



# Justice Vision and Priorities

## Delivery Plan: Overview of Progress 2017/18

And New Activity for 2018/19

## **Justice Delivery Plan 2017-2018**

**A range of strategies, programmes and legislation underpin the Justice Vision.**

**The Justice Board individually and collectively will be working to deliver a number of key actions in 2017-18 under our 7 priorities.**

## VISION

# A JUST, SAFE & RESILIENT SCOTLAND

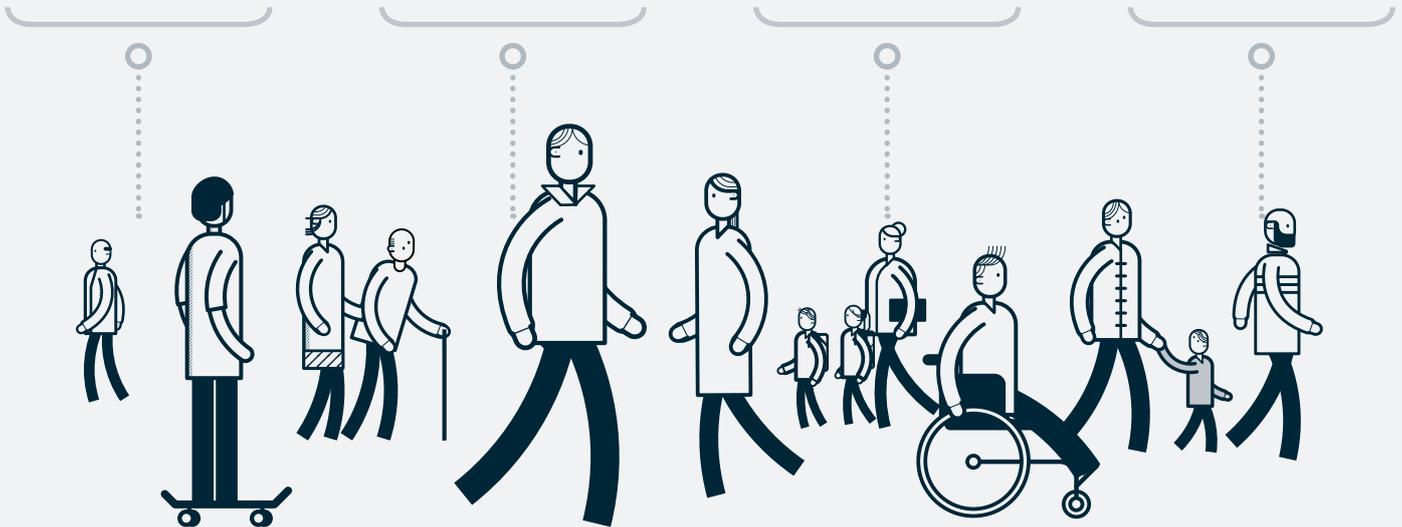
## OUTCOMES

We live in safe, cohesive and resilient communities

Prevention and early intervention improve wellbeing and life chances

Our system and interventions are proportionate, fair and effective

We deliver person-centred, modern and affordable public services



## PRIORITIES

We will enable our **communities** to be safe and supportive, where individuals exercise their rights and responsibilities

We will **enable** our people, economy and infrastructure to respond to major risk, recover from emergencies and adapt to emerging threats

We will **modernise** civil and criminal law and the justice system to meet the needs of people in Scotland in the 21st Century

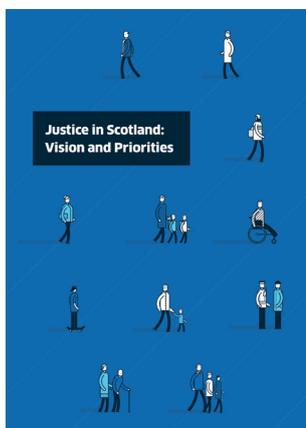
We will work with others to improve **health and wellbeing** in justice settings, focusing on mental health and substance use

We will work to quickly identify offenders and ensure responses are **proportionate, just, effective and promote rehabilitation**

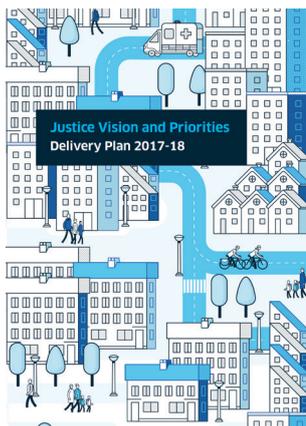
We will improve the experience of **victims and witnesses**, minimising court attendance and supporting them to give best evidence

