

Community Justice Update – Aberdeen

Please find below some updates relating to Community Justice issues, both local and national. If you have any Community Justice 'news', issues, or practice you would like to share, or comments/queries about any of the below, please don't hesitate to contact Val Vertigans, Community Justice Officer.

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For past minutes of the Community Justice Group, and other information about Community Justice, follow the link to the [Community Justice page](#) on the Community Planning Aberdeen website.

1. Improving Pathways to Employment in Aberdeen

A workshop was held on 20th February 2018 at Tullos Community Centre for senior representatives from statutory partners in Aberdeen, aimed at raising awareness about issues relating to employing people with convictions, myth-busting and exploring opportunities for developing pathways. This event was part of a wider project being developed aimed at improving pathways to employment for people involved in the Justice System.

Agencies will work in a coordinated way with a small number of people on Community Payback Order Supervision, Diversion from Prosecution, and at the point of being liberated from prison, supporting them closely (via 'lead professional' and 'mentor' roles) to progress along an employability 'pathway'. Learning from the experiences of these individuals will inform our way forward.



Fair Start Scotland: The above project coincides with the implementation at the beginning of April of Scotland's newly devolved employment service - Fair Start Scotland – which aims to support 38,000 people over five years. It is a voluntary scheme for those furthest from getting steady work – high quality employment support will be provided to unemployed people, including those facing multiple barriers who want to work and need help to enter and remain in the labour market.

FSS will be delivered through nine regional contracts across Scotland. The programme will offer mentors, skills development, volunteering opportunities and advice on self-employment. In Aberdeen (and Aberdeenshire), Momentum Skills will deliver FSS in partnership with the following providers:

- *Enable* – providers of employment services to people who have learning disabilities in Scotland;
- *Aberdeen Foyer* - a social enterprise empowering individuals to achieve their potential and break down the root causes of inequality – homelessness, unemployment, poor health, lack of access to support and opportunities;

- *Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)* – deliver employment focussed activities that recognise the positive impact of work on personal identity, confidence and self-esteem, as well as health and wider citizen outcomes;
- *Life Skills* – a provider of training across Scotland, offering over 70 accredited training programmes across key growth sectors;
- *Enterprise Mentoring* - a Scottish based disabled-led specialist self-employment provider with expertise in working with the most disadvantaged and challenged customers, including those with complex disabilities and support needs.

To find out more about Fair Start Scotland in Aberdeen, please follow the [link](#) to the Momentum Skills website.

Progress Through Positive Partnerships: Aberdeen City Council is working to help city residents facing a range of difficulties to improve their lives and job prospects through the Progress Through Positive Partnerships project. This will help people to develop confidence and new skills, as well as find work, education, training and volunteering opportunities.

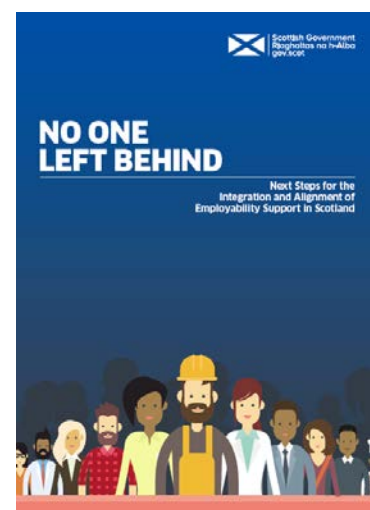
Progress Through Positive Partnerships: Shape your future

Progress Through Positive Partnerships is for people aged 16 plus who want to improve their lives, including: the unemployed; those in low-paid employment; women returners; care leavers; those for whom English is not their first language; ethnic minorities; care leavers; people facing other disadvantages, including those with long term health issues, disabilities, alcohol or drug misuse issues; and ex-offenders.

For further information about Progress Through Positive Partnerships, Visit: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ESFgetstarted/ or telephone: 01224 523879.

