

# Why Involve the Third Sector in Reducing Reoffending?

## INTRODUCTION

The third sector plays a key role in the delivery of criminal justice services that reduce reoffending. However, there is still a lack of understanding about what the third sector does and **why** it is particularly effective in this area. This paper, written by The Robertson Trust for the Scottish Third Sector Research Forum, aims to unearth and critically examine the available evidence and uses case study examples to demonstrate the criteria that account for the third sector's effectiveness. The paper is the second in a series by the Research Forum which aims to demonstrate the role that the third sector can play in delivering services that meet the needs of those who use them across Scotland.

This paper on reducing reoffending comes at a particularly important time. The report of the Christie Commission into the future delivery of public services was published in June 2011 (Public Services Commission, 2011) and the Scottish Government published its response in September 2011 (Scottish Government, 2011a). With the emphasis on partnership working, as a way of meeting the needs of service users and a focus on prevention, clear opportunities have been identified for the third sector within the whole public service reform agenda.

In terms of community justice, it is vital that the evidence for the efficacy of third sector services is understood. The Review of Community Justice Funding is due to report in August. The Reducing Reoffending Change Fund has been established to put early intervention and prevention at the heart of service delivery. The Scottish Government's *Reducing Reoffending Programme* is looking closely at the evidence of what works and later this year, Audit Scotland is due to publish its report on Approaches to Reducing Reoffending. **This paper therefore provides an important and timely contribution to understanding the role of the third sector in delivering services that reduce reoffending.**

## THE EVIDENCE BASE

This paper is based on a rapid review of literature and evidence from third sector initiatives to reduce reoffending. While a number of externally evaluated initiatives were identified as part of this review, it is important to note that the evidence base in this area is relatively limited with the vast majority of the initiatives currently being delivered by third sector organisations in Scotland not having undergone a robust review. Accordingly, the findings from this paper are derived from a relatively narrow evidence base and represent only a starting point for understanding the role played by the third sector in reducing reoffending. Supporting more organisations to evaluate their work will help the role of the third sector in this area to be better understood and accordingly, is a key objective for the Forum moving forward. While the case studies selected in this paper highlight the effectiveness of the third sector in delivering services that help to reduce reoffending, the Forum also recognises the value of learning from third sector approaches that have been less effective. This learning is discussed in the 'Challenges and Barriers' section of the paper.

## **THIRD SECTOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS**

Third sector organisations have a long track record of delivering interventions that reduce the likelihood of reoffending (NPC, 2009). A significant number of third sector organisations currently operate in Scotland which work with offenders, both while they are in and after they leave prison<sup>1</sup>. They successfully engage with, and give a voice to, some of the most socially excluded people in society. Through a range of methods including group work, one to one support and peer mentoring, these organisations provide offenders with information on, and support with, the issues widely recognised as affecting their likelihood of reoffending (Scottish Government, 2006). These include:

- Physical and mental well-being
- Housing and accommodation
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Literacy
- Employability
- Relationships with family, peers and communities
- Finance and budgeting
- Independent living
- Attitudes and behaviours

Importantly, the third sector offers a range of interventions for offenders that are being largely unmet by the public sector. These interventions are wide ranging and include providing practical and emotional support for offenders and their families, delivering skill based training sessions, offering through the gate services and running restorative justice programmes. Third sector organisations also provide a vital advocacy role for people in the criminal justice system, keeping them informed of their rights and campaigning for better treatment.

## **ATTRIBUTES OF THE THIRD SECTOR**

The third sector has a number of unique and positive attributes that differentiates it from the public and private sector. A distinctive feature of the third sector is that it is value driven, characterised by a strong sense of ethics and prioritises the needs of people over all other objectives. Third sector organisations are formed when like-minded people come together to bring about social change and improve people's lives. They are often led by local people who, in many cases, have been personally affected by the issues the organisation is addressing and therefore are able to influence the direction and strategy of the organisation from a user perspective. People working in the third sector regularly report higher levels of job satisfaction than people from other sectors and often display passion for and a high level of commitment to their work. This section outlines the key characteristics of the third sector that makes it particularly effective at delivering services that reduce reoffending.

