

Community Justice in Aberdeen - Our Plan for Improvement 2016-26



Community Planning
in Aberdeen

A place where all people can prosper

There is an 'Explanation of Terms' at the back of this document

Recorded Crime:

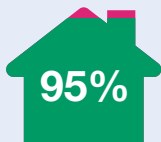


The number of Crimes recorded by the Police **fell by 42%** over the last ten years
(NB not all crimes are reported)



42%

The number of detected offences committed by young people (under 18) **reduced by 42%** over the past five years



95% of people in Aberdeen rate their neighbourhood as a very good or fairly good place to live

Sentences in 2015-16 (Clients of the Criminal Justice Social Work Service):



52%

52% received a Community Payback Order (community sentence)



18%

18% received a prison sentence

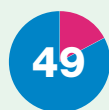


30%

30% received another sentence (eg other community or monetary penalty)

Prison sentences:

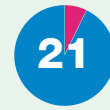
As at 31st July 2016, 289 people from Aberdeen were in custody, of which:



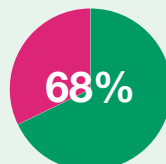
49 were on remand



265 were male and 24 were female



21 were under the age of 21



68% of these individuals were in HMP & YOI Grampian at Peterhead, and the remainder were in other prisons across Scotland. The young men were in HMYOI Polmont.



On average **43** people from Aberdeen were released from prison each month during 2015-16.

Community Sentences:

Community Payback Orders (CPOs) are the main 'community sentence' which can be given by a court in Scotland. CPOs are made up of one or more Requirements including Supervision, Unpaid Work and Other Activity, Compensation, Programme, Residence, Mental Health Treatment, Drug Treatment, Alcohol Treatment and Conduct Requirements.

In 2015-16:



1,132 new Community Payback Orders were given to individuals from Aberdeen



These were made up of **1,506** Requirements



80,000 hours

Approximately **80,000 hours** of Unpaid Work were completed by individuals 'paying back' to the community

Victims of Crime:

The risk of being a victim of crime was higher for adults living in the most deprived areas of the city.



The risk of being a victim of any crime decreased with age.

Children with parents in prison:



