



Mentoring and Advocacy Service

Mentoring and Advocacy Service for women offenders with personality disorder (PD) in North of England and North Wales.

Background

Together Women Project, Yorkshire and Humberside (TWP) support women with multiple and complex needs and those facing social exclusion, with a particular focus on women in the criminal justice system. With centres across Yorkshire and Humberside, TWP delivers a range of accessible support, outreach, activities, courses and specialist services from safe women-only environments.

Commencing in July 2014, TWP will be delivering a Mentoring and Advocacy Service across the North of England and North Wales for female offenders with personality disorder. The service will form part of the NOMs/NHS Offender Personality Disorder pathway, providing a gender specific and needs-led service which is consistent across custody and the community.

Project Overview

The Mentoring and Advocacy service supports women's engagement and progression through a pathway of care and management of women offenders with PD. Through a gender specific and responsive service operating across the North of England and North Wales, women will be provided with a wrap around service of advocacy as well as practical and emotional support. Each woman will be allocated a Key Worker who will provide consistent and long term support in custody and in the community, enabling them to develop a meaningful relationship with a Key Worker, receive support in addressing their needs and increase their access to treatment and services.

The aim of the Mentoring and Advocacy Service is to reduce repeat offending and improve the overall health of female offenders with PD. This is one of a number of services in the OPD pathway and will operate through an integrated model of care with a skilled, motivated and supported staff team.

Referral Criteria

In all cases women must be:

- Over 18
- Give consent to referral

- Have a home address in North of England or North Wales

Referrals are accepted for:

- Women who participate in the CARE programme at HMP New Hall.
- Women in custody, community or an approved premise who have been identified for the women offender PD pathway.
- Women who have a current offence of violence against the person, criminal damage, sexual offence and/or offences against children, are assessed as presenting a high risk of re-offending, are likely to have a form of PD and a demonstrated link between the PD and the offending behaviour.

Referrals can be both self referrals or made by a professional with regular contact with the woman. The referral can be made from any point of the OPD pathway in the North region (and for women from the North who may be participating in the Therapeutic Community at HMP Send which has a national catchment area).

Delivery

- All women will receive a full needs assessment and co-produce an individualised support plan alongside their Key Worker including support with accommodation, finance and benefits, children and families, substance misuse, personal safety, education and training, mental and physical health, motivation and social inclusion.
- Support will be offered through flexible appointments, visits and telephone contact to help women address their needs while building women's confidence, motivation and social inclusion.
- Advocacy will be provided on behalf of or for the women to help resolve issues, access services and have equal opportunity.
- Using an integrated care model, Key Workers will work to ensure communication and multi-agency working across health, criminal justice, social care and other partners.
- Women will be supported to access a variety of specialist and community support including local women's hubs and services.
- Support will be offered until a woman comes to the end of her period of statutory license/supervision or until she no longer wishes to access the service. The length of support will average approximately two years.
- Women will be offered a gradual exit from the service with follow-up support available.

Contact

For more information contact Lieran Docherty LieranD@twpyandh.org.uk