

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2014/15**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **East 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.

Within East Lothian, unpaid work projects and activities are carried out through either supervised group or individual placements with charities, local Council departments and other third sector agencies.

A full risk assessment is completed by unpaid work staff prior to commencing work where the individual will then be matched to a placement having taken account of risk factors, availability, attitudes, the level of skills they have and vacancies within actual placements.

Examples of unpaid work include:

Landscape Development and Management

Due to the geographical area that East Lothian covers, this type of activity is quite common. Activities in this area can be

- The maintenance of rights of ways, roadside verges and paths (eg removal of ragwort and other growth), to allow pedestrian access or rare flora and fauna to flourish
- In partnership with NHS Lothian, grounds maintenance at Edenhall Hospital
- Grounds maintenance at Prestongrange Mining Museum, Cockenzie House (Community Trust), Whatton Lodge (Miners Convalescent Home) and Direlton Community Orchard
- Supporting the maintenance of growing areas/raised beds at several primary schools and a new growing project through supplying and spreading bark and supporting the building of raised beds
- The development of a Criminal Justice allotment site at Muirpark, Tranent and supporting five other third sector organisations to develop and maintain allocated plots. The Unpaid Work team will also reinstate terminated or abandoned plots in the general allotment site to a condition which allows the new occupant a plot that is ready to be developed.
- Reinstatement of pathway through wooded area on behalf of Elphinstone Community Association

Garden Project

The Unpaid Work team responded to an idea floated by the ELC Tenancy Support team in relation to undertaking garden work on behalf of tenants who were unable for whatever reason to undertake work to maintain their own gardens. The Unpaid Work team have now progressed 30 referrals. Some of the gardens will require return visits, while some will be done in future by Garden Aid or the tenant. The benefits of this for all parties are clear – tenants get a new service, neighbour complaints are reduced and Community Payback clients see the outcome and impact of their work.

Placements

Lewisvale Park and Inveresk Cemetery are long-term placements where offenders work alongside the staff team. Offenders are involved in all aspects of landscape work, including the use of tools and equipment.

Recycling First is a social enterprise involved in the collection, storage and delivery of furniture and household goods. Placements involve working on the van alongside staff, people on work experience placements and volunteers.

Charity shops provide personal placements where offenders work alongside other volunteers and any paid staff. Tasks carried out will depend on skills and ability but can range from preparing items to be sold by steam cleaning, pricing etc through to stock rotation and customer service.

The East Lothian Council Amenity Officer in Dunbar also takes Unpaid Work placements on the Amenity Services van and local golf course. Unpaid Work placement activity supports and enhances the service available to the public.

Painting and Decorating

A few painting and decorating projects have been undertaken. Beneficiaries have included community centres, a day centre, a youth group internet cafe, a church and a local Residents Group.

Miscellaneous

Litter picking throughout East Lothian communities.

Workshop

- Recycling bicycles through the collection, refurbishment and re-distribution to local community groups or their clients and Criminal Justice clients.
- Restoration of park benches.
- Commencement of a project building pallet furniture which is then donated to voluntary groups.

Work undertaken alongside other volunteers include:

- Haddington Firework Committee (post event clean up)
- North Berwick Beach Cleans
- River Tyne Clean Ups

NHS Lothian Pilot Project

Discussions with NHS Lothian took place throughout 2014, regarding introducing a pilot project within East Lothian's Unpaid Work Service. Due to the establishment of the Health and Social Care Partnership, this seemed like an opportunity to embrace agency working with better outcomes for clients and the community alike.

To date, we have successfully implemented ground maintenance at Edenhall Hospital, Musselburgh. We are now in discussion as to how best to build on this. Working in partnership to develop placements which may offer SVQ modules for our clients, is our ultimate goal. It is hoped that the ideas and suggestions currently being looked at can be introduced in the near future.

Unpaid Work Orders Completed

<u>Order Type</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Community Service Order	970
s229 Probation Order	0
Supervised Attendance Order	160
CPO – with Unpaid Work	24,968.5

Total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year = 26,098.5
(this compares to 21,368 hours for 2013-14)

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

Client Feedback

Feedback from service users is sought throughout the Order. This takes the form of verbal feedback to the Community Payback Work Team Leader and Supervisors, as well as more formal feedback detailed in questionnaires.

