



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Vision for Justice in Scotland

Annex A – Strategic Context



The new Vision for Justice is an evolution of that set out in [2017 Justice Vision and Priorities](#) and builds on the positive progress made in recent years in fostering safer communities, reducing crime, modernising the justice sector and supporting people in rehabilitation. We continue to focus on what works – renewing efforts on prevention and early intervention while addressing the needs of all users where addressing immediate harm or conflict is required. We will continue to empower our people and communities to exercise their rights and responsibilities, to resolve disputes and other civil justice problems at the earliest opportunity.

National Performance Framework

This vision is aligned with and underpinned by the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework (NPF). The NPF provides a clear long-term purpose and set of the outcomes for Scotland's wellbeing. The NPF recognises that Government alone cannot deliver those broad societal outcomes and that it requires all of us from all sector and as individuals to realise these outcomes.



The new Vision for Justice and accompanying routemap will contribute to the following National Outcomes:

- 
Children and Young People
 We grow up loved, safe and protected so that we realise our full potential.
- 
Communities
 We live in communities that are inclusive, empower, resilient and safe.
- 
Human Rights
 We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.
- 
Poverty
 We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.
- 
Health
 We are healthy and active.
- 
Fair Work and Business
 We have thriving and innovative businesses with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

The Scottish Government is committed to achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The NPF and SDGs share the same aims and the new Vision for Justice contributes to:

- SDG 5 – Gender equality
- SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

This strategy seeks to bring together interconnected areas of government responsible for addressing the wider societal issues linked to crime and harm in our communities. In doing so we hope to create a shared understanding of the collective responsibility in creating a smaller justice system, to the benefit of those accused of crime and victims of crime – and which treats those who come into contact with it with compassion and respect.

The strategic direction builds on the commitments made in the 2021 Programme for Government working with wide range of other actions to deliver 'A Land Of Opportunity: supporting young people and promoting a fairer and more equal society' and 'Living Better: supporting thriving, resilient and diverse communities'.

The following strategies have been identified as complementary to the delivery of a new Vision for Justice. Some of these are well established policies and initiatives while others are still in development. The intention is that these strategies nest beneath the outcomes set out in the Visions for Justice in Scotland.

National Community Justice Strategy

Following a review of the National Community Justice Strategy published in [2016](#), the Scottish Government have committed to developing a new strategy, due to be published in spring 2022. The strategy will provide a clear strategic direction for community justice, including for non-justice partners, with an emphasis on early intervention and encouraging a further shift away from the use of custody.

Youth Justice Strategy

The [Rights-Respecting Approach to Justice for Children and Young People – Scotland's Vision and Priorities](#) ('the Vision') builds on the previous Youth Justice Strategy which concluded in 2020. It represents a shared foundation between the Scottish Government and partners to continue to support the agenda to keep children out of the criminal justice system and promote the use of the Whole System Approach. An accompanying [action plan](#) outlining the early actions towards achieving the outcomes and priorities between June 2021 and June 2024 was published alongside the Vision. This action plan is a rolling document, with flexibility built in to adapt the plan to address the drivers within the Promise and incorporation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other new priorities as they emerge.

Violence Prevention Framework

The Scottish Government will publish the first ever National Violence Prevention Framework in 2022. The Framework will consider all the available evidence and identify policy priorities for all partners to work to as we seek to prevent violence and make Scotland's communities safer.

Equally Safe

[Equally Safe](#) is a joint Scottish Government and COSLA strategy which fosters collaborative working with key partners across all sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in a way that recognises that progress requires significant and sustained economic, social and cultural change over the long term. A new short-life (two-year) Equally Safe Delivery Plan is due to be published in early 2022. This delivery plan will consolidate on existing priorities and commitments contained in Equally Safe, and the current Equally Safe Deliver plan (published in 2017); and consider what needs to be achieved for the sector to fully recover from the pandemic. In the longer term, the Scottish Government and COSLA will perform a complete refresh of Equally Safe.