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<sup>1</sup> A high number of third sector organisations in Scotland also deliver services aimed at diverting people away from the criminal justice system. This paper focuses solely on third sector organisations that work with people who are in or have been in the criminal justice system and accordingly, these diversionary/ early intervention services are outwith the scope of the current paper.

## 1. Responsiveness and flexibility

A key strength of the third sector is that it is largely free of bureaucratic processes, which gives it a level of flexibility that agencies in the public sector do not have. This flexibility enables third sector organisations to put offenders at the centre of the services they deliver and to tailor these services around an offender's specific needs. **Barnardo's 'Women on Focus'** project (Case Study A) demonstrates the service's ability to identify and provide offenders with the extra support they need to comply with statutory requirements. The third sector is characterised by a high level of service user involvement. This enables third sector organisations to stay fully informed of the issues affecting offenders and where required, to quickly adapt their services in response to changing needs. **'The Moving On Renfrewshire'** project (Case study B) demonstrates the impact of listening and being able to respond quickly to service users' needs.

## 2. Innovation

The third sector's freedom from bureaucratic processes also enables it to be more creative and innovative in its ways of working. **The 'Timebank' initiative** (Case study C) whereby prisoners can earn credits through engaging in volunteer work, which can then be donated to people in their local community, provides one example of an innovative approach that the third sector has introduced to working with offenders. Through their close relationships with their clients, third sector organisations are in a unique position to identify unmet need in current service provision and to develop and pilot new approaches to working with offenders. **Turning Point Scotland's '218' project** (Case study D), which takes a person-centred approach to working with female offenders, provides another example of innovation within the sector. The third sector can also play a vital role in assessing the effectiveness of these pilots, and sharing best practice with other service providers. Where pilot initiatives prove effective, they may later be adopted by public agencies as standard practice. For example, drug treatment programmes for offenders in England which were originally piloted by third sector organisations have since become a core part of public sector provision (NPC, 2004).

## 3. Connectivity and Community Assets

Services that help offenders to develop positive social networks are recognised as being effective in reducing reoffending (Scottish Government, 2011). A particular strength of the third sector is the strong roots that many organisations have in local communities. Their knowledge and understanding of the local community helps offenders to stay connected during their time in prison. It also helps offenders to reintegrate back into the community and engage with other mainstream support services once they are released. Third sector organisations often provide the only point of continuity for offenders during this difficult transitional period. **The Wise Group's 'Routes out of Prison'** project (Case study E) highlights the impact of bridging the gap between prison and community. Third sector organisations also provide a vital role in helping offenders to maintain or re-build positive relationships with their families. **Circle Scotland's 'Families Affected by Imprisonment'** project (Case study F) demonstrates the impact of taking a full family approach when working with offenders.

#### 4. Partnership Working

Third sector organisations often play a key role in strengthening and developing links between statutory and third sector provision. Through offering additional support to offenders, third sector organisations can help to improve the effectiveness of the work done by public sector agencies. The third sector's ability to work across organisational silos ensures that offenders are able to receive joined-up support from multiple agencies. This in turn ensures that offenders benefit from holistic interventions that address their multiple needs, which research highlights is more likely to be effective in reducing reoffending than addressing needs in isolation (Scottish Government, 2011). **Access to Industry's 'Passport' project** (Case Study G) demonstrates how building partnerships with a range of local agencies can enable offenders to access a range of support and positive opportunities. The third sector's focus on partnership working also enables it to improve the capacity of the criminal justice sector. **The Partnership Development Initiative** (Case Study H) demonstrates how improving collaboration within and between sectors and sharing resources, can positively impact on the effectiveness of both third sector and public sector criminal justice services.

#### 5. Trust and Relationships

A key strength of the third sector is its independence from the public sector. Unlike public sector agencies who have multiple responsibilities when working with offenders (including maintaining discipline and enforcing child protection orders), third sector organisations are able to focus solely on addressing the needs of offenders. This can make it easier for offenders to trust third sector organisations and develop the close relationships with staff that are needed for them to fully engage with services. **Aberlour's 'Mother and Baby' project** (Case Study I) demonstrates that the non-judgemental and respectful approach taken by third sector staff can be effective in helping offenders who would not normally chose to do so to engage with criminal justice initiatives. **Sacro's 'Supported Accommodation Service'**(Case Study J) demonstrates that the relationship of trust and respect that offenders are able to build with third sector staff can contribute to them not re-offending.