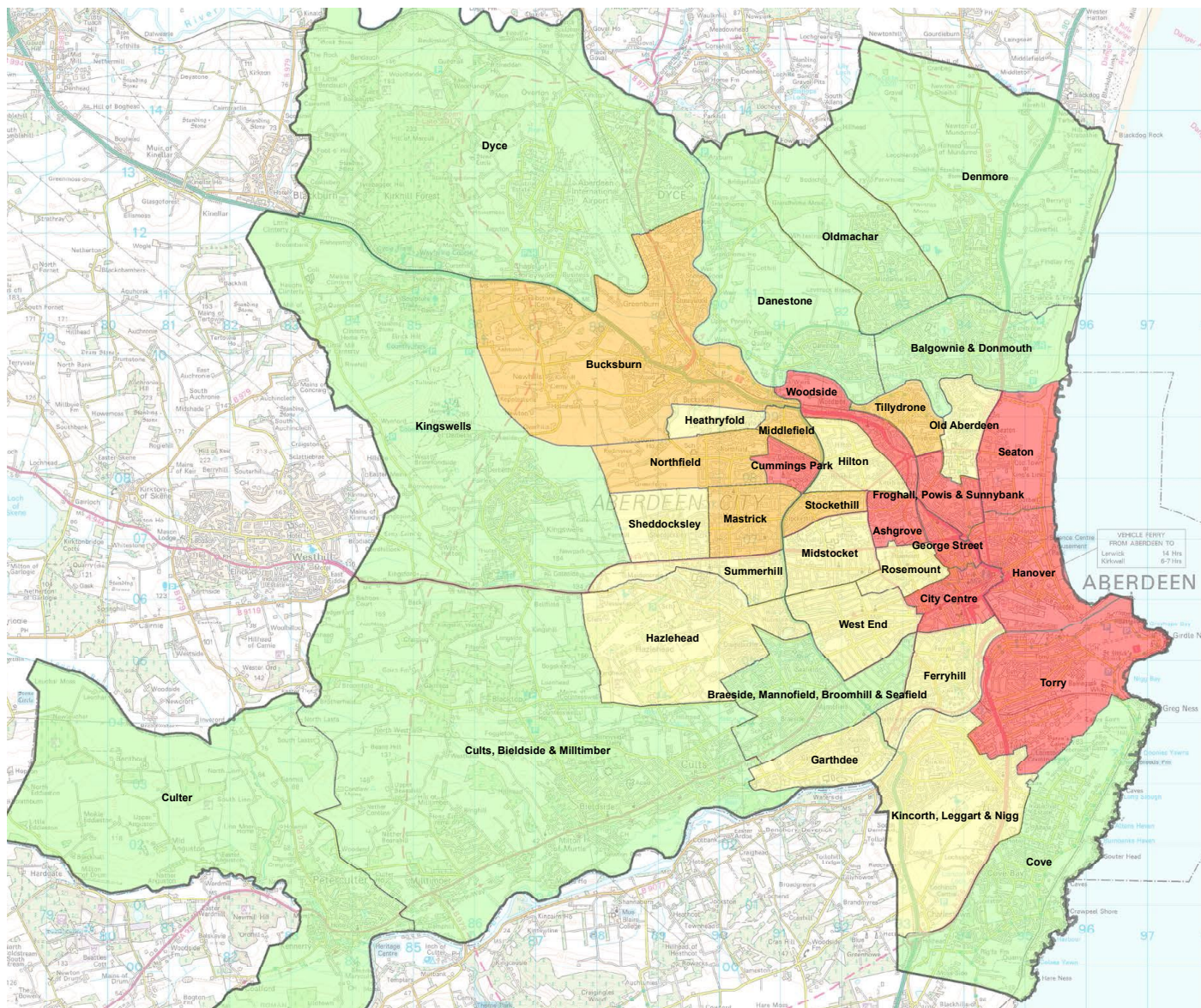
16,500

Each year **16,500** children in Scotland experience having a parent in prison

Crime in Aberdeen

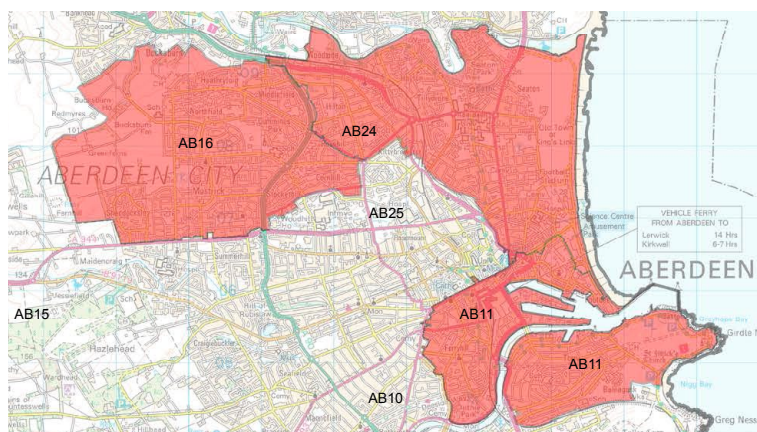
Areas of Aberdeen which recorded numbers of crimes above the Aberdeen City average per 10,000 population between 2013-14 and 2015-16.

- **RED:** Above Aberdeen average for 9 to 12 crime categories
- **YELLOW:** Above Aberdeen average for 1 to 3 crime categories
- **AMBER:** Above Aberdeen average for 5 to 8 crime categories
- **GREEN:** Below Aberdeen average in all crime categories



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For 11 out of 12 crime categories, the top three home postcode areas of people against whom charges were made by the Police were AB16, AB24 and AB11.



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People who commit Crime in Aberdeen

Accommodation:

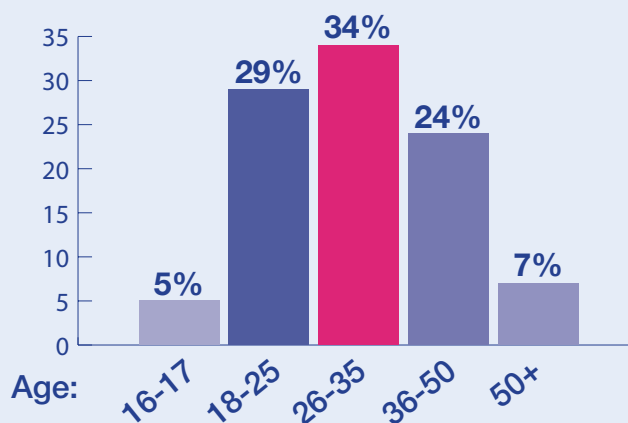


30% did not know where they would be staying on release from prison (NB this is likely to be improving in relation to HMP & YO1 Grampian given input of Aberdeen Housing service, Shelter, SPS Throughcare Support Officers, etc)



27% of prisoners have spent time in care during their childhood

Characteristics of clients of the Criminal Justice Social Work Service:



Education/Employment:



58%

58% are unemployed



32%

32% left school with no qualifications

Family:



32% have a close relative with a criminal record



33% have low self esteem



28% have been the victim of family violence (including physical/emotional abuse and/or neglect) in the last 12 months

Alcohol and drugs issues:



28% have a drug problem





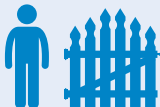
32% have an alcohol problem



Our Priorities (1)

These priorities were developed by:

- Gathering and reviewing data;
- Speaking to services involved in Community Justice;
- Seeking views and contributions at events and meetings involving stakeholders and community representatives.