Service users report that a mix of productive tasks in different settings and environments for various beneficiaries is more motivating and of benefit in terms of experiences, skills gained and learning to work with and around others. Work that benefits vulnerable individuals, and is undertaken on behalf of third sector agencies, seems to be the most attractive in terms of a sense of commitment to the desired outcomes.

The following quotes from clients reflect this:

Attitude to offending behaviours

This has helped me realise that doing stupid things and reoffending will be bad for my development as a human being

I realise my actions have consequences

Impact on self

It's made me want to behave more so that I'm not involved with CJ again

It's made me a better person and I now get on with others

I've enjoyed working with groups. I've normally been a bit anti-social in life and have learned new skills

Discipline to show up on time and do the work with pride

Given me more confidence for future work

Impact on communities

Helping old / vulnerable people and schools

It has given me the satisfaction of doing something good for the community

Good impact as regular customers get to see that not all criminals are your usual sterotype and that all walks of life make mistakes

Makes you think about how your actions affect the community

Suggestions

Do more work on walkways and tidying the countryside for more people to enjoy

Could have made better use of my background and the job I'm in (ie use my skills)

Beneficiaries Feedback

Feedback from beneficiaries is formally collected via an evaluation form on the completion of the task. One of the difficulties the service faces is meeting expectations in terms of completion timeframes given the scale of the service in operation and length of a working day.

Quotes from beneficiaries include

"Without the help of the Unpaid Work Team we would have been struggling. The help and assistance they have given us to get the project started has been amazing. A truly fantastic service."
(Capability Scotland)

"The work done has made a huge difference to our members' surroundings. Being that the boys who came with their supervisor are not painters by trade they did a great job We are very grateful to them for all their hard work."
(Primrose Day Centre, Ormiston)

"Now we know the kinds of work at which they excel, we are able to match that to what we need. Feedback from various Garden Plate staff suggested they were always efficient and polite, finding the work rewarding."
(The Garden Plate Project)

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

requirement.

As with previous years, clients continue to focus on completing their unpaid work hours in a group or placement rather than through 'other activity'. However, during this year we have held:

- 2 x half day bicycle maintenance workshops delivered by CHANGES
- Women have attended Spring Project as part of 'other activity'
- Clients have attended Venture Trust and Fairbridge (outdoor activities)

We are preparing to introduce a couple of Healthy Living events delivered by NHS Lothian, although these will be in 2015/16.

Further collaborative learning options are being discussed with the Community Learning and Development team. Part of this strategy is to train the work supervisors to plan, prepare and deliver learning sessions with clients.

We are also currently exploring options for premises which would facilitate integrated service provision and delivery in respect of office, storage, learning and working space for Unpaid Work, Other Activity and targeted group work on a single site.

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.

Courts – Regular meetings with the Sheriff, Court personal and legal representatives took place within Haddington Sheriff Court during 2014. However, the Court closure at the end of January 2015 has meant this forum has ceased. The challenge will be to build relations with Edinburgh Sheriff Court and sentencers in 2015/16.

The Unpaid Work Team Leader has established contact with local Tenants and Residents Group via the umbrella organisation that coordinates their activities (East Lothian Tenants and Residents Panel). A mail circular was issued to the membership organisations inviting work suggestions, resulting in four projects being taken forward.

Within East Lothian, information regarding the Criminal Justice Service is often passed via word of mouth. This is particularly true in the voluntary sector, especially when there is a larger visible project e.g. working in a public park. An initial piece of work can often lead to long term relationships with organisations e.g. Roots and Shoots, who we continue to support by maintaining school growing areas.

Regular contact is maintained between the unpaid work team and beneficiaries. 'Hands on' activities which are visual are often the most positive routes for which unpaid work can promote community justice.

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.

The Courts continue to use CPOs as a suitable alternative to custody. In 2014/15, the number of requirements were:

Other Requirements

	<u>Under 21</u>	<u>21+</u>
Unpaid work (only)	9	106
Supervision (only)	11	37
Supervision + UW	17	50
Compensation	2	5
Programme	2	11
Residential	0	1
Mental health	0	0
Drugs	0	0
Alcohol	0	1
Conduct	2	6

There have been slight differences in the use of these requirements when compared to the previous year. Unpaid Work only and Supervision only have both seen a 26% increase. However, as a combined requirement, there has been a slight decrease of 10%. What is positive about these figures however is the continued use of them by the Court which would indicate confidence in them as being acceptable and appropriate community disposals.