We will use prison only where necessary to address offending or to protect public safety, focusing on **recovery and reintegration**

# JUSTICE VISION AND PRIORITIES



**Justice in Scotland: Vision and Priorities**



**Delivery Plan 2017-2018**

The Justice Vision and Priorities for Scotland was published in summer 2017. Developed by the Justice Board, it sets out a collective commitment to seven key priorities across our justice organisations and partners. The Vision provides an over-arching and consistent framework to which everyone across the sector can align their efforts. It also describes the justice portfolio's recent successes and current and emerging challenges, based on the available evidence. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2017/07/9526>.

The Justice Vision and Priorities will provide a key contribution to a number of the new national outcomes on the National Performance Framework published in June 2018, the most critical for Justice being “We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe”.

A Delivery Plan was published alongside the Vision and Priorities in 2017, with a commitment to update this annually. (<http://gov.scot/Publications/2017/07/8431>).

This Summary provides an update to the actions set out in 2017/18 and identifies new approaches and additional actions for the coming year that will help deliver our priorities.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2017-18

- ✓ Work has continued to strengthen support for the victims and witnesses of crime, especially child and vulnerable witnesses, including the publication by justice agencies in April 2018 of updated Standards of Service for Victims and Witnesses in Scotland (2018-19) and the introduction to Parliament in June 2018 of the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) Bill.
- ✓ We have enhanced our shared understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences across justice and are developing future responses in close collaboration with key partners, including trauma-informed responses and training.
- ✓ Significant work is underway to improve the health of those who come into contact with the justice system, supported by a new Health and Justice Collaborative Improvement Board. Key developments include Healthcare Improvement Scotland's National Standards for Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services to improve services for victims of rape and sexual assault, collaboration to further develop Community Triage and first response pathways, and a new Programme Board on Prisoner Health and Social Care.
- ✓ The Domestic Abuse Bill was passed in February 2018 making Scotland one of the first countries in the world to criminalise psychological abuse.
- ✓ In May 2018, the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Board approved a ten year Financial Strategy, and three year implementation and financial plans (2018/19 to 2020/21) to support the delivery of the Policing 2026 Strategy.
- ✓ The first Scottish Risk Assessment was published to support the work of the Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) in December 2017.
- ✓ The Independent Review of Legal Aid concluded in February 2018 and a report was presented to Scottish Ministers. <https://gov.scot/Resource/0053/00532544.pdf>
- ✓ In February, the Scottish Law Commission published its 10th Programme of Law Reform in Scotland setting out its priorities for 2018-2022. <https://www.scotlawcom.gov.uk/law-reform/tenth-programme-of-law-reform-consultation/>
- ✓ Lord Bracadale's independent recommendations to Scottish Ministers on hate crime laws were published in May 2018 and SG made a commitment to consult on those recommendations in 18-19. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2018/05/2988>
- ✓ The Management of Offenders Bill is in progress, legislating for more extensive and consistent use of electronic monitoring of offenders, updating disclosure of convictions requirements and some changes to Parole Board appointments, membership, functions and requirements.
- ✓ Community Justice Scotland are working with local partners to implement the new model for Community Justice. Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans (CJOIPs) are now available for each area.
- ✓ Substantial progress has been made in transforming the female custodial estate, with plans developed for the new Women's National Facility and the 2 Community Custody Units. Sites for the Community Custody Units in Glasgow and Dundee have now been identified.
- ✓ Four new Prison Visitor Centres opened across Scotland (now at 11 of 15 prisons), to support people visiting friends and family in prison, and reduce the negative impact on children of having an imprisoned parent.
- ✓ Penal reform continued, including the announcement to extend the presumption against short sentences to 12 months.
- ✓ SG published the Scotland's Place in Europe paper which sets out the Scottish Government's position about the importance of maintaining a close relationship with the EU in relation to security, law enforcement and criminal justice co-operation. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/7437>