1 Effectively managing and supporting people in the Criminal Justice System to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending and improve outcomes for these individuals, their families and communities.

What we will achieve together	Why?	How we will achieve this together
<p>Divert more people from being prosecuted in Court (where appropriate)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid unnecessary involvement in formal systems which can contribute to the likelihood of someone reoffending • To enable earlier constructive engagement/ support to reduce the likelihood of further offending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of direct measures/warnings given by the Police • Refer more people to relevant services when they are first arrested • Make sure formal processes for diversion from prosecution in court are robust so that the Procurator Fiscal has the confidence to divert anyone who meets the relevant criteria
<p>Improve outcomes for people on Community Payback Orders</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing individuals with the opportunity to develop new skills can help to reduce reoffending and improve the chances of gaining future employment or training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek regular feedback from clients and from people/ communities offering unpaid work placements/ projects to make sure that the Orders are constructive and are implemented as effectively as possible
<p>Increase the number of people being offered alternatives to being imprisoned until their trial or until they are sentenced ('remanding people in custody')</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the number of people experiencing the huge, and possibly temporary, disruption that a spell in custody can cause, which can contribute to the likelihood of someone reoffending due to the negative impact on social ties, employment, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider innovative approaches to improve and develop alternatives to remanding people in custody; and • Promote awareness of these alternatives with Sheriffs and Procurator Fiscals





What we will achieve together	Why?	How we will achieve this together
<p>Increase the number of people on short term prison sentences who are offered support on release</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement programmes can help to reduce the likelihood of someone reoffending, especially when they start in prison and involve a 'mentoring' relationship to provide emotional and practical support 'through the gate' and back into the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure clear joint working arrangements are in place in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> young people in prison and released from short term sentences; and accommodation, benefit support and GP registration for people released from short term sentences
<p>More people who have been accused or convicted of crime get the right support and/or treatment at the right time for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alcohol and drug issues; mental health and wellbeing issues; and employability issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol and drug use can contribute to offending behaviour Offending can be linked to experience of trauma, including abuse and neglect Stable employment, and good family relationships, are key in promoting law abidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure that appropriate pathways are in place to enable access to the right supports/ treatments/ interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to address alcohol and drug issues; to address mental health and wellbeing issues; and to enable people to build on their potential, improve their life skills and move towards employment

Activities which cut across all the above

- Review how services undertake quality assessments of clients' risks, needs and strengths to ensure that appropriate supports/interventions are put in place;
- Develop an approach to respond to those who offend who have high needs and may become persistent offenders;
- Embed the 'Making Every Opportunity Count' approach to health and wellbeing into partnership working;
- Agree joint working arrangements in relation to support for families of people involved in the Criminal Justice System; and
- Agree joint working arrangements in relation to out-of-hours support for people involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Our Priorities (2)

2 Involving stakeholders and communities in Community Justice

What we will achieve together	Why?	How we will achieve this together
<p>Boost confidence in the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective engagement with people and communities about how local services are planned and delivered is integral to how we will deliver this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness and understanding of how the Criminal Justice System works, and promote what works well.
<p>Address stigma around offending and drug and alcohol use</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Alcohol and Drug Partnership's "Making Recovery visible" project Engage with potential employers.
<p>Community Justice plans and services are more effective from being better informed by communities' issues and experiences</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use existing, and develop new, ways of seeking feedback about the Criminal Justice System from communities, including 'communities of interest', about issues important to them to inform the planning and development of services (where they are consistent with approaches which have been evidenced to work well)
<p>Increase involvement of our stakeholders, including clients of Community Justice services, their families, wider communities, people harmed by crime, and non-statutory partners, in planning for and developing Community Justice services and interventions in Aberdeen.</p> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to consult with and involve communities in Community Payback Order Unpaid Work projects. Build on partner relationships with community groups and consider use of community resources for 'Community Justice' activities. Involve clients in service development as a matter of routine.

