

The Authority

Cashback to Communities



Welcome to NSCJA's newsletter The Authority. This newsletter mainly focuses on the use of the Cashback to Communities Funding to enable offenders sentenced to unpaid work to improve local sports facilities.

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of the Authority to wish you all the best for the festive season.

For further information on NSCJA please visit our website www.nscja.co.uk.

Best wishes
Councillor Douglas Yates,
Convener, NSCJA



In early spring this year the Scottish Government announced it was making £4m available from the Cashback to Communities fund to CJAs across Scotland. The purpose of the funding is to finance projects aimed at improving local sports facilities using offenders on Community Payback Orders with an unpaid work requirement to carry out the necessary work.

North Strathclyde's portion of this fund is £500,000, which is divided between two separate funding streams, project initiation funding of £125,000 and payback sports facilities funding of £375,000.

Local authorities in our area have submitted bids against both funds and this edition explains how they intend to use the money.

All of the projects have been the result of extensive local consultation and in each case are also part of the local authority's wider strategy to improve physical activity, sport and health.

Initiation fund bids are to let local authorities buy materials and equipment for use to enable the projects to get underway. The aim of the payback sports facilities fund is to promote the rehabilitation of offenders and help reduce reoffending by maintaining and improving sports amenities available to communities.

All of the projects will be completed by summer 2012, however the scheme will utilise the labour of offenders sentenced to unpaid work in the community to maintain the facilities to a high standard following completion.

Inside this issue:

Cashback Bids	2
Annual Reports	3
Circle Awards	3
Moving on Graduation	3
HMP Low Moss	4
NSCJA Development Review	4
Joint Event at HMP Greenock	4



Seasons Greetings
from all at
North Strathclyde CJA



Cashback to Communities Project Bids

East Renfrewshire

The Cashback funding will be used as part of a wider project to improve facilities within Cowan Park in Barrhead. This large development will take 2 years to complete and will benefit residents, community groups and local schools and clubs.

The specific contribution by the Cashback funding and unpaid work will be to improve the surface drainage, fencing and general amenity of the Tennis club area. The project will involve surface preparation involving, building, drainage, horticulture, planting and ground maintenance as well as ongoing maintenance of the site. The unpaid work offenders assigned to the project will work alongside local clubs, volunteers and trades people to give this excellent facility a completely new look thereby encouraging more people into sport, as well as contributing to the offenders reintegration into the community.

The Tennis club has already seen its membership more than double to over 100 members in the last year and the Cashback project should help keep that momentum going.

Renfrewshire

Offenders sentenced to unpaid work in the community will contribute to the Renfrewshire Playing Fields Strategy by extensively redecorating the changing rooms at the St James Pavilion.

This facility has seven full size football pitches and one 7-a-side pitch which is used by both male and female teams throughout the area, although recently it has been limited by the poor condition of the changing facilities.

This is an extensive project which consists of five wings of changing facilities each with ten dressing rooms, eight showers, a toilet block, and a large linking corridor. All require repainting and the benches require sanding and varnishing. The size of the project means that two unpaid work squads will be able to work over the winter months and have the facility ready by spring 2012. The offenders will contribute over 200 hours of unpaid work per week during the main part of the project and thereafter provide ongoing maintenance to ensure a continued high standard.

Inverclyde

This project involves major work at Everton Scout Camp on the outskirts of Inverkip. Although this facility is primarily used for scouting purposes the camp is also available to other youth organisations and local schools.

Everton Scout Camp was established in 1923 and originally covered an area of approximately 5 acres. In 2010, Inverclyde Council granted a 99 year lease to Greenock and District Scout Council for an additional 35 acre site which adjoins the camp. The Scout Council are therefore keen to develop this excellent facility and the Cashback Project will make a large contribution to their plans.

The project will undertake the following unpaid work

- Improve the surface of the multipurpose sports area (approx 1500sq meters) by improving drainage and the condition of the turf
- Replace the site boundary fence
- Improve the condition of the camp toilet facilities
- Improve the special needs access by laying a paved pathway and improving wheelchair access
- Improving the general site drainage by creating a system of drainage ditches



Everton Scout Camp has over 100 young people attending at any time during the summer months and on special events that can rise to over 200. The unpaid work project will greatly improve the facility for the benefit of literally hundreds of young people.

West Dunbartonshire Cashback Projects

The funding will be used to support three projects as part of a wider strategy, between West Dunbartonshire Council and Sports Scotland, to improve sports facilities in the area.

Two of the projects will be the reinstatement of two football fields, one at Duntocher and the other at Moss of Balloch.

As well as benefiting local football teams, the latter site also plays host to the third largest highland games in the world, the Loch Lomond Highland Games, which attracts crowds of 15000 to 20000 people.

Both projects will involve offenders, on unpaid work orders, making major improvements to drainage as well as resurfacing the playing areas.

The third project will involve offenders making improvements to the facilities in Postie's Park in Dumbarton. This will include painting the exterior of the Minecraft Sports Centre pavilion as well as creating a much needed pathway, to improve general access, between the pavilion and the playing fields.

Annual Reports

NSCJA has recently published two Annual reports.

The North Strathclyde MAPPA Annual Report 2010/11 provides information about how the responsible authorities are managing sex offenders safely in the community.

The North Strathclyde CJA Annual Report 2010/11 provides information about CJA activities and performance during the last year.

Both reports can be accessed at <http://www.nscja.co.uk/publications/>

Circle Awards

Circle is delighted to have won an SSSC Care Accolade within the 'Working Better, Working Together' category, in association with partners HMP Addiewell, HMP Cornton Vale and HMP Greenock.