Women in Justice

It has been suggested that the Scottish Justice System (this includes policing, community justice, criminal and civil court processes, tribunals and prisons) is predominantly designed by men for men. In being so, it does not consistently meet the needs of women – whether as victims or (alleged/convicted) perpetrators of offences, or both. The role that women themselves play as actors within the justice system and the impact that this may have on the culture within organisations is also highly relevant to this discussion. The Minister for Community Safety will undertake a strategic examination of these issues to understand them better, supported by a Women's Leadership Panel.

The purpose of this Panel will be to gather and hear evidence about women's experiences and how these differ from men's within the Scottish Justice System; if/how the system is not working for women and why it isn't meeting women's needs. These issues will be looked at through the experiences and needs of women in an intersectional way (i.e. inclusive of experiences of women of all races, economic standings, religions, identities and orientations). This work, it is hoped, will promote the development of strategic outcomes which can guide and enhance the scope and uptake for gender competent policy making and the design of justice policies which can go further for women. Mainstreaming gender competency in the justice system could create a step change to improve policies, create trust and security of justice system users, whilst responding to their needs appropriately.

Hate Crime Strategy

The Scottish Government is working on the co-creation of a new Hate Crime Strategy with stakeholders and delivery partners for publication in 2022. The strategy will guide our approach to tackling hate crime and will likely touch upon a wide range of policy areas including justice, safer communities, education and transport. The strategy will also support implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (S) Act 2021. Once in force, the Act will consolidate, modernise and extend Scotland's hate crime legislative framework.

Faith and Belief Engagement Strategy

The Scottish Government is working on the co-creation of a new Faith and Belief engagement strategy. A working group has been formed involving faith and belief partners which will agree a refreshed and refocused approach to Scottish Government engagement with faith and belief communities, which will be implemented during 2022.

UK Government Prevent Strategy

The Scottish Government adheres to the overarching strategic objectives of the [UK Government Prevent Strategy](#). The objectives of Prevent are to tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism, safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support, and enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate. The Scottish Government works with devolved sectors to deliver on these objectives in a way that meets our needs and fits with the Scottish context and approach.

Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan

The Child Poverty Act 2017 sets statutory child poverty reduction targets to be met by 2030. The Scottish Government published its first [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#) in March 2018, backed by a £50m fund. The plan committed to a range of concrete actions to make progress on the ambitious targets. Additional plans for further action will be outlined in the second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, to be published in March 2022 and will be backed by a further £50m fund.

Getting it Right for Every Child

Getting it right for every child ([GIRFEC](#)) is Scotland's national approach to improving outcomes for children and young people. It provides a common framework which puts the child at the centre and helps children get the right support from the right people at the right time.

The Scottish Government is committed to developing new policy and practice guidance to provide confidence, clarity and practical support to deliver GIRFEC. Work is in progress to deliver refreshed GIRFEC policy and practice guidance in partnership with key delivery partners across all sectors. This will be published in 2022.

Thirty Children's Services Planning Partnerships lead local implementation of GIRFEC across Scotland. Each area's Children's Services Plan sets out a collaborative local approach to the planning, development, and delivery of services, support, and improvement activity, to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and families. Partnership working across statutory and third sector services in children's, adult, and community-based organisations aims to deliver holistic whole family support which meets the needs of local children, young people, and families.

The Promise

The Scottish Government remains fully committed to deliver on its pledge to care-experienced people in Scotland by accepting and responding to the care review conclusions in [The Promise](#). Keeping the Promise requires both immediate action to improve experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families who are currently in or on the edge of care and also requires action over the longer term to improve the level of support for families from birth through to adulthood to significantly reduce the numbers of families coming into the care system.

By working cohesively across Government, with The Promise Scotland and together with partners in local government, health boards, the third sector and the care community we aim to ensure that improvements are felt day to day in the lives of care experienced children and families. The Single Implementation Plan to be published later this year will set out the commitments and actions that we will take across Government to achieve this.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma

There is strong [evidence](#) to support associations between experiencing adversity and trauma in childhood and victimisation and criminalisation later in life. Supporting children, young people and adults affected by ACEs and trauma is important for preventing offending and re-offending. The Scottish Government is undertaking [work to better prevent and mitigate ACEs](#) and developing trauma-informed workforces and services (across all sectors) in Scotland, supported by the [National Trauma Training Programme \(NTP\)](#).

