



# Community Justice Outcomes Improvement 2020-2023

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# Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment

- ▶ The Strategic Needs and Strengths Assessment 2019 builds on a Baseline Assessment carried out in 2016, with a view to informing the planning process.
- ▶ It draws upon local and national data and information.
- ▶ Consultation was also carried out with a range of community justice stakeholders.

# The current context

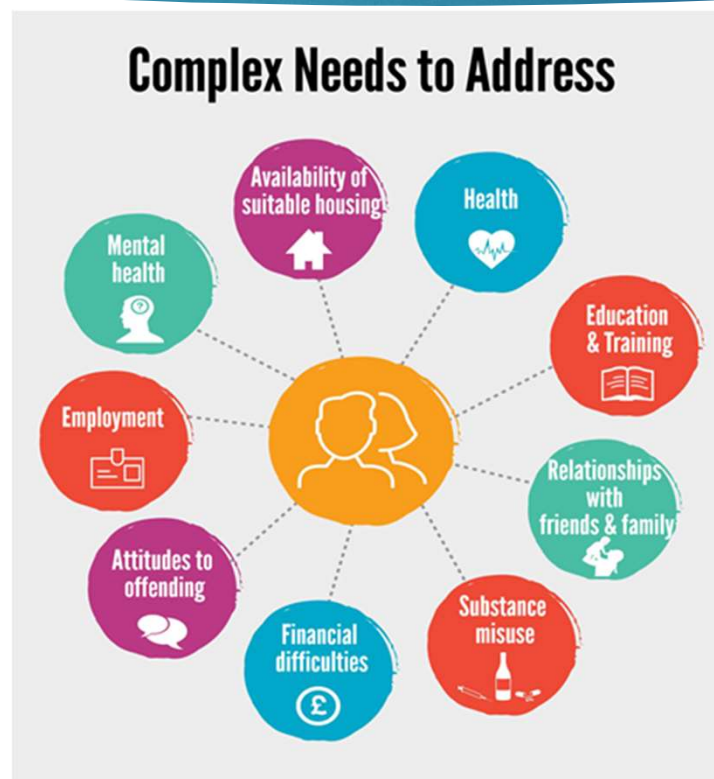
- ▶ Falkirk has lower crime rate than other parts of Scotland and most residents feel safe in their local area.
- ▶ The rate of reconvictions, and the number of reconvictions per convicted individual, are higher than the national average.
- ▶ Around 156 Falkirk males are in a Scottish Prison at any one time, 10 females and 10 young offenders. Imprisonment rates are rising across Scotland.
- ▶ Most Falkirk residents who imprisoned are held in Low Moss or Glenochil, however they can be held anywhere across the prison estate.
- ▶ Around a fifth of Falkirk people in prison are held on remand.
- ▶ The main community based sentence imposed is a Community Payback Order. 587 were imposed in 2018/19.

# Complex needs to address

The National Strategy for Community Justice states:

- ▶ “Reoffending is a complex social issue and an individual’s likelihood of desistance can be significantly affected by structural factors such as timely access to housing, health and wellbeing, financial inclusion and employability. Furthermore, people who have committed offences may present complex and multiple needs, or require support in order to engage effectively with necessary services”
- ▶ “The Scottish Government believe that people who have committed offences and their families should have equal access to the services that will help them desist from offending. Whether at the point of arrest, in receipt of a community or custodial sentence, or during transition back to the community, we must ensure we get the basics right so that people’s needs are addressed.”

# Complex needs to address



# Consultation with stakeholders

- ▶ Awareness of community justice (69%) and Community Payback Orders (83%) are both on the rise compared with initial findings in 2015. There is still work to be done to inform service mapping and gap analysis, and to promote awareness of available support.
- ▶ When asked what types of support should be prioritised to reduce further offending, the community said support for drug misuse and poor mental health, with 76% and 71% respectively saying it was “very important” to focus on these issues. The majority of survey respondents felt that support to address alcohol misuse, drug misuse, poor health, lack of education or training, poor family relationships, financial difficulties, attitudes to offending, unemployment, poor mental health and/or lack of suitable housing were of some degree of importance.

# Consultation with stakeholders

- ▶ When asked what types of work they would like to see in their area, some respondents suggested; support for specific groups such as the elderly, young people, people on a low income, people who are otherwise vulnerable and animals; support for Council tasks such as landscaping, maintenance, fixing roads and cleaning dog fouling; and that education and/or skill building should be an element of unpaid work.

# Consultation with stakeholders

## Victims

- ▶ Better communication and information from partners at each stage of the justice system.
- ▶ Some people who become involved in offending have also been a victim at some point in their lives and therefore a stronger voice for victims would benefit the community justice agenda.
- ▶ It was felt that opportunities for restorative justice would be beneficial for some victims, with assurance that processes would be victim led. It was also felt that more could be done in prison to encourage victim empathy.



# Consultation with stakeholders

## **Families affected by imprisonment**

- ▶ Better communication from partners, particularly Police and the Scottish Prison Service.
- ▶ Transport for visiting loved ones in prison was felt to be “a nightmare” and Falkirk Council could do more to address this.
- ▶ Support for mental health issues and/or drug or alcohol addiction, including addressing stigma for those affected and cutting waiting times for support.
- ▶ It was felt that housing processes for people leaving prison could be greatly improved to prevent homelessness on release.

# Next step – revising our Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2020-2023

## STRUCTURAL OUTCOMES What we deliver as partners



## PERSON-CENTRIC OUTCOMES Changes to Users

Communities improve their understanding and participation in community justice

Partners plan and deliver services in a more strategic and collaborative way

Effective interventions are delivered to prevent and reduce the risk of further offending

People have better access to the services they require, including welfare, health and wellbeing, housing and employability

Life chances are improved through needs, including health, financial inclusion, housing and safety being addressed

People develop positive relationships and more opportunities to participate and contribute through education, employment and leisure activities

Individuals resilience and capacity for change and self-management are enhanced

# Next step – revising our Outcomes Improvement Plan for 2020-2023

- ▶ 5 new “strategic pathways”:
  - ▶ **Learning and development** (focused on multi-agency training, continued development of our information base, reviewing service user outcomes tools)
  - ▶ **Relationships and making connections** (focused on reviewing terminology, raising awareness of services, increasing access to the recovery community)
  - ▶ **Information sharing and communication** (focused on information sharing protocols, improved engagement in planning processes, sharing activity updates)
  - ▶ **Service mapping and evaluation** (focused on development of service directories, identification of service gaps, development of commissioning strategies)
  - ▶ **Supporting transitions** (focused on early prevention, improving cross border transitions, arrest referral, throughcare for people leaving prison).

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