Circle is equally delighted to win The Scottish 2011 Charity Award within the partnership category, in association with HMP Addiewell (Sodexo Justice Services).

Their work with children and families affected by parental imprisonment was recognised as an innovative example of organisations coming together to promote better outcomes for parents leaving prison, and ultimately better outcomes for their children.

Getting it Right for Every Child is firmly embedded in Circle's practice. This extends to getting it right for this very marginalised group, often forgotten by services, but stigmatised within their communities. Working from a family support approach rather than focussing on the 'offender' in isolation, Circle has been successful in slowing down the revolving door that sees so many parents returning to prison and so many children left behind.

Liz Dahl, Circle's CEO said: "These awards are recognition of the fact that effective partnership working has enabled us all to make a tremendous difference to the lives of many families with children affected by parental imprisonment."

Moving On Graduation



Following the success of last year's work with Balfour Beatty Engineering Services (BBES), Moving On recently rekindled this partnership to complete an eight week construction skills programme.

Ten young men began the training with seven fully completing the project. The young men were involved in various training days provided by BBES and other providers to ensure they had the knowledge and skills to work in the construction industry. Over the eight weeks the young men achieved:

- IOSH Health & Safety certificate
- Manual Handling, Stepladder, Asbestos & Environmental awareness certificate
- CSCS site safety card
- PASMA certificate
- Emergency First Aid certificate
- Introduction to Tiling
- Introduction to Monoblocking
- Millennium Volunteer Award

The programme culminated in a five day community project at Rowanlea Children's Unit in Johnstone where the young men rebuilt a wooden bridge, refurbished existing pathways, built 52 metres of gravel pathway, laid 16 square metres of slabbing, built a brick barbeque and erected fencing.



The finished result was a very usable pathway leading to a slabbed area for service users to enjoy and have barbeques in the summer months. The residents were extremely satisfied and the young men were very proud of their hard work and finished result.

The final portion of the programme focused on next steps and saw the young men create a CV and begin looking for employment opportunities and applying to college.



We celebrated the achievement of those young men involved in the programme with a graduation ceremony on 28th June at Moving On offices, with around 25 guests including family members and local agency representatives. The young men were presented with a portfolio of all their certificates and given an opportunity to share with guests what the programme meant to them. The event was a great success and the sense

of achievement was evident from the young men involved.

HMP Low Moss



The site is now very near completion and we are still working to a project end date of 31st October 2011 for the build. From 1st November 2011 onward there will be significant contract work still required

regarding snagging and other elements of work requiring to be completed; this is all expected to be fully finished before Christmas.

The prisoner population will predominantly come from the North Strathclyde CJA area and the remainder will be made up of volunteers during the initial transfer phase. The first prisoners will arrive on 19th March and we will gradually fill up to the 700 over a 10 week period taking us toward the end of May.

Prisoner Management and Risk Management are central to the ethos of Low Moss. It is the intention in Low Moss for all staff to be fully aware and involved in a prison wide regime which actively encourages prisoner participation, which challenges pro-criminal behaviours and promotes pro-social change which will help to change lives.

In the past few months the project team have been busy outwith the prison working alongside our partners in the North Strathclyde Criminal Justice Authority, and work in the throughcare areas of housing, literacies, addictions and employability are well established.

The Programmes, Induction, ICM and Links Centre staff alongside Psychology and Physical Education will work together in a new manner in HMP Low Moss where they will be called the Offending Behavioural Change Unit, where staff from Offender Outcomes and Residential will work together in a flexible manner to ensure we maximise every opportunity to actively challenge our prisoners regarding their offending behaviour and to give them every possible opportunity to making a greater contribution upon release back into their communities.

The usual services you see in a modern prison are also near completion and the hard work of putting the process and procedures in place to support a busy establishment; this will include areas such as waste recycling, gardening, cleaning, catering and laundry.

We are also having a Community Facing Work Party, at this time we do not know exactly what it will look like or do but its function will be to provide a direct link and interaction with community projects to ensure the prison, staff and prisoners are all actively involved in supporting the establishments local community.

NSCJA Development Review

Considerable development activity has been taking place across NSCJA in recent months, including the introduction and roll out of:

- The LS/CMI risk assessment and management tool,
- The National Outcomes and Standards,
- Community Payback Orders, and
- The new Criminal Justice Social Work Report

While it's still early to evaluate the progress or impact of these new initiatives, NSCJA felt it was important to capture the initial thoughts and key issues arising from implementation. A one day Development Review Event was held on 24th June, designed to consider what is going well, what is not and how can this be improved, what we have learned, and what are the next steps needed.

Managers and practitioners from social work services across NSCJA discussed these issues and listened to key speeches from Sheriff John Herald, who gave a sentencer's perspective on the initial impact of CPOs and welcomed the format of the new CJSW Report, and Deidre Watt, Head of the Effective Practice Unit at the Scottish Government Justice Directorate, who provided a view from the national perspective. A write up of the conclusions from the event is available and an action plan is being prepared.

Joint Event at HMP Greenock

In response to an action from the NSCJA action plan 2011/12, a half day multi agency event was held at HMP Greenock bringing together partners from different sectors to investigate ways of achieving strategic alignment across the six ADPs ,NSCJA and partners. The event was attended by 37 representatives from numerous partner agencies.



The programme for the event included presentations on both the ADP and CJA perspective with the bulk of the morning focussing on facilitated discussion groups looking at a suite of questions based around partnership working and setting joint outcomes.

Feedback indicates that the event was a success. NSCJA are committed to continuing the necessary work required to build on the outcomes of this event and look forward to a continued relationship with ADPs and partners in our area.