would hope to support and develop working with men in custody and on release even when their offence is not about domestically abusive behaviours – these men acknowledge that domestic abuse affects their lives and other people’s lives in a negative way. Initial conversations are framed in terms of having ‘quality relationships’ rather than arguing with, controlling or feeling jealous of intimate partners. This allows for a safe and non-judgmental way of discussing domestic abuse so men can take responsibility for their behaviour - this way we can still challenge domestic abuse and address the stigma with which it is associated. The VT Worker and colleagues in criminal justice social work are aware that there is a lot of work to be done but are looking forward to addressing the needs of perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse so that women and girls are safe and men take responsibility for their behaviour.

**Prison regime** – people who have a history of multiple custodial sentences over the years have noted that there has been an increase in violence and distress within prisons. This can mean that on release they are more traumatised – this can be a barrier to reducing reoffending, as when dealing with trauma it can be harder to access appropriate support services around, for example mental health or substance use.

**Xanax** (brand name)/**Etizolam** (chemical name) – when non-prescribed and used in combination with other depressant drugs it is twice as likely to lead to death by overdose than Valium (Diazepam). There is evidence to suggest that those people who had previously used (non-prescribed) Valium are switching to (non-prescribed/street) Xanax – this could be contributing to the increase in drug related deaths.

## Welfare Support

Providing welfare support is key to the Criminal Justice Social Work Team in East Lothian and the work is normally completed by the Social Work Assistant (SWA) – the role has been vacant throughout this quarter. We have identified the following areas of significant need and matters of social inclusion that we will refer to the SWA when our recruitment campaign is completed:

- Universal Credit – East Lothian have been dealing with the roll-out of Universal Credit for many months and the SWAs are experienced and skilled in supporting vulnerable people through the process. This will be a priority as more East Lothian residents are moved onto this new benefit
- Housing – the needs of people with conditions around their housing are significant. There is legislation which can support individuals in temporary accommodation, but it can also hinder progression into more permanent housing solutions. East Lothian's housing stock is limited and lacks diversity – this can result in people with convictions being housed in unsuitable bed & breakfast accommodation for significant periods of time
- Foodbanks – we have researched and developed a pamphlet providing details of foodbank services within East Lothian. The impact of Universal Credit has seen a marked increase in foodbank use and the SWA will continue to support individuals in their applications and, if needed, deliver food parcels to people in more outlying areas
- Service user feedback – it is important that anyone who uses the services of the Criminal Justice Team are given the opportunity to give us their feedback. We have previously developed completion questionnaires and had used the SWA to administer these at the end of Orders. This gives the individuals the chance to express themselves freely as the SWA has not been a statutory part of their Order/Licence – we intend to use the feedback to develop our services. These questionnaires also give individuals the chance to identify what has worked well for them and which support services they used
- Unpaid work – the SWA will provide additional cover for completing morning and afternoon Inductions for individuals made subject to an unpaid work/other activity requirement. This will increase the team's capacity and allow all critical timescales to be met. The SWA will also provide a support function to individuals who are struggling with their compliance and require to attend Reviews with the unpaid work manager. inductions, questionnaires, compliance review support
- Advocacy/befriending – this is a core component of the SWA role. Many people who have convictions find these meetings difficult and they can struggle to articulate the problems or concerns that they have to the relevant professionals. This role allows for individuals to be supported to access services and seek the appropriate support for their needs. We have previously been involved in accompanying people to work capability

## Working with Young Offenders

**Whole Systems Approach** - we have completed three Diversion suitability reports where we supported not prosecuting the young people concerned. They were assessed as having enough supports in the community and it was identified that their risk of further offending was minimal. We have worked with two other Diversion cases in relation to their offence needs, with positive responses in both cases and we expect to see these young people continue to avoid offending behaviour. In this quarter, there have been no young people from East Lothian remanded in custody or sentenced to detention, so we have not been required to provide a Throughcare Service.

**Early Effective Intervention** – all unallocated cases are screened by the Youth Justice Service in conjunction with Police Youth Offending. Liaison with the Anti-Social Behaviour team has been useful and we are working towards closer multi agency communication. For example, we are now being advised of all young people who are causing problems in their communities at the point when they receive their first anti-social behaviour warning. This is part of a process of developing Early Effective Intervention in East Lothian. We have made a proposal to the Scottish Government for extra funding over two years – this will enable Youth Justice Services to develop and sustain the Whole Systems Approach. This will involve closer communication with all relevant partners and enable Youth Justice to be full partners in the Community Justice Partnership, with specific reference to the improvement action of developing, implementing and evaluating individual and group work programmes with young people involved in offending, or on the cusp of crime.

The work completed as part of Early Effective Intervention is varied and we focus on:

- Accepting multiple referrals for the same young person – the service is voluntary and we want to engage at the right time for the young person
- Use services outwith East Lothian if these will meet the needs of the young person – we are committed to assessing and putting in place the most appropriate management plans that give the young person the best chance of stopping their offending or anti-social behaviour
- Undertake home visits to young people and their parents/carers as this allows all the relevant people in the young person's life to be heard. This will also allow additional supports to be put in place for the family as a whole
- When it is appropriate we will allocate a dedicated social worker to work with a young person on an intensive and short term basis to address their offending behaviour