

Vision for Justice Framework Thematic

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The Vision for Justice in Scotland: Three Year Delivery Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26, Scottish Government, 6th November 2023: Link [here](#)

The Vision for Justice in Scotland: Measurement Framework, Scottish Government, 6th November 2023: Link [here](#)

Context

- The Vision for Justice was published in 2022 and set out the Government's transformative vision for the justice sector for this parliamentary term and beyond and was accompanied by a Year One Delivery Plan setting out the existing commitments, at that time, from justice agencies.
- The purpose of this Three Year Delivery Plan is to build on the Year One Delivery Plan, providing a high level overview of work being undertaken across the justice sector over the subsequent three years up to March 2026.
- In April 2023 the Government set out their priorities under [Equality, opportunity, community: New Leadership – A Fresh Start](#) where the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs reaffirmed the commitment to the Vision for Justice and set out 11 outcomes. These outcomes are aligned to the aims set out in the Vision for Justice.
- In September 2023 the Government published the [Programme for Government](#) for the year and associated '[mandate letters](#)'. These letters set out a new approach of how we deliver as a government, agreeing the commitments to be undertaken in the months ahead between the First Minister and each Cabinet Secretary.
- The measurement framework is a tool to allow monitoring of high-level progress against the aims in the Vision for Justice in Scotland over the long term. The indicators in each area are indicative of the change expected and is not a comprehensive audit of all measures that could indicate change.

Summary/Findings - Three Year Delivery Plan

- Three Transformational Change Programmes were highlighted as key to achieve the aims of the Vision for Justice. These TCPs reflect the priorities of Ministers and the wider sector as a subset of work which aims to deliver some of the outcomes set out in the Vision for Justice:
 - **Person-Centred Trauma-Informed** – desired outcomes include:
 - Victims feel like they have been treated with compassion.
 - Victims' voices are heard.
 - Victims feel informed about their case and know what their rights are.
 - Victims feel safe.
 - Victims are given choices.
 - **Shifting the Balance Between Custody & Community** – desired outcomes include:
 - Shift the balance between custody and community.
 - Reduce reoffending.

Vision for Justice Framework Thematic (continued)

Summary/Findings - Three Year Delivery Plan (continued)

- **Criminal Justice System Efficiency** – desired outcomes include:
 - Reduce delays: cases progress through the system to appropriate conclusion as quickly as possible.
 - Increased effectiveness: everyone involved in the justice sector has an improved experience and staff time is used on value added tasks.
 - Increased availability of data and information: data and information is easily accessible when needed.
 - Increased use of digital: more justice services and processes are delivered digitally.
- Five aims for the plan have been outlined. Police Scotland/The Authority have the greatest level of responsibility on the following:
 - **Person-Centred and Trauma-Informed** – 30 actions have been published. **9 of these are the direct responsibility of Police Scotland.**
 - Introducing the Scottish Child Interview Model via the national delivery of the Scottish Child Interview Model in all partnerships in Scotland (Q4 23-24), the National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Team building capacity within training cohorts (Q4 23-24), work with key stakeholders to embed a learning culture and continuous improvement through a commitment to multi-agency evaluation of JII (Q4 23-24), commencing the review to update the existing National JII Guidance to complement the Scottish Child Interview Model (Q4 23-24).
 - Monitoring and evaluating the use of police powers under the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act (ACRA) via commencement of remedial work following Year 1 learning review, a full report on the review of cases relating to increasing the ACR to be submitted to Scottish Government, a Year 2 data report compilation and submission to Scottish Government (all Q4 23-24) and a data report in Year 3 (Q4 24-25).
 - Reviewing the standard prosecution report (Q3 23-24)
 - **Safe** – 16 actions have been published. **6 of these are the direct responsibility of Police Scotland/the Authority:**
 - Communicating and coordinating work through the Serious Organised Crime Strategy via the publication of public-facing Scottish Multi Agency Strategic Threat Assessment (SMASTA) (Q3 24-25).
 - Supporting Policing Together via the publication of the Joint Mainstreaming and Equality Outcomes Progress Report which sets out how Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (the Authority) is making progress with its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Q1 23-24) and the publication of the first (Q1 23-24) and second (Q4 23-24) reports from the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Human Rights Independent Review Group (IRG).
 - Acting on findings of the HMICS Thematic Review of the servicing of mental health demand on policing via the Police Scotland Mental Wellbeing Strategy (Q4 23-24) and increasing the number of referrals to Enhanced Mental Health Pathway to best support those in mental health distress (Q4 23-24).