Community Justice in Action

Police Scotland Early Intervention Worker

“Early Intervention and Diversion makes a real positive impact on the lives of some young people. Over the last 18 months I have been working with a young person who was known for low level offending and Anti-Social Behaviour. Working in partnership with Education and other professionals, Early Intervention was implemented and consisted of weekly sessions with myself as well as support from staff at the young person’s school. Various projects and pieces of work were carried out with the young person including in relation to offending, relationships, resilience, thoughts and feelings.

Over the course of the time I have worked with the young person our meetings decreased to a point that we meet every so often now to catch up and provide that support via the relationship that was built up. This young person has faced some adverse challenges that may have had a negative impact on his life if Early Intervention was not provided. He is now thriving, taking part in a variety of activities, and managed to secure a summer job after a successful work placement before summer.”

Diversion to Barnardo’s

Peter (aged 16) was referred to Barnardo’s diversion service by the Procurator Fiscal after being reported for possession with intent to supply (Cannabis). Peter was still at school, in his fifth year. He had plans to go on to college and then university, and has a very supportive family. Peter and his friends had been planning to go out at the weekend and had decided to club together and buy some cannabis. Peter had agreed to purchase the cannabis and was then caught sharing this with his friends.

Peter was devastated by the charge and was extremely remorseful. The possible consequences that criminal prosecution may have for him and his future plans were discussed with his Barnardo’s worker. Peter hadn’t considered this and in light of this information was able to review his decision making.

The sessions then moved on to looking at his values and attitudes to drugs and then some research on how drugs can affect the body and health. Peter lacked any real awareness of the possible impact of these substances on both his mental and physical health. Peter created two posters with the information he felt other young people should know about drugs. 10 sessions were offered and attended in total. Peter has not come to the attention of the PF again to date.



Alcohol and Drug Misuse

Bob is 22, and was seen by Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) in the cells at Kittybrewster Police Custody Suite. At the time of this first contact he was using diazepam daily, drinking up to eight beers daily and a bottle of vodka three times weekly, and also smoking cannabis daily. He felt he was using more to deal with his emotions; his father had recently passed away and he was struggling to cope with this. Bob had been in and out of the custody suite and prison for the last few years.

Several follow-up appointments were made for Bob, all of which were attended, and Bob has engaged well with ADA. Since the first meeting, he has reduced his diazepam use and alcohol use, but continues to smoke cannabis and has no plans to stop using this. Discussions with Bob have included relapse prevention, harm reduction, safe reductions, relationships, employment, groups that ADA can offer, and family issues and support required. Bob continues to do well, is now working full time and is trying to increase contact with his young son whilst maintaining a long term relationship with a supportive partner.

Community Justice in Action

Community Payback Unpaid Work

Following a request from the Clockwork Nursery in Altens, clients of Criminal Justice Social Work's Unpaid Work service who were on Community Payback Orders 'paid back' to the community by making 45 plaques which were put up in the nursery garden on the fence, above seedlings to be planted by each child as part of their 'Big Dig'.

The Nursery was delighted with the outcome of the project and fed back that the children would be really pleased with their plaques.



Aberdeen Problem Solving Court

Pam is 41. She has a long and chaotic history of drugs, prostitution, offending, mental health problems, homelessness and domestic violence. She has been in and out of prison and her daughter was recently freed for adoption.

She has not complied very well with Community Payback Orders in the past but, having committed a further drug-related offence, she has been given a Structured Deferred Sentence by the Problem Solving Court. She is required to attend Criminal Justice Social Work's Connections Women's Centre where she works with the Women's Worker having developed a Personal Plan of activities etc. Her progress is monitored on a monthly basis by the Sheriff in the Problem Solving Court. It is this combination of oversight by, and dialogue with, the dedicated Sheriff and the opportunities afforded by the Women's Centre which make the difference. She has not committed any further offences and attends all her Problem Solving Court reviews as required.

It is still early days and Pam still has ups and downs but the Sheriff is pleased with her progress and this in turn reinforces her resolve to change her life for the better. She knows she has the support of the Women's Centre and has made friends with some of the other women. She thinks she may have a future after all.



Flowers and 'hottie' covers made by women at the Connections Centre as welcoming touches for Syrian refugees arriving in the city.

Community Justice in Action

Support on Leaving Prison

This client has been involved in substance misuse from an early age and can't recall any period when he wasn't. He has been in and out of prison and has never engaged well with support to settle back into the community. However, with the support of the SPS Throughcare Support Officer (TSO), on the most recent occasion things were different.

The TSO worked with the client and the health service to arrange for his medication to be dispensed daily rather than in larger amounts. This removed the temptation for the client to abuse his medication. The TSO also helped the client to link in with his local GP for the first time. The TSO also worked closely with the client's allocated Criminal Justice Social Worker to make sure that regular supervision and support was in place.