# We will enable our communities to be safe and supportive, where individuals exercise their rights and responsibilities

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ The ten year policing 2026 strategy was published by the SPA and Police Scotland in June 2017 following extensive consultation. <http://spa.police.uk/assets/128635/408187/policing2026strategy>
- ✓ In May 2018, the SPA Board approved a ten year Financial Strategy, and three year implementation and financial plans (2018/19 to 2020/21) to support the delivery of the Policing 2026 Strategy.
- ✓ The development of a refreshed Performance Framework is underway and the transformation of policing practices (“stop and search”) and service delivery models (police call handling) continues.
- ✓ There has been additional investment in policing, delivering a boost of £100 million by 2021 to protect against wider Westminster austerity measures, including ensuring the service can retain £25 million annual VAT payments previously paid to the UK Treasury.
- ✓ There has been continued implementation and delivery of the Fire and Rescue Framework, including on-going investment in service transformation and the development of key performance measures to demonstrate progress against priorities.
- ✓ Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) worked together in responding post-Grenfell to assure safety in Scotland.
- ✓ Partners worked collectively to support the communication of safety messages to communities across Scotland through a range of mediums including @theBSCprogramme.
- ✓ The Scottish Community Safety Network refreshed support for the coordination and promotion of local community safety activity.
- ✓ Connections with the business sector have been strengthened through our strategic partnerships, in particular through the work of the Scottish Business Resilience Centre around resilience and the alcohol industry.
- ✓ The first Missing Persons Framework for Scotland was launched in May 2017 and is now delivering its commitments. <https://gov.scot/Publications/2017/05/1901>
- ✓ Year 1 of Phase 4 of the Cashback for Communities programme was successfully delivered and positive progress is being made on Year 2.
- ✓ There is on-going support for and investment in the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and violence reduction programmes: including the Medics Against Violence ‘Ask, Support, Care’ programme, the Mentors in Violence Prevention Scotland programme as well as the hospital based Navigators programme.
- ✓ A system to ensure timely aid to vulnerable people in an emergency - Persons At Risk Database (PARD)- has been developed.
- ✓ The final provisions of the Criminal Finances Act 2017 came into force in April 2018 to maximise the recovery of the proceeds of crime in Scotland.
- ✓ Research on the impact of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) on Scottish communities was published in June 2018. <https://gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/8630>

**We will ensure that actions to support individuals and families to feel safe and stay safe in their communities lie at the heart of our collective endeavour. And we will focus efforts and resources to strengthen the social and economic foundations of our communities in order to drive and deliver positive and lasting change.**

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- ✓ A SOC Taskforce conference on 'Working with communities to reduce the impact of SOC' was held in June 2018 for a range of stakeholders including community representatives.
  - ✓ Funding has continued to support anti-sectarianism work in Scotland's schools and workplaces.
  - ✓ Funding for Inspiring Scotland's Link Up programme has continued to help reduce victims of crime and unintentional harm by increasing social capital and community cohesion and resilience.
  - ✓ There has been a continued focus on reducing unintentional harm, through the work of the multi-agency Building Safer Communities Programme – including a national conference in April 2018 and Ministerial support to Scotland's first drowning prevention strategy launched in January 2018. <http://watersafetyscotland.org.uk/media/1213/scotlands-drowning-prevention-strategy.pdf>
  - ✓ "Community Safety – the emerging landscape and future opportunities" was published in February 2018 to set the scene for community safety in Scotland. [http://safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/community\\_safety\\_-\\_the\\_emerging\\_landscape\\_and\\_future\\_opportunities-1.pdf](http://safercommunitiesscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/community_safety_-_the_emerging_landscape_and_future_opportunities-1.pdf)

## NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19

- ▶ An independent review of complaints handling, investigations and misconduct issues in relation to policing will commence, led by Rt. Hon Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC.
- ▶ Recommendations and actions coming from the post-Grenfell Ministerial Working Group in relation to fire safety will be implemented.
- ▶ There will be on-going investment in SFRS transformation, including work to deliver for communities. This will include the provision of public charging points in a number of community fire stations, the development of a cadet scheme for young people, and the provision of further training and equipment for fire-fighters.
- ▶ SG, SFRS and HMFSI will explore the scope for international benchmarking and learning on new approaches to risk and prevention for fire and rescue.
- ▶ The Independent review of the impact of policing during the 1984/85 Miners' Strike will report by June 2019, ensuring that the impact on communities is understood and lessons can be learned.
- ▶ Violence reduction programmes will continue. This will include expansion of the Mentors in Violence Prevention programme and the Medics Against violence programme into more schools. It will also involve extending the Ask Support Care programme and the hospital Navigators programme with greater investment from Scottish Government; and delivery of the No Knives Better Lives Balisong Play in all Local Authorities across Scotland.
- ▶ A national campaign will be launched in spring 2019 to challenge sexual harassment and sexism, alongside the development of an information resource on gender-based violence for children and young people.
- ▶ An accreditation scheme for employers will be piloted, to support them to tackle gender-based violence in their workplaces.
- ▶ A roundtable will be convened later in 2018 on what more can be done to tackle online abuse and misogyny, and engage with media companies on tackling harmful gender stereotypes.
- ▶ We will continue to work to reduce harm and increase opportunities for women to leave prostitution, including establishing a multi-agency group to tackle the issues that can lead to someone becoming exploited in this way.
- ▶ A national web based tool will be developed to gather and share projects and initiatives across Scotland that support the reduction of Unintentional Harm, and to provide advice and guidance that will drive forward best practice.

# We enable our people, economy and infrastructure to respond to major risk, recover from emergencies and adapt to emerging threats

# 2

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ Action Plans on Cyber Resilience were published to equip our citizens with the knowledge and skills they need to operate safely in the digital world, to improve resilience to cybercrime across the public, private and third sectors, and to realise the economic opportunities presented by cyber resilience. <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/cyber-resilience/public-private-third-sector-cyber-resilience/>
- ✓ A Cyber-crime evidence review was published in March 2018, providing a clearer picture of the nature, scale and impact of cyber-crime in Scotland. <https://gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/2464>
- ✓ The first Scottish Risk Assessment was published to support the work of the Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) in December 2017.
- ✓ Ready Scotland, the Scottish Government's resilience public awareness campaign, has been reviewed and refreshed to deliver a flexible, year round campaign that can quickly promote geographically targeted public safety measures in response to severe weather warnings.
- ✓ The strategic delivery of counter terrorism in Scotland was reviewed, putting in place new governance structures to ensure that delivery remains effective, appropriate and proportionate for Scotland and against all forms of threat.
- ✓ Partners co-ordinated responses to a range of emergencies including cyber, weather and Grenfell.
- ✓ Resilience was embedded into the Curriculum for Excellence in Scottish schools with Scottish Water, the Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), South of Scotland Electricity (SSE) and Education Scotland.
- ✓ 18 pilot trials were successfully held on 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' provision by fire fighters around Scotland with a positive evaluation.
- ✓ The SFRS in collaboration with a range of key partners is developing a holistic assessment of community risk and vulnerability. This will allow the development of local and national partnerships to better identify and address local needs.

**We will continue to prioritise activity and resources to ensure that individuals, communities and businesses are best prepared to protect themselves from and respond to threats such as cyber-enabled crime and terrorism. We will take action to minimise the potential impact and disruption to our economy of risks and emergencies such as flooding and other weather and health-related incidents.**

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#### **NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ SG will commission and conduct research into public attitudes to, and knowledge of, key resilience advice, and the differing community experiences of severe weather across Scotland.
- ▶ The development of the Scottish Risk Assessment (SRA) will be taken forward by producing five new hazard scenarios and will review the ten existing scenarios to ensure they are based on the most up to date evidence. The next iteration of the SRA will be published in July 2019.
- ▶ The funding and spending capacity of Scotland's fire and rescue service will be increased by £15.5m to enable service transformation; wide consultation on SFRS proposals for change; and work is underway to deliver a fleet of rapid response vehicles with new technology in rural Scotland.

# We will modernise civil and criminal law and the justice system to meet the needs of people in Scotland in the 21st century

