

This disposal is only available for offences committed **before 1st February 2011**. For those offences committed from this date, a Community Payback Order is now available.

The object of Community Service orders is to provide unpaid work which is of value to the community as an alternative to custody. They are carried out within the guidance for Community Service which was issued by the Scottish Government and implemented from 1st June 2009. This guidance places clear expectations upon local authorities and those performing community service.

Community Service by offenders provides an important, long established, community based alternative to imprisonment.

Community service orders are orders of court where:

- an offender is required to perform unpaid, useful work for the benefit of the community
- the court can order between 80 - 300 hours of community service which must be carried out at such times as directed by the supervising community service officer

Orders must be completed within six months from the date of sentence and are performed in an offender's free time:

- community service placement are undertaken Monday - Friday
- for people who work or study full-time, placements are available at weekends and evenings
- community service placements will commence within one week of the order being made at Court

Approximately 1,000 orders are made in Glasgow each year. Glasgow City Council is responsible to court for organising placements and establishing supervisory arrangements.

Work Placements

No work placements are accepted which would jeopardise opportunities for paid employment for members of the public. At the beginning of an order, all offenders receive induction which covers essential information on: the conditions of community service orders, standards of behaviour, expected work performance, attendance, disciplinary procedures, health and safety

After an assessment by the supervising community service officer, which will take account of previous convictions and personal circumstances, a work placement is identified. Offenders can bring special skills and talents and every effort is made to use these to benefit both the local community and the offender.

There are two types of work placements available :

Team placements

The work is undertaken in small community service work teams (four or five people maximum) under the supervision of a community service work supervisor. There are a range of team placements:

gardening / painting and decorating / joinery / light duties / women only / Community service teams work in three main locations: clients' homes / community centres / churches

Personal placements

This work is undertaken on an individual basis with the offender being supervised by a nominated manager who reports progress and compliance to the supervising community service officer. There is a wide range of personal placements available within non-profit making agencies, for example:

voluntary agencies / charity shops / churches / community groups

Enforcement of community service orders

All community service orders are enforced rigorously in accordance with the guidance for Community Service. If the terms and conditions of the order are breached (broken), the order will be taken back to court where the court can:

- allow the order to continue and impose a fine
- add extra hours to the order
- revoke (cancel) the order and impose any penalty that was available in the first instance, for example, the sentence for the original offence(s)

If the order is revoked and an alternative sentence imposed, this is often imprisonment.