#### CASE STUDIES

The following case studies have been selected as they provide an overview of the different roles that third sector organisations play in helping to reduce reoffending and the range of people they support. Recognising the many difficulties in drawing clear conclusions from data about "what works" in reducing reoffending, researchers increasingly advise that instead of focussing solely on a project's outcomes, evaluations should examine "how" and "why" an intervention works and which aspects of it help offenders to desist from reoffending (Scottish Government, 2011b). Accordingly, the following case studies aim to offer examples of the types of approaches taken by third sector organisations in working with offenders and why they are effective. More information on the evidence base for each of the case studies has been included in **Appendix 1**

### **Case Study A: Barnardo's 'Women in Focus' project**

**Barnardo's Women in Focus project** offers support to women subject to community-based Court Orders in the South West Scotland Community Justice Authority (CJA) area. The service has three operational objectives which are to reduce levels of breach and levels of custody for women, reduce rates of reoffending and re-conviction for women and support women towards positive community reintegration.

The service operates in partnership between Barnardo's and Criminal Justice Social Work Services across four local authority areas. The Women in Focus Support Workers work alongside Criminal Justice Social Work staff to identify the issues in women's lives with which they required help to complete court orders and offers practical and emotional support to achieve set outcomes. Many women had experienced a range of difficulties leading up to their involvement in the criminal justice system and often had encountered interventions from a number of agencies at various points in their lives. Where the women require additional support, Women in Focus workers liaise with and help the women to connect with appropriate agencies.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the 'Women in Focus' project (Burgess, C. et al, 2011) indicates that the project has contributed to reductions in offending behaviour amongst service users with reductions in breach rates being recorded in three of the four local authorities where it is operating. Other positive outcomes reported by service users include securing stable accommodation, reducing substance misuse and improving their personal situation in relation to exposure to domestic violence. The service ended in June 2011.

### **Case Study B: Action for Children's 'Moving On Renfrewshire' Project**

**'Moving On Renfrewshire'** started as a partnership between Action for Children, Fairbridge and the Prince's Trust as a response to the significant number of individual voluntary organisations working in Polmont YOI. Eligible young people are identified as soon as possible after they enter custody. A 'youth work' approach is taken to support the young offenders and linkages are made with other services both during and after custody.

The project is designed to respond to the young people's individual needs. Project staff initially ensure that the basic needs of the young people are met, such as housing, benefits, and health requirements. They then work to address issues known to be relevant to offending such as low self-esteem, poor communication skills and employability skills. Support workers work alongside local partners including Renfrewshire Council and other voluntary organisations to ensure the young people are able to access the support they need. Many clients commented that the project workers supported them to make their own decisions and take control over their future. The project has now been expanded to two neighbouring local authority areas through the establishment of a Public Social Partnership.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the 'Moving On Renfrewshire' Project (Hutton, L. et al, 2011) found high levels of voluntary engagement with 81% of the young people who were referred to the project engaging with it in prison and 75% continuing to engage with it post-release. The project was found to contribute towards reductions in reoffending rates, improved physical and mental wellbeing and improved personal relationships.

### **Case Study C: Time Banks UK 'Timebank' Initiative**

**Time Bank** is a joint venture between Volunteer Development Scotland and Time Banks UK. The initiative offers a way for people to come together in their communities to share talents in a mutually beneficial way. Participants earn time credits for every hour they spend doing voluntary work and these credits can then be used to 'buy' help from other people involved in the scheme. Instead of spending the credits on themselves, the offenders involved in the project donate them to family, friends or vulnerable groups within their local communities.

This innovative project is currently operating in six prisons in Scotland. Prisoners are able to earn time credits in a wide range of ways. For example, in Castle Huntly prisoners earn time credits through supporting peers as Samaritan Listeners, Literacy Tutors or working on the prison magazine. By joining the scheme prisoners keep links with their local communities and are able to provide support to their families.

