

# DUNDEE REDUCING RE-OFFENDING PARTNERSHIP

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## Third Sector Engagement Workshop

The Dundee Reducing Re-offending Partnership have started conversations with the Third Sector to explore their role in the new Community Justice landscape. A questionnaire was issued earlier in the year to gauge initial knowledge and understanding of the changes ahead. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, a third Sector Workshop was held at Discovery Point to further develop how they can best be represented on the Reducing Re-offending Partnership and review what knowledge and experience could be shared to inform the community justice improvement plan which comes into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. Feedback indicated that the event was welcomed by those who attended and that the Third Sector is very keen to be involved in the development of the plan. A mechanism to maintain communication and promote the shared targeting of resources was agreed.



## Welcome to the

second edition of the Dundee Reducing Re-Offending Partnership newsletter. In this edition, you will find information on the progress of our partnership group and on our stakeholder engagement activities. We have also included some recent case studies by some of our Third Sector partners and the Criminal Justice Social Work unpaid work team, highlighting some of the good work that goes on in and around our communities.



## Partnership Progress

In the last few months, there has been a whole host of activities ongoing in relation to Community Justice Reform via the Dundee Reducing Re-offending Partnership. We have had a series of meetings and a Baseline Assessment is now being produced on the operation of the criminal justice system from Diversion through to Resettlement and on the risks and needs presented by people who offend. This will help partners to identify priorities, which will also be informed by our consultation and partnership working with the Third Sector and local communities.

The Action for Children Tayside Arrest Referral Service (TARS) team are based across Tayside and co-located with Criminal Justice Social Work (CJSW) and Police Scotland in Perth and Angus. The Dundee TARS team is located with the Action for Children Dundee Youth Housing Service and routinely meets with CJSW teams. The co-location improves communication and provides the opportunity for information and experience sharing.

TARS work in partnership with Police Scotland and Criminal Justice Services to deliver the Tayside Intensive Support Service (TISS). Information is shared on a daily basis to identify the people who might most benefit from immediate support. Working with the person to identify and prioritise their needs allows the team to tackle the issue that, in the view of the person, is having the most negative impact on them leading to their offending. The team typically works with people who are offending as a result of drug or alcohol misuse and who may be motivated to seek support to combat their addiction. Individuals are assisted to access services such as Health, Housing, Benefits and Social Activities etc.

TISS provide a robust service and will make all attempts to engage with an individual even if they have a chaotic lifestyle. The voluntary nature of the service provision has helped positive relationships flourish between the service user and professional. Meeting the individual in a venue of their choice or in their own home has helped shift the perceived power imbalance. When working in the TISS team the Police Officers are in plain clothes. Working with a multidisciplinary team on a voluntary basis in a venue of their choice has led the individual to feel more equal and motivated to address their issues.

The evidence gathered to date shows that individuals supported by the TISS service have reduced their offending.

For more information on Action for Children, please visit <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

The range of organisations involved in the Community Allotment team include:

- Criminal Justice Service
- Douglas Open Spaces Group
- Ardler Village Trust
- St Mary's Community Church
- The Phoenix Tenants' Association
- One Parent Families Scotland
- Lochee Community Gardeners

## GET IN TOUCH

We plan to update you regularly with developments and if you have any ideas, specific views or questions regarding this publication, we would welcome your feedback. Please contact Glyn Lloyd, Service Manager, Strategy and Performance, Children and Families Service at [glyn.lloyd@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:glyn.lloyd@dundeecity.gov.uk) or Karen Moir, Strategic Planning Officer, Tayside CJA and Criminal Justice Service, Dundee City Council at [karen.moir@taysidecja.org.uk](mailto:karen.moir@taysidecja.org.uk). Similarly, any partners who are interested in having information included in the next newsletter should let us know.

## Community Allotment Initiative – Achieving Fairness and Reducing Inequalities

Community Allotment Initiative has been instrumental in setting up four gardens in Lochee (2), Douglas and Strathmartine. Each has required a slightly different approach to reflect the communities in which they are based and therefore the composition of the teams in each area is different. It is a novel approach to improve community health and wellbeing with minimal investment and long term benefits.

The development of community regeneration areas was identified as an action in Dundee Partnership's Fairness Strategy 2012. In response to this, the Council created a Community Allotments Officer post, based in the Environment Department, to promote and develop community growing within regeneration areas in Dundee. The role brings together community groups with diverse council services to establish gardens and promote grow-your-own activities in the most deprived areas of Dundee.

Individuals carrying out Community Payback helped prepare the foundations for the Whorterbank Tattie Patch by carrying out the heavy digging and weed clearance to get the garden ready for springtime. They also helped build the Strathmartine Garden. Central to the planning of the gardens and the production of local food for local people have been the communities and individuals themselves.

The Community Allotment Initiative has made enormous strides towards delivering community growing spaces in regeneration areas. In less than 18 months, gardens have been established in 3 areas. Three gardens are already on their second growing season and another will be ready this year. Local people and community groups have been able to produce home-grown vegetables, reduce their 'food miles' and impact on the environment, as well as being able to get to know their neighbours better and having the opportunity to become more active. In addition, locally sourced timber has been used to build raised beds and gardens have installed rain water harvesting systems as well as composting facilities to minimize green waste. Whorterbank Tattie patch even has a 'hole of safety' for worms!

Such is the success of the Community Allotment Initiative, that they received a Dundee City Council Outstanding Service and Commitment Award (OSCA) at the 2016 awards ceremony last month – pictured below.



Photography by Siobhan Diamond Photography