



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Diverting Women Away from Crime

A Guide to the Women's Community Projects

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Glossary

ATR	Alcohol Treatment Requirement
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAB	Citizen's Advice Bureau
CARE	Choices, Actions, Relationships and Emotions - a course for female prisoners whose offending is related to difficulties with emotion regulation.
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Action Team
DID	Drink Impaired Drivers
DIP	Drug Interventions Programme
DIY	Do It Yourself
DOM	Director of Offender Management
DRR	Drug Rehabilitation Requirement
DV	Domestic Violence
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
ETE	Education, Training & Employment
ETS	Enhanced Thinking Skills
GP	General Practitioner
HMPS	Her Majesty's Prison Service
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance
IDAP	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisers
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
IT	Information Technology
LIAP	Low Intensity Alcohol Programme
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NOMS	National Offender Management Service
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SLA	Service Level Agreement
YOI	Young Offender Institution
YOT	Youth Offending Team

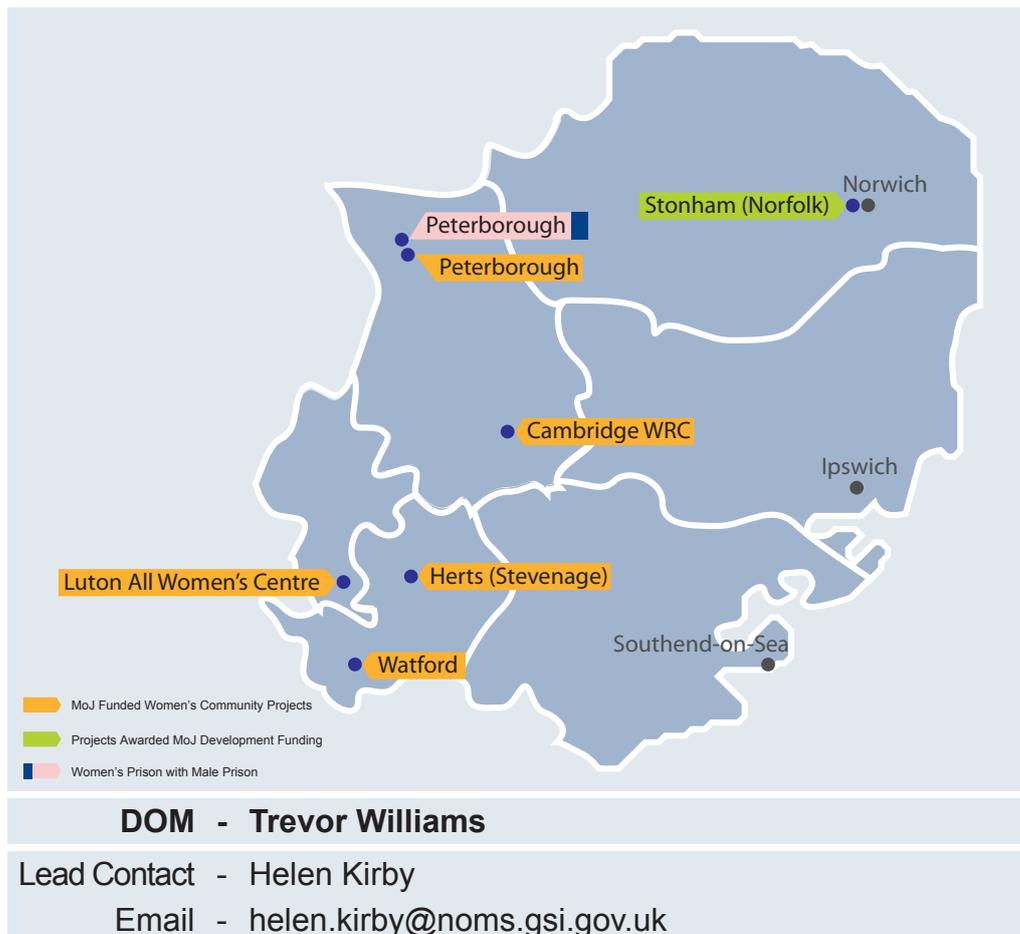
Introduction

Social exclusion plays an important role in drawing people into crime, and many women offenders have a range of complex and interlinked issues that can lead to their exclusion. These commonly include drug and alcohol addiction, mental health problems, accommodation issues, unemployment and debt, and histories of violent and sexual abuse.

The voluntary sector has an important role in assisting us to tackle the root causes of crime. Women's Community Projects and other women specific services, run by the voluntary sector, can provide access to a range of services on-site as well as referring women to appropriate agencies, the aim being to tackle problems across all of the nine pathways out of crime.

Over £10 million of Ministry of Justice funding has been awarded over two years to a wide range of voluntary sector organisations working with women offenders and women at risk of offending through women's specific services. This guide provides a brief synopsis of each organisation and the services they deliver and is arranged by Director of Offender Management regions and Wales.

East of England



The following project received funding in the first grant funding round:

Peterborough Women's Centre and Cambridge Women's Resource Centre - Dawn Project

Peterborough Women's Centre (PWC) and Cambridge Women's Resource Centre (CWRC) are two independent organisations working in partnership in the voluntary sector. PWC has been operating for 21 years providing a range of services for local women. Services include training and education, courses, online drop-in, parenting classes, drop-in advice and support, drug and alcohol support and an on site crèche. CWRC have been providing services to women in and around Cambridge for 26 years. Services include; a vocational and pre-vocational training programme, ESOL, drop in and a range of courses including assertiveness. CWRC has a large crèche catering for up to 25 children per session. Whilst independent centres both follow the same ethos and commitment to provision of quality tailor made services to women. PWC currently work closely with Peterborough prison and both centres have the support of their local Probation services.

The grant funding will be used to employ a total of 7 staff across both centres who will work with women offenders and women at risk of offending to deliver a discrete one stop shop service. Both centres are currently working closely with the East of England DOM's office and local Probation Services. Links with Cambridgeshire Probation include a weekly reporting centre for women, referrals to the project at both centres, links with the Community Payback team and the hosting of the ART programme at PWC.

Services being delivered include 1:1 support for women, courses and drop-in sessions. Both centres are working on local support and referral routes from other agencies, both voluntary and statutory. Strategic links include the Cambridgeshire county-wide IOM scheme, attendance at regional NOMS meetings and links made with campaigning organisations, such as Women in Prison.

Contact: Jo Fitzpatrick - jo@peterboroughwomenscentre.org.uk

The following project received awarded funding in the second grant funding round:

Herts Women's Centre (Stevenage, Luton and Watford) - Pathway Project

The primary objective of Herts Women's centre is to make the centre a supportive place for all women, with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The charity aims to:

- Advance the education of women through the provision of educational and training facilities and opportunities for volunteering;
- Relieve women who are in need through the provision of advice and information; and
- Provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure time occupation for such women in the interest of social welfare with a view to improving their conditions of life.

The centre achieves this through a range of services including support, counselling, DV support, drop-in, development courses, workshops and CAB advice sessions.

The service is a collaboration from three independent Women's Centres; The Hert's Women's Centre, Luton All Women Centre, and Watford Women's Centre. The three centres came together through the development of an East of England regional gender equality strand facilitated by MENTER. All centres are unique in their provision and in the diversity of the communities they serve. All three centres have a long history, 45 years collectively, of providing dedicated services designed to meet individual women's needs.

The service will include client delivery and capacity building. Referrals will be taken from courts, Police and Probation. Women's needs will be assessed and tailored support packages completed. Each woman will be able to access all parts of the relevant organisation's services according to her needs. It will be a discreet service running alongside the centres' existing provision. Women will be integrated with other service users. Support workers will map out the development journey and monitor progress.

Support packages will be tailored to all women at various stages of the criminal justice system. Services will target priority needs first, building a graduated support package. Outputs and outcomes are identified across the pathways.

Contact: Vanessa Bednarz - vanessa.wrc@btinternet.com

In addition, the following organisation has been provided with development funding:

Stonham (Norfolk) - 4Women Partnership

Stonham is the care and support division of Home, a national Registered Social Landlord founded in 1935. Stonham is England's largest specialist provider of housing, care and support. Stonham work with a range of vulnerable groups including; people who have been in prison or through the CJS, women and children escaping DV, sex workers, people with drug/alcohol dependency, and others. Stonham in Norfolk has a track record of implementing new services and recent achievements include winning two large floating support contracts.

This is a partnership with Stonham acting as lead provider of the 4women partnership. The partnership consists of 12 organisations. The model includes the future development of a new Women's Community Project in Norwich which will be the co-ordination centre for services and delivering on-site activities. Additionally the proposal aims to deliver a county wide service utilising partners' premises.

Contact: Rowena Hagger-Utting - rowena.hagger-utting@homegroup.org.uk

East Midlands



DOM - Beverley Shears

Lead Contact - Jofee Blinstone or Caroline Morrison

Email - jofee.blinstone@noms.gsi.gov.uk or
caroline.morrison@justice.gov.uk

The following organisations received funding in the second grant funding round:

Turning Point (Leicester) - Just Women Project

Turning Point Women's Centre exists to inspire women and families to change their lives and communities for the better. Their mission is to enable women, girls and their families to overcome disadvantage, inequality and poverty in order to realise their potential and lead creative and successful lives. Turning Point achieve their aims through the provision of a range of quality services including social and emotional support, childcare, parenting support, health promotion, education and supported volunteering for women and their families in particular but not exclusively in the city of Leicester. Turning Point has supported vulnerable and disadvantaged women for 22 years.