**Findings:** Evidence from the project suggests that the prisoners' contribution to the community can improve their own self-image and help them develop a more positive identity. The fact prisoners receive feedback from projects who have used their 'time' has been highlighted by HM Inspectorate of Prisons as an example of best practice in the project (HMIP, 2008).

### **Case Study D: Turning Point Scotland's '218' Service**

**Turning Point Scotland's '218' service** is a residential and day programme that is delivered in partnership with Glasgow Addiction Services. The majority of women referred to the service have drug or alcohol problems and have been in contact with the criminal justice system in the past year. All of the women present with multiple complex issues which will include physical, mental and social needs. The project aims to address the root cause of offending for woman and takes a person-centred approach in dealing with the issues that women offenders face.

The innovative service has a 12 bed residential unit and a day service programme which provides a range of compulsory and optional group work sessions and one-to-one support. Access is also available to a clinic which deals with detoxification and stabilisation of their addiction. There is a range of health interventions available to address the mental and physical health issues, which includes a visiting dietician, a visiting chiropodist, a sessional psychiatrist, part time psychologist, a daily doctor and nurses. Regular progress reviews are carried out by the group of community workers who oversee each individual. The relationship-led approach is seen to be a key element of the service, supporting women towards increased self-respect, self-determination, responsibility, raising expectations and self-esteem.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the 218 service (Easton, H. and Matthews, R., 2010) found that women who engaged with the service reported reductions in their offending behaviour. Additionally, service users have reported reductions in substance misuse and violent behaviour and improvements in their relationships with their families and children. The project has recently been highlighted by the Commission on Women Offenders as an example of best practice in supporting women offenders.

### **Case Study E: The Wise Group's 'Routes out of Prison' project**

**The Wise Group's 'Routes out of Prison project' (Roop)** provides throughcare support for offenders due to be released from prison. Through peer mentoring the project aims to help offenders to gain the life, social and employment skills they need to resume their place within their family and society. Offenders receive throughcare support from Life Coaches, many of whom themselves have a background of offending and use their personal experiences to help offenders reconnect with their communities. The service is targeted at prisoners serving short-term sentences of between 3 months and 4 years and currently operates in seven prisons across Scotland.

The project offers clients a 'through the gate' support service whereby community based Life Coaches meet with the client at least twice in the prison before they are released, to establish a working relationship and outline a plan of action. Following the client's release, the Community Life Coach will help them to access appropriate services, accompany them to appointments, advocate on their behalf and provide practical assistance, emotional support, praise and encouragement. In this sense Roop successfully provides a 'bridging model' of support from the prison to the community and to other community services.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the Routes Out of Prison Project (Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre for Scotland, 2011) found that the project may contribute to reductions in reoffending, especially where service users continue to engage with it in the community. Other positive outcomes achieved by service users included engagement with education, employment or training services, securing accommodation after release from prison and accessing health or addiction services.

### **Case Study F: Circle Scotland's 'Families Affected by Imprisonment' Project**

**Circle Scotland's 'Families Affected by Imprisonment' project (FABI)** provides throughcare support for women with children, while they are in and after they leave prison. The service offers women information and support on a range of issues including drug and alcohol misuse, child custody issues and housing provision. Service users particularly highlight their need for an advocate. Many clients feel frustrated at their contact with other services in that they feel poorly informed, not kept up-to-date with decisions being taken that affect themselves and their families, or simply not being listened to. Therefore, for some clients having Circle staff approach other services in order to obtain information for their client and/or explain client concerns is an important need.

Users of Circle's FABI project state they feel more able to discuss topics with their Circle worker than they can with workers from other services and perceive Circle staff to be non-judgemental, honest and willing to go the extra mile. Specifically, users highlight that they feel like Circle workers listen to them and kept them involved in what is going on, especially with regard to custody of their children and other issues. They also view workers as being more dependable than other services, as they always turn up and never miss meetings.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the FABI project (Hutton, L. and Nugent, B., 2011) found the project achieved high levels of voluntary engagement with 85% of women who accessed the project in prison continuing to do so after their release. The evaluation also suggests that the project may help contribute to reductions in offending behaviour.

