

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee – 20 August 2014

PERTH AND KINROSS RECONVICTION RATES – 2011/12

Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This paper advises Committee on the reconviction rates for Perth and Kinross for 2011-12, the most recent year for which figures are available.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Each year the Scottish Government publish reconviction rates in relation to Community Justice Authorities and to the individual authorities within CJA areas. The two key reconviction rates are the '1 year reconviction rate' and '1 year average number of reconvictions per defender' – or 'Frequency of reconviction rate'. It is the latter of these two rates which now attracts most attention from Government – not least because prolific offenders have a disproportionate impact upon the overall safety of communities.
- 1.2 Last year, we reported to Committee a very slight rise of 0.1% in our overall 'Reconviction rate', but a drop in our 'Frequency of reconviction rate' of some 0.6%. The Scottish Government have now decided, retrospectively, to include several new categories of offence, namely 'threatening or abusive behaviour', 'offences of stalking', 'threatening communications' – all previously excluded from Government calculations.

The net effect has been to retrospectively increase our '1 year reconviction rate' by 0.5% from 29.1% in 2009-10 to 29.6% in 2010-11. Similarly, our '1 year Frequency of reconviction rate' has now increased by 0.1% from 0.50% in 2009/10 to 0.51% in 2010/11.

As two of the offences in question only came into being in 2010 and the other two were introduced by statute in 2012, figures before 2010 are not affected. The introduction of these offences, however, has had a negative effect on the 2010 performance figure for this local authority and many others.

- 1.3 The most recent reconviction rates for Perth and Kinross, for 2011/12 were published in June of this year. They provide further evidence of the steady progress which has been made locally, since 2004, in reducing both our reconviction rate and the average number of reconvictions per offender. As figure 1 beneath indicates, there has been a slight reduction of some 0.2%, in the 1 year reconviction rate for Perth and Kinross, when compared to the figure for 2010-11. The overall Reconviction rate, however, has seen a drop of 2.1%.

Figure 1

1 year reconviction rate by area									
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Diff since 2004-5
Scotland	32.4	32.5	32.4	31.2	31.5	30.6	30.1	29.2	3.2
Tayside	33.9	36.3	37	33.7	36.5	34.4	35.3	32.6	1.3
Angus	29.2	33.9	33.8	29.7	33.4	34	33.8	31.3	-2.1
Dundee City	36.6	38.4	40.6	37.5	40.5	37.3	39.2	35.8	0.8
P&K	32.6	33.6	32.5	29.5	32	29.1	29.6	27.5	5.1

1 year average number of reconvictions per offender									
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Diff since 2004-5
Scotland	0.61	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.55	0.53	0.08
Tayside	0.67	0.72	0.75	0.67	0.77	0.68	0.69	0.61	0.06
Angus	0.52	0.66	0.66	0.56	0.7	0.7	0.71	0.67	-0.15
Dundee City	0.74	0.79	0.86	0.78	0.88	0.77	0.79	0.67	0.07
P&K	0.66	0.64	0.62	0.55	0.62	0.50	0.51	0.49	0.17

1.4 Figure 2 also clearly indicates that our 1 year Reconviction rate is now 1.7% below the Scottish average while our Frequency of reconviction rate sits at 0.4% below the Scottish average.

1.5 Our performance in relation to both our neighbouring local authorities and the Scottish average remains strong, but there is no room for complacency. As the Scottish Government's consultation on the future of the Community Justice System now moves into its formal redesign stage, so we will wish to build upon the lessons learned locally and within other local authority areas regarding those approaches towards Prevention and 'Breaking the cycle of reoffending' which appear to yield the most significant results.

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 In the light of the continuing progress made within Perth and Kinross towards reducing the impact of reoffending in our communities, the following proposals are now offered to Committee:-

- The Criminal Justice section continue to work closely with its partners in Police Scotland, The Scottish Prison Service, the Voluntary Sector, Health Board, Housing Service, Drug & Alcohol Services and, increasingly, communities in developing approaches which break the cycle of reoffending.

