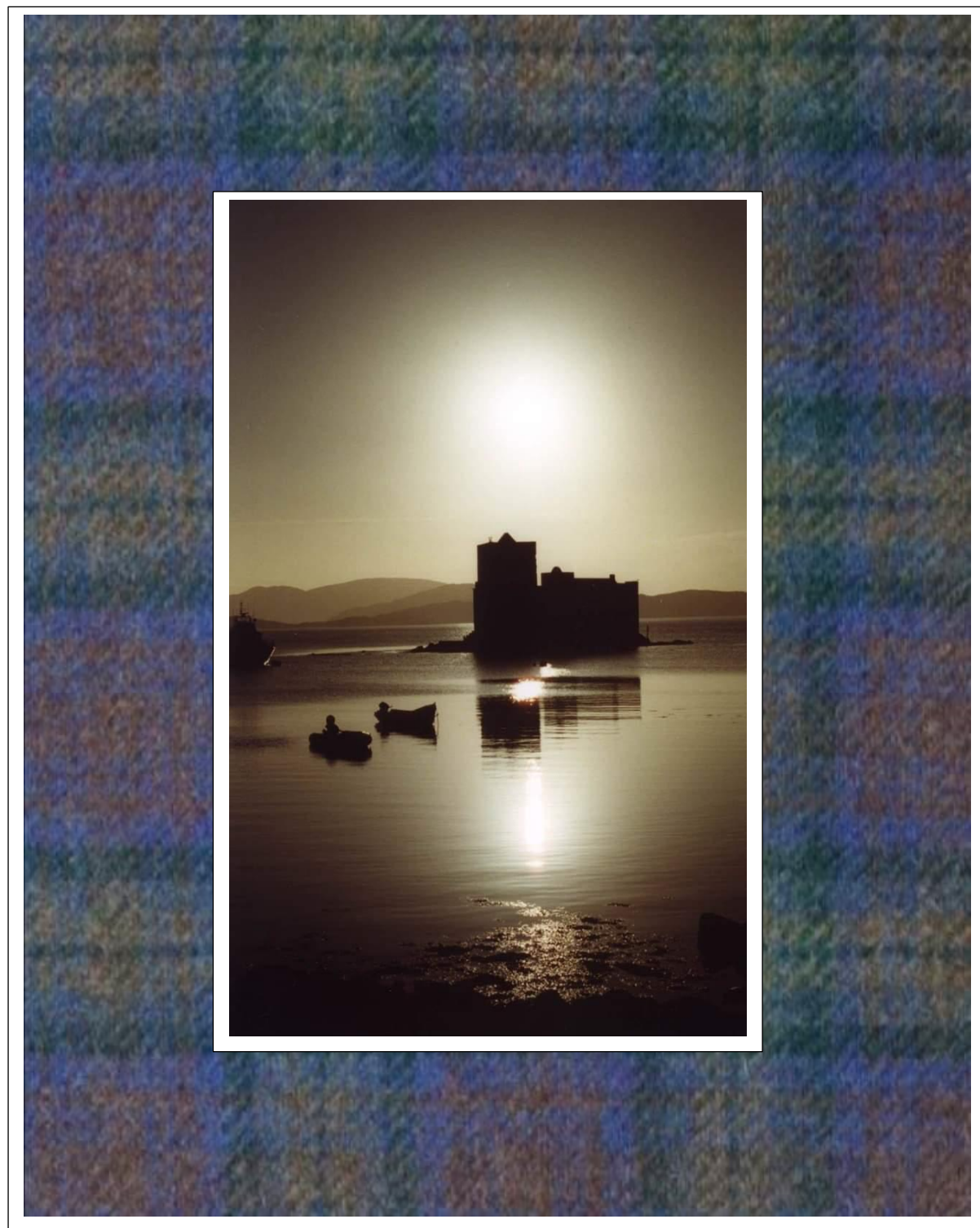


OUTER HEBRIDES COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP



**COMMUNITY JUSTICE OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2025 - 2028**

What is Community Justice:

“Community justice is a community-first model of justice, where people who have broken the law are held to account and supported to reconnect and contribute to their communities. It means that some people, where it is safe to do so, receive community-based sentences. And the evidence emphatically shows that community justice can help people stop breaking the law again which leads to fewer victims and safer communities.”

Community Justice Scotland

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1. Introduction:

The Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership represents the best of public service – where a range of independent statutory and third sector bodies come together to plan better-connected services, focused on improving outcomes for people involved in offending and giving a voice to victims of crime.

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016, places planning at the local level where decisions can be made by people who know their area best. A legal duty is placed on statutory Community Justice Partners to engage in this planning process and report annually on their progress towards improving community justice outcomes. These outcomes are set out in this document.

Community Justice is about ensuring that all people have an opportunity to live purposeful and fulfilling lives. A core aim of this Outcomes Improvement Plan is that we will consider the circumstances as to why a small number of people are going on to reoffend and just how we might support people to break that cycle through collective action in the creation of better opportunities for them.