# 3

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ The Independent Review of Legal Aid concluded in February 2018 and a report was presented to Scottish Ministers: <https://gov.scot/Resource/0053/00532544.pdf>. The report and its recommendations have been discussed with key stakeholders and the Scottish Government will publish its response in Autumn 2018.
- ✓ An independent Review of the regulation of legal services was established and will present its report to Scottish Ministers in Autumn 2018. The report will be considered and a response issued in 2019.
- ✓ A New Expert Group on preventing sexual offending involving children and young people was established to respond to the findings of new research published in November 2017. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/7838>
- ✓ The implementation of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy began and the first annual progress report was published in June 2018. (Also priority 6.) <https://gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/7045>
- ✓ Implementation of the Evidence and Procedure Review (EPR) next steps report on Joint Investigative Interviews began, including funding to upgrade facilities and develop bespoke training for police and social workers.
- ✓ Lord Bracadale's independent recommendations to Scottish Ministers on hate crime laws were published in May 2018 and the SG made a commitment to consult on those recommendations in 18-19. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2018/05/2988>
- ✓ The Equally Safe Delivery Plan was published in November 2017 and Violence Against Women Justice funding was maintained beyond the First Minister's 3 year commitment.
- ✓ A large scale jury research study into how juries reach decisions was commissioned in September 2017 and is now underway.
- ✓ The Civil Litigation (Expenses and Group Proceedings) Bill was passed in June 2018.
- ✓ The Contract (Third Party Rights) Bill was passed in October 2017.
- ✓ The Domestic Abuse Bill was passed in February 2018, making Scotland one of the first countries in the world to criminalise psychological abuse. This will be implemented in early 2019.
- ✓ The Historical Sexual Offences (Pardons and Disregards) Bill was passed in July 2018 with implementation in 2019.
- ✓ The Prescription Bill is currently in progress through Parliament.
- ✓ The Damages (Investment Returns and Periodical Payments) Bill is currently in progress through Parliament.
- ✓ The Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill to raise the age to 12 and ensure no child under this age receives a criminal record, is currently in progress through Parliament.
- ✓ An expert group was convened to define sectarianism in Scots Law. This group will undertake a consultation and report by March 2019.
- ✓ The consultation on the Review of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and a Family Justice Modernisation Strategy was launched in May 2018.

**Our priority is to improve our civil, criminal and administrative law and justice systems, including legal aid, so that they are up-to-date, transparent, fair and respect the rights and diverse needs of users.**

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- ✓ In February, the Scottish Law Commission published its 10th Programme of Law Reform in Scotland for 2018-2022. <https://scotlawcom.gov.uk/law-reform/tenth-programme-of-law-reform-consultation/>
- ✓ The Minister for Community Safety announced the appointment of a new Commissioner of the Scottish Law Commission in July 2018.
- ✓ SG published the 'Scotland's Place in Europe' paper in June 2018, which sets out the Scottish Government's position about the importance of maintaining a close relationship with the EU in relation to security, law enforcement and criminal justice co-operation. <http://gov.scot/Publications/2018/06/7437>
- ✓ Mygov.scot is evolving as a single point of access for simple and accessible information about public services in Scotland. It provides information for citizens on civil and criminal justice topics including tribunals, being arrested and prison sentences.
- ✓ SG is continuing to work on the programme of devolved tribunal reform to benefit efficiency and access to justice.
- ✓ Key justice agencies are working to develop a digital evidence sharing capability. This is progressing well and a proof of concept will be commissioned in 2018-19.
- ✓ Justice partners are considering the Evidence and Procedure Review recommendations as regards a new model for summary criminal justice business. Meantime, SCTS are planning to pilot a new Sheriff Court Summary Practice Note, the output of which will further inform future direction.

**NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ Following Lord Bracadale's review, the Scottish Government will consult on new hate crime laws that are fit for 21st-century Scotland.
- ▶ A Consultation on the Scottish Law Commission's Report on Defamation will be published with a view to legislating thereafter.
- ▶ The Scottish Government will respond to the previous consultation on the reform of succession law and consult further on fresh proposals.
- ▶ Work will continue on family law reforms following the consultation in this area.
- ▶ The Scottish Government will support the proposals in John Finnie's Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill to remove a current defence for parents in relation to the use of physical punishment.
- ▶ A Genital Mutilation Bill will be introduced to strengthen the protection of women and girls from this form of gender-based violence. We will also consult with communities to understand what further protections may be helpful.
- ▶ To modernise and improve proportionality in the disclosure system, a new bill will be introduced to strike the right balance between safeguarding and assisting people with convictions get back to work. We will provide a digital way to improve safeguarding and access disclosures that is more responsive to Scotland's people.
- ▶ Following a consultation, work will continue to reform the system for obtaining legal gender recognition.
- ▶ A consultation on the future of civil partnership in Scotland, with a view to bringing forward legislation will launch later this year.
- ▶ A Biometric Data Bill will be introduced to take forward the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on the Use of Biometric Data, chaired by John Scott QC.
- ▶ SG and partners will continue to work to understand the impact of Brexit on the justice portfolio and protect Scottish interests.