- Staff from this local authority develop relationships with other local authorities where steady progress has been achieved in reducing the frequency of reconviction rates in order to enhance our learning of 'What Works'.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The reducing reoffending figures for Perth and Kinross for 2011-12 provide encouragement for the emphasis placed, in recent years, upon bringing key agencies together in order to provide co-ordinated support and upon taking a broad approach towards the needs of those within our Criminal Justice system. Over the last 2 years, we have seen the introduction of the One Stop Women's Learning Service, and the introduction of Complex Case Integration Groups in five locations across the Council – building upon the success of the 'Right Track' project and the 'Short Term Prisoner Protocol'.
- 3.2 In the years ahead, we will endeavour to strengthen links between agencies and those communities which experience higher levels of crime as we seek to further reduce the numbers of those who become trapped in a cycle of worklessness, substance misuse, poor health and the Criminal Justice system.

In light of the foregoing, the following recommendations are offered to Committee:-

- That Community Justice partners extend the partnership work which has yielded continuous improvement and seek to learn from other areas approaches which may offer further gains
- That the Executive Director (Housing & Community Care) bring forward a further report to Committee in 12 months time on the reconviction rates for 2012-13.

Author(s)

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Approved

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	None
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	Yes
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	None
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals within this report support the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:-

- (i) *Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens*
- (iii) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations*

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 *This section should set out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:*

- (i) *Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;*
- (iii) *Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and*
- (v) *Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.*

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no immediate resource implications arising from the content of this paper.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no immediate workforce implications arising from the content of this paper.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no Asset Management arrangements arising from the content of this paper.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 The paper is relevant to the Equality Act 2010 in that the actions described within it serve to reduce or remove the following negative impacts:-
- The impact of crime, particularly upon communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation
 - The impact of other conditions associated with crime – including poorer health, substance misuse and poorer parenting

The paper is also assessed as relevant with the following positive outcomes expected:-

- Healthier citizens enabled to make a positive contribution to the community

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 Not applicable

Sustainability

- 3.3 The provisions of this report have some relevance to Sustainable Development, in that the Mentoring Service currently commissioned by the Criminal Justice Section is intended to recruit future mentors from the ranks of mentees, contributing to the long term sustainability of this project.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 Not applicable

Risk

- 3.5 There are no significant risks associated with the present paper

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The following persons/parties have been consulted on the preparation of this report:-

- The Chief Social Work Officer
- Head of Legal Services

External

4.2 The following persons/parties have been consulted on the preparation of this report:-

- Divisional Commander for Police Scotland
- The Governor of Perth Prison
- The General Manager of the Community Health Partnership

5. Communication

5.1 Not applicable

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Annual Scottish Government Bulletin on Reconviction Rates – a copy of which will be available in the Councillors' Lounge

