

- feedback from the Merseyside Women’s Team - we have adopted a different approach to how we manage women – a pan-Merseyside model, managing all women across Merseyside. However, the Probation Practitioners are geographically located, but where possible, the team are co-located with Women’s Centres and encourage attendance at the Women’s Centre rather than at a male dominated office. This is in an attempt to offer a trauma informed and gender informed environment. We recognise how vulnerability and risk can be interlinked and how experiences throughout life impact upon behaviours. ACEs are often perpetuated into adult life for women and learned behaviours of violence are formed from this. To this end, we offer a two pronged approach – not only do we challenge their behaviour (the reason why on Probation) we offer support to deal with trauma experienced often throughout a long time and focus on encouraging strength to build social capital. We work closely with the Ruby project who operate from the Women’s Centre and where our Sefton clients attend; so much so we have co-commissioned in recognition of the value of their service. We also work with Together Women whose specialist criminal justice mentor works with women who are at the higher risk to others and have PD traits. She is a trained IDVA and can support with this as well as other aspects. Attendance at the Women’s Turnaround Centre – albeit for the fact that they are subject to Probation – is supportive as well as challenging. PSS deliver programmes from the same site and support our Women’s Commissioned Services. It is a safe place that women and only women, can access, providing the opportunity to work directly with services such as IDVAs and Savera Liverpool, to help those who have suffered violence against them.
- The actions they put in place to deal with Violence against Women and Girls: **At court stage PSR writers are fully trained to identify risk factors, appropriate sentence options and programmes. In our risk management armoury we also have ARMs and OSP re: male sex offenders, also SARA re: DA. We take a multi-agency approach re: mh, substance misuse, accommodation and share information re: MAPPA nominals with police and prisons on ViSOR. There is also disclosure considered at MAPPA Meetings; where appropriate, undertake jointly with police &/or CSC. GPS Tagging is also available. In the IOM team, co-located with police, we have a transition process in place, working closely with the YJT including sex offender, violence and DA.**

In addition to MARAC we are also represented at MACE regarding CSE and CCE. We utilise additional licence conditions, such as, “notify supervising officer of developing intimate relationships;” useful in the management of DA/sex offender cases and also grooming in respect of targeting vulnerable women to gain access to their children. Exclusion zones, use of Approved Premises can also be put in place. All with statutory consequences of a recall to prison.

We can also refer cases to PICS (Psychologically Informed Consultation Service) for consultation, formulation and risk management advice.

Use of MAPPA and for ML3s, those registered as Critical Public Protection Cases (CPPC), for note Sefton have 3 registered related to violence against women and girls. Safeguarding engagement in line with the new DA Act, impact on children/and as victims. Victim Liaison Officer (VLO) scheme for those victims whose perpetrators meet the criteria and for discretionary cases. Suite of interventions, i.e. BBR, Horizon, Maps for Change, Skills for Relationships Toolkit (SRT) re: one-to-one work, DV disclosure scheme, probation service representation on MARAC, MARAC Steering Group, Sefton DA Partnership Board, DHRs, use of Approved Premises, mandatory learning and training, pan-Merseyside IOM model for management of RSOs, namely, the Sex Offender Learning & Desistance Team. Specialist DA courts, court link workers re: IDVA. For longer term custody there is a dedicated approach, i.e. Offender Management in Custody (OMiC), this can provide enhanced monitoring, intel sharing and inform risk assessments.

- Any barriers to achieving success: **Probation work with women as perpetrators, which can determine the focus on risk management, however; the pan-Merseyside model for a Women's Only Team and Review Court helps to broaden the approach. DHRs have previously highlighted barriers, often related to effective information sharing and a more robust use of professional curiosity.**