



### Meet: The Lead Officer

Annie Torrance joined Strathclyde Police in July 2000. During her 14 years service she worked within the Maryhill and Possilpark areas of Glasgow.

Annie spent many years working as both a response and community police officer, gaining on the ground experience of people within the community justice sphere and the issues they face. Time spent working in specialist roles e.g. Community Safety, CCTV Liaison, Allocator to the Children's Panel and Case Management has also provided her with an in-depth understanding of the criminal justice system. Annie retired from Police Scotland in July 2014.

In April 2015, Annie took up post as a Community Service Officer for Renfrewshire Council, working within the Unpaid Work Service. This role provided her with an understanding of Criminal Justice Social Work and services available within Renfrewshire.

In April 2016, she began her role as Lead Officer Community Justice Renfrewshire. Since coming in to post she has carried out wider familiarization of community justice services in order to broaden her knowledge of the area and its needs.

In taking forward the new model of Community Justice within Renfrewshire, Annie has assisted Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership in bringing together and supporting the defined range of partner agencies, who are responsible for ensuring appropriate actions to address re-offending in Renfrewshire. This has included the provision of the Renfrewshire Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan to Community Justice Scotland by 31 March 2017. She is also leading on work on behalf of the steering group and is planning public engagement events in the coming months. This is to raise the profile of Community Justice Renfrewshire and encourage involvement from stakeholders and the wider community.



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## The opportunity to create a better community

# Welcoming Community Justice to Renfrewshire

### What is community justice?

Community justice is protecting the community, as well as delivering justice for the victims of offending and about making our communities feel safer. It's about working with people with convictions to give them the support and help they need to reduce the risk of re-offending.

When we talk about community justice, we mean all the people and organisations that work together to support victims and families affected by crime and who support manage and supervise people who have committed offences from arrest through to the sentence they receive in court and on to their rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community.

### Why a community justice approach?

The Community Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 received Royal Assent on 21 March 2016. Its purpose, to make provision about community justice, establishing a new national body (Community Justice Scotland) to oversee community justice and introduce requirements in relation to the achievement of particular national

and locally determined outcomes, and to provide national, professional and strategic leadership for community justice in Scotland.

Under the new model, the Community Justice Authorities were disestablished on 31 March 2017. New community justice arrangements were put in place from 1 April 2017 at both a national and local level. This places a duty on statutory partners to have regard to the National Strategy for Community Justice, and work together to plan their work and report on how they are performing.

Community Justice Renfrewshire was created in response to the Act and is now firmly established within Renfrewshire's robust Community Planning arrangements. Our community justice local outcomes improvement plan outlines our priorities and forward actions in how we intend to work together to reduce offending and re-offending within Renfrewshire.

We are committed to working with the local community to identify local priorities and take action to reduce

offending and reoffending in Renfrewshire.

### What are our priorities?

We will continue to develop a commissioning approach to community justice services in Renfrewshire as we develop our understanding of local needs and consult with our stakeholders.

Our key priorities have been identified from within Renfrewshire's existing community plan, our strategic needs assessment and our interaction with stakeholders.

### We will focus on

- Prevention and earlier intervention
- Reduce offending and reoffending
- Increase awareness of Community Justice Renfrewshire and its role.

### Key Priorities

- Employability
- Alternatives to custody
- Homelessness for prison leavers
- Gender based violence
- Support to children and families

For more information please visit: [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communityjustice](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/communityjustice)

## Who are Community Justice Renfrewshire?



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## Working In Partnership with: Families Outside

**Families Outside** is an independent charity which has been helping prisoners' families in Scotland for over 20 years. They offer support and information to families affected by imprisonment.

Families Outside is the only national charity in Scotland that works solely to support the families of people affected by imprisonment. They work to mitigate the effects of imprisonment on children and families – and consequently to reduce the likelihood of reoffending – through support and information for families and for the people who work with them.

Imprisonment can be a traumatic experience for families, and its impact is often significant and enduring.

This can include:

- Risk to housing;
- Financial pressures;
- Problems in caring for children and the impact on the 27,000 children who lose a parent to imprisonment each year;
- Anxiety, distress and health problems;
- Rejection, stigma, and victimisation by neighbours and the community.

Families affected by imprisonment face a process of grief and readjustment throughout the course of arrest, trial, imprisonment and release. They often have difficulty getting the information and support they need to make them feel in control during periods of crisis and stress.

Families Outside supports children and families affected by imprisonment through:

- Families Outside Support & Information Helpline
- Regional Family Support Coordinators providing direct support to children and families throughout Scotland
- Bespoke training and awareness-raising
- Development of policy and practice
- Campaigning and research

They've  
been sent  
to prison.

families  
outside

Don't know where to turn?  
Need support or information?

**0800 254 0088**

Families Outside offers support and information to families affected by imprisonment.

Helpline 0800 254 0088  
Email support@familiesoutside.org.uk  
Chat private webchat service  
Text text FAMOUT then your message to 60777  
Website www.familiesoutside.org.uk



Families Outside is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland No. 230519 and is recognised as a Scottish charity by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator No. SC025366.



### Partnership Working in Renfrewshire

Between September 2016 and March 2017 Community Justice Renfrewshire has been working in partnership with Families Outside. Funding provided by NHSGGC who are a Community Justice Partner, enabled Families Outside to provide training to around 80 Renfrewshire staff members. This included Health and Social Care workers, Criminal Justice Social Work, and Families First team members. The purpose of this was to promote better outcomes for families by raising awareness of the issues facing families when a significant person is sent to prison; and by increasing understanding of ways to support them.

In December 2016 a training event was held with HMP Low Moss specifically aimed at teachers, 18 teachers from Renfrewshire attended. The aim of this session was to explore the impact that imprisonment of a close relative can have on children and to learn how school communities can provide key support for them and their carers. This event provided;

- an opportunity to visit a prison and to enter into the stories of children affected;
- an insight into the issues facing children and families who have a close relative in prison;
- And practical ways in which teachers

and school communities can help families affected.

Feedback from participants of the training sessions was extremely positive and requests are already coming in for future dates.

### Publications

Families Outside published a new resource for children of primary school age affected by parental imprisonment. Written by Edinburgh children's author, Mike Nicholson, and illustrated by Edinburgh College of Art graduate, Lily Wu Siying, *My Diary* follows a week in the life of a young boy whose father is in prison. The book explores some of the issues and emotions experienced by a child in this situation. These include difficulties with trust, the isolation of carrying the "secret" of a having a parent in prison, feelings of guilt, worry, and the sense of relief that they feel when they talk about their experiences and get the right support. *My Diary* addresses what it is like for children when they have a parent in prison at significant occasions such as birthdays and Christmas. Community Justice Renfrewshire are distributing this resource to its Education and Children's and Families Social Work staff.

The poster above was produced, along with business cards, which are being distributed throughout the Renfrewshire area. This is to raise awareness of the support and services available to families affected by imprisonment in Renfrewshire.