Building on existing services the project will employ a core team of outreach support staff who will identify needs and support service users to access services. Individualised personal support plans will include referral to specialised in-house support and a range of interventions across pathways. This will also include support in accessing mainstream services where required. A range of learning and personal development programmes, including volunteering will be utilised. Childcare provision will be available on site.

Leicester & Rutland Probation Trust (LRPT) has seconded two members of Probation staff, a PO and a PSO who will be part of Outreach and Support team. This will ensure robust case management and continuity of service delivery.

Contact: Sara Davies - sara.davies@tpwomen.org.uk

Women's Work (Derby) - Turn Around Project

The Women's Work Charity was established in April 2003 and registered as an independent charity in February 2006. The aims of the organisation are to provide respite, advice and support to female substance misusers involved in street sex work. Women's Work has evolved as an umbrella agency delivering a range of projects aimed at vulnerable women primarily with substance misuse issues, targeting street sex workers, but not exclusively. Currently their services include: street out-reach, drop-in facility, one to one support, counselling, life skills workshops, prison support and resettlement service, family support service, signposting and advocacy.

The organisation is based in Derby City, but has operated some services in Derbyshire. To date, over 400 vulnerable women have accessed the service, Women's Work is a women only service run by women. Women regularly present complex health and social issues and services have been developed in response to needs identified by service users. The vision of a one stop shop has been predominant in the development of the organisation and progress has been made towards achieving that vision. The range of support services they offer aims to join the gaps in support to vulnerable women.

Working in partnership with Derby City and County Probation Service, case workers would assist in the development and provide assistance in delivering integrated packages of support for women offenders. Delivery would be through the existing Women's Work centre and wraparound services. Probation referrals will have a mandatory element, which will be managed by Offender Managers. Support packages will address all 9 pathways and utilise existing partnerships to address those pathways, such as accommodation, which cannot be delivered in-house. These pathways will be met by partner agencies such as P3 and Derbyshire Housing who will accept referrals from the project. Work with clients coming

via Probation will start at pre-sentence report stage. Derby Women's Work will also increase the capacity and remit of their existing prison resettlement project and investigate ways of improving the outcomes of short term prisoners.

Derby Women's Work aim to develop alternative or joint reporting venues with Probation, and would make available space for Probation to deliver programmes developed for women offenders such as Think First and ETS in their centre. They expect the majority of referrals to come from Derbyshire and Derby City Probation Services; however, there will be some development work to do with the courts. This service will target short-term prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months, taking into account the good practice guidelines identified in 'Provision for Women Offenders in the Community'.

The support service will be delivered via their existing women's centre with a range of existing support projects on site, which the service users will have access to. Women's Work currently has premises from which it operates a drop-in and office functions, and will lease additional space to accommodate the new workers. They will also be able to access crèche facilities from an existing partner in a neighbouring building.

The service aims to:

- Promote self esteem, empowerment and build on women's strengths;
- Be women only and tailored to the individuals' needs;
- Enable offenders, those at risk of offending, and non-offenders to integrate;
- Provide a safe space which is non-stigmatising and operates confidentially;
- Support the work of NOMS and Probation;
- Provide an holistic approach to health and wellbeing;
- Provide practical help and regular support / contact, including transport;
- Provide direct access to counselling, skill development and formal learning opportunities;
- Develop confidence and coping skills;
- Take into account the social, economic and family context of women's lives particularly parenting and care responsibilities; and
- Address the underlying causes of offending behaviour

Contact: Dionne Reid - dionnereid_womenswork@hotmail.co.uk

In addition, the following organisations have been provided with development funding:

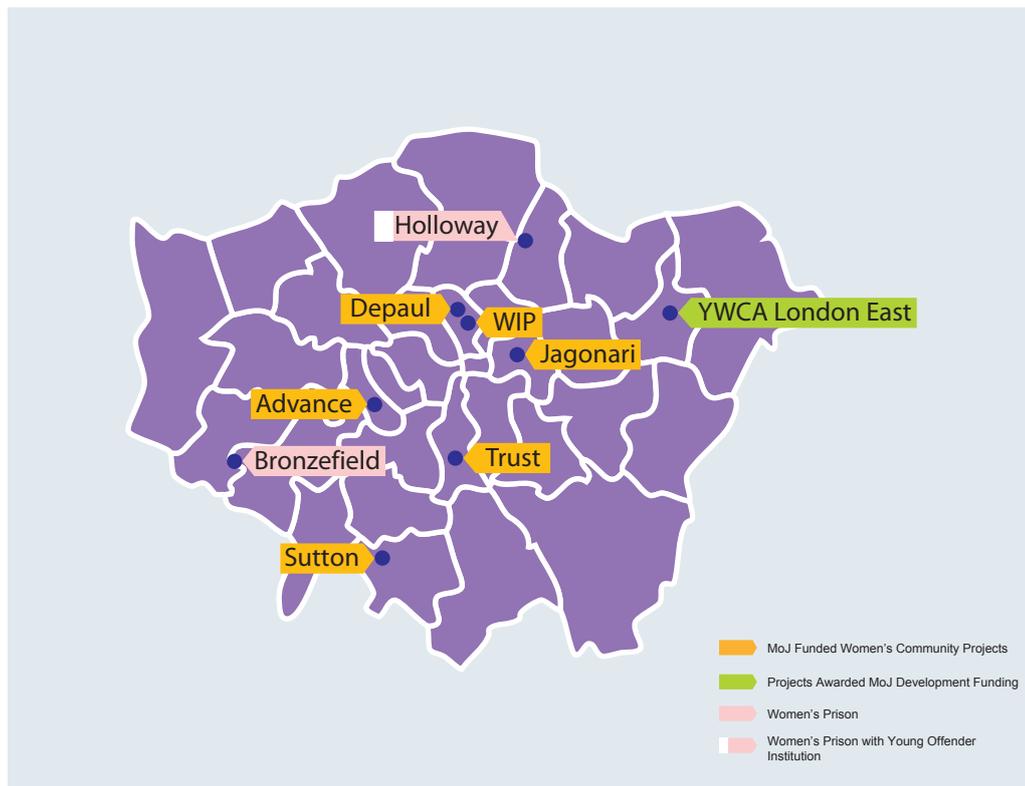
Addaction (Lincolnshire)

Addaction Lincolnshire is the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charity. Based in a broad range of community settings across the UK, Addaction has over 70 services which are directly supported through local charitable sources or commissioned via a range of funding streams.

Addaction lead the Lincolnshire Consortium which was established in response to the identified need for more cohesive services for female offenders in Lincolnshire, noticeable reduction in women accessing supportive services in Lincolnshire and the implementation on the Think Family strategy. Membership of the consortium includes; Lincolnshire Probation Area, HMP Morton Hall, Lincolnshire Action Trust and Lincolnshire Children's Services (safeguarding).

Contact: Eileen McMorrow - e.mcmorrow@addaction.org.uk

London



DOM - Digby Griffith

Lead Contact - Jameela Ahmed

Email - jameela.ahmed@noms.gsi.gov.uk

The following project received funding in the first funding round:

Women in Prison (London)

Women in Prison (WIP) provides support services to women offenders, ex-offenders and women at risk of offending. WIP's mission is to limit and, where possible prevent the damage done to the lives of women in the community on bail or community order with high support needs through contact with the criminal justice system. WIP is a women-centred, women-run organisation that provides England-wide specialist services to women offenders. With office bases in London and York WIP's services include; a national free-phone advice line, information sessions throughout the women's prison estate, through the gate resettlement support, specialist projects for BME women, specialist projects for women with a history of diagnosed mental illness, the Re-Unite supported housing project and independent advocacy for women using the CARE programme. WIP also provide a specialist service to women between the ages of 18-25 giving additional support to those affected or involved with gangs.

WIP are extending their successful model of assertive outreach in the community focussing on women released from custody after serving a sentence of less than 6 months, women released from court into the community following a period of remand, women attending court for breach (of bail and community orders) and women in custody following breach of a community order or licence. The grant funding will be used to employ a number of additional staff to deliver services including; a project manager, 3 project workers, a young women's worker, a mental health worker and some administration support. The grant will be used to provide additional services in prisons, magistrate's courts and a number of women's centres across London.

The project will use a three-stage service delivery model:

- Assertive outreach and 1-2-1 support. Women will be offered intensive, one-to-one keywork support and advocacy around issues such as substance misuse, benefits, housing, debt, mental health, risk management, domestic violence and parenting.
- Group support and skills building. Group, peer-based support will focus on enabling women to build self-confidence/self-esteem and learn new life skills in areas such as emotional well-being, sexual health, healthy relationships, parenting etc. This will be provided by project staff at WIP's own community centre and at women's centres throughout London.
- Community inclusion and participation. Women will be empowered into accessing and sustaining volunteering opportunities, formal training, education or employment and active participation in WIP's Service-User Campaigning Group.

Contact: Natalia Velinor - natalia@womeninprison.org.uk

The following organisations received funding in the second grant funding round:

Jagonari (Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney)

Jagonari Women's Educational Resource Centre (WERC) was established in 1987 and is a purpose built women's centre, managed and staffed by women. In the past year Jagonari has merged with the Wapping Women's Centre to make services more accessible across the borough. The centres provide high quality integrated services to women on basic skills and ESOL tutoring, education, employment, enterprise support and health and well being programmes in order to promote and actively facilitate the greater participation of BME women in civil society. In 2008, Jagonari has expanded its Early Years Provision, it has a Sure Start Children's Centre along with a registered Crèche and Playgroup for 2yr, 3yr, and 4yr olds. Jagonari provides services for children under 5yrs and their families, delivering integrated services to enable the best start in life and reduce disadvantages for the children and their families. Jagonari carries out multiagency working around play and learning, family

support and health wellbeing. Jagonari aims to effectively negotiate with relevant stakeholders to highlight the needs of marginalised women and to secure the necessary resources and has become adept at tailoring national policies to local context.