No One Left Behind: In addition, on 27th March 2018 Scottish Government launched its report '[No One Left Behind - Next Steps for the Integration and Alignment of Employability Support in Scotland](#)'

“No One Left Behind” sets out how efforts will be made to join up wider employability support within Scotland. It has a specific focus on integrating employability support with health, justice, and housing services - areas that are critical to enable better support for people furthest removed from employment. It sets out the actions that will be taken forward in collaboration with partners. This includes an action to focus on helping more people who are released from custody to find employment and preventing a return to criminal activity, by working with the Scottish Prison Service to develop new routes into employment services that will help support more people with a conviction to find and sustain work.



2. Unpaid Work in Action



Criminal Justice Social Work's Unpaid Work team recently built a memorial bench for a lady who was a large part of the community in Northfield. The team built the bench in their work shop, attached the plaque and then treated it with an outdoor preservative. It was then transported to Northfield Community Centre, where the ground had to be prepared, and holes dug for the legs. Cement was then poured in to anchor it in to position. Two handmade planters were also built and

delivered to the site next to the bench, the ground was levelled off, and the planters filled and planted with shrubs to enhance and complement the special area where the bench now sits. The UPW team had the ongoing long winter weather against them but still managed to deliver on time for the unveiling and memorial service that was held for the Northfield resident on Sunday 1st April 2018.

3. Working in Partnership at CFINE

SPS and CFINE work together in a number of ways. CFINE supply food parcels to the prison kitchen so those who are part of the prison pre-release programme can attend and learn to cook with the ingredients from the food parcel. CFINE have also provided the opportunity for people in prison to volunteer, to gain a structure to their daily routine and to learn new skills. Although they cannot be paid, they will be supplied with food. This has been an excellent opportunity for individuals as their self-esteem grows and they start to get a more positive daily routine. Currently three individuals from HMP Grampian are volunteering at CFINE.

Recently a team building day was held at CFINE's 'Cook at the Nook', involving HMP Grampian Throughcare Support staff and Turning Point Scotland 'New Routes' and 'Shine' mentors (who offer support to short term prisoners when they are liberated) to support CFINE and thank them for their excellent work. The day involved teams cooking a two course meal in the morning with the ingredients from a food parcel, to gain an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities to Service Users to make the most of the ingredients supplied. It was an excellent day to build relationships between all involved and also to gain an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities



for service users to make the most of the ingredients supplied. In the afternoon various case studies were discussed, to gain more of an understanding of the challenges faced by those living in poverty.

As a social enterprise, [CFINE](#)'s enterprise activities all have the main purpose of generating income to support its charitable services and support. CFINE's enterprise trading involves:

- [Wholesale and retail fruit, vegetables and healthy snacks](#) sold to the general public and businesses in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire;
- [Tuk In](#), a tuk tuk deployed as a mobile café selling home made soups, nice bread and fruit pots; also available for events;
- [Cook at the 'Nook](#), a training kitchen, 8 work stations available for rent or use for [corporate team-building sessions](#);
- Rental income from [tenants](#) who are all from the voluntary sector.



Additional activities at CFINE include:

- Cash In Your Pocket - funded by the Fairer Aberdeen Fund to help people in need access the right support and advice to improve their finances;
- Financial Capability Officers;
- Access to sanitary products;
- Community growing initiatives.

4. Year of Young People – HMP Grampian

On 7th March 2018 HMP Grampian held a launch event for the Year of Young People. 60% of the young people from HMP Grampian attend a conversation café, with the majority signing up to get involved in event planning throughout the year. The next stage will be to form groups using the six 'Year of Young People' themes and let the young people decide what they are looking for and create plans for events and opportunities in 2018.



Reader Survey Results

Some readers may recall that in the last issue I asked anyone who was reading the Bulletin to email me so that I could get an indication of how many people read it. Thank you to those who responded! Out of a circulation of 126 individuals in total, 19 people got in touch, four of whom were not on the original circulation list. A number of positive comments were received as part of the feedback. I will continue with the Bulletin for the time being, but any ideas about better ways to keep people updated about Community Justice would be gratefully received.