Close analysis of local and nationally gathered data will highlight emerging trends and patterns in relation to Community Justice areas. Our awareness of trauma and other factors will enable us to collectively address underlying reasons for reoffending as well as attempt to address the conditions that can lead to offending in the first place.

We will continue to engage with Third Sector partners in meeting community justice outcomes, via the provision of diversionary volunteering opportunities within local communities, thus both raising Community Justice awareness and enhancing community capacity.

It is recognised that living within a remote Island community can present many distinctive challenges; crucially in the way people access geographically distant support services. The Outer Hebrides is a safe place to live; there are relatively low incidences of crime and detection rates are high. We must work hard to maintain that. The overarching aim therefore of the Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership will be to continue to maximise the support available to those within the justice system: Early Intervention is key.



Nick Fayers

Chief Officer of the Western Isles Integration Joint Board.

Chair, Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership.



2. Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership - A Position Statement

The Outer Hebrides Justice Partnership, under the legal auspices of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership, is committed to participating in the ongoing process of ensuring that there is liaison between statutory & non statutory partners, third sector organisations, those affected by crime, those persons with an offending history and their families. Where issues impacting on our wider communities are identified and highlighted we will seek to address these in order that they can be reflected within this Community Justice Outcomes Improvement plan 2025 - 2028.

The Plan has been produced following lengthy consultation with partners and via a formal Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment.

Evaluation of the Outcomes Improvement Plan will be continuous and will be supported via the adoption of the Care Inspectorate Quality Framework guide to self-evaluation to inform practice.

[A guide to self-evaluation for community justice in Scotland](#)

Within the lifespan of the Plan, we will also produce Annual Activity Reports and update existing locally developed support resources, for example: our Directory of Local Services and the Communication, Participation and Engagement Strategy - Community engagement will be integral to all partnership activity.

3. Participation Statement

As community justice partners in we aim to ensure that our plans reflect the perspectives of those people most affected by Community Justice. A significant challenge in a rural and island area is how to authentically involve individuals and communities within the Outer Hebrides to assist with shaping our local community justice agenda. As part of this plan we will work towards this and encourage all partners to provide the voices of lived experience. We commit to encouraging participation in our planning, design and development of services as well as making use of evidence around service user involvement to improve the provision of services for all affected by community justice. This will help our partnership have a greater understanding of the issues that impact those with lived experience and enable us to gain a better understanding of the impacts our services have, and how best to improve.

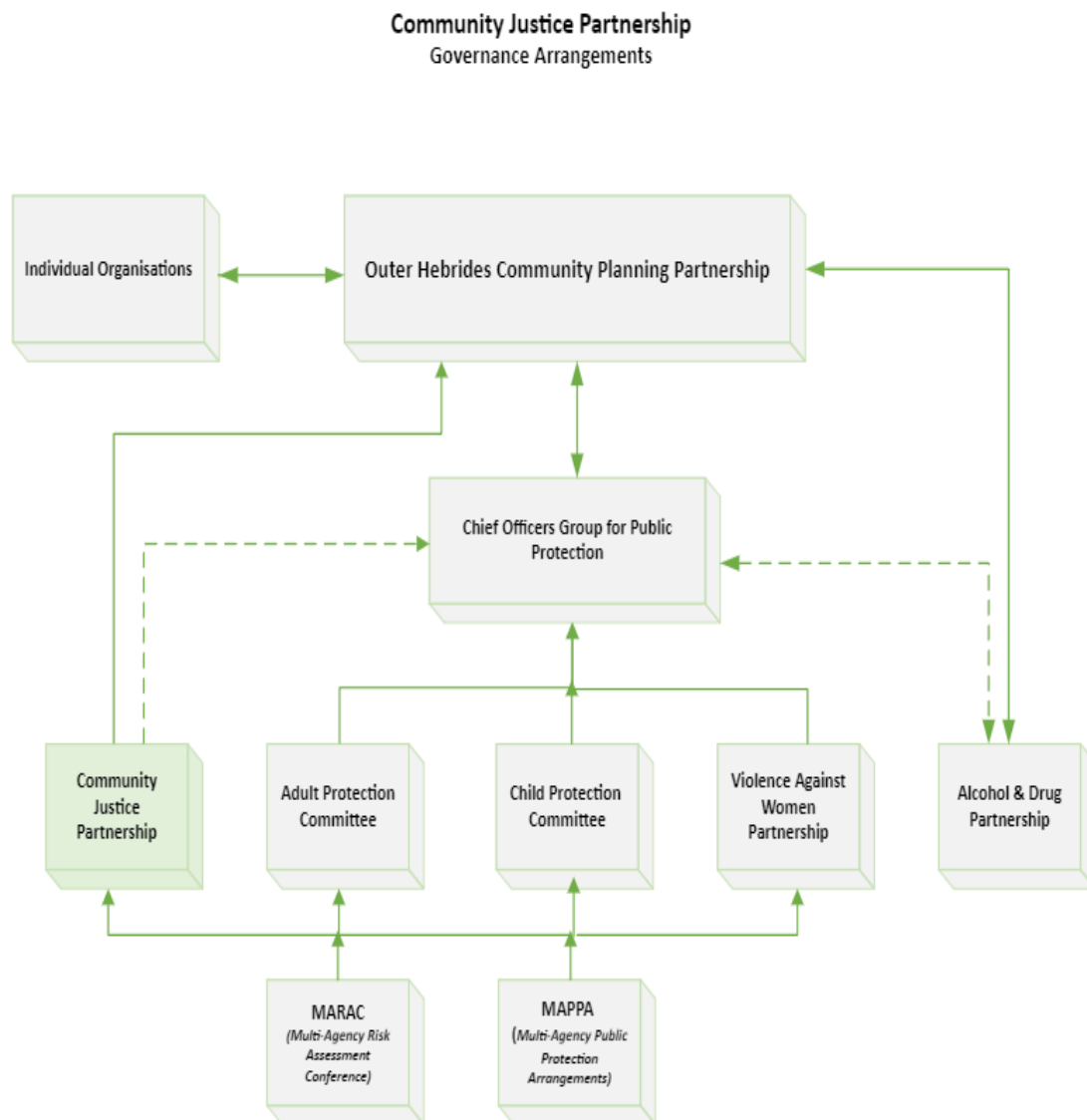
4. The Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership - Membership:

- Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership
- Western Isles Integration Joint Board
- Western Isles Rape Crisis Centre
- Hebridean Housing Partnership
- The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Police Scotland
- Skills Development Scotland
- Third Sector Interface (TSI) Western Isles
- Scottish Prison Service
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- NHS Western Isles
- Western Isles Women's Aid

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar: (Various representation: Housing, Homeless Services, Justice Social Work)

4. Structure of Governance

The Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership reports directly to the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership however has links strategically to several other groups.



5. The Scottish Government's Vision for Community Justice

The Vision for Justice in Scotland...

"We set out our transformative vision of the future justice system for Scotland, spanning the full journey of criminal, civil and administrative justice, with a focus on creating safer communities and shifting societal attitudes and circumstances which perpetuate crime and harm."

[The Vision for Justice in Scotland](#)

5.1 The Community Justice Performance Framework

5.1.1 National Indicators

The Community Justice Performance Framework (the Performance Framework) includes 10 national indicators which are to be used to measure performance in achieving the national outcomes. The national indicator data is centrally sourced by the Scottish Government and disaggregated to local partners. The national indicators predominantly relate to performance.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-justice-performance-framework/>

5.1.2 National Outcomes

The Performance Framework sets out nine national community justice outcomes which are aligned to the priority areas in the Strategy. The expectation is that the Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership will contribute to these outcomes by targeting local activity. This Improvement Plan seeks to identify quality systems improvement on a local level, as well as being able to better articulate what specific issues we have and how we can address those.

5.1.3 Local Evidence

Evidence collected via the 2022 Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment as well as the Partnership Workshop day, will supplement the national indicator data and will provide local direction and context to the performance data. National indicator data, coupled with local evidence, will enable local analysis to be undertaken across our islands to explore specific improvements that may be required. Part of that work will be to articulate how our local geography, workforce challenges and demographics amongst other issues make the delivery of Community Justice unique and at times more challenging. We will continue to undertake service mapping to ensure that needs can be met at the right time and place for people wherever possible.

5.2 Key Community Justice Scotland Points of Reference



6. Development of the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan

6.1 Evidence Base

The Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership completed a comprehensive Strategic Needs Assessment. (SNSA) This was followed by a Partnership 'Priority Setting Workshop Day' event.

The resulting SNSA underpins our understanding of the Western Isles and forms the baseline from which all Community Justice Partnership activity and outcomes can be measured. The SNSA facilitates evidence-led planning to effectively address the needs of individuals.

Both these activities helped us to establish local priorities, align these with national outcomes, and inform future partnership direction; providing us with an evidenced-based picture of emerging trends, recurring themes and (through analyses of collated data) identify areas where collective partnership intervention might be required.

6.2 Measuring Progress

The Outcomes Improvement Plan is intended to serve as a 'live resource' informing partners of progress made via our collective, targeted interventions. To ensure that in working towards agreed priorities, we are consistent in our approach (mindful of capacity and resourcing issues and realistic in our aspirations and that the success of our planned interventions can be measured) the Outer Hebrides Community Justice Partnership will attach objectives to all our prioritised actions. We will continue to consider potential opportunities and threats whilst preparing us for sudden changes that may impact on our ability to deliver community justice actively.

From the priorities we have identified, it is intended that the objectives will enable us to establish clarity of purpose and that the evidence base we are presenting is evaluated and at the same time describes the local picture

We will therefore concentrate on:

1. What is working well?
2. What is not working well?
3. How to we address identified needs gaps?

13. Appendix 1 Reference Links

<u>Vision for Justice in Scotland</u>
<u>National Strategy for Community Justice (June 2022)</u>
<u>National Strategy for Community Justice Delivery Plan</u>
<u>Community Justice Performance Framework</u>
<u>Community Justice Scotland Improvement Tool</u>
<u>Care Inspectorate Self-evaluation Framework</u>