The Women's Community Project at Jagonari is a partnership with Providence Row Housing Association (PRHA), a medium sized Registered Social Landlord. PRHA has worked in East London, particularly Tower Hamlets, Hackney and the City for over 150 years providing support and housing services to over 700 service users. PRHA provides support to people who are at risk of becoming homeless due to difficulties in managing independently. They may already have been homeless, have been in hospital or in contact with the criminal justice system. They may also have mental health and substance misuse issues.

The project's service delivery will be through a team of link workers who will have expertise in working with vulnerable women and specialist skills to enable them to provide support across all the pathways. As well as having an overall expertise in working with women with complex needs each link worker will specialise in one of 3 to 4 areas: domestic and sexual violence and sexual health; mental health with counselling experience; drugs and alcohol skills and experience; and or housing/homelessness and welfare benefits advice.

The project will engage in community based preventative work thereby reducing the number of women entering prison. The project will work closely with the Probation service, with HMP Holloway and other prisons, with the courts, particularly Thames Magistrates Court, the Police including Safer Neighbourhood Teams, DIP teams, primary health care services and other non statutory agencies working with the client group. Services will be delivered across pathways both in house and through a range of partner agencies.

Contact: Suvi Manneh - smanneh@prha.net

Depaul UK (Camden and Islington)

Depaul UK and women@thewell are working together to provide support to women in London, focusing primarily on those aged 18-30 across Camden and Islington.

Depaul UK is a national charity working with homeless and disadvantaged young people since 1989; around one-third of the people they work with annually are young offenders. Their first prison-based project launched 11 years ago, and they now deliver housing advice and resettlement projects across 15 prisons, provide accommodation for young male and female offenders, run mentoring schemes, and have recently launched a family mediation service inside HM YOI Rochester. They provide 'through the gate' resettlement support, health and housing advice, money

management training, work experience, and volunteering programmes. Depaul UK also provides housing, including supported housing, and resettlement support to young women in, and leaving, custody.

women@thewell is a national charity established in 2007, which currently provides services through a centre in Kings Cross. It evolved out of a previous 14 years work with Providence Row (a charity offering a day centre and hostel in East London for homeless), and several partnerships were already in place as a result of this. women@thewell is dedicated to women caught up in 'pavement culture' (homelessness, prostitution, drugs, alcohol, violence, poor physical and mental ill health). Services are provided for women by women. Services have proved highly effective in achieving outcomes for women released from prison.

Funding of this project will provide centre-based services at women@thewell and dedicated accommodation which will meet the medium-term accommodation needs of women who are vulnerable to re-offending. Floating support will be provided by key-workers who co-ordinate support packages.

The partnership will provide or facilitate access to services across pathways. Key-workers will build relationships, co-ordinate support packages, review progress and offer ongoing advice and encouragement before preparing women for exit. Depaul's central office will support delivery with management and administration.

The model of delivery builds on existing provision by:

- Significantly enhancing capacity at the Kings Cross women-only centre;
- Significantly broadening the range and depth of interventions which each organisation offers independently; and
- Linking accommodation for young women offenders with the wider support offered by the centre.

A range of services will be provided including:

- Access to appropriate specialist services;
- Therapeutic support and counselling;
- Pro-social activities;
- Volunteer mentors to support client volunteering; and
- Opportunities for training / employment placements.

Contact: Andrew McKnight - andrew.mcknight@depauluk.org or
Lynda Dearlove - lynda.dearlove@watw.org.uk

Advance Advocacy (Hammersmith, Fulham and Brent) - The Minerva Project

Advance has been in operation for 11 years in Hammersmith and Fulham and because of their track record in delivering specialist domestic violence services were asked to replicate the service into Brent. Advance supports and offers advice, support and information to women fleeing or managing domestic violence from intimate partners. This includes practical and emotional support and acting as advocates for women within various and confusing array of agencies and systems. It also consists of 1:1 support for all women in a variety of ways including support within the specialist domestic violence court (SDVC). Advance aims to improve safety for women and children, reduce risk, support more effective prosecution of perpetrators and raise awareness about Domestic Violence and the impact it has on women, children and society.

The service is currently dealing with high risk cases, and is a crisis prevention service, offering practical support to women on safety planning, accommodation and safeguarding children. The work is done over the telephone, face to face or in court. They also offer an out of hour's referral service via the Police to offer advice and support in emergencies only, 24 hours a day. Advance is commissioned locally to offer crisis intervention for women aged 18 and over who are victims of domestic violence.

The Minerva Project will be the new service designed as a direct response to this funding opportunity, delivered in addition to what Advance already offer to women. It will be a combination of centre based and dispersed services delivered from an existing women's centre, available across 2 London boroughs, Hammersmith and Fulham and Brent. The model is based on the North West Together Women Project (TWP) model which the director previously set up and managed as part of the MoJ demonstrator project. Women Advance will be on a smaller scale and develop incrementally as resources allow. The service will start with some core functions and over time develop and expand to incorporate more services and facilities for women. There will be a specific centre for women developed in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, with rooms available for group work, drop in and 1:1 support. A property has been identified which requires some refurbishment.

Advance will also deliver services to women via the Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) which is based in Brent. This will be done on a dispersed model, and co-delivered by AWRC. The AWRC is a specialist women's organisation providing support to BME women and children. There are crèche facilities available within this service that can be utilised, and they already have a satisfactory Ofsted report.

The team will offer key work support which would include risk and need assessments. They will also deliver some of the group work that is planned around self esteem and domestic violence. There will be a criminal justice worker in the team structure, who would be the key link with Probation

and the Courts. They will attend court and generate referrals directly from CJS organisations, and also be the link with the Police. Advance already has staff in 2 magistrate's courts one day a week. There will be a fast track referral system linking with HMP Holloway with the aim of targeting women due for release returning to either of the boroughs being supported.

There will be a network of services brought into the centre for women to access which will initially include specialist housing support, domestic and sexual violence support, health services, legal advice and counselling. The key workers will offer a variety of 1:1, group work and support to women. The main group work would be parenting, self esteem and domestic violence programmes.

Contact: Maura Jackson - m.jackson@advanceadvocacyproject.org.uk

Trust (Lambeth)

Trust is a community based women's project offering support and positive opportunities to women involved in or exited from street prostitution and women involved in, moving on from, or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system. Support is offered through street outreach, drop-in, court diversion, substance misuse key work, housing & benefits, aftercare, counselling and a group work & resettlement programme.

Since 1999 Trust has provided a women only service, working exclusively with vulnerable women around a range of complex issues including; substance misuse, housing, mental and physical health, self harm, gender violence and offending behaviour; addressing underlying issues impacting current problems. They have specifically worked with women involved in street prostitution since 2001; providing street outreach, drop-in and housing and treatment support. In 2003 they received DIP funding to provide a court diversion scheme for women at Camberwell Magistrates Court.

In April 2009, Trust obtained funding through London Probation's Impact Programme to deliver a community based Group Work & Resettlement Programme which provides the REALize & Discover Groups with Housing, Benefits & Resettlement support attached. This widened their involvement in supporting women in the criminal justice system by providing an opportunity to focus on issues within a group context, including peer support.

The objectives the project seeks to achieve are to:

- Provide services for women at risk of offending/re-offending;
- Provide an increased range of support and diversion options for female offenders;
- Increase number of female offenders accessing and being retained in community provision;

- Provide services for female offenders receiving custodial sentences of under 12 months;
- Deliver gender responsive, effective and individually tailored programme and resettlement work to promote rehabilitation and reduce risk of further custodial sentences;
- Improve compliance with statutory orders and reduce breach rates;
- Improve continuity of care for women entering the prison system and on release;
- Improve engagement and retention in treatment for women with problem drug/alcohol use; and
- Evaluate the effectiveness of an integrated approach to resettlement for women offenders.

The grant will continue the new (April 2009) Group Work & Resettlement Programme when the Impact funding concludes as well as develop a proposed new group (Living It). Trust also aim to continue and enhance the existing court diversion scheme and increase capacity due to vice team reinstated & prospective new rehabilitation orders. The money will also be used to fund the new Women's Specialist Diversion post working with the System Change Pilot Case management Team. This role will have the opportunity to review current practice across the Lambeth system and examine and develop effective gender specific interventions to increase access, engagement and retention.

Women will be referred through existing internal routes such as: street outreach, drop-in, court diversion scheme & self referrals. Other existing referral sources include Arrest Referral, Police, Social Services, Lorraine Hewitt House (SLAM), Blenheim CDP RISE and a wide range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies. The groups can be a voluntary aspect of the Probation Manager's Offender Care Plan.

Contact: Diane Martin - info@trust-london.com

In addition, the following organisations have been provided with development funding:

YWCA (London East)

YWCA England and Wales has worked with disadvantaged girls and women for over 150 years. YWCA's vision is that 'all girls and women, in particular those living in the most disadvantaged and deprived areas across England and Wales overcome prejudice and the barriers they face to fulfil their potential'.

