

4 September 2023

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Extension to Timeline for Commissioning of Voluntary Throughcare and Mentoring Services

As you may recall from a joint letter sent in April 2022, the Scottish Government (SG) has an agreement with Community Justice Scotland (CJS) for CJS to conduct a review and research process on third sector throughcare services funded by the Scottish Government Justice Directorate. CJS will make recommendations to Scottish Ministers for future commissioning of such services, and subsequently take forward a commissioning process for future services.

We are writing to inform you of a change to the timeline for the commissioning of voluntary sector throughcare and mentoring services. The SG and CJS have agreed a one-year extension to the project, meaning that the first year of operation for any new services commissioned through this process will now begin on 1 April 2025.

The extension has been agreed to ensure the review fully reflects the changing dynamic of people within the prison estate and supports the complexity and scope of the work required. It also responds to the views expressed by stakeholders regarding the grant application and handover periods.

Extending the project will provide the necessary time to ensure organisations have the opportunity to develop high quality proposals for consideration in the commissioning process. It will also allow sufficient time for any transition period that may be required once decisions about future services have been made.



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We believe this revised timeline is the best way of ensuring an effective commissioning process, and that any future service(s) will be able to fully meet the needs of the people accessing it from day one.

The current national third sector throughcare service providers have agreed in principle to continue delivery during 2024/25 while the future commissioning process continues, and the SG will maintain support for these services during that time, subject to the Parliamentary budget process. This will allow for continuity of support for people who access these services.

CJS and the SG will work jointly with the current national providers on funding and monitoring arrangements for 2024-25.

We will update you as the work progresses and indicative revised dates will be communicated shortly. If you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah Dickson, Interim Head of Commissioning at Hannah.Dickson@communityjustice.scot.

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