Young Persons Guarantee

The [Young Person's Guarantee](#) is a commitment to ensure that every 16-24 year old in Scotland has access to an opportunity. This could be a job, apprenticeship, further or higher education, training programme or volunteering. The Scottish Government has made available £130m over 2020-22 to support the development and delivery of the Young Persons Guarantee, in addition to ongoing investment in education, skills, training and employability. A further £45m will be invested in 2022-23. In July 2021, the Scottish Government published the Guarantee's [Key Performance Indicators](#).

Much of the focus of the delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee (particularly at a local level) is focused on prevention and early intervention. Local Employability Partnerships (LEPs) are working in partnership to identify those furthest away from a positive destination and developing a pathway that is appropriate to their needs and circumstances. There are also further links to the determinants of crime, including activity focused on mitigating the impact of ACEs, early engagement with schools, support for substance misuse, as well as mental health. For those young people that have already been involved in the youth justice system, approximately one-third of LEPs referenced working with this target group to deliver employability services and support a transition to a positive and sustainable destination.

Mental Health

The Scottish Government's [Mental Health Strategy](#), published in March 2017, is a 10-year strategy which aims to improve mental health outcomes and reduce stigma. The strategy is due for review, with a refreshed version to be published in 2022. A refreshed Mental Health Strategy will be in alignment with and build on the [Transition and Recovery Plan](#), 'Mental Health – Scotland's Transition and Recovery', published in October 2020.

The Scottish Government published its [official response](#) to the [Independent Review into the Delivery of Forensic Mental Health Services](#) on 29 October 2021. The Scottish Government is already working with partners to address the recommendations of the review. A Short Life Working Group has been established which will bring together key partners, to agree a clear plan for addressing those recommendations of the Independent Review which are aimed toward increased support for planning, collaboration and improvement of forensic mental health services in Scotland. The group will not revisit the work of the Independent Review but will consider how best to address the issues that are already set out in the Review reports. It will be strictly time limited, with an expectation of its work concluding in Summer 2022.

The Scottish Government is currently carrying out a Mental Health in Prison Needs Assessment with a view to publishing in 2022.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

The Scottish Government and COSLA will jointly publish a new Suicide Prevention Strategy for Scotland in September 2022. This strategy, and an associated action plan, will replace the current [suicide prevention action plan](#) which has been in place since August 2018.

The Government's health and social care policies must work to support individuals at risk of suicide, whilst also taking a whole society approach which addresses the social

and economic determinants of suicide, and risk factors. One way to achieve this is to focus on settings where people are at heightened risk of suicide, such as the justice system. People in the criminal justice system must feel safe and supported, with services working proactively to identify – and support – anyone at risk of suicide. The new Suicide Prevention Strategy will therefore seek to further drive Scotland's suicide prevention efforts, and make sure the approach to suicide prevention work in Scotland is more joined up and meets the needs of individuals and communities across the country. Engagement with a range of people, including those with lived experience of suicide and those who work in or come into contact with different services in Scotland has already begun, and will continue throughout all stages of the development of this strategy.

A cross-portfolio Ministerial Working Group has been formed to identify the current issues faced in the justice system in relation to mental health and to look at ways to bring forward urgent and creative solutions to these issues and Forensic Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Policy teams will continue to work with the Justice Directorate within the Scottish Government to ensure their future work supports positive outcomes for people coming into contact with the justice system – directly or indirectly.

Women's Health Plan

The Scottish Government published the [Women's Health Plan](#) in August 2021. The plan underpins actions to improve women's health inequalities by raising awareness around women's health, improving access to health care and reducing inequalities in health outcomes for girls and women, both for sex-specific conditions and in women's general health. Progress will be reported through implementation reports from 2022.

Prison Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Scottish Government will introduce a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy to address health inequality among prisoners.