YWCA London East was established in 1990 in response to local need in a deprived area with exceptionally high rates of lone parents, poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence. It supports girls and women

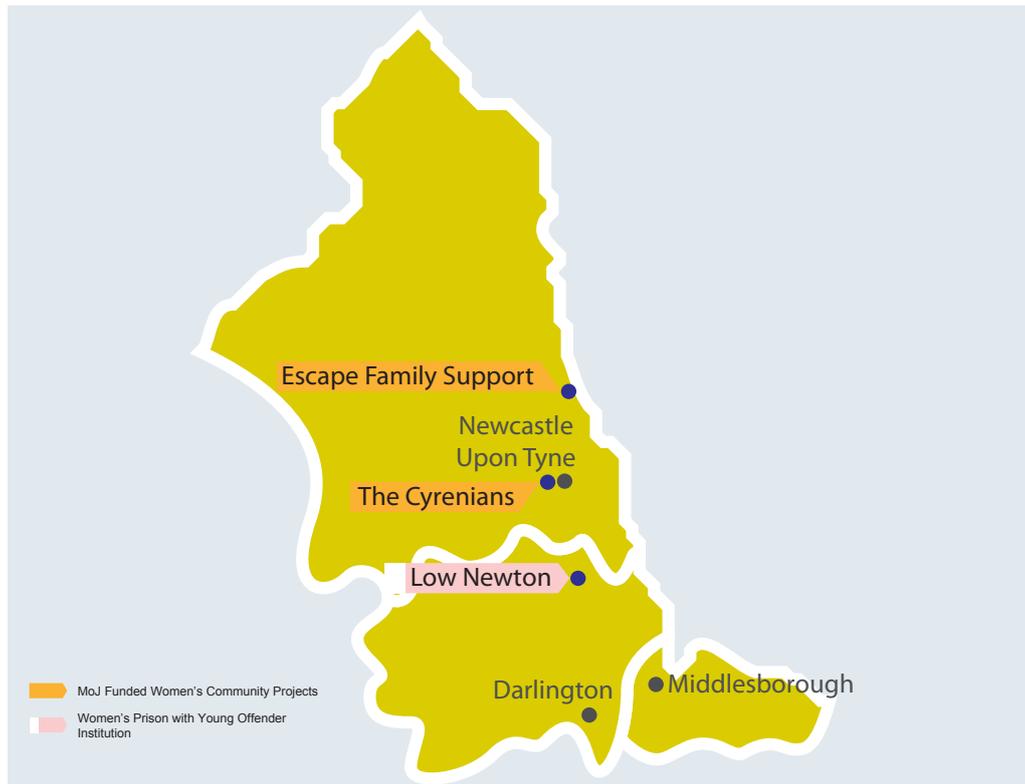
who experience social and economic exclusion, multiple deprivation and complex issues. The centre delivers wrap around services, enabling girls and women to manage their emotional/physical health and well being, supporting them to make informed lifestyle choices and develop coping strategies. It formulates effective individual personal plans, which are goal orientated and time limited, emphasising the development of critical thinking, analyses, self-reflection and problem solving.

MoJ development funding until 31st March 2010 will be used to build our work with women involved in the CJS and capacity build the YWCA London East Centre through:

- Training staff at the centre;
- Building links and networking with local agencies working with women offenders and those at risk of offending;
- Developing our work with women involved in the criminal justice system by providing a weekly support group and tailored programme of activities; and
- Producing a booklet for women involved in the criminal justice system.

Contact: Alison Baxter - alison.baxter@ywca.org.uk

North East



DOM - Phil Cople

Lead Contact - Dorothy Downing

Email - dorothy.downing@noms.gsi.gov.uk

The following organisation received funding in the first funding round:

The Cyrenians (Newcastle) - WoW Project

The Cyrenians offer a tailored approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable and socially disadvantaged clients. The Women's Service has been developed as a dedicated service to champion the needs of women with multiple and complex problems. The Women's Service was developed through the establishment of the GAP Project which provides support to women involved in sex work. The model of practice engages women who have traditionally avoided contact with other agencies. Specialist services include; community outreach, drop-in, structured groups, innovative activities and supported accommodation. The Women's Service aims to further develop outstanding specialist services for women.

Ministry of Justice funding is being used to employ a Project Lead and a Senior Support Worker for the Women outside Walls (WoW!) Project. Both staff have specialist criminal justice knowledge, and are a strong presence in the local courts and the local women's prison. The project aims to divert women from custody, reduce incidence and breach of community orders and to reduce re-offending and homelessness on release from custody. Staff can advise on appropriate alternatives to

custody, such as using our supported accommodation as a bail address, with or without electronic monitoring.

The Cyrenians Women's Service is taking an active role in the sentence planning for women at risk of custody and on release from short sentences. WoW! staff are working closely with Probation partners to achieve Integrated Offender Management, whereby a service user's engagement with WoW! contributes toward their statutory requirement to engage. The service is extremely needs led and individualised; the nature of the work can therefore vary greatly. A specific venture being delivered by the WoW! Project team is the refurbishment of the women's supported accommodation. To date the women have taken part in Phase One, which was the delivery of Interior Design workshops through which they developed and refined a plan for the two buildings. This will be followed by practical skills training at The Cyrenians Brighter Futures workshops, before the women undertake the refurbishment itself. This opportunity has been very well received, as it enhances skills, increases self confidence and encourages the women to think about their aspirations. It is envisaged that taking part in the venture will lead to further training, employment and social enterprise opportunities.

Contact: Lisa Boyack - l.boyack@tcuk.org

The following organisation received funding in the second grant funding round:

ESCAPE Family Support (Northumberland) - SWAN Project

ESCAPE Family Support Ltd is the lead agency for this partnership bid, and has worked in Northumberland for 14 years. ESCAPE provides holistic support to substance users their families and carers across Northumberland, delivering stand alone services and interventions in partnership with statutory and non-statutory agencies. It provides Tier 2 (advice, advocacy, information) and Tier 3 services (including Person Centred Counselling and CBT, Structured Care Programmes, Therapies, Support to Employability, Brief Interventions and 24 hour help line support). The SWAN Project (Supporting Women Around Northumberland) is a partnership between 4 agencies: ESCAPE Family Support Ltd, Relate – Northumberland and Tyneside, Women's Health Advice Centre and Fourth Action – North Northumberland Women's Network. The partnership works across Northumberland, incorporating rural areas, alongside former coal mining and industrial communities, with many services delivered from hub towns as there is difficulty in accessing regular support services in the remote and rural North and West of the County.

SWAN will have extensive hubs within difficult to access, rural communities. The project aims to develop and deliver a peripatetic service (virtual one stop shop) using partner bases in all major towns and community meeting places. SWAN will also provide an outreach service to meet the needs of

women in communities where access to towns is limited - taking services to women and not bringing women to services. SWAN will have clear referral pathways and provide services to vulnerable women referred primarily by Northumbria Probation Service and with clear individual care plans for women whether within the criminal justice system or accessing after care.

SWAN will employ women's workers and expand existing resources to develop and deliver multi agency holistic services to vulnerable women in Northumberland. Building on current volunteering, mentoring, and learning and support service for women offenders. The approach will focus on issues for women and include building relationships within families and with partners through counselling and psycho social interventions. SWAN will concentrate on the pathways of substance misuse; finance benefit and debt; relationships; children -- including hidden harm; attitudes thinking and behaviour and offending. The client group will have access to counselling, therapies and key work support where there are relationship; parenting; drug and alcohol use, domestic violence; housing; debt and mental health issues. SWAN will offer improvements in the routes that vulnerable women and women offenders currently have for engagement in their communities; offering personal support and progression into learning and careers.

Contact: Katie Wheatley - katie.wheatley@escapefamilysupport.co.uk

North West



DOM - Caroline Marsh

Lead Contact - Zameer Malik

Email - zameer.malik@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

The following organisation received funding in the second grant funding round:

Women in Prison / Pankhurst Centre (Manchester) - The Women MATTa Project

The project is a partnership between the Pankhurst Centre (PC) and Women in Prison (WIP). Since 1983, WIP has campaigned for and provided support services to women offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending. Existing services include:

- National free-phone advice line;
- Information/advice sessions in all 14 women's prisons;
- 'Through the Gate' holistic resettlement support;
- Specialist support projects for BME women and women with a history of diagnosed mental illness; and
- London Project (MoJ funded) supporting women most at risk of repeat custodial sentences.

For the past five years, WIP has provided regular advice surgeries in HMP Styal and currently provides 'through the gate' support to women released back to the Greater Manchester area.

Established in 1987, the Pankhurst Centre is a women-only community space that creates an environment in which women can socialise and learn together. The PC runs free informal educational courses and workshops (e.g. IT, DIY, ESOL and personal development), drop-in sessions, volunteering opportunities and gender-based violence services. For the past 8 years, Greater Manchester Probation Trust (GMPT) has run its Women's Programme from the PC; as a result, around 500 women offenders have accessed support from the PC.

The project will enable both delivery partners to expand their services to vulnerable women in Manchester City and Trafford by providing a 'one-stop-shop' approach to supporting women offenders and women at risk of offending.

The project will incorporate these elements of support:

- Drop-in support and advice sessions for one-off or ongoing support;
- 1-2-1 support. Information, advice and individual casework/advocacy support across all nine Reducing Re-offending Pathways;
- Group support and skills building. Group, peer-based support will focus on enabling women to build self-confidence/self-esteem and learn new life skills;
- Family-based interventions. Intensive practical and therapeutic support to families whose children have had contact with statutory children's services and/or the mother has a history of substance misuse; and
- Peer mentoring support by trained mentors, focusing on empowering women to sustain employment/education and sustain positive change.

