



## INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Report Title</b>	Justice Social Work Service Annual Performance Report 2024-25
<b>Report Number</b>	HSCP.25.087
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Claire Wilson, Chief Officer Adult Social Work
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<b>Consultation Checklist Completed</b>	Yes/No
<b>Directions Required</b>	No
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	A: Justice Social Work Annual Performance Report 2024-25
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	5. Receive and scrutinise performance reports and receive assurance that actions in respect of emerging trends are proportionate to the IJB's Risk Appetite Statement.

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Risk, Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC) with the Justice Social Work Service (JSWS) Annual Performance Report 2024-25.

### 2. Recommendations



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2.1. It is recommended that the Risk Audit and Performance Committee:

- a) Notes the Justice Social Work Annual Performance Report 2024-25 (Appendix A) which provides assurance about progress made over the year.

### 3. Strategic Plan Context

3.1. Justice Social Work is delegated by Aberdeen City Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) as set out in the Aberdeen City Integration Scheme created under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. The two Strategic Aims set out in the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2025-29 underpin, and have a strong, particular relevance to the work of the Justice Social Work Service, in terms of modernising our approach to service delivery and increasing our focus on prevention and early intervention wherever we can.

### 4. Summary of Key Information

4.1. As set out in the Annual Performance Report at Appendix A, 2024–25 has been a year of significant activity, challenge, and progress for the Justice Social Work Service. Despite increasing complexity in the needs of those we support, legislative changes, and ongoing system pressures, the service has continued to deliver high-quality, person-centred interventions that prioritise public protection and individual outcomes.

4.2. Demand on the Service is now returning to pre-pandemic levels. Highlights, in relation to the year 2024-25, include:

- the number of Justice Social Work Reports requested by the Courts increased by 5% from the previous year and continue to surpass pre-pandemic levels;
- Diversion from Prosecution cases have reduced overall in 2024-25, after the significant increase seen the previous year, but still remain higher than the four year period from April 2019 to March 2023;
- the numbers on Bail Supervision have reduced over 2024-25 by 29% compared to the previous year. This is due to a number of factors including changes in legislation which mean that sheriffs are more reluctant to remand and will offer standard bail rather than requesting assessment for Supervised Bail or an Electronic Monitoring Order, a decline in bail being opposed by



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COPFS, for the same reasons, and implementation of a new process, in conjunction with the Court;

- the number of Community Payback Orders imposed increased significantly, up by 24% from the previous year and returning to pre-pandemic levels;
- the number of CPO Unpaid Work and Other Activity Requirements stood at 701 as at 7th May 2025, up from 524 as of 2nd May 2024 (an increase of 34%);
- numbers undertaking the Caledonian Programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse remain significant;
- the number of individuals where Aberdeen has statutory Throughcare supervision responsibility increased to 255 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (up from 190 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024).

### 4.3. The Performance Report also includes:

- an overview of specific current challenges (in addition to the general overall increase in demand), and work being progressed to address these, including: the wider partnership response to those released from custody via virtual courts, and unplanned liberations from other courts; the increase in the number of Unpaid Work Requirements and how we respond to this; and improving pathways for young people, in collaboration with Children's Services;
- an overview of how we listen to the voice of those we work with, via completion of Exit Questionnaires, and reflects the overwhelmingly positive nature of these;
- how we are moving forwards via our refreshed [JSW Service Delivery Plan for 2025-29](#), which encompasses areas identified for improvement and gaps in support or services identified.

### 4.4. The report presents an overview of the huge amount of work undertaken by the service during the year, showing what has been achieved, including the positive outcomes for our clients. It also reflects the ongoing commitment and dedication of the staff who work within the service within an increasingly challenging context.



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- 4.5.** Justice Social Work cannot operate in isolation, and continues to work closely on a multi agency basis with a wide range of partner organisations and services, including as part of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), and MARAC (multi agency working around the safety of those harmed by or at risk of domestic abuse), and as part of Community Planning Aberdeen's multi agency Community Justice Group, and the related Local Outcome Improvement Plan work.

### **5. Implications for IJB**

As referenced above, Justice Social Work is delegated by Aberdeen City Council to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) as set out in the Aberdeen City Integration Scheme. This report provides assurance about how the Service is fulfilling its functions.

#### **5.1. Equalities, Fairer Scotland and Health Inequality**

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5.2. Financial**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Justice Social Work is funded primarily via ring-fenced funding based on service volumes as reported to Scottish Government on a regular basis.

#### **5.3. Workforce**

There are no direct Workforce implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Training and development of staff is prioritised to ensure we have a motivated and effective workforce which has the capability of delivering services to the Courts as required.

#### **5.4. Legal**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. JSWS undertakes statutory functions and legal advice is sought as required.



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### 5.5. Unpaid Carers

There are no direct implications for Unpaid Carers arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 5.6. Information Governance

There are no direct information governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 5.7. Environmental Impacts

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

### 5.8. Sustainability

There are no direct implications arising from the recommendations of this report in relation to Sustainability.

### 5.9. Other

There are no other implications.

### 5.10. Management of Risk

#### Risk Appetite Statement

The content of the Report relates to the following from the ACHSCP Risk Appetite Statement:

*Regulatory compliance risk: It will accept no or low risk in relation to breaches of regulatory and statutory compliance.*

Assessment and mitigation of risk relating to individual clients forms the basis of JSW's fundamental ongoing service delivery across the piece. Arrangements are in place for escalation, in conjunction with partners as required, including as part of MAPPA.