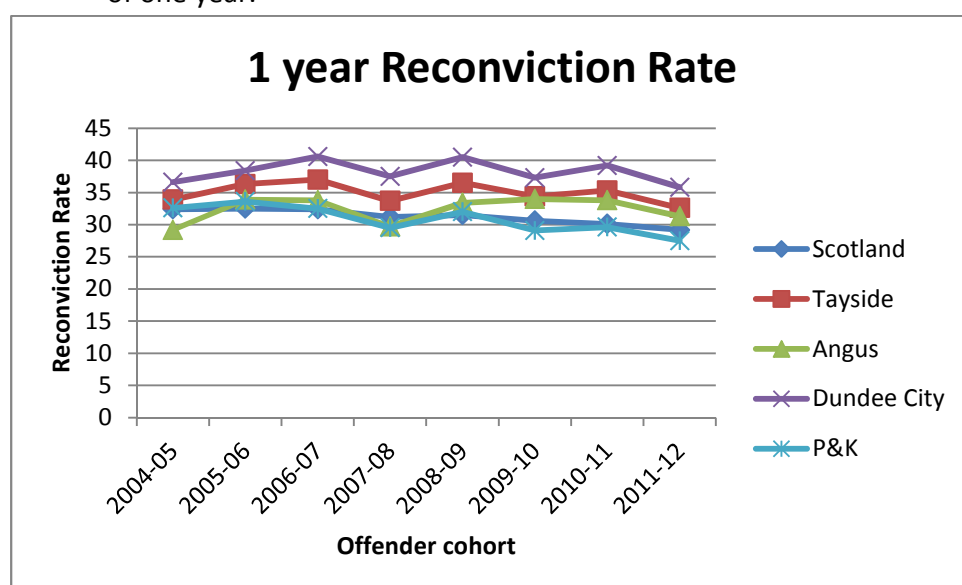
3. APPENDICES

Report to Tayside Community Justice Authority on Reconviction Rates, June 2014

Reconviction Summary

1. 1 year conviction rate

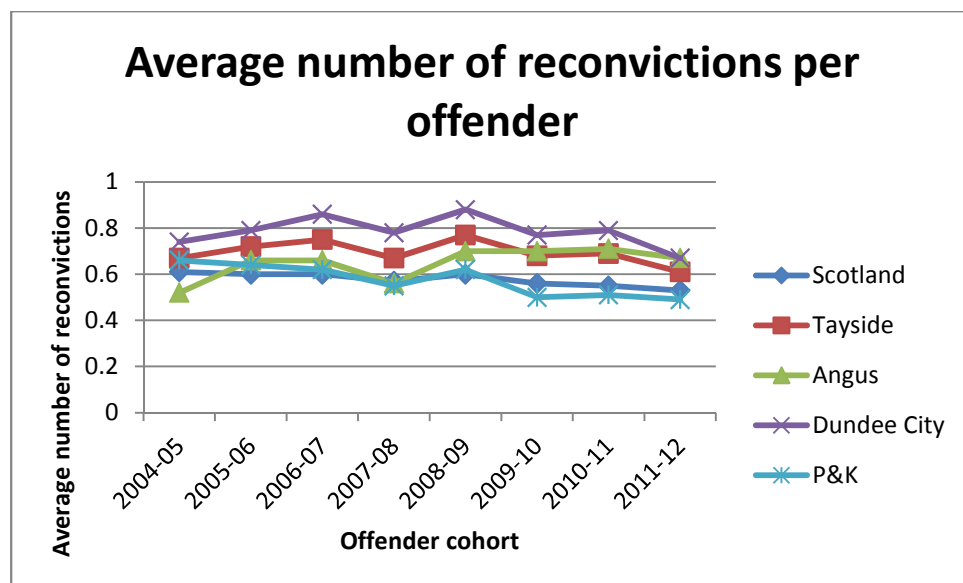
Reconviction rate –the percentage of offenders with index convictions from a court in the cohort who were reconvicted one or more times by a court within a follow up period of one year.



1 year reconviction rate by area									
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2. Average number of Reconvictions per offender

Average number of reconvictions per offender – in a cohort it is the total number of reconvictions from a court recorded within a follow up period of one year from the date of index convictions, divided by the total number of offenders in the cohort with index convictions from a court.



1 year average number of reconvictions per offender									
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Diff since 2004-5
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Note

The calculations of index offences and reconvictions now include new offences, which weren't included in calculations when last year's reconviction data was made available. Therefore, the revised figures from 2010 onwards, when the acts relating to the offences came into effect, are slightly higher than the figures previously reported. The new offences that have been included are "Threatening or abusive behaviour" and "Offence of stalking", which are part of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010; and "Offensive behaviour at football (under the Offensive behaviour at football and threatening communication Scotland Act 2012)", and "Threatening communications (under the Offensive behaviour at football and threatening communication Scotland Act 2012)".