# We will work with others to improve health and wellbeing in justice settings, focusing on mental health and substance use

# 4

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ A new Health and Justice Collaborative Improvement Board was established, bringing together leaders from across the sectors.
- ✓ An international evidence review into collaborative police and health interventions to better support people in mental health distress was published by the SG in August 2018. <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00537517.pdf>
- ✓ Local Police Scotland divisions continue to work with key NHS locality partners to develop effective Community Triage. Police Scotland also begun a new collaboration with NHS and Scottish Ambulance Service to deploy additional Mental Health professionals in the NHS24 environment.
- ✓ The development of Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) pilots continued, the initial results of which were encouraging. Full implementation is now underway and independent evaluation arrangements are in place.
- ✓ Work by Justice partners and the NHS continued to address problematic alcohol use via the delivery of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) in police custody.
- ✓ Our forthcoming alcohol and drugs strategy will ensure that wider health and social needs are taken into account as part of people's treatment and support, with publication planned for Autumn 2018.
- ✓ A Health and Social Care in Prisons Programme Board was established in February 2018, chaired by the SG Director of Population Health, to improve the delivery of health and social care services for people in prison and for those returning from prison to their communities.
- ✓ A new £100,000 improvement fund was launched in June 2018 to support partnerships between prison staff and healthcare professionals to improve prisoner healthcare.
- ✓ We deepened our shared understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) across justice and are shaping our future responses in collaboration with partners, including trauma-informed responses and training. <http://gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535550.pdf>
- ✓ The Deputy First Minister hosted an event on ACEs in March 2018. This was participated in by Ministers from across government and key stakeholders, to reflect on progress and discuss next steps. <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/adverse-childhood-experiences-aces-ministerial-event>
- ✓ In March 2017, the Scottish Government established a Taskforce, under the leadership of the Chief Medical Officer, to drive improvements in the provision of healthcare and forensic medical services for adults and children who have experienced rape and sexual assault.
  - Funding was provided for NHS Education Scotland (NES) to develop and roll-out their trauma-informed "Introduction to Sexual Offences Examinations" course across Scotland.
  - Justice partners supported the development of Healthcare Improvement Scotland's National Standards for Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services in December 2017. (Also priority 6.)
  - £2.25m of funding was provided to embed the new standards and improve healthcare and forensic medical facilities for those who have experienced rape and sexual assault.

**We will prioritise the development of our interventions and services across the justice system for those experiencing mental health or addiction problems and those experiencing distress. We will work in collaboration with the NHS and other partners in design and delivery.**

#### **NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ A smoke free environment will be implemented across Scotland's prison estate from November 2018.
- ▶ Work will progress to improve the provision of health and social care services for people in prison including with improved clinical IT systems in prisons to make services safer and more efficient.
- ▶ Further action will be taken to improve contact between parents in prison and their children to support positive attachment.
- ▶ Legislation will be introduced for new drug driving limits covering 17 different drug types to improve the safety of our roads.
- ▶ The CMO Taskforce will continue to lead work with Health Board Nominated Leads and other key partners, to develop fully costed proposals for trauma informed, person centred forensic medical and healthcare services across Scotland.
- ▶ We will consult on proposals to clarify in legislation the responsibility for forensic medical examinations to ensure that access to healthcare, as well as a forensic medical examination for victims of rape and sexual assault, is a NHS priority and consistently provided for throughout Scotland.
- ▶ We will continue to work with others, such as NHS Education Scotland, to achieve a gender balance of professionals trained to undertake forensic medical examinations so that where a victim requests the specific gender of the forensic examiner involved in their care, this can be met.
- ▶ Police Scotland, SFRS and the Scottish Ambulance Service will continue to work closely as the Blue Light Collaboration Group to share key data, identify vulnerability, and to focus on preventative work and joint response models.