Vision for Justice Framework Thematic (continued)

Summary/Findings - Three Year Delivery Plan (continued)

- COVID-19 Recovery – 14 actions have been published. **6 of these are the direct responsibility of Police Scotland/the Authority:**
 - Delivering a digital pathway from crime scene to courtroom for Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) via evaluation of the Dundee pilot (Q3 23-24) and rolling out DESC platform across Scotland (Q4 24-25).
 - Rolling out body worn cameras to front line Police Scotland officers and staff from contract award (Q2 23-24) to Phase 1 rollout to front line officers and staff (Q2 24-25 to Q2 25-26) and Phase 2 rollout to remaining staff and officers (Q2 25/26 to Q1 26-27).
 - Supporting Blue Light Collaboration as a way in which emergency services can realise further efficiencies while also enhancing community safety, via delivery of an outline business case that will identify any potential areas for shared services between Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Q1 24-25).
- Police Scotland/the Authority have lesser responsibilities in **Prevention and Early Intervention (1 responsibility)**, and **Rehabilitation (1 responsibility)**.

Summary/Findings - Measurement Framework

- Headline indicators are presented by group:
 - **We have a society in which people feel, and are, safer in their communities and the victims of crime and harm are heard and supported:**
 - Police recorded crime is **down 13% since 2013-14**. The total number of crimes recorded by the police in Scotland in 2022-23 was 289,352.
 - 77% of adults felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark in 2019/20 – this is higher for men (90%) than women (65%).
 - Around 1 in 8 (11.9%) adults experienced at least one crime in 2019/20.
 - **54% of adults** said the justice system provides victims of crime with the services and support they need in 2019/20
 - **We work together to address the underlying causes of crime and support everyone to live full and healthy lives:**
 - In 2019/20, those from the 15% most deprived areas were **5.3 percentage points more likely to experience any crime than the rest of Scotland**.
 - In 2019/20, 44% of victims reported the offender was under the influence of drink or drugs.
 - **We have effective, modern person-centred and trauma-informed approaches to justice in which everyone can have trust, including as victims, those accused of crimes and as individuals in civil disputes:**
 - 55% of adults in Scotland believed the police in their local area were doing an 'excellent' or 'good' job in 2019/20.
 - **75% of adults were confident** that the justice system makes sure everyone has access to the justice system if they need it in 2019/20.

Vision for Justice Framework Thematic (continued)

Summary/Findings - Measurement Framework (continued)

- We support rehabilitation, use custody only where there is no alternative and work to reduce reoffending and revictimization:
 - In Q4 of 2022/23, 15.9% of disposals were community disposals.
 - In 2021/22, there were **22 young people in young offenders institutes**.
 - On 1 September 2023, the **remand population was 2,225** (28% of the total prison population).
 - In 2021/22, there were 851 commencements for statutory throughcare cases in the community, and 854 commencements for statutory throughcare in custody.
 - In 2018/19, 66% of individuals with a current disposal had at least one other disposal in the last three years.
- We address the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to renew and transform justice:
 - In 2022/23 data, from offence to verdict, median high court journey times were 1062 days, Sheriff solemn 524 days, Sheriff summary 312 days and JP court 303 days.
 - By August 2023 the number of scheduled trials (as a proxy for the court backlog) had fallen by nearly 16,000 (-15,754 or -36%) since January 2022.
- **Previous Oversight by the Authority**
 - In [November 2022](#), the Authority and PS hosted a roundtable event to discuss how we can work together to reduce the number of children under 18 who are held in police custody cells as the only available place of safety.
 - In [April 2023](#), the Authority convened a conference on mental health and trauma in policing.
 - At [PPC September 2023](#), requests were made of Police Scotland by the Authority regarding enhanced reporting and insights around variation, prioritisation and resource allocation.

Future Oversight by the Authority

- Authority staff and PS colleagues are preparing a public briefing on trauma informed approaches.
- The Corporate Parenting Plan will be presented at [December PPC](#) with intended launch in 2024.
- Potential requirement for the Authority to map the PS performance framework to the Justice Vision framework.
- The CEO of the Authority is a member of the Scottish Justice Board and is involved in supporting the Scottish Government on development and delivery of vision and delivery plan. This role is ongoing and will continue to support future Scottish Government progress.

Vision for Justice Framework Thematic (continued)

Future Oversight by the Authority (continued)

- The Authority 's Head of Change & Operational Scrutiny is to join the Criminal Justice Programme Board to help oversee delivery of change and transformation – notably Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) and Body Worn Video (BWV).
- Updates on requests regarding enhanced reporting and insights around variation, prioritisation and resource allocation shall be provided/sought at [PPC December 2023](#) and future PPCs.

External Sources

- Policing Insight - [Vision for Justice in Scotland: measurement framework](#) - 6th November 2023