



## Short briefing - Enabling the leverage of resources for community justice

In a financially challenging environment, it is crucial that community justice local outcome improvement plans contain evidence-based local priorities and that community justice partners, locally and nationally, work effectively together to leverage resource and improve outcomes for people.

CJS published its [Strategic Commissioning Framework](#) in May 2020 to support partners to put the best provision in place to support people in and on the edges of the justice system. Systemic and comprehensive approaches to commissioning as described in the framework enable synergy from multiple partners and the leverage of resources.

Some areas are beginning to leverage partnership resources including funding and personnel, but this isn't yet widespread. The following examples of good practice for leveraging resources were referenced in the [CJS Outcome Activity Annual Report 2020-21](#):

- Glasgow, for example, has a collaborative commissioning strategy and, through extensive involvement with partners, has progressed three improvement plans which relate to diversion from prosecution, bail support and Presumption Against Short Sentences (PASS).
- A range of community justice services is delivered by third sector organisations through commissioning arrangements in Edinburgh.
- In Scottish Borders Justice Social Work concluded the commissioning of employment and training support with the third sector organisation Works+.
- Nine areas specifically referenced funding assistance from [Connecting Scotland](#) for IT equipment such as tablets and mobile phones to be distributed and used by those engaging with their services. Other areas mentioned attempts to facilitate access and engagement by sourcing devices from local community and third sector organisations and national third sector organisations. Additionally, some areas tried to upskill digital literacy as part of CPO 'other activity'. The [practice examples](#) provide further detail on how partnerships leveraged resources to support the populations they worked with and improve digital inclusion
- There are several areas in which the desire to be data-driven and to deliver evidence-based practice is clear. There is evidence of areas actively working with academics, institutions and consultants to enhance the use of data and evidence-based practice within partnerships and individual partner organisations. Similarly, there are [some examples](#) of partnerships leveraging analytical resource from partners to support and promote the use of evidence and data.

Priority Action 11 in the [National Strategy for Community Justice](#) asks partners to *“Deliver improved community justice outcomes by ensuring that effective leadership and governance arrangements are in place and working well, collaborating with partners and planning strategically”* CJS will continue to support the sharing of practices and experiences about leveraging resources in relation to this action.