WIP's existing referral pathways from HMP Styal will be enhanced by new referral agreements with staff at magistrates' courts in Manchester City and Trafford and targeted police custody suites. In addition to the PC drop-in, individual and group-based interventions will also be undertaken at women-only or community spaces. Advice/drop-in surgeries will also be undertaken at local homelessness hostels, sexual health clinics, drug treatment centres and Sure Start centres.

Contact: Women MATTA - womenmatta@womeninprison.org.uk

In addition, but separate to, the grant funding for women's community projects, we are supporting:

Together Women Projects (Salford)

In March 2005 the government allocated £9.15 million (over 3 years) to support a more effective community-based response to women's offending, the Together Women Projects (TWP). The demonstrator project

phase of TWP concluded in March 2009 and although providers have been successful at attracting funding from a range of sources, the Ministry of Justice has provided additional funding to assist lead providers in their transition to full sustainability. Services are currently being delivered across four sites within two Director of Offender Manager regions – the North West and Yorkshire & Humberside. There are currently two lead providers, Salford Foundation and Together Women Projects (Yorkshire & Humberside).

TWP centres offer a gender specific response to women offenders or those at risk of offending. Each centre operates as a one stop shop with a broad range of sessions and surgeries delivered on-site. On-site services focus upon 9 pathways; Emotional wellbeing, ETE, housing, drugs and alcohol, finance, relationships, offending behaviour, interpersonal skills and domestic abuse.

Where suitable provision exists, Together Women attempts to tap into it; where there is a gap in provision, it commissions another provider or delivers it in house. A key element of the Together Women approach is that the level and range of services are tailored to the individual needs of women determined by a full needs assessment. Involving service users in the design and review of their plans is empowering and an important step in getting women to take control of their lives.

Contact: Jill Rogerson - jillrogerson@salfordfoundation.org.uk

Following the administration of the Liverpool TWP provider we are also currently working to re-establish a service for women in Liverpool.

Women in Prison Outreach Provision (Bolton)

Negotiations are taking place to extend the WIP project into the Bolton Area of Greater Manchester. This will involve 'outreach' provision into the area to provide the elements of support provided at the Pankhurst Centre project and will include partnership with agencies currently in the locality offering gender specific services.

Preston and Blackpool

Lancashire Probation Trust is currently engaged in a joint commissioning exercise with the National Offender Management North West Regional Commissioning Team to deliver 'one-stop-shop' services in Preston and Blackpool, two areas of significant need. Negotiations are currently taking place to identify appropriate providers and to deliver training/awareness raising events in the area to support the process and widen understanding of the need for women only services in the area.

South East



DOM - Roger Hill

Lead Contact - Barbara Swyer

Email - barbara.swyer@justice.gov.uk

The following organisations received funding in the second grant funding round:

Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work (Reading) - PACT

Parents and Children Together (PACT), the operating name of the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work Inc., is a local charity who started working with women and children almost 100 years ago. Their current projects support disadvantaged and vulnerable families, women who experience domestic abuse, parenting, and managing Children's Centres as well as education and adoption and fostering schemes. PACT's most recent development is a service for child (aged 6-13) victims or witnesses of domestic abuse. The aim is to build relationships between mother and child and repair damage using play-therapy techniques. Funding has been obtained to increase the number of children supported.

PACT has experience of working with vulnerable women and their families, coupled with experience co-ordinating delivery partners to provide a holistic service at the point of delivery that meets the needs of clients. They have experience of working with Teenage Parents, Asian Women, Gypsies and Travellers, female victims of domestic abuse, the homeless and those in housing need. Their 1-2-1 service involving a

comprehensive support and risk assessment with a resulting individual support plan, including group work aims to empower and ensures that vulnerabilities including experience of discrimination, victimisation and environment are embraced whilst motivating individuals to fully engage in support.

The Women's Community Project provision will be located in central Reading. Activities will improve self-esteem, employability and educational attainment. A range of voluntary and statutory agencies will provide services at the centre addressing substance misuse, offending behaviour, housing issues, employment, debt and financial support, parenting, health and emotional well-being. They aim to develop provision for conditional cautioning, provide dedicated women only provision for bail support and specialist Probation interventions. A tailored conditional cautioning scheme will be developed in conjunction with Probation and the Police, building on the current successful scheme for kerb crawlers. Access to the service will be multi-faceted – referral from other agencies, self referral, drop-in sessions at the centre or required attendance through CJS processes. Probation has agreed that the centre will provide a 4th option for their Bail Information Service (who dealt with 9 custody cases in July 2009).

The Street Population Outreach Team (St Mungos) will refer women living on the streets. RAHAB (working with street sex workers) worked with 40 women in 2008/09 that would have been suitable for referral, and will offer support through attendance at the centre. The DAAT team will refer their female clients to the centre for the wrap around service that will be on offer. Interventions will be tiered from a universal, holistic service that any women can access, through generic support packages, programmes of support and compulsory attendance programmes. All programmes of support above Tier 2 will be individualised based on need and co-ordinated through a 1-2-1 support plan.

Services at the centre in addition to PACT will include, CAB, Women's Aid, Sex Worker Support, Health Trainers and Activists, Probation, with training including healthy eating, numeracy, literacy and ESOL, and be tiered by intensity. PACT will co-ordinate the service and provide specific group programmes, work with mothers and children and the 1-2-1 assessed support service.

Contact: Hannah Powell - hannah.powell@pactcharity.org

Brighton Women's Centre (Brighton) - Inspire

Inspire is a project developed by a partnership of Brighton and Hove women's voluntary sector organisations, the Women's Services Strategic Network (WSSN). Partners include Brighton Women's Centre (BWC) as the Lead Agency, Brighton Oasis Project (BOP), Threshold (BHT), RISE (Refuge Information Support Education) and Survivors' Network. WSSN

was initiated by Brighton Women's Centre in 2007 to offer a strategic approach to the development of women's services across Brighton and Hove.

Since 1974, BWC has supported vulnerable and socially excluded women, offering a range of services, including drop in, counselling, holistic therapies and volunteering opportunities in a safe women only space. BOP provides a structured day care programme and group-work for women and children affected by substance misuse and specialist services for those working in the sex industry. BOP works with Probation on the delivery of the DRR programme. Threshold (BHT) has run mental health services for women in Brighton and Hove for 21 years. They also run a project with refugees and asylum seekers, and have had 7 year's contractual experience of providing counselling for women on Probation. RISE, established in 1994, works with women who have experienced domestic violence, some of whom have been involved with the criminal justice system as offenders, and through its IDVA service and attendance at the MARAC and SDVC. They work closely with the Living Without Violence programme and the IDAP women's safety worker. Survivors Network has been supporting women who experienced childhood sexual abuse since 1990 in drop-ins, support groups, telephone helpline and via email. In 2009 they expanded to become a Rape Crisis centre for Brighton and Hove.

A Project Co-ordinator, case workers, a family worker and a sex worker's outreach worker will be recruited and based at Inspire and deliver tailor made support packages. An SLA has been developed with Sussex Probation to deliver women centred specified activities and unpaid work. Based on links with Sussex Police, Case workers will attend the local police custody suite to encourage diversion at this early stage. The case workers will attend court to provide support packages, advice and advocacy to reduce the risk of custody, and will link in with the Mental Health Court Pilot at Brighton Magistrates Court and provide access to specialist support packages and specified activities. The case workers will provide in-reach support at HMP Bronzefield and support packages for women in resettlement and providing alternatives to custody for those on remand/bail.

Inspire volunteers will provide mentoring advice and support to vulnerable women in the community. Caseworkers will work closely with the DIP team's support workers, and monthly operational meetings will take place between Inspire Project Manager, case workers and Partnership Liaison Officers. Quarterly Strategy Group meetings will take place between all stakeholders to include Police, Probation, Inspire and other key stakeholders to ensure effective delivery.

Contact: Lisa Dando - info@womenscentre.org.uk

In addition, the following organisations have been provided with development funding:

Catch22 (Southampton) - 3D

Catch22 is a national charity that works with young people who find themselves in difficult situations. Catch22 works with their families and their communities. Catch22 emerged out of the coming together of Rainer and Crime Concern in 2008. Catch22's services and programmes for adult offenders and those at risk of offending include:

- Offender employment, training and education;
- Accommodation support on release;
- Offender mentoring;
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance;
- Resettlement;
- Remand Management; and
- Unpaid work schemes.

3D is Catch22's community based service for women involved in, or vulnerable to street sex work. In Southampton since 2001, 3D has supported sex workers to identify and sustain alternative lifestyles. 3D has a house in inner-city Southampton, providing rooms for offices, clinical examination, groupwork, one to one counselling and advice, kitchen, laundry and shower. 3D also offers telephone, internet and a 'care of' address. It is a safe place, providing drop in, family support, activities, outreach and home visits.

Contact: Eva Richmond - eva.richmond@catch-22.org.uk

In addition, but separate to, the grant funding for women's community projects, we are supporting:

The Surrey Project (Woking)

The Surrey Project provides a holistic support service to women in contact with the criminal justice system, including those serving community sentences and women released from custody who are returning to Surrey. Following a year's successful pilot project based at the newly established Woking Women's Centre, the project has now been enhanced by an additional outreach worker. Current prison in-reach to HMP Send and HMP Downview will be expanded to include in-reach to local magistrate's courts, police custody suites, homelessness hostels, sexual health clinics and GP surgeries across Surrey.

