

Guidance on Community Service to Support the Revised National Standards

The Scottish Government has recently produced this guidance for Community Service, to underpin the new high-level National Outcomes and Standards that are due to be published later this year.

The key principles are:

- Purpose
- Immediacy
- Safety
- Speed
- Visibility
- Equal Opportunities
- Compliance

Key points within the new standards are:

- Appointment within one day of imposition of Order
- Induction within five days of imposition of Order
- Commence placement within one day of induction
- Completion of the Order within six months
- For absences through ill health, self certification up to seven days with medical certificate for following six weeks
- No more than two self certificates in six month period
- Consultation with local groups
- Opportunity to develop interpersonal and vocational skills

Currently, there are local briefings ongoing for Community Service staff with national briefings on the final standards scheduled for April.

These new standards can be accessed on:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/03/03103840/0>



Criminal Justice News: Scotland

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill

Following from "Scotland's Choice"- the report of the 2008 Scottish Prisons Commission, the 2007 Review of Community Penalties and 2008 Protecting Scotland's Communities Fair Fast and Flexible Justice reports, the Scottish Government has recently published the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill.

The legislation includes provisions to:

- create new offences of directing, involvement in or failing to report serious organised crime, with prison sentences up to 14 years, and new powers for prosecutors to apply for financial reporting orders
- allow the Crown to appeal against court decisions that end solemn trials without a jury verdict, enabling retrials where this is upheld
- establish a statutory regime for disclosure of evidence in criminal trials
- end the loophole that allows spouses/civil partners to avoid giving evidence against their partner, for example in cases of alleged child abuse
- widen the scope of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, enable prosecutors to apply for these when sex offenders are sentenced and extend travel ban periods of Foreign Travel Orders
- outlaw the possession of extreme pornography and increase maximum jail terms for publishing, selling or distributing it
- establish a Sentencing Council to develop guidelines and improve transparency and public confidence in sentencing
- create a presumption against short prison sentences and provide for new Community Payback Orders
- reflect the independent Scottish Prisons Commission's recommendations for a workable sentence management regime for those offenders who are sent to prison
- raise the age at which children can be prosecuted in the adult courts from eight to 12, and end the remand of children in adult prisons
- enable police to temporarily retain forensic evidence relating to serious violent and sexual offences dealt with in the Children's Hearings System
- require licensing boards to consider raising the minimum purchase age for alcohol off-sales to 21 in certain areas, create powers to introduce a social responsibility fee and widen the scope of police powers to object to individual licence applications

The bill can be accessed on:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Criminal Justice Services Allocation of Grant 2009-2010

Criminal Justice Social Work Services are funded by a grant from the Scottish Government, which totals £18,061,856 for the financial year 2009-2010, an overall increase of £106,225 or 0.59% from the previous year. Such a tight

settlement presents a challenge to the service to deliver its statutory and support services in the context of inflationary increases and the ongoing impact of the workforce pay and benefits review settlement.

The Community Justice Authority (CJA) are accountable to the Scottish Government for this ring fenced grant and are required to monitor spend against budget throughout the financial year. As part of this process, the CJA must submit a return to the Scottish Government that reviews the actual expenditure on quarterly basis and provides an estimate of the projected expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

At the end of the financial year the Finance Team compiles the Annual Financial Statement for 2008/09 for submission to the Scottish Government. This is then passed to the external auditors, who subsequently visit the Finance Team to undertake an audit of the Statement.

Work on the reconfiguration of the financial ledger for Criminal Justice is nearing completion and will enable the provision of financial management information in a more meaningful format that will assist budget holders to carry out their duties more effectively.

Wear Red to Work Day

The Court Admin Teams at Norfolk Street and the Sheriff Court organised a Wear Red to Work Day on Friday 20 February 2009 to help raise funds for

the British Heart Foundation's Red for Heart campaign. The campaign had been running throughout the month of February to help raise awareness for the BHF and to help raise funds for this worthy cause.

Staff at both locations wore red to work and also participated in other fun events such as a sweepstake which included song titles with the words Heart or Red in the title for a £1 donation. A red trivia quiz also took place and staff brought in home baking to sell.

The event was a great success and the staff helped to raise £250 on the day which was a tremendous effort by all. Norfolk Street turned into a sea of red with banners, balloons, flyers and everyone who took part agreed that it was a fun way to raise awareness for a worthy cause.

Update on Community Service Visibility Project

There has been significant progress in raising the profile of Community Service (CS) across the City. Presentations have been delivered to various groups including Glasgow's Community Planning Partnerships, Community Reference Groups (CRG) in the East End, Drumchapel, Partick and Govan and the Safe Thematic Group for the North of the City. Further presentations have been organised for the remaining CRGs and Safe Thematic Groups whilst local Community Councils have also been contacted. To date, all presentations have been very well received.

A further 19 new placement-providing agencies have been recruited throughout the City. This has not only increased the number of placements available but also widened the types of tasks available. Tasks include leaflet distribution, handyman tasks, befriending, assisting with the cleaning of community transport, assisting with youth work activities and environmental projects.