Looking at the other requirements, alcohol and drug requirements made, remain minimal. In explanation, the specific wording of these in legislation, results in most East Lothian clients who have issues relating to drugs and alcohol, have these addressed elsewhere – either in a CPO with supervision, or a Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO).

Programme requirements, whilst relatively small in number, have seen a 62% rise in this year. Programmes specifically relate to the Caledonian (domestic abuse) and MFMC (sexual offending). With these programmes, there is a significant role for the case manager (the supervising social worker).

The number of Conduct requirements remains small. However, these requirements have the potential to be used in a variety of ways – whether it be attending an alcohol counselling service (ie ELCA), or to stop contact with a victim of domestic abuse or sexual offences.

Progress Reports to Court

The Court has played a significant role in reviewing progress on CPOs.

In 2014/15, the number of progress report submitted to Court equated to:
58 (under 21s) and 257 (21+) = **315 in total**

The vast majority of these progress reports were requested by Haddington Sheriff Court. As this Court was closed at the end of January 2015, with business transferring to Edinburgh, it is unclear

whether this option of reviewing progress will remain so high. Feedback from clients suggests that a Sheriff reviewing their Order is a positive thing and helps them to successfully complete it. It is for this reason that we will continue to monitor these figures.

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.

The changing nature of drug use by a significant number of our clients is not always adequately addressed through current services. This is particularly highlighted with the increased use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), sometimes known as 'legal highs'. There appears to be a small, but nevertheless entrenched number of drug users who are not able to consistently access the available drug services under the current arrangements. This is largely due to their chaotic lifestyles. In an effort to address these issues, there has been increased co-operation between health and social work as well as any other relevant agencies. Focus is on how services can be designed flexibly so that they can respond to different needs as they emerge – in this instance, NPS.

Within the last year, efforts have been made within East Lothian Council to assist this process with the appointment of an Adult Wellbeing Substance Misuse Social Worker. This worker shares some clients with Criminal Justice, thus increasing a shared understanding that drugs and alcohol issues are a wider, community issue. There is an appreciation that we need to work together in order to increase cooperation and understanding of these shared clients – this is something that we are all committed to doing.

Housing issues present significant problems for CJ clients and again, efforts are being made to liaise more closely with the housing department. Many of our clients lead unstable lives with accommodation being a significant factor. Whilst options available are quite limited at this time, we are working closely with our housing colleagues to suggest improvements within the current system.

The mentoring partnership (Shine for women and New Routes for men), has built stronger links with ELC Criminal Justice Service over the past year. This, along with our own Voluntary Throughcare Worker, is helping us to reach clients that would normally not request, or be given, any assistance. A clear goal within this is to assist clients to access services before their needs have escalated.

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.

Whilst Programme requirement numbers have increased, it is important to acknowledge the role and input that the supervising social worker has within this. The programme itself is not 'stand alone'. The worker is required to carry out risk assessments, go through programme content on a 1-1 basis, and assist with other needs the client may have.

The SPRING project was jointly run with Midlothian Criminal Justice Service and expanded the work of WILLOW into East Lothian (specifically to work with women). It ran from June 2014 until April 2015. Here, the women benefitted from following the "Connections" and "Reaching in and Reaching out" modules. The latter allowed the women to get to know their communities and also experience some projects, enabling them to explore their artistic talents or experience a beauty therapy in an effort to build self esteem. There was also regular input from medical services, provided by nursing staff to encourage women to take greater responsibility for their own health and adopt healthier lifestyles.

At the end of April, we decided to assess and review the impact that this service has had on the women. Already, there is a very clear request from the women for a local group to be set up in East Lothian. As such, this is a priority for 2015/16.

We are increasingly using the SHINE partnership to support individual women, which has proved to be a positive service. Liaison is good and tasks are allocated between the social worker and SHINE Mentor appropriately. In the last year SHINE has also provided a group worker for SPRING. It is hoped that this is something that we can build on when developing the new service within East Lothian.

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