Contact: Rachel Halford - rachel@womeninprison.org.uk

South West



DOM - Colin Allars

Lead Contact - David Scott or Ruth Power

Email - david.scott@justice.gov.uk or
ruth.power@justice.gov.uk

The following organisations received funding in the second grant funding round:

The Nelson Trust (Gloucester) - ISIS Project

The Nelson Trust, funded by the Ministry of Justice, have developed a Women's Community Project in Gloucester to address the wide range of needs of women at risk of offending or reoffending, in response to the recommendations in the Corston Report (2007). The centre is called ISIS (Integrated Support and Information Services) Women's Centre, and has been developed in partnership with Barnardos who will manage the centre's Ofsted registered crèche.

Our work with women exhibiting complex, multiple needs has been widely recognised. The Ministry of Justice and Cabinet Office Short Study on Women Offenders (2009) cited the Trust as an example of good practice. The experience of a woman referred to Nelson Trust from Send Prison was instrumental in the Trust gaining a national award from the Centre for Social Justice in 2009.

ISIS provides support for women in a safe environment where they can be assisted to identify their needs and helped to find strategies and solutions to them. The centre aims to contribute toward the prevention and reduction of offending through the provision of an alternative, community-based service for women. We aim to deliver responsive, accessible provision, which enhances and builds upon existing services already in operation. We work in partnership with a variety of other community based specialist voluntary and statutory agencies.

Service Delivery for ISIS will be through a dedicated centre in Gloucester. Referral routes will be through Probation, Police, Courts, HMP Eastwood Park, DIP Team, Self-Referral and via local agencies. We have developed a conditional caution package in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Board and Gloucestershire Police.

Once a woman has been referred to ISIS, she will receive an in-depth assessment of her current needs. The assessment identifies and explores areas in which support is required. The assessment also attends to her levels of self-esteem, her attitude to offending and encourages a woman to identify her own priorities for change.

Once assessed, an achievable individualised Support Plan is devised between the woman and her key worker. This is a collaborative process, which sets out goals and identifies who is responsible for them. The plan is regularly re-evaluated to monitor progress and identify barriers.

A key component to the work undertaken by the centre staff is to empower the woman, build confidence and self-esteem, promote self worth and increase resources, strategies and personal development opportunities. While the woman is in contact with ISIS, her 'Distance Travelled' is measured across each need as identified in her assessment and subsequent support plan. Services and support will address women's needs across the nine pathways. We will provide a range of in-house activities and supported referrals into partnership agencies, these include:

- Employment, Training and Education (ETE) training and support;
- Educational workshops and groups addressing emotional management, relationships, trauma and self-esteem;
- Individual Support sessions addressing practical and emotional needs;
- Workshops and course modules addressing offending behaviour, the consequences of crime and the links between attitudes and thinking offending and substance misuse;
- OCN accredited courses in a range of subjects including money management, self-esteem and confidence building, parenting skills, nutrition;
- Family services including family therapy, support in parenting, managing relationship issues and couple therapy;
- Access to advice and information about housing and homelessness,

debt, benefits and other rights;

- Practical support to help women to access health services to improve physical and mental wellbeing and other support available in the community;
- Supported referrals into local specialist agencies such as housing and domestic violence; and
- A crèche service for under 5s

Contact: Rose Mahon - rose@nelsontrust.com

Stonham (Plymouth) - PROMISe

PROMISe (Plymouth Reducing Offending thru Meaningful Interventions Service) is funded by the Ministry of Justice and Supporting People to support women who are or are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. It is part of the Integrated Services for Women in Plymouth (ISWP), an approach and a partnership of statutory and voluntary sector organisations working collaboratively within Plymouth to better meet the needs of this client group.

As the lead organisation for PROMISe, Stonham is England's largest provider of housing, care and support for vulnerable and socially-excluded people. We run over 520 services nationwide, working in partnership with Probation services, local authorities, health care providers and others, delivering services to over 20,000 people each year. Stonham is the specialist care and support division of Home Group, one of the UK's leading providers of affordable housing, care and support.

As well as providing housing and support, much of Stonham's work is about ensuring that people can live securely and independently, whoever is providing the roof over their heads. We specialise in working with:

- People who have been in prison or through the courts;
- Single homeless people;
- Young people leaving care;
- Vulnerable mothers and their babies;
- People with mental health problems;
- People with learning or physical disabilities;
- Women and their children who are escaping domestic violence; and
- People with drug and/or alcohol dependency problems.

Our objective is to reduce offending and the impact of offending upon the city by providing individual packages of support to meet the needs of women in line with the 9 reducing re offending pathways.

Our service currently provides:

- Project Workers who can give 1:1 support to clients to meet their identified and agreed goals;
- Outreach tenancy support for those individuals who are looking to obtain or retain accommodation;
- Advice line and telephone support;
- 14 week SEEDS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Domestic Abuse Services) programme;
- Specifically commissioned mentorship programme via JustPeople to provide trained and experienced volunteers to work with offenders and those at risk of offending;
- Emergency bed available on a short term basis to assist women who are returning from prison or at immediate risk of harm in relation to their historic, current or prospective offending;
- Collection at the gates via FOTO (Friends On The Outside) and follow on support;
- SAR (specified activity requirement) offered in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall Probation Service;
- Support to access local crèche facilities;
- Spot purchase budget to commission services for a client or clients where current provision is not available/sufficient to meet need; and
- Drop in facilities held at external services.

In the longer term, PROMISe is looking to deliver the service from a principle hub which will ensure the continued delivery of these facilities plus a range of centrally provided services including drop in, additional group sessions and training.

Enquiries and referrals can be made directly by a prospective client or via a third or statutory sector using the contact details below.

Contact: Madi Askew - madi.askew@homegroup.org.uk

In addition, the following organisations have been provided with development funding:

Family Matters (Dorset)

Family Matters was incepted in 2003 and mainly delivers services to women who have been raped or abused, some of these women are, or have been, involved with the CJS / exhibit offending behaviour / or at risk of offending.

Family Matters' mission is to provide services in a timely and respectful manner, to enable people to develop positive family life free from fear and with the power to grow and prosper and develop services to meet the needs of clients, future clients and people in need.

Family Matters has a history of very close working relationships with Probation, Dorset Police and the LCJB as well as many voluntary sector providers.

Contact: Roni Jones - roni_relate@btinternet.com

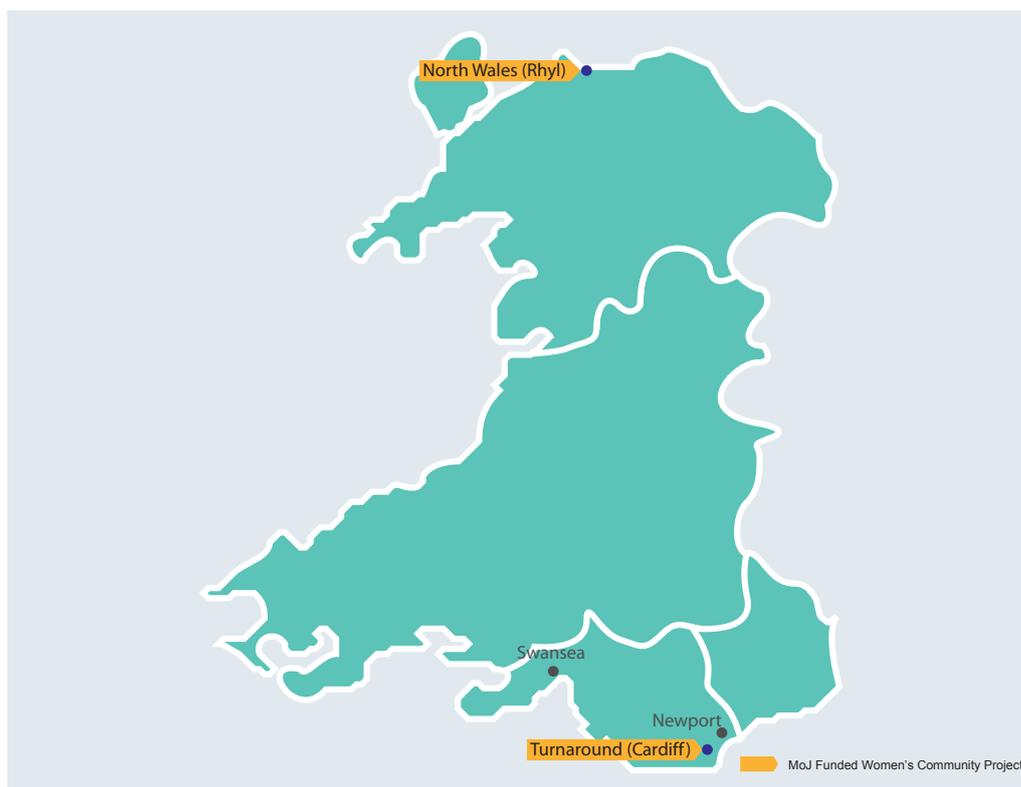
In addition, but separate to, the grant funding for women's community projects, we are supporting:

Eden House (Bristol)

Eden House is a 3 year demonstration project in Bristol. It offers day and outreach services to address the needs of women offenders and those at risk of offending within their local community. It is delivered and managed by NOMS South West, in partnership with Avon and Somerset Probation, HMP Eastwood Park, local sentencers, Supporting People, offender health and a range of other local stakeholders represented on the strategic board for Eden House.