The TSO worked with the Council Housing Officer to negotiate terms so that the client was able to return to his temporary flat (instead of being moved, potentially losing his belongings, and having to register with new support agencies in a new area). Effective collaborative working, including joint visits to the client when necessary, meant that the client managed his temporary flat well, and lead to him being offered a permanent tenancy – something he has never achieved before due to his chaotic lifestyle.

The client has no qualifications and no work history. He didn't engage with services or support while in prison – he said this was because of his poor mental health. However, he expressed an interest in woodwork. A therapeutic community group practising woodwork skills was sourced – the client was very apprehensive about attending the group, initially, so the TSO went with him to the first few sessions. The client's confidence grew and he felt able to attend on his own for the rest of the course – enjoying spending time with a 'law-abiding' group of people for the first time.

"I felt an incredible sense of pride in having my own home for the first time in my life."



At the end of his 12-week engagement with the TSO, the client had a fully furnished flat, attended appointments, had a bus pass, was attending group work and appeared motivated to keep up all his good work and to look after his flat. He has now been out of prison for almost six months, which is the longest time he has been out of custody since he was 18.











For further information about Community Justice in Aberdeen please contact:

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Tel: 01224 522487

Write to: Community Justice Officer, Community Planning Aberdeen,
Business Hub 11, 2nd Floor West, Marischal College, Broad Street
ABERDEEN AB10 1AB

Explanation of Terms

Children's Hearing System 	<p>The Children's Hearings System deals with children and young people in Scotland under the age of eighteen who are in need of help. There are two main reasons why the Children's Hearings System will help a child or young person:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) because they are in need of care and protection; 2) because they have been in trouble with the police or at school.
Compulsory Supervision Order 	<p>A compulsory supervision order is a legal document that means that the local authority (called 'the implementation authority') is responsible for helping a young person. It can contain measures that say where the young person must live or other conditions which must be followed. The local authority is responsible for making sure that what is stated in the compulsory supervision order is happening, and that the young person is getting the help that they need.</p>
CPO (Community Payback Order) 	<p>The CPO is the main community sentence in Scotland. It is designed to ensure that offenders payback to society, and to particular communities, in two ways; first, by requiring an offender to make reparation, often in the form of unpaid work; and second, by requiring them to address and change their offending behaviours, thereby improving the safety of local communities and providing opportunities for their reintegration as law abiding citizens.</p>
Criminal Justice System 	<p>The adult Criminal Justice System in Scotland from the point of arrest. Community Justice legislation includes young people aged 16 or 17 who are subject to a compulsory supervision order made under the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 on the grounds that the young person has committed an offence.</p>
Criminal Justice Social Work Service (CJSWS) 	<p>The primary remit of the Criminal Justice Social Work Service is to provide statutory supervision to individuals who have offended. This supervision ranges from low level for those on 'Diversion' (see below) to very high level, usually with multi-agency support, for the "critical few" who pose significant public protection concerns. CJSW services are funded by the ring-fenced Section 27 Grant from the Scottish Government.</p>
Diversion from Prosecution 	<p>On receipt of a police report the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service can choose to divert someone to a local social work team (or other service provider). The individual undertakes a programme and/or is directed to services tailored to their particular needs that are designed to deal with the underlying causes of their offending. Intervention in this way keeps them away from the formal criminal justice process.</p>
Making Every Opportunity Count (MEOC) 	<p>The 'MEOC' approach to health and wellbeing can be embedded by services, so that they have a conversation about health and wellbeing with their clients as a routine part of their approach. Individuals can then be supported or signposted to relevant services for more specific help.</p>
Problem Solving Court 	<p>A pilot Problem-Solving Court started on 2nd November 2015 in Aberdeen. This approach involves regular post-sentence review hearings with the Sheriff, with a view to supporting the convicted person to comply with their community-based sentence and to address the reasons behind their offending behaviour. The Problem-Solving Court in Aberdeen focuses on women from Aberdeen who have multiple and complex needs who are prolific offenders, and who are medium to high risk in terms of their needs and the likelihood of their reoffending and ending up with a custodial sentence. From 15th August 2016 the pilot was extended to include males aged 16 to 25 resident in Aberdeen with a similar profile.</p>
Procurator Fiscal 	<p>Procurator Fiscals work for the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). They receive reports about crimes from the police and other reporting agencies and then decide what action to take, including whether to prosecute someone.</p>
SPS (Scottish Prison Service) 	<p>The SPS is legally required to deliver custodial and rehabilitation services for those sent to prison by the courts. SPS manages 13 prisons, and an additional two are run by private sector operators under contract to SPS.</p>