

Community Awards 2017

Shortlisted projects

Women category

Wakefield Liaison and Diversion women's pathway - Wakefield Liaison and Diversion

Wakefield Liaison and Diversion Service (L&D) have developed a gender specific pathway to support women using our service. This decision was based on our experience to date as well as on the Corston Report which highlighted that women in contact with the criminal justice system respond better within female focused environments.

The Wakefield L&D Service has recruited a specialist female practitioner from the local Women's Centre to work with all women referred to their service and have developed a project within the centre tailored specifically to the needs of liaison and diversion female clients.

This project, Restore, offers both one to one and group work around the following:

- **Mothers Apart from their Children:** this program provides advocacy with social services, support at child protection conferences, and emotional support through care proceedings. It also offers one-to-one support or group workshops around coming to terms with having a child removed, coping with feelings of shame and guilt and moving forward, with work around memory boxes and contact.
- **Domestic Abuse Program:** this program offers one to one or group work around the impact of domestic abuse, understanding the extent of the abuse and how it affects not only victims but also their children.
- **Historical Sexual Abuse:** this program helps survivors of sexual abuse understand and come to terms with their experience and one-to-one support, counselling or therapeutic group work.
- **Disordered Eating Programme:** this program caters for with women who are experiencing eating disorders, providing group work around body positivity and empowering women to be confident with who they are.

- **BAMER Women:** specialist BAMER worker works with women from Black and Asian communities and refugee communities and provides one to one and group support.
- **IAPT Counselling and Trauma Therapies:** the Centre offers IAPT trauma-based counselling and other therapies such as EMDR, holistic therapies such as Reiki, Reflexology and Homeopathy. It also provides low level IAPT groups focused on managing anxiety, understanding trauma, managing emotions.
- **Sex Worker Project:** this project seeks to empower women who are currently engaged with or have had previous experience of sex work, aiming to help them find a voice in order to seek support for a range of needs. It encourages women to support one another to reduce isolation, share safety information and reduce risk.

Enrich Programme, Alana House - Parents and Children Together

The Alana House based Enrich Programme was developed in response to partners identifying a need to work together to better support women who have reached crisis point, often experiencing domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance misuse, poverty, unemployment and isolation.

The Enrich pilot (launched October 2016) partners Alana House (PACT), Thames Valley Police, IRIS and Reading Borough Council aimed to:

- Help women develop resilience, life skills, self-esteem and confidence
- Reduce criminal behaviour by encouraging women to make better informed decisions
- Reduce vulnerability, and reduce the costs to statutory services (police, ambulance and A&E).

The Enrich Programme achieved these aims by providing targeted, holistic interventions including one-to-one support, group workshops, outreach, access to training, volunteering and employment opportunities, counselling, and a Therapeutic PhotoVoice photography course and exhibition.

The 6 month pilot was a success - 100% of the women saw a reduction in calls on police time, and 100% of the women reported increased self-esteem and self-confidence. One of the women involved, Satiya*, was homeless with drug and alcohol addictions, had her children removed, and had been arrested 26 times in the past 11 months. Since Enrich, she says she has 'hope', has contact with her children, and hasn't been arrested.

Community Safety Unit (Operation Watson & Operation Floora), Domestic Violence Intervention and Perpetrator Intervention Team - Metropolitan Police Service

The Metropolitan Police Service and Royal Borough of Greenwich Safer Communities Team work in partnership to provide enhanced activity to support victims of domestic violence going through the criminal justice system with particular focus on cases where the victim is reticent to continue in the criminal justice process and cases where the victim has failed or withdraws their support for the prosecution. The team also provide enhanced activity to proactively enforce court orders, proactively arrest prolific 'offenders' to bring them to justice. The team will work with perpetrators in an effort to divert them away from offending.

The team is concerned with ensuring disruptive intervention for repeat and high risk DVA perpetrators, who live or offend in Royal Borough of Greenwich and intensive support for the repeat and high risk victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse, who live in Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Team Objectives:

- To increase confidence of repeat and high risk victims to report incidents of Domestic Abuse.
- To ensure the reduction of harm or potential harm faced by the high risk victims and reducing their repeat victimization rate.
- To reduce the offending rates of the highest risk and repeat perpetrators and ensuring that they are actively targeted via enforcement.

Operation Stargazer, Open Doors - Homerton NHS Foundation Trust and Metropolitan Police Service

Open Doors is a clinical, outreach and case management service, empowering sex workers to reduce harm to make informed choices and access services. These services should reflect the complexities of an individual life and the challenges that face them.

Open Doors is part of Homerton University Hospital, Community Sexual Health. Open Doors act as a bridge between clients and the criminal justice system supporting them to report crimes against them and also through all the investigation, court process but also supporting women when they have warrants, fines, when they are arrested and going to court.

