

‘National Voluntary Throughcare’

WD Community Justice Outcome Improvement Planning

A ‘seven-minute briefing’ provides update on key issues relating to the needs of vulnerable people. Research suggests that seven minutes is an ideal time span to concentrate and learn, it is more memorable as it is simple and not clouded by other issues and pressures. This short duration also means that the brief holds the reader’s attention, as well as providing information to partners in an easy format to share with appropriate staff groups.

National Voluntary Through Care planning contributes to the local Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP) and to the National Strategy for Community Justice in Scotland.

I hope you find this useful and I am happy to take any feedback.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sent on behalf of Justice Social Work

Dominique Haggerty
Community Justice Co-ordinator
Dominique.Haggerty@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
May 2025

National Voluntary Through Care Arrangements

1. Community Justice Explained

A legal definition of 'Community Justice' is provided in section 1 of the Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (the Act). Research offered in the "Vision for Justice in Scotland (2022)" publication helps us to better understand the trajectories of those who enter justice systems. The evidence appraises the intersectionality of offending behaviours with poverty; homelessness; substance misuse; physical and mental health inequalities; Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); Sex; and the impact of Trauma – providing greater understanding into what drives and shapes offending behaviour and perpetuates recidivism. By tackling the root causes of offending to reduce recidivism victims are fewer and communities are safer.

2. What is National Voluntary Through Care?

Voluntary Throughcare is a national initiative in Scotland, launching on 1 April 2025, aimed at supporting people transitioning from short-term custody or remand back into their communities. For the first time ever, those on remand will also be able to access throughcare support when released from custody.

What Support is Provided?

Upside provide support to people on the transition from short-term custody to or remand back to community life. The service is voluntary and supports with health; housing; finance; and skills and employment.

Upside offer long-term practical and emotional support to help people rebuild their lives on release from prison.

4. Who are our local Voluntary Throughcare provider in WD?

Action for Children are the lead agency for the 'Strathclyde Pod'. Upside is the umbrella term for all agencies collaborating to bring the new national through care model to Scotland.

<https://www.upside.scot/>

Local Pod Leads:

Donna Ward

DonnaWard@upside.scot and

Liann Weir

liann.weir@actionforchildren.org.uk

Upside Contact Details

Freephone: 0800 5877263

Email: hello@upside.scot

Web: [upside.scot](https://www.upside.scot)

How do I make a referral?

In Custody – Upside prison workers will approach and offer service to those individuals who are eligible for support.

Self-Referrals - Upside understand that some people might not take up the offer whilst within prison but then realise they need support once released. Those who are eligible for support can make a self-referral up to 12 weeks after their release date from custody.

Who is eligible for support?

1. Persons receiving a short time prison sentence of less than 4 years
2. Low level MAPPA 1 clients
3. Those on Remand - (this doesn't come in until June/July)

What