### **Case Study G: Access to Industry's 'Passport' programme**

**Access to Industry's Passport project** operates in Polmont YOI and HMP Edinburgh and provides through the gate support for offenders returning to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The project engages with offenders 4 to 6 months before they are released from prison and aims to give them the support they need to move into employment or education. Service users are assigned a dedicated Passport Caseworker who works with them on a 1 to 1 basis while they are in prison and continues to engage with them in the community after their release.

Partnership working lies at the core of the Passport service. Passport Caseworkers work in partnership with a variety of agencies both in prison and the community to ensure the service users are able to access the support they need. For example, the project has developed strong relationships with a range of partners in Edinburgh and Glasgow, including local regeneration agencies, colleges and employers through which they are able to offer service users a menu of training and work placement opportunities. In addition to improving the employability skills of the people who engage with the project, these local partnerships also help to aid their reintegration back into the community.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the 'Passport' programme (Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre for Scotland, 2009) found the project achieved high levels of voluntary engagement with 83% of offenders who accessed the project in prison, continuing to engage with it after their release. Positive outcomes achieved by service users include reduced offending behaviour, gaining SQA qualifications, securing employment and moving into further education.

### **Case Study H: The Partnership Development Initiative**

**The Partnership Development Initiative** was launched in 2008 to help coordinate and improve partnership working between third sector and public sector agencies who deliver criminal justice services. The initiative is an innovative cross-sector response to the need to use all available resources in a co-ordinated manner which puts the offender at the centre of service design. It is overseen by a multidisciplinary management group made up of the Scottish Prison Service, Community Justice Authorities, the Criminal Justice Voluntary Sector Forum, the Scottish Government and The Robertson Trust.

The Initiative has developed ***The Model Framework for Partnership Working*** which is a tool to improve project planning, communication and co-ordination across the sectors in order to maximise its impact and sustainability. The *Model Framework* acknowledges the differences between agencies and the need to work together to reduce reoffending. It also teases out the 'detail' around delivery, challenges perceptions and builds a transparent, equitable partnership relationship between the third sector resource and the public sector 'host'.

The *Model Framework* has been formally embraced by the Scottish Prison Service and must now be used for all new non-purchased third sector work in prisons. A version has also been developed for use in the community by Community Justice Authorities and Social Work Agencies.



### **Case Study I: Aberlour's 'Mother and Baby' project**

**Aberlour's Mother and Baby project** works with prisoners in the Mother and Baby Unit in HMP and YOI Cornton Vale and those who receive enhanced "Little Cherub" visits with pre-school children. The project aims to help the women to develop the skills required to adequately parent their children and to develop strong attachments. Parents receive a range of support including learning how to interact positively with their child through play, setting boundaries, promoting a positive diet and developing sound emotional health. The project has since been extended to also support women with older children.

A key strength of the project has been the Project Worker's ability to earn the trust and respect of the women. She is held in high regard by the women who describe her as being approachable, non-judgemental, trustworthy and showing genuine care and concern for the women and their children. Given that many of the women feel that they have been let down by other services, the high value they place upon the support they receive from the Project Worker is significant and it is clear the Worker makes them feel respected as mothers. Across the prison, the Project worker has proved particularly effective at engaging women that had previously been considered as difficult to work with and this has also enabled other services to work with them.

**Findings:** An evaluation of the 'Mother and Baby' project (Hutton, L. 2012) found the project achieved high levels of voluntary engagement with 84% of the women who were referred to the Project Worker, choosing to engage with the project. Positive outcomes reported by service users included feeling more confident as a parent and feeling that what they learned from the project will benefit their relationships with their children.

### **Case Study J: Sacro's 'Supported Accommodation Service'**

**Sacro's Supported Accommodation Service** helps to reduce the risk of reoffending by assisting offenders with their own housing and independence within the community. The service enhances social work supervision of offenders in the community by providing monitoring, supervision (intensive supervision in cases of high risk offenders) and support in a range of types of accommodation. The service supports offenders to gain the practical and social skills needed for independent living and has proved successful in helping offenders to fit back into the community after their release from prison.

