

Voluntary Throughcare and Mentoring

Cascade Communication
July - December 2024



[CJS Commissioning homepage](#)

POINTS OF INTEREST

Voluntary Throughcare Grant Fund

- Application submissions closed on 10th July, with applications to lead the new partnership received from two organisations.
- The Grant Assessment Process started in July and concluded in October.
- The Recommendation to Fund Report, was submitted to the Scottish Government on 31st October, with the Cabinet Secretary's decision received in November.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF TEAM

The Voluntary Throughcare and Mentoring Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) continue to meet to discuss the project. The last meeting of the PMC was held on 29th August and the last PSC held on 15th August. Meetings were postponed awaiting the decision from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs on the successful partnership.

The Risk and Scenario Planning Group (RSPG) continue to meet regularly to discuss project risk and mitigation strategies.

Leigh Urban joined CJS as Grants Officer in July and joined Chris McCully and Hannah Dickson in the project team. The recruitment process for a fixed term Grants Administrator to support the team to the conclusion of the recommissioning project concluded and Michael Purves will start in the new year.

Claire Penny, Head of Commissioning and Sarah Robson, Administrator, both left CJS in August.

GRANT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Two applications were received to the National Voluntary Throughcare Grant Fund. The applications received underwent initial eligibility and due diligence checks in mid-July and, upon successful completion, were sent to an Informed Citizens Panel (ICP) for assessment using an assessment framework (based on the grant criteria) developed by CJS with support from The Corra



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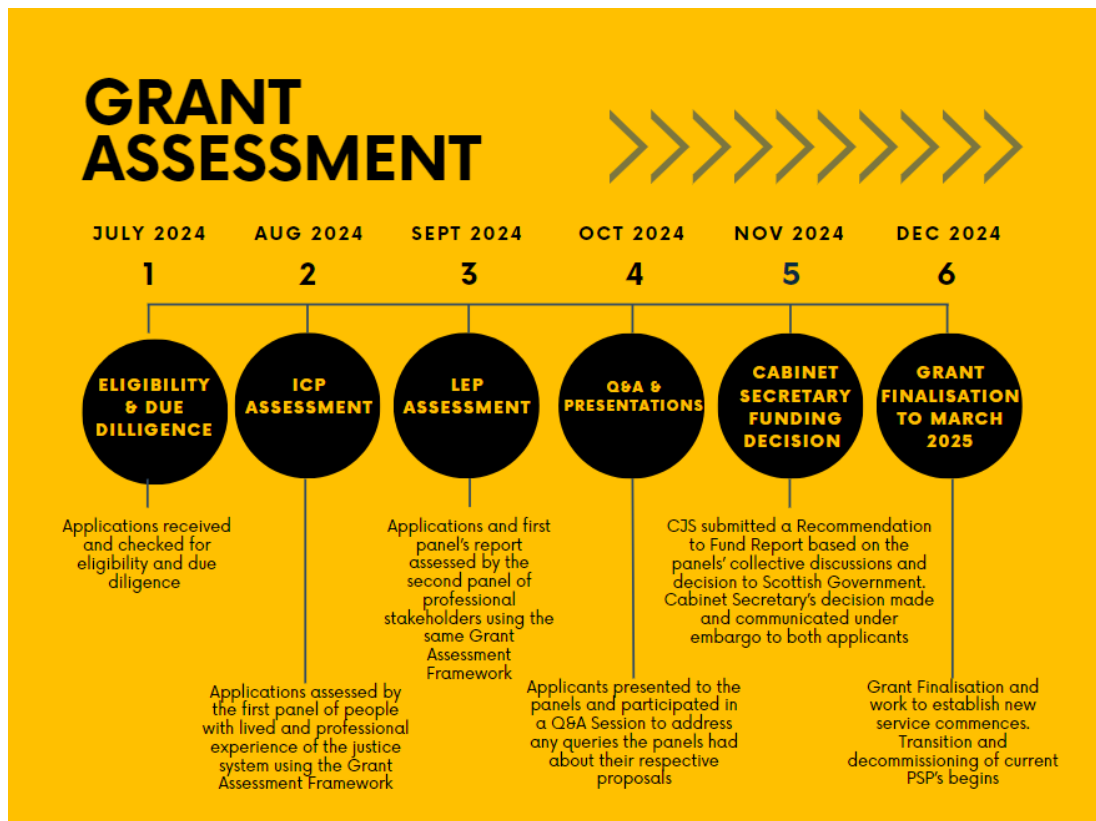
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Foundation. The ICP was formed of people with lived and professional experience of the justice system, and facilitated by [Resilience Learning Partnership](#), a lived experience-led organisation. Their report, and the applications were assessed by a Learned Experience Panel (LEP). This second panel was made up of professional stakeholders from Scottish Government (the funder), CJS (grant manager and national agency for community justice), Social Work Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, the Community Justice Network and the Resilience Learning Partnership, for their assessment using the same framework. In addition to the application forms, applicants also presented and had a Q&A session with panel members.

CJS submitted a Recommendation to Fund Report based on the panels' collective discussions and decision to the Scottish Government on 31st October 2024.

We received positive feedback from both applicants who enjoyed the opportunity to present to panellists and answer their questions as part of the grant assessment process. Panellist feedback has also been very positive, particularly around the inclusiveness of the process and the value of the assessment undertaken by the first panel where people had lived (as well as learned) experience of the justice system.



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PLANNING AHEAD

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Home Affairs has now made her decision on the future provider of nationally commissioned voluntary throughcare support. We are not currently in a position to formally announce it until the Scottish budget process is a little further on. We anticipate being able to inform stakeholders of the name of the successful providers early in the new year; and make a public announcement thereafter (this may not be until Parliament has approved the budget).

The grant applicants and the current service providers (Public Social Partnerships New Routes and Shine) have already been notified of the decision and work has already begun to establish the new partnership. The new provider is keenly aware of the role for local community justice partners and the wider third sector and will be looking to engage in due course as part of their transition work.

CJS has now concluded the grant application process and will be working with the new partnership and the Scottish Government to finalise the grant arrangements and to support the start-up and transition process.

Arrangements for decommissioning of the existing services, as well as progress and future milestones on new service delivery, will be communicated in the New Year.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a chat with the team, please [email](#) us. Please note that the commissioning team finish up on 20 December and will be back online on 7 January 2025. We hope you have a wonderful festive season and look forward to continuing to work with you in the new year.

The next cascade brief will be published following the end of Quarter 4 and will cover the period January to March 2025. You are welcome to share all of these quarterly updates with your networks.