Contact: enquiries@edenhouseproject.org

Wales



DOM - Yvonne Thomas

Lead Contact - Ingrid Zammit

Email - ingrid.zammit@justice.gov.uk

The following organisation received funding in the first round:

Safer Wales (Cardiff) - Women's Turnaround Project

The Women's Turnaround Project (WTP) was launched in November 2007 with the aim of providing 'Welsh' women offenders and women at risk of offending with a multi-agency, community-based service that addresses their individual risks and needs. The project emerged as a direct response to the Corston Report. The Women's Turnaround Project provides vulnerable women with services in a safe and non-intimidating environment within which they can be assisted to identify their problems and find solutions for them. Services include advice on a range of issues including; legal issues, housing, education and training, employment, families and relationships, health, finance and substance misuse. The project is also part of the Intensive Alternative to Custody pilot and provides court assessments on women at risk of short term custodial sentences who appear before particular courts in Dyfed Powys and South Wales.

The Ministry of Justice grant funding has allowed WTP to build upon the team and develop the project across Mid and West Wales. We have established an office base in Llanelli to allow for this development. The purchase of a vehicle for use as a mobile office has allowed our project

workers to have a 'safe' space to meet with clients in the more rural areas who are unable to travel or where there are no suitable agencies nearby within which to meet. Our team covering South and Mid Wales have moved into our 'physical' centre for women in Cardiff Bay and this will allow for women service users to access support at the centre on a 'drop in' basis and also attend workshops such as careers advice, financial advice, adult learning and holistic therapies.

A WTP volunteer co-ordinator is in post and is actively recruiting volunteers across Wales. The volunteers will enable women who have made significant progress with their needs via support from project workers to continue to be supported with low risk needs and there will also be support at the 'physical' centre in Cardiff Bay from the volunteers as well as the possibility of using the mobile office to pick up clients who do not live near the centre making it accessible to all service users.

Contact: WTP Co-ordinator - wtp@saferwales.com

In addition, but separate to, the grant funding for women's community projects, we are supporting:

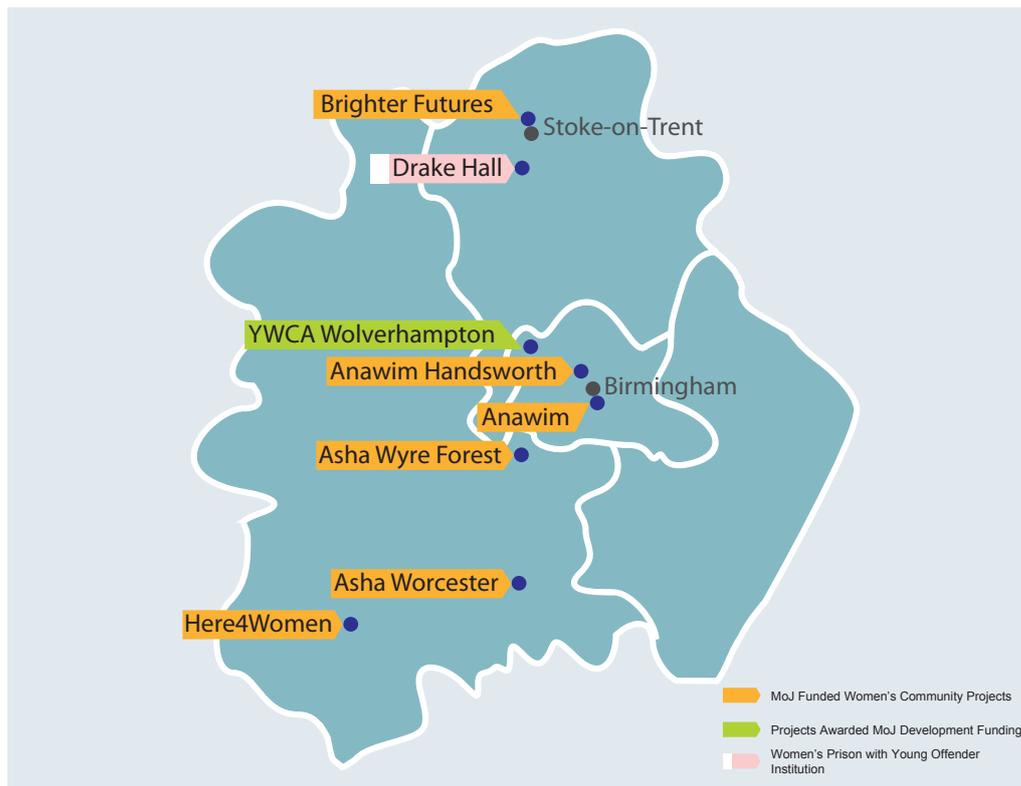
North Wales Women's Centre (Rhyl) - Women's Turnaround Project

NOMS Cymru have provided grant funding to the North Wales Women's Centre in Rhyl to roll out the Women's Turnaround Services for women who have offended or who are at risk of offending. The holistic women-centred service will be delivered from the Women's Centre in Rhyl and out reach services will become available across North Wales.

Four project workers have been employed to provide the support for women who engage with Turnaround and there is a large team of volunteers and mentors, many of whom are ex service users, available to proactively support women.

Contact: Mary Caldwell - mary@northwaleswomenscentre.co.uk

West Midlands



DOM - Gill Mortlock

Lead Contact - Alison Bevan

Email - alison.bevan@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

The following organisation received funding in the first round:

Anawim (Birmingham and Handsworth)

Anawim began as a single issue agency working with female street sex workers but has grown to provide a full range of services as a one stop shop. Anawim seeks to provide vulnerable women with wider positive choices to help them achieve their goals and reach their full potential as part of the wider community. Anawim has been working with vulnerable women for 26 years and in the last 7 years has developed its centre in Balsall Heath into a one stop shop centre. Anawim offer a range of services to women with complex and multiple needs. Services include; one to one work, a range of training courses, counselling, crèche, parenting assistance and support and advocacy support with a range of agencies and issues. Anawim are working closely with local criminal justice agencies and Probation and are recognised as an alternative to custody through their Unpaid Work Scheme and Specified Activity.

The grant has been used to secure current posts and to employ three new members of staff as well as to build the physical capacity of the centre through provision of an additional training room. We have purchased a temporary building which the crèche has moved into, this has freed up

a full size classroom to be used for art, craft and other workshops in healthy eating, drugs, fitness etc. The extra space has become invaluable as the numbers of women referred has increased dramatically. Anawim also provide a substantial amount of prison in-reach into Eastwood Park and Drake Hall, as well as shortly Foston Hall. We provide places for women to do their outworking experience at the centre. Shortly we are to start delivering the Freedom Programme, a domestic violence course, to women in prison.

Contact: Joy Doal - joydoal@aol.com

Asha Centres (Worcester, Herefordshire and Wyre Forest)

The Asha Women's Centre in Worcestershire provides a one stop shop for women serving the Worcester area and surrounding smaller towns. The centre is based directly on a strategy for working with women offenders that operated in the local Probation service from 1993-2001. The work transferred to a registered charity in 2002 and services broadened to include women at risk of offending. The Asha Centre provides a safe women only environment to offer women who are isolated by disadvantage a starting point from which to achieve personal development and improved economic stability. The Asha Centre was recognised in Baroness Corston's Report as a model of good practice.

With grant funding from the Ministry of Justice it has been possible to move to substantially improved premises, capable of accommodating the additional operational and management services staff that will support a major increase in our work with women offenders and women at risk of offending. The additional management services staff will also benefit other local women's centres in Hereford and Kidderminster. Work with offenders is being developed through work with Police, courts, prisons and Probation staff, and will include additional prison in-reach and resettlement work. Following a pilot, it is anticipated that the centre will manage unpaid work opportunities for women offenders in Worcester.

Part of the funding has also been used to encourage the development of a centre in Telford, Shropshire, based in an existing multi-agency partnership project.

The Asha Centre is now registered as an approved learning centre, thanks to funding from the Tudor Trust; this will enable qualifications to be awarded and is likely to support income generation

Contact: Lynne Fyfe - lynne@ashawomen.plus.com or Heather Smith (Here4Women) - admin@herefordwomen.co.uk

The following organisations were awarded funding in the second round:

Anawim (Handsworth)

Anawim has been working with vulnerable women for 26 years and in the last 7 years has developed its centre in Balsall Heath into a one stop shop centre. Anawim had run a small satellite service, aimed specifically at the most chaotic women, in the Handsworth area of the city for the last 3 years. It aims to help women over 18 with complex and multiple needs to move their lives forward. To provide a viable alternative to custody, increase self worth and recognise potential and offer hope. We aim to keep families together where appropriate, to empower each woman and child towards independence, regular employment and dignity. Anawim provide a full range of services to provide a holistic package designed to meet women's needs. Anawim provide Unpaid Work and Specified Activity requirements. This new centre in Handsworth was set up as a partnership, with Anawim as the lead provider. It has extended the current work in the Handsworth area of the city to provide a one stop shop service to women on the north side of Birmingham. We have moved into a new building, which is owned by Birmingham City Council and leased by DIP.

Partners include:

- **Care First** will screen for learning disabilities and mental health issues and offer practical courses.
- **Birmingham Settlement** provides a specialist money and housing advisor who will link with Eastwood Park, Foston Hall and Drake Hall as well as offering support at the centre.
- **Phoenix Futures** offer access into drug treatment, needle exchange, condoms, acupuncture, and group work on crack interventions, relapse prevention and harm minimisation.
- **WAITS** provide a counselling service, confidence and self esteem workshops, parenting and positive relationship workshops.
- **Edas Foundation** offer individual consultations on immigration, benefits and housing.
- **BirmaOutreach** provide homeopathy sessions.