Many service users highlight the relationship of trust and respect they have with their Sacro Worker as a key strength of the service. The majority of service users report feeling able to share more with their Sacro worker than with anyone else previously, or presently, in their lives. Service users note they are able to do this because the Sacro worker listens to them and tries to understand their situation. Others state that just knowing that their Sacro Worker is there for them gives them a sense of relief and security and makes them feel part of something.

**Findings:** In an evaluation of the Supported Accommodation Service (Nelson, G., 2007) service users highlighted the relationship of trust and respect they had with their Sacro worker and the practical support they received from them as the main contributory factor in them engaging with the service and reducing their offending behaviour.

## **CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS**

Through its review of third sector initiatives, the forum also identified a number of challenges facing the third sector which may negatively impact on some organisation's ability to help reduce reoffending.

### **Funding Environment**

The third sector is currently operating in a challenging funding environment. The lack of long term public funding for third sector criminal justice initiatives makes the future of some projects uncertain and inhibits the ability for organisations to plan ahead. Even successful initiatives may face closure when initial sources of funding run out, resulting in the knowledge and experience they have built up being lost. In order to survive in this environment, there is a risk that the range of services that third sector organisations deliver may become determined by the funding available opposed to the unmet needs of their client group and the organisation's skills and experience.

### **Competition within the Third Sector**

The need for third sector organisations to compete for funding against each other can hinder partnership working in the sector. Some third sector organisations are reluctant to work together and share each other's resources and as a result, their service users may miss out on receiving the joined-up support they need to address their needs. Recent moves to procurement can potentially disadvantage smaller organisations who may not have the same resources and experience as large organisations in putting together competitive tenders. There is a danger that the sector may become increasingly polarised with small, local organisations becoming at risk of either being displaced or taken over by large, national organisations within the sector. While many large organisations also have strong knowledge of and presence in local communities, this change may result in the close links that small organisations have with the local community being lost and dilute the effectiveness of the sector.

### **The Third Sector and the Public Sector**

An uneven relationship exists between the third sector and the public sector. There is often a lack of understanding about the role and value the different sectors have in helping to reduce reoffending, with some public sector organisations viewing third sector organisations as unequal partners. As a result, third sector organisations can face significant hurdles when trying to deliver criminal justice initiatives in prisons or the wider community, which can have a negative impact on their ability to effectively engage with and provide support to offenders.

## CONCLUSION AND KEY LEARNING POINTS

This paper has highlighted the significant role that the third sector plays in helping to reduce reoffending. The evidence contained in this paper suggests that the success of the third sector's work in this area is due to its:

- responsiveness and flexibility
- capacity to develop innovative approaches to working with offenders
- strong roots in local communities
- focus on partnership working and ability to bring different agencies together
- commitment to developing strong relationships with offenders built on mutual respect and trust.

An overarching attribute that the review identifies is the value driven ethos of the sector, its strong sense of ethics and desire to meet the needs of people.

This paper has also identified a number of internal and external factors that may negatively impact on the third sector's work in this field. It is therefore important that third sector organisations work together to ensure that issues such as funding and competition within the sector do not cause the third sector to lose the very attributes that distinguishes it from the public and private sector, and makes it uniquely placed to support offenders. The Partnership Development Initiative's *Model Framework for Partnership Working* offers a valuable tool for helping to coordinate and improve collaboration amongst third sector and public sector agencies in order to improve the impact of criminal justice initiatives. It is vital that the *Model Framework* be shared and promoted across the criminal justice sector to ensure this new way of working is embedded throughout Scotland. Public Social Partnerships can also play an important role in helping to maximise the contribution the third sector can make to reducing reoffending, by enabling third sector organisations to get involved earlier and more deeply in the design and commissioning of services.

Finally, the paper has also noted the limited evidence base that exists on the effectiveness of third sector criminal justice initiatives. A larger evidence base will help the third sector to both demonstrate the value of their services and identify the areas where more work is required. Accordingly, helping third sector organisations to evaluate their work must be a key objective going forward.