# We will work to quickly identify offenders and ensure responses are proportionate, just, effective and promote rehabilitation

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ Part 1 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 commenced, modernising arrest, custody and questioning procedures.
- ✓ The Management of Offenders Bill is in progress, legislating for more extensive and consistent use of electronic monitoring of offenders, updating disclosure of convictions requirements and some changes to Parole Board appointments, membership, functions and requirements.
- ✓ Community Justice Scotland are now working with local partners to implement the new model for Community Justice - with Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plans (CJOIPS) now available for each area.
- ✓ Justice social work funding was protected for local authorities - at record levels of around £100 million per year - including ring-fenced funds specifically for community sentences, and increased investment in preparation for extending the presumption against short sentences.
- ✓ The Scottish Government responded to the Justice Committee report on its "Inquiry into the Use of Remand in Scotland" in August 2018.
- ✓ An evidence led, collaborative approach has been taken to ensuring robust and credible community sentences and non-court disposals are available. Research on the Problem Solving Approach in Aberdeen and work with Community Justice Scotland, Social Work Scotland, COPFS and local authorities on aspects of guidance and good practice has been undertaken.
- ✓ Progress in transforming the female custodial estate has been made, with plans developed for the new Women's National Facility and the 2 Community Custody Units. Sites for the Community Custody Units in Glasgow and Dundee are now identified (also priority 7).
- ✓ The Justice Board and Youth Justice Improvement Board are collaborating to drive ambitious, evidence-led improvements focusing on prevention, life chances and a person-centred approach as per the whole system approach to offending by young people. A joint meeting on 23 February 2018, built on the previous year's work and focused on sustainability, rights, data and the use of evidence, including insights from the paper 'Children and Young People in Custody in Scotland: Looking behind the Data', published in November 2017.

**We will continue to seek effective alternatives to prosecution and custody for those who pose little or no risk to public safety. Our priority will be to support the implementation of an ambitious vision for community justice in Scotland. And we will learn from what has worked well in our whole system approach to youth justice to ensure we sustain advances as well as build on and deliver further success.**

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#### **NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ Agencies will look to expand the successful whole system approach to youth justice to include, where appropriate, support to young people up to the age of 21 and care experienced young people up to the age of 26.
- ▶ Subject to approval by Parliament, the Management of Offenders Bill will complete its passage through Parliament.
- ▶ The Scottish Government will publish updated guidance for local authorities on community sentences and remand.
- ▶ Access to bail supervision and support services as alternatives to the use of remand, will be increased, where appropriate.
- ▶ The Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Scottish Prison Service will consider the outcome of reviews by the Inspectorates of Constabulary and Prisons into Home Detention Curfew arrangements.
- ▶ A Restorative Justice Action Plan will be published by spring 2019 setting out how restorative justice services across Scotland will be made more widely available by 2023.

# We will improve the experience of victims and witnesses, minimising court attendance and supporting them to give best evidence

# 6

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ An additional £1.1m for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) to respond to the growth in sexual offence referrals and reduce the time such cases take to progress through the justice system. The additional funding will be used to recruit more fiscal, judiciary and court staff, provide enhanced information and support to victims, and tackle causes of delays.
- ✓ Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) Bill (currently in progress) will introduce a new rule that children (in the first instance) in the most serious cases, will have their evidence pre-recorded. It will also remove legislative barriers to vulnerable adults giving pre-recorded video evidence.
- ✓ Justice partners continue to take forward the justice contribution to Scotland's Equally Safe Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.
- ✓ The consultation on the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 has promoted public and stakeholder contributions on how better to protect domestic abuse victims in civil cases such as contact.
- ✓ Research is underway with victims-survivors of rape and sexual assault to ensure that victims' interests are at the heart of the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Justice partners collaborated with Health Improvement Scotland to publish new National Standards for forensic medical examinations of victims of sexual offending in December 2017. [http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our\\_work/person-centred\\_care/resources/sexual\\_assault\\_services.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/person-centred_care/resources/sexual_assault_services.aspx)
- ✓ Additional funding was provided to improve services for victims of rape or sexual assault to reduce trauma, and the national advocacy pilot project to facilitate engagement with the legal process was extended.
- ✓ In June 2018 the Scottish Government published the first Annual Progress Report on implementation of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, setting out key achievements in supporting victims, tackling perpetrators, and addressing the factors that lead to trafficking. <https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00536753.pdf>.
- ✓ A new, 3-year £13.8 million funding package for Victim Support Scotland (VSS) has been agreed, which will enable them to provide free practical and emotional support to victims of crime. VSS will develop a new Homicide Service and lead on the development of a new approach to put victims at the centre of the justice system, ensuring their voices are heard, and reducing trauma.
- ✓ Justice partners will continue to take forward arrangements to increase confidence in the initial post-mortems undertaken with the aim of reducing the demand for subsequent re-investigation of results and further post-mortems being sought.