Operation Stargazer is the policing Operation in Newham, East London working jointly with Open Doors to target on street sex working in the borough of Newham. This has involved working closely with the outreach agency in order to increase the women's confidence in police, sharing of intelligence, safe guarding and ASB

reduction. This has been achieved through a multi-faceted approach of IMPACT courses following kerb crawling operations, attending open days at safe houses, providing self-defence to sex workers, voluntary returning high ASB offenders back to their home nation, managing wanted offenders and the obtaining of intelligence of harmful nominals in the area.

218 - Turning Point Scotland

The 218 Service provides an alternative to custody for women in the criminal justice system. We provide programmes of intensive support and group work to empower the women to address the root causes of their offending. This assists them to break the cycle of offending which results in the 'revolving door' syndrome of maintaining their involvement in the criminal justice system and prison service.

The service offers a 12 bed Residential Unit and a Community Engagement service for women who still reside in the community. As many of the women who access our service have a wide range of mental and physical issues we have an integrated health team and psychological therapy team to address these.

The service works with women aged 18 and over who have been involved with criminal justice in the last 12 months. Many of the women who are referred to the 218 Service will have a range of complex needs such as addiction, mental health, physical health, trauma, chronic low self-esteem and self-confidence as well as social isolation.

Sex Worker Outreach Project (SWOP) - The Nelson Trust

The Nelson Trust Women's Community Services were initially established in 2010. It operates two Women's Centres, in Gloucester and Swindon. From within each Centre they deliver a Street Sex Worker Outreach Project.

SWOP is a street-based community outreach service, providing proactive support to women engaging in street based sex working or "survival sex" because they have addiction problems. They work mainly in Gloucester, Swindon and parts of Wiltshire. Street based sex workers are one of the most vulnerable groups of women in our community and in the Criminal Justice System. They face a very high prevalence of exploitation, violent assault, robbery, rape and murder as well as facing abuse, stigma, poor health, social exclusion and, almost invariably, presenting with symptoms of trauma and emotional distress resulting in substance misuse. Many also lack access to safe and stable housing rendering them street homeless.

Through a dedicated team of SWOP outreach workers and many volunteers they are able to proactively engage with sex working women through a variety of means

thereby enhancing their ability to be safer and provide a comprehensive offer of support to women who want to engage with our services.

Harrogate Women's Project - Harrogate Women's Project

Harrogate Women's Project is a community project, set up as a joint initiative by the Probation Service and Mowbray Community Church in 2012, resulting from a need identified by the Yorkshire Probation Trust. Various reports showed that women who offend were often suffered from life-impacting crises. If they could receive assistance with the underlying crisis, and be provided with support in an empowering and encouraging environment, the risk of reoffending would be greatly reduced.

The project aims to support all women, but particularly those in crisis. It offers a safe and welcoming weekly drop-in centre for women of all ages, and from all walks of life, offering them resources and support, through a range of activities, speakers and signposting.

Their aims are:

- To bring women from different backgrounds together to build friendships and support networks
- To educate women in dealing with life-impacting problems, and to signpost to different support agencies and programs
- To provide opportunities for women leaving custodial sentences to help them reintegrate into the community
- To provide a safe and welcoming environment, and fun in different ways, including crafts, hobbies and social events.

Women's Triage - Greater Manchester Police

Women's Triage allows officers to divert female offenders away from the criminal justice system at the earliest opportunity, reducing demand, distress to the female and improving re-offending rates. The female is given an appointment at her local women's centre. When she attends, the staff conducts an assessment of her needs, based on the 9 pathways to offending and produce a report with recommended interventions. This report is sent to the police and, provided the female engages with the interventions, she either receives a conditional caution or in many cases no further action.

For shoplifting offences, the diversion takes place at the store: a local resolution officer submits a crime over the phone and books the appointment for the female at the women's centre. The store then escort them off the premises with no police resource attending, reducing demand further and the distress on the female. 80% of female shoplifters have disclosed on their assessment that they were domestic

abuse victims and that this was a significant factor in their offending. By prosecuting such women, the police service are actually punishing and imprisoning the very people we have vowed to protect.

Their scheme aims to identify their most vulnerable females and to support them over prosecuting them.

Doncaster Women's Centre and Community Hub - Changing Lives

Changing Lives is a national charity that, each year, supports over 20,000 vulnerable people to make positive changes to their lives. We specialise in helping people overcome barriers to achieving their potential, including addiction, housing and homelessness, offending, and employment. Our gender-specific services recognise the unique challenges women and girls can face, particularly in relation to criminal justice and sexual exploitation.

In Doncaster, our services are as diverse as the community we serve. We offer person-centred support to people from a range of backgrounds. A core strand of our work is women within the criminal justice system. Women are often disproportionately impacted by the CJS, through harsher sentencing and separation from children. We aim to prevent women entering or returning to the CJS.

Our work includes advocacy, support around complex needs, domestic and sexual abuse, education, training and employment, housing, mental health, parenting and substance misuse. We work with women in prisons, in the community and 'through the gate' as they leave prison. As well as outreach in the community, we work from our building in the heart of Doncaster, where our extended opening hours and on-site crèche make it easier for anyone who needs help to access it.