



8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## Introducing: Pan Merseyside Women's Team:-

**PDU HEAD: Carla Jones Wirral / Women's PDU**

**SPO: Jenny Kavanagh: Liverpool and Sefton**

**SPO: Clare Burrell: Knowsley/St Helens and Wirral**

**Functional Inbox: [nwps.womensteam@justice.gov.uk](mailto:nwps.womensteam@justice.gov.uk)**



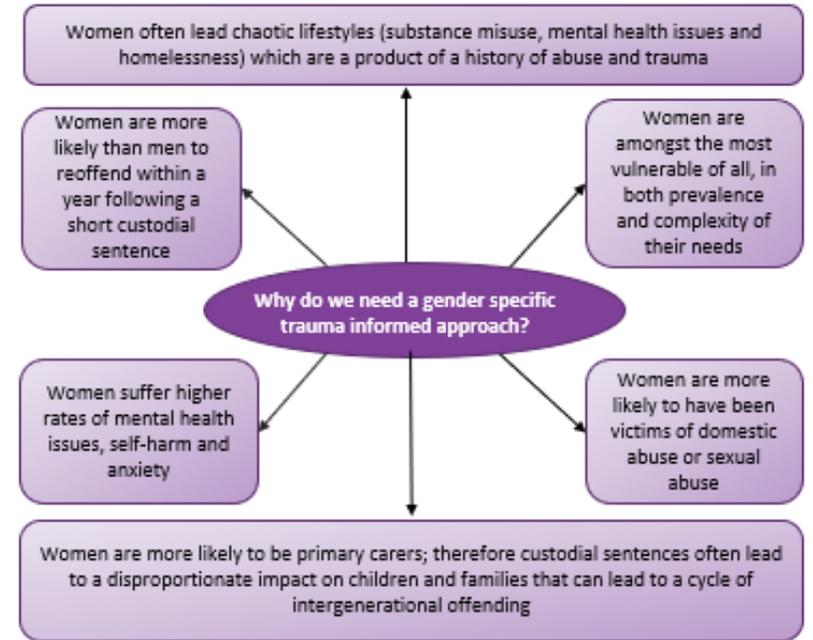
**Objectives of North West Female Offender Strategy:**

- Reductions in reoffending rates for women confirmed
- Reductions in numbers of short term custodial sentences and increase in community sentences
- Reduction in number of victims who also go on to offend
- Public protection enhanced.
- Whole Systems approach

**7 Priority Areas to support and provide Intervention to reduce reoffending for women:-**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1: Self Management         | 2: Mental Health                               |
| 3: Substance Misuse        | 4: Being on control of daily life; Empowerment |
| 5. Building Social Capital | 6: Pro-Social Identity                         |
| 7: Improve Family Contact  |  |

**Why do we need a Gender specific trauma informed approach?**



*The proportion of women in the criminal justice system is relatively small; they make up just 5% of the prison population and 15% of offenders serving a sentence in the community. It has taken time for a system that works predominantly with men to acknowledge the evidence that women have different needs that require a gendered response. Baroness Corston’s report (2007) shone a light on this disparity, highlighting that equal treatment of men and women does not necessarily result in equal outcomes.*

*On average female offenders commit less serious offences than male offenders and often pose a low or medium risk of serious harm to the public. Over three quarters of women sentenced to custody receive short sentences of less than 12 months with 70.7% of women reoffending following a short custodial sentence. The Female Offender Strategy (2018) set out the government’s commitment to do things differently, acknowledging the significant vulnerabilities and complexities of female offenders that are often the product of a life of abuse and trauma.*

*Since publishing the strategy, the Ministry of Justice has made significant progress in a number of areas, investing over £7m in specialist women’s services in the community, providing specialist training for frontline staff working with women, and ultimately reducing the women’s custodial population. Robust community sentences that deliver meaningful punishment can be coupled with a programme of rehabilitation, where women are offered holistic support to address the complex social problems which put them at risk of offending.*