The recruitment of new agencies means that even more people across the City will benefit from CS, including elderly people, young people, those with a physical or learning disability and the general public.

In addition a further 12 new placements have been secured for CS teams (including gardening, decorating, clearance of a storage area, leaflet distribution and extensive clean ups via the Clean Glasgow Campaign).

Development of a promotional DVD highlighting the contribution of CS to the local community is well under way, as are posters and a CS newsletter detailing recent work. The DVD will be shown in Council venues whilst the posters and newsletter will be distributed to reception areas across Social Work, Education and Health locations.

In addition several CS leaflets have been produced including:

- general information on CS
- information for agencies providing individual CS work placements
- information for recipients of the CS work (such as householders having

- their homes decorated by CS teams)
- a feedback leaflet to be completed by the recipient at the completion of the job

Drug Court Study highlights importance of dialogue with sentencers

A recent study on Drug Courts in Scotland highlighted the important role played by dialogue between Sheriffs and offenders.

The study, by Professor Gill Mclvor of the University of Stirling, was based on observations of Drug Court proceedings and interviews with professionals involved in Scottish Drug Courts. It highlights the positive input from Sheriffs, which is typically aimed at praising and reinforcing progress, and motivating offenders to build on positive steps to date. The study argues that such dialogues in the Drug Court may enhance perceptions of procedural justice and therefore increase the perceived legitimacy of the Court, increasing compliance amongst offenders.

An article about the study can be found in the following journal: *Criminology and Criminal Justice* 2009, volume 9, no. 1, pages 29-49
<http://crj.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/9/1/29>

Please note that it may be necessary for you to register with the online journal to view this article. For more information contact Beth Macmaster (beth.macmaster@sw.glasgow.gov.uk).

Evaluation of the Marriott Hotel “Spirit to Serve” Programme shows improved outcomes for women offenders

The focus of this personal development programme was on increasing the confidence and self-esteem of participants, providing an opportunity to consider employability goals but primarily enhance confidence and self-worth as a first step.

A short evaluation of the pilot programme undertaken by Criminal Justice Social Work Services showed that:

- feedback from women participating in the course was overwhelmingly positive
- the programme met workers’ expectations
- women completing and attending part of the programme were more likely to show improved compliance with their court orders than women who did not attend the programme at all
- those completing the programme were more likely to be involved in work related activity than non-attendees.

In addition, after completing the programme three women took part in work trials with the Glasgow Marriott Hotel, and one woman is now in paid employment with the Glasgow Marriott.

Further to the success of the initial pilot, funding has been identified for further programmes. These programmes will run in the near future. Information on how to secure places will be circulated at a later date. For more information please contact Beth Macmaster (beth.macmaster@sw.glasgow.gov.uk).

Improvements in Criminal Justice Performance in 2008

Performance monitoring during 2008 highlighted considerable improvement against almost all of the indicators monitored. Criminal Justice recording of employment status and ethnicity were consistently 98% or higher and other key areas, such as recording of preferred option and risk assessment, and achievement of first interview within seven days, have improved significantly over 2008.

A review at the end of 2008 showed key improvements and areas for further development in relation to the three main areas of work:

Social Enquiry Reports (SER)

- Recording of preferred option remains consistently high
- Recording of risk assessment is good and continues to improve
- The rate of allocation within two days is variable across the City with room for improvement

Probation

- Achievement of first interview within seven days improved considerably over the period, although remains low in comparison to other local authorities
- Reported achievement of three-month reviews within required timescales was very low

Community Service

- Achievement of first interview within seven days and placement within 21 days improved in the last half of the year

- However, the requirements of the speed and immediacy agenda set by the Scottish Government are likely to present a significant challenge for 2009

The fortnightly performance reports will now report on the period from 1 January 2009 onwards, to chart further improvement across the coming year.

careJust Notes

The following guidance has recently been issued:

- Amendments to Manage Order Report 7th January 2009
- Court Staff Closing Report Requests 9th February 2009
- Recording Home Detention Curfew Reports 9th February 2009
- Recording Home Leave Reports 9th February 2009
- Guidance for Recording Work with 218 Project 9th February 2009

Staff can access these on the Connect Criminal Justice careJust page:
http://connect.glasgow.gov.uk/YourService/SocialWorkServices/Sections_Teams/CriminalJusticeServices/careJust/

Criminal Justice News: World

1 in 31 report from the United States

1 in every 31 adults, or 7.3 million Americans, is in prison, on parole or probation, at a cost to the U.S. of \$47 billion in 2008, according to a new study by the Pew Center.

Criminal Justice spending is outpacing budget growth in education, transportation and public assistance, based on state and federal data.

The increases in the number of people in some form of supervision occurred as crime rates declined by about 25 percent in the past two decades.

As States face vast budget shortfalls, prisons, which hold 1.5 million adults, are driving the spending increases.