Contact: Jackie Moore - jackieanawim@aol.co.uk

Brighter Futures (Stoke on Trent)

Since 1974 Brighter Futures has been committed to helping people in North Staffordshire to recover a sense of worth and live in cohesive communities. Brighter Futures are a registered social landlord, training agency, employment and support provider for those challenged by issues such as homelessness, crime, addictions, and poor mental health, including the impact of living in deprived areas and on low incomes. Brighter Futures are the only organisation in North Staffordshire delivering specific

services for people sleeping rough, women involved in sex work and young women at risk of or being sexually exploited. The Street Services Team and Women's Services have been using an outcome approach to support women to make changes in their lives for over ten years. This is the only local hostel that accommodates women over the age of 30.

The organisation's objectives are to help people recover a sense of self worth and live in cohesive communities where:

- They receive joined up services that meet their needs;
- They feel part of a group and valued by their peers in a community;
- They achieve their potential and play a socially valued role;
- Their environment increases their feelings of self worth and they feel valued; and
- They optimise their economic independence and their earnings potential.

The service will support women:

- Released following custodial sentences;
- On community orders at risk of breaching their order;
- On bail;
- At risk of receiving a custodial sentence;
- Prolific priority offenders;
- Involved in or at risk of prostitution;
- Substance misuse offenders from DIP identified as at high risk of re-offending; and
- Vulnerable and excluded women at risk of offending.

Operating a single point of access, the Women's Community Project will provide a community venue that brings together and co-ordinates services to support women in tackling the factors that lead to social exclusion and contribute to the risk of offending or re-offending. Women will be helped to make positive choices that lead to reducing their offending behaviour. The scheme will help women access specialist support and link them back into mainstream agencies, promoting the use of services at local and neighbourhood level. A range of services will be offered including: confidence building and self esteem; healthy living; educational courses; enhanced thinking skills; counselling; drug and alcohol interventions; and parenting skills.

Contact: Sarah Vernon - sarah.vernon@brighter-futures.org.uk

In addition, the following organisations have been provided with development funding:

YWCA (Wolverhampton)

YWCA England and Wales has worked with disadvantaged women for over 150 years. YWCA's vision is that 'all young women, in particular those living in the most disadvantaged and deprived areas across England and Wales overcome prejudice and the barriers they face to fulfil their potential'.

YWCA Wolverhampton has delivery centres in Bilston and Warstones that have been in existence from 2005 and 1950 respectively. Both centres work with vulnerable women facing complex and diverse problems and provide a safe women only environment for them to identify their needs and work to overcome them. Experienced staff work with asylum seekers & refugees, young mums, drug and alcohol misusers, those with mental health problems, care leavers, NEETS and those at risk of offending and social exclusion.

Contact: Nicola Salt - nicola.salt@ywca.org.uk

Yorkshire & Humberside



DOM - Steve Wagstaffe

Lead Contact - Janet Thornton

Email - janet.thornton@noms.gsi.gov.uk

The following project was funded in the first round:

WomenCentre (Calderdale and Kirklees) – Evolve

WomenCentre incorporates the merged organisations of Calderdale Women's Centre and Womenspace Kirklees. WomenCentre has bases in Halifax and Huddersfield and operates in Calderdale, Kirklees and surrounding areas. WomenCentre's vision is to maintain and develop a holistic one stop shop approach for all women that is safe, involving, empowering and enabling. They offer centre based services and outreach in local communities. WomenCentre were recognised in the Corston Report for their services to vulnerable women and as a model of good practice. Services include; drop-in, advice and guidance, counselling, training, children's services, women's mental health services, a women asylum seeker and refugee project, domestic violence services, a crèche and the Evolve project for women who offend or who are at risk of offending.

WomenCentre are extending the Evolve model which has previously been funded by the Tudor Trust and has so far been shown to be very successful. The grant funding will enable the Evolve service currently in operation in Calderdale and Kirklees to be developed and maintained. The

grant funding is enabling the Evolve service to be delivered in partnership with two additional centres in Wakefield and Blackburn.

Contact: Helen Avison - Helen.Avison@calderdalewomen.org.uk

The following organisations were funded in the second round:

Hull Women's Centre (Hull)

Hull Women's Centre is run by women for women and provides information, services and activities that will enable women to take control of their lives. Their priorities are:

- To promote individual women's self worth;
- To be open and accessible to all women; and
- To be responsive to women who use their services.

Hull Women's Centre was established to provide a safe space where services for women and their children could be accessed. The centre aims to offer women a voice, facilitate support networks and a range of training opportunities. Hull Women's Centre runs an advocacy project providing holistic support for women who have offended/are at risk, and provides crucial space for women from BME communities.

This service is a partnership with Preston Road Women's Centre and Together Women Yorkshire & Humberside. The main hub for the Hull women offender service will be based at Hull women's centre and will deliver gender specific support to women offenders and women at risk. Outreach workers will be based at Preston Road Women's Centre. The proposal aims to build on existing services and facilities.

Support will be delivered through key workers and will work across pathways. Hull Women's Centre will provide a package of interventions delivered by key workers, partner agencies and some signposting to specialist or mainstream services.

Needs assessments will be conducted and support plans developed. Services will include:

- 1:1 key worker support and support from volunteer mentors;
- Courses, groups and counselling sessions;
- Advocacy work with statutory CJS agencies on behalf of women;
- Workers liaising with agencies on behalf of women including social services, housing services, debt management agencies;
- Crèche facilities overseen by a crèche manager providing additional parenting support; and
- IT suite and basic computer skills courses.

Contact: Andrea James - andrea.j@twpyandh.org.uk

The Cambridge Centre (Scarborough)

The Cambridge Centre has a 25-year history of providing drug and alcohol services to the community of Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale. It provides a range of services to address the potential problems related to drug and/or alcohol use, and aims to reduce the harm associated with such usage for the individual, their families, friends and community. The Cambridge Centre has established contracts with The National Probation Service and North Yorkshire Police. They are currently commissioned to provide DIP and ATRs for statutory offenders, and also to provide ATRs to non-statutory offenders as part of the IOM interventions. They co-facilitate with Offender Managers two accredited training programmes; LIAP (Low Intensity Alcohol Programme) and DID (Drink Impaired Drivers). They have experience of delivering needle exchange, harm reduction, wound-care, overdose response training, psychosocial interventions, and services for young people and sexual health counselling. The Cambridge Centre has worked for 759 vulnerable women since 2006 and 235 young vulnerable women under the age of 19. Approximately 50% of their paid and qualified staff are ex-drug/alcohol users.

The Women's centre will be housed in already identified rented accommodation that will be leased specifically to deliver services to women. The property is larger than is required to house the core team as it is anticipated that other providers, including Probation, domestic abuse, education and training, Housing, bail support, drug and alcohol services and the sexual health counsellor will utilise the centre to offer their services to women. A range of interventions will be offered including one-to-one work, workshops, group work and clinics. The premise will also provide sufficient and appropriate space for child-minding facilities. The model of working will be based on the care planned approach that the Cambridge Centre currently uses – a care plan is agreed, after an initial assessment and risk assessment, setting clear goals, interventions and timescales. This will be reviewed with the women every 8 weeks.

The nine resettlement pathways will be used as a framework for service delivery. The Women's Centre will have services on-site for skills and employment; health; drugs and alcohol; finance, benefit, and debt; childcare, families and relationships; attitudes, thinking and behaviour; supporting women who have been abused, raped or experienced domestic abuse; and supporting women who are or have been involved in prostitution. They will also provide referrals to local specialists where necessary. Unpaid work opportunities will be available for women who receive this as part of their community sentence.

Contact: Liz Race - liz.race@cambridgecentre.org

In addition, but separate to, the grant funding for women's community projects, we are supporting:

Together Women Projects (Leeds, Bradford and Doncaster)

In March 2005, the government allocated £9.5 million (over 3 years) to commission two projects which would deliver a new community based response to women's offending. These projects were called the Together Women Projects; one was established in the North West (described above) and the other was established in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Initially, TWP Yorkshire and Humberside was run by a consortium of five organisations led by Foundation Housing and was funded entirely by the Ministry of Justice. In April 2009 TWP became an independent charity and secured funding from a number of different commissioners and has continued to receive some funding from the Ministry of Justice.

There are TWP centres in Leeds, Bradford and Doncaster and an outreach centre in Keighley and another based at New Hall Prison. TWP Y&H aims to:

- Support vulnerable 'hard to reach' women who rarely access mainstream services to tackle multiple and complex issues which trigger offending behaviour/ place a woman at risk;
- Support women at every stage of their involvement with the criminal justice system (CJS) and where appropriate divert women from custody/ arrest; and
- Prevent family breakdown, reduce social exclusion and help women turn their lives around.

TWP Y&H centres are gender specific 'one stop shops' which provide women with holistic support for a wide range of issues. These issues include mental and physical health problems, poor housing, lack of access to education and training, unmanageable debt, substance misuse, family breakdown, and suffering from violence and abuse.

Each woman referred to the project receives a needs assessment which is then used to create a holistic support plan. The support plan outlines a strategy to tackle all issues highlighted in the assessment. In line with their support plan, women can access a wide range of services from TWP Y&H. These include: 1:1 information, support and advice, signposting and support women to access community resources, and attendance of programmes and courses delivered both by TWP staff and by external agencies at the centres. Each TWP centre also provides free counselling sessions, appointments with health advisors, crèche facilities, washing facilities and much more.

Contact: Rokaiya Khan - rokaiyak@twpyandh.org.uk

If you require any further information on the Women's Community Projects please contact the Criminal Justice Women's Strategy Team at CJWST@justice.gsi.gov.uk.

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