## APPENDIX 1: REFERENCED EVIDENCE

Case Study	Project	Source	Methodology	Key Findings
A	Barnardo's: 'Women in Focus' project	Burgess, C., Malloch, M. and McIvor, G. (2011) <i>Women in Focus: An Evaluation</i>	An external evaluation of the service was conducted by the University of Stirling in 2011. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data from the Scottish Government and local Criminal Justice Social Work Departments on imprisonment rates and completion of court ordered social work disposals</li> <li>- Conducting semi-structured qualitative interviews with service users (20 individuals and 11 groups), service providers (20) and Barnardo's staff (10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women in Focus may have contributed to the recorded reduction in breach rates in three of the four local authority areas.</li> <li>- Re-arrest data also indicates that most of the women who engaged with the service have committed fewer or in most cases, no further offences to date.</li> <li>- 27 women have successfully met their outcome objectives and a further 45 are currently working with the service.</li> </ul>
B	Action For Children: 'Moving On Renfrewshire' project	Hutton, L., Nugent, B. and Jardine, C. (2011), <i>Moving On: Throughcare for Young Male Offenders in Renfrewshire. A Report on Outcomes in relation to the 3-Year Service Evaluation</i>	An external evaluation of the project was conducted at the end of the first 3 years. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examining participant's project records and data from 39 participant's prison records,</li> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data held by the Scottish Government on custodial sentences</li> <li>- Conducting qualitative interviews with 7 young offenders who had engaged with the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Moving On project successfully engaged with 75% of their clients in the community, and 95% of clients overall (including those who engaged only in custody)</li> <li>- The project delivers effective support with accommodation; employment; training and substance misuse</li> <li>- In comparison to national figures, Moving On clients are less likely to receive further custodial sentences within 1 year of release (23%) and also within 2 years of release (26%).</li> </ul>
C	Time Banks UK: 'Time Bank' Initiative	Volunteer Development Scotland (2011), <i>Time Banking Initiatives in The Prison Estate and Reducing Reoffending – A briefing for the Scottish Parliament Economy, Enterprise and Tourism Committee</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Time Bank project was identified by the HM Inspectorate of Prisons as an area of good practice.</li> <li>- No detailed external evaluations of the Time Bank project in prisons have yet been conducted.</li> </ul>

D	Turning Point Scotland: '218' Service	Easton, H. and Matthews, R. (2010), <i>Evaluation of the 218 Service: Examining Implementation and Outcomes</i>	<p>An external evaluation of the service was conducted by London South Bank University in 2010. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Examining quantitative data provided by the service on their operations from 2007 to 2009</li> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data held by the Police and Scottish Government on Women Offenders</li> <li>- Conducting semi-structured qualitative interviews with 25 women offenders, 19 key stakeholders and 17 members of 218 staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 218 Service is a highly regarded, holistic, 'person centred' residential and day service for adult women offenders.</li> <li>- Police-recorded offending reduced by 21% following contact with the service among the cohort of 320 women referred to the service between 1 June 2007 and 31 May 2008.</li> <li>- A conservative estimate of the cost benefit established that for every £1 invested in the service there was a potential saving of £2.50 per year.</li> </ul>
E	The Wise Group: 'Routes Out of Prison' project	Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre for Scotland (2011), <i>The Wise Group: Evaluation of Routes Out of Prison</i>	<p>An external evaluation of the service was conducted by Edinburgh University in 2011. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting qualitative interviews with 14 service users, 13 staff members and 28 other stakeholders</li> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data from project and outcome reports provided by the Wise Group</li> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data held on the SPS database on return to custody rates for offenders attending the RooP programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between January 2009 and December 2010 the RooP Prison Life Coaches 'signed up' 3,612 prisoners of whom 1,557 (43%) went on to engage with the service in the community.</li> <li>- The ability of the Life Coach to 'walk the journey' with the client, by meeting at the gate, accompanying them to appointments and explaining the purpose and processes of other services is the aspect of RooP most highly valued by others working with this client group.</li> <li>- 40% of clients who engaged at least once in the community returned to prison compared with 44% of clients who did not engage at all</li> </ul>
F	Circle Scotland: 'Families Affected by Imprisonment' project	Hutton, L. and Nugent, B. (2011) <i>Circle's Families Affected by Imprisonment Project: Throughcare for Female Offenders. A Report on Outcomes in Relation to the 3 Year Service Evaluation</i>	<p>An external evaluation of the service was conducted in 2011. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting new interviews with 10 service users and analysing qualitative data from 32 interviews that had been conducted earlier in the project.</li> <li>- Examining quantitative data on 70 women who have come into contact with Circle, including returns to custody data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The FABI project has achieved high levels of voluntary engagement with 85% of clients continuing to engage with Circle after their release from custody;</li> <li>- Those who engaged with Circle appeared much more likely to receive no further custodial sentences (81%) than those who did not engage (56%).</li> <li>- Those who self-referred to the service were marginally less likely to receive further custodial sentences (8%) than those who did not (27%).</li> </ul>