CMO Rape and Sexual Assault Taskforce

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Scotland, chairs a national taskforce set up to provide national leadership for the improvement of healthcare and Forensic Medical Services for people of all ages, who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse in Scotland. The taskforce, in close collaboration with NHS and other multi-agency partners, has made significant progress towards achieving our vision of consistent, person centred and trauma informed services for anyone who needs them. The Forensic Medical Services (Victims of Sexual Offences) (Scotland) Act 2021 will commence on 1 April 2022 and underpins the work of the taskforce. The Act will provide a statutory basis for health boards to provide Forensic Medical Services for victims of sexual offences and will establish a legal framework for consistent access to “self-referral” so a victim can access healthcare and request a forensic examination without first having to make a report to the police. The Scottish Government has committed £11.7 million over four years to support the work of the CMO Taskforce and the implementation of the Act.

Drugs and Alcohol Strategy

Scotland's alcohol and drug strategy Rights, Respect and Recovery (RRR) aims to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths. The RRR strategy and the Justice Strategy will be closely aligned in their ambitions to ensure vulnerable people are diverted from the justice system wherever possible and those within justice settings are fully supported.

Homelessness

The Scottish Government and COSLA published an updated homelessness strategy, [Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan](#), in October 2020. The Action Plan commits the Scottish Government to developing and implementing pathways to prevent homelessness for people at high risk, which includes prison leavers and young people.

The Scottish Government are working with partners to consider the implementation of the [Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathway](#) published in March 2021. A Way Home Scotland, the national coalition to end youth homelessness, were commissioned by the Scottish Government to develop the pathway. The report includes recommendations which, if implemented should make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring for young people aged 16-25.

The Scottish Government is also working with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Community Justice Scotland and local authorities to review the implementation of the Sustainable Housing on Release for Everyone ([SHORE](#)) standards published in December 2017. The SHORE standards were developed by the SPS and partners to outline minimum standards for housing advice, information and support for people serving custodial sentences to ensure that the housing needs of individuals are handled in a consistent way across Scotland and to minimise as far as possible instances of emergency homelessness upon liberation.

We are committed to introducing new legislation to ensure there is a collective responsibility across public services, including courts, police and prisons to prevent homelessness from occurring in the first place. A [joint consultation](#) with COSLA on the proposed new duties was published on 17 December 2021.

Fairer Scotland for Disabled People

The Scottish Government published the [Fairer Scotland for Disabled People Delivery Plan](#) in December 2016 as part of the Government's programme for a fairer Scotland. The plan set the overall direction of travel over the parliamentary term 2016-21 to secure real transformational change for disabled people across Scotland, focusing on longer-term ambitions and practical actions. One of the five longer-term ambitions of the plan was to ensure the rights of disabled people are fully protected and they receive fair treatment from justice systems at all times. A [Progress Report](#) was published in March 2021 and the Scottish Government has committed to work in partnership with disabled people to draw up a new Disability Equality Plan due to be published in 2022.

National Care Service

The [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) published in 2021 recommended the creation of a National Care Service, with Scottish Ministers being accountable for adult social care support. The creation of a National Care Service sets out an ambitious intention to transform Scotland's community health and social care support and services, empowering people to thrive, with human rights at the core. The Scottish Government's proposals to improve the way social care is delivered in Scotland was set out in a public consultation in 2021.

COVID Recovery Strategy

The Scottish Government published the [Covid Recovery Strategy](#) in October 2021. It sets out the Government's vision for recovery that addresses systemic inequalities made worse by Covid, makes progress towards a wellbeing economy, and accelerates inclusive, person-centred public services. The strategy details actions that will increase financial security for low income households, enhance the wellbeing of Children and Young People, and create good, green jobs and fair work.

Global Affairs Framework

The Scottish Government will create a new global affairs framework to guide Scotland's international engagement, grounded in a values-based approach, and a feminist approach to foreign policy.

Alignment with EU Law

The Scottish Government's European Strategy, 'The European Union's Strategic Agenda for 2020-24: Scotland's Perspective' published in 2020 and the paper 'Steadfastly European: Scotland's past, present and future' in 2021 reaffirmed Scotland's commitment to work in partnership with the EU to realise our shared values and address global challenges. Consistent with this commitment, Scotland will seek to align with the EU where appropriate and in a manner that contributes towards maintaining and advancing standards across a range of policy areas. It will do so to protect the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland, maintain Scotland's international reputation, and, by protecting the standards that Scotland enjoys, ease the process of Scotland's return to the EU.