**Our priority will be to deliver reform that ensures cases are dealt with effectively, fairly and without delay to improve the experience of victims and witnesses in Scotland and to ensure they feel well-informed, valued and respected. Harnessing the opportunities afforded by digital technology will be key to improving experience.**

#### **NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ A package of measures will be brought forward to strengthen victims' rights and support, increase transparency and extend the opportunity for those affected by crime to have their voices heard, for example with reference to Parole and prison release arrangements.
- ▶ A consultation will be held on widening the range of serious crimes where the victim can make a statement to the court about how the crime has affected them physically, emotionally and financially.
- ▶ Subject to approval by Parliament, the Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) Bill will complete its progress through Parliament.
- ▶ Following the consultation on the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, SG and partners will consider what further measures are required to protect domestic abuse victims in family cases.
- ▶ The Scottish Government will consult in the Autumn on further protections for those at risk of domestic abuse through new protective orders that could be used to keep victims of domestic abuse safe, by banning perpetrators from their homes.
- ▶ Following the successful pilot of the Caledonian System domestic abuse programme, new funding of £2.8 million will be provided over the next 2 years to allow the expansion of the programme to new local authority areas, so that more male perpetrators of domestic abuse can receive specific rehabilitation services alongside wrap around support for victims.
- ▶ A consultation will be launched in November on how to improve multi-agency interventions for victims of domestic abuse who are at a high risk of harm, so that they receive better support and are kept safer.
- ▶ Justice partners will take forward work with other governments and key stakeholders to explore the application of the Barnahus concept for immediate trauma informed support for child victims of serious and traumatic crimes.
- ▶ Work will continue with partners to implement the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy. Key priorities include the development of regional partnerships, publishing guidance for businesses, and joining up relevant research to better inform work to tackle trafficking and exploitation.

# We will use prison only where necessary to address offending or to protect public safety, focusing on recovery and reintegration

# 7

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY PRIORITY IN 2017/18

- ✓ Penal reform continued, including the announcement to extend the presumption against short sentences to 12 months.
- ✓ The Management of Offenders Bill is in progress which includes provisions which amend the tenure of Parole Board members, reinforce the independence of the Parole Board and provide for the administrative and accountability arrangements of the Parole Board to be set out in secondary legislation.
- ✓ The Scottish Prison Service (SPS) Corporate Plan set out how the organisation will continue on its journey of transformational change over the next three years. SPS progressed the Prison Officer Professionalisation Programme and continued to work with key partners on the throughcare journey to support successful reintegration back into communities.
- ✓ Progress has been made in transforming the female custodial estate, with plans developed for the new Women's National Facility and the 2 Community Custody Units. Sites for the Community Custody Units in Glasgow and Dundee have now been identified.
- ✓ Four new Prison Visitor Centres opened across Scotland (now at 11 of 15 prisons), to support people visiting friends and family in prison, and reduce the negative impact on children of having an imprisoned parent.
- ✓ Sustainable Housing On Release for Everyone (SHORE) Standards were published in November 2017, which agreed good practice for prison and housing organisations to deliver better housing outcomes for prison leavers. [http://communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2017/12/SHORE-STANDARDS20-11-175364\\_2487.pdf](http://communityjusticeayrshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/118/2017/12/SHORE-STANDARDS20-11-175364_2487.pdf)
- ✓ Plans were agreed to include an exemption from the 6 month waiting period to be eligible for the new Job Start grant for young people leaving custody or completing community sentences.
- ✓ SPS continued the expansion of a project enabling prisoners to open new bank accounts prior to release (supporting financial planning, & enabling access to Universal Credit benefits).

**When a custodial sentence is deemed appropriate, we will help people to fulfil their potential and improve their life chances.**

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#### **NEW ACTIVITY FOR 2018/19**

- ▶ The Scottish Government will bring forward necessary secondary legislative changes to extend the presumption against short sentences from 3 to 12 months, once additional safeguards for victims in the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) 2018 act are in force.
- ▶ The Scottish Prison Service will continue progress on transforming our female custodial estate with construction commencing on the Women's National Facility and engagement with key partners in developing tailored services and support for women in the Community Custody Units.
- ▶ Further action will be taken to improve contact between parents in prison and their children, to support positive attachment.
- ▶ The Scottish Prison Services's Prison Officer Professionalisation Programme will be implemented to ensure that prison officers are well-equipped to be at the forefront of the rehabilitation process.



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