G	Access to Industry: 'Passport' project	Criminal Justice Social Work Development Centre for Scotland (2009), <i>Report of the Evaluation of the Access to Industry Passport Project</i>	An external evaluation of the service was conducted by the University of Edinburgh in 2009. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting qualitative interviews with service users (8), Passport staff (1) and Links Centre Officers at YOI Polmont (2)</li> <li>- Analysis of quantitative data collected by Passport including Community Passport Performance Reports, Client Profile Reports, a Referral Analysis Report and a Funder Outcome Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Between 2006 and 2009, 182 young offenders were referred to Passport, with 171 then engaging with the project.</li> <li>- Of the 130 service users who had been released by 2009, 110 (85%) of who had gone on to work with Passport in the community</li> <li>- Only 35% of young people who engaged with Passport returned to Polmont YOI (excluding those who returned because of an offence committed prior to engaging with the project)</li> </ul>
H	Partnership Development Initiative	Partnership Development Initiative (2010), <i>Towards a Model Framework for Third Sector Criminal Justice Services</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Model Framework was introduced in 2010/11 and is currently being piloted. An external evaluation of the model will be published in Autumn 2012</li> </ul>
I	Aberlour: 'Mother and Baby' project	Hutton, L. (2012) <i>Evaluation of the Pilot Aberlour Mother and Baby Project at HMP Corton Vale</i>	An external evaluation of the service was conducted in 2012. The evaluation used a mixed methodology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducting qualitative interviews with 13 service users and 9 members of prison staff</li> <li>- Analysing quantitative data from questionnaires conducted by 4 service users.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Mother and Baby project achieved high levels of voluntary engagement with 84% of the 55 women who were referred to the project in 2011 successfully engaging with it</li> <li>- Of the 45 women who took part in individual sessions with the project worker, the majority reported positive outcomes including an increase in confidence around parenting; improved engagement with the sessions and a more open attitude towards receiving advice</li> </ul>
J	Sacro: Supported Accommodation Service	Nelson, G. (2007) <i>Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Sacro Supported Accommodation Service: A Service User Perspective</i>	An external evaluation of the service was conducted in 2007. The evaluation was based on qualitative data from interviews conducted with 7 service users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The holistic approach of the Supported Accommodation Service was identified as having a positive impact in addressing the negative effects of institutionalisation and offenders' general feelings of exclusion</li> <li>- Service users report positive change to their self-esteem which they attributed to the perceived 'caring' attitude of staff; the constant encouragement with problem-solving; and having the support of the agency 'behind' them</li> </ul>

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## **METHODOLOGY**

The paper was based on a rapid review of evidence and literature drawing on a wide range of sources including published reports and literature reviews, evaluation reports and data held by organisations (both published and unpublished).

The paper was written by Joanna McLaughlin at The Robertson Trust with case studies provided by Patty Lozano Casal, Gillian Miller and Jennifer Hill.

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- Lucy McTernan (SCVO)
- Peter Conlong (Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services)
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## **WE WOULD VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK**

Did you find the paper useful? Any comments on the content? Any other evidence we should know about?

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