A survey of 34 States found that States spent an average of \$29,000 a year on prisoners, compared with \$1,250 on probationers and \$2,750 on parolees. The study found that despite more spending on prisons, recidivism rates remained largely unchanged.

Over all, two-thirds of offenders, or about 5.1 million people in 2008, were on probation or parole. Approximately \$9 out of \$10 goes to prison financing.

One in 11 African-Americans, or 9.2 percent, are under correctional control, compared with one in 27 Latinos (3.7 percent) and one in 45 whites (2.2 percent). One out of 89 women is behind bars or monitored, compared with one out of 18 men.

Georgia had 1 in 13 adults under some form of supervision, Idaho 1 in 18, the District of Columbia 1 in 21, Texas 1 in 22, Massachusetts 1 in 24, and Ohio 1 in 25. The full report can be accessed on: http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/PSPP_1in31_report_FINAL_WEB_2-27-09.pdf

Criminal Justice: Publications and Events

Recent Criminal Justice publications and forthcoming events

Publications

Towards Effective Practice in Offender Supervision

Fergus McNeil, Scottish Centre for
Crime and Justice Research

[http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/documents/
McNeil_Towards.pdf](http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/documents/McNeil_Towards.pdf)

Race and Hate Crime Prevention in Scotland

Cara Jardine and Kate Bellamy,
Criminal Justice Social Work
Development Centre for Scotland

[http://www.cjsw.ac.uk/cjsw/files/
Briefing%20Paper%2015.pdf](http://www.cjsw.ac.uk/cjsw/files/Briefing%20Paper%2015.pdf)

Alcohol and Violence among Young Male Offenders in Scotland

Alasdair Forsyth, Furzana Khan and
William McKinlay, Scottish Centre for
Crime and Justice Research

[http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/Alcohol-
and-Violence-among-Young-Male-
Offenders-in-Scotland/130](http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/Alcohol-and-Violence-among-Young-Male-Offenders-in-Scotland/130)

Choice vs Crisis: How Scotland could transform thinking about prisons and punishment

Sarah Armstrong and Fergus McNeil,
Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice
Research

[http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/Choice-
vs-Crisis-How-Scotland-could-
transform-thinking-about-prisons-and-
punishment/128](http://www.sccjr.ac.uk/pubs/Choice-vs-Crisis-How-Scotland-could-transform-thinking-about-prisons-and-punishment/128)

Chaotic Lives: A profile of women in the criminal justice system in Lothian and Borders

Monica Barry and Gill McIvor, for
Lothian and Borders CJA

[http://www.cjsw.ac.uk/cjsw/files/
ChaoticLivesReport09.pdf](http://www.cjsw.ac.uk/cjsw/files/ChaoticLivesReport09.pdf)

Protecting Scotland's Communities: Fair, Fast and Flexible Justice

Scottish Government

[http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/
Doc/255089/0075587.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/255089/0075587.pdf)

The Design of Accredited Programmes: Procedures for seeking accreditation

Scottish Government

[http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/
Doc/260227/0077464.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/260227/0077464.pdf)

Report on The Open Estate

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

[http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/
Doc/256109/0076020.pdf](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/256109/0076020.pdf)

Independent Review of Policing in Scotland

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

[http://www.scotland.gov.uk/
Publications/2009/01/23133505/18](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/23133505/18)

Events

Seminar: What role can policing play in securing economic and social well-being?

Scottish Institute for Policing Research,
Economic and Social Research Council

Date: 8 May 2009

Venue: Dynamic Earth Conference
Centre, Edinburgh

Fee: Free, subject to availability

http://www.sipr.ac.uk/events/ESRC_Series_080509.php

Transitions: Youth Justice and Criminal Justice Interface – Getting it Right

Criminal Justice Social Work
Development Centre for Scotland

Date: 17 and 18 June 2009

Venue: West Park Conference Centre,
Dundee

Fee: Free, subject to availability.

Booking deadlines apply.

<http://www.cjsw.ac.uk/cjsw/files/Transitions%20flyer%2012March.doc>

SASO Glasgow Branch Annual Conference: Women and Children in the Criminal Justice System

The Scottish Association for the Study of
Offending (SASO)

Date: Monday 11 May 2009

Venue: Strathclyde University, Glasgow

<http://www.sastudyoffending.org.uk/branches.html>

Comment and Contributions

If you have any comments about the Newsletter or would like to submit an article, please contact:

John O'Donnell 0141 420 5903 John.O'Donnell@glasgow.gov.uk

Beth Macmaster 0141 420 5867 Beth.Macmaster@sw.glasgow.gov.uk

Produced by: Social Work Communications Unit, Wheatley House, 25 Cochrane Street, Glasgow, G1 1HL. To request a copy of this newsletter on disc, please contact Communications Unit, phone 0141 287 8722.

For taped/Braille copies, please contact Jim Agnew at the Centre for Sensory Impaired People, phone 0141 276 5252. www.glasgow.gov.uk