



House of Commons
Justice Committee

Women in Prison: Government Response to the Committee's First Report

Fourth Special Report of
Session 2022–23

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Justice Committee

The Justice Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Ministry of Justice and its associated public bodies (including the work of staff provided for the administrative work of courts and tribunals, but excluding consideration of individual cases and appointments, and excluding the work of the Scotland and Wales Offices and of the Advocate General for Scotland); and administration and expenditure of the Attorney General's Office, the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Serious Fraud Office (but excluding individual cases and appointments and advice given within government by Law Officers).

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Fourth Special Report

The Justice Committee published its First Report of Session 2022–23, [Women in Prison](#) (HC 265), on 26 July 2022. The Government's Response and a covering letter were received on 12 October 2022 and are appended to this report.

Appendix 1: Letter from Rob Butler MP to Sir Bob Neill MP, dated 12 October 2022

Dear Sir Bob

The Government welcomes the Justice Select Committee's report on women in prison and we are grateful to those who contributed to this inquiry. We have carefully considered the recommendations made by the Committee and have provided our response in a Memorandum attached to this letter.

The Government remains committed to the Female Offender Strategy and to a criminal justice system that responds to the needs of women. In the Prisons Strategy White Paper, published in November 2021, we presented our long-term ambition to deliver a women's estate that is safe, decent, fair and designed for women. This includes delivering a bespoke model of training and staff development in women's prisons; increasing open provision in the women's estate; and providing appropriate support for pregnant women or those with very young children.

As confirmed in our response to the consultation on the Prison Strategy White Paper, we will also be publishing a Delivery Plan for the Female Offender Strategy 2022-2025, with specific and measurable commitments over the next three years (2022-2025). The Delivery Plan will set out our clear plans for progressing the Strategy's original three overarching aims: earlier intervention, emphasising community-based solutions, and making custody as effective and decent as possible; and a fourth aim, focussed on protecting the public through improving outcomes for women released from prison. We aim to publish this shortly.

On 1 September, we also announced £24 million over the next 3 years to support women in or at risk of contact of the criminal justice system, through investment in the women's community sector and through promoting better local integration of services to support women. We will distribute the funding through three grant funding competitions, which will cover core costs, new interventions, and the integration of women's services in local areas into a Whole System Approach.

I am delighted to have taken on ministerial responsibility for female offenders and, in taking this important work forward, will draw on the valuable learning and insights gained through my membership of the Committee's review of Women in Prison.

Rob Butler MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice

Appendix 2: Government Response

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Government set out how it will prioritise gender-specific diversionary routes as part of its plans to improve OOCs. The Ministry of Justice should also set out how it will measure the success of the new OOCs, and how it will specifically measure outcomes for women. (Paragraph 40)

Responsible organisation(s): The Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

We accept this recommendation. We will review the use and effectiveness of Out of Court Disposals (OOCs), including their effectiveness in responding to the particular needs of women and opportunities to attach women specific conditions such as referral to a women's centre for support to address her needs. This work will take into account that day to day decisions on the use of OOCs is ultimately an operational matter for the police.

We continue to engage with police forces on what female support services are available locally and encourage this to become a standard service available to be attached as a condition to an OOC where it is appropriate. We will request updates on the availability and use of such services from police forces and via the National Police Chiefs' Council, as well as through the publication of scrutiny panel findings.

MoJ has commissioned RAND Europe, Get the Data and Skills for Health and Justice, to undertake an 18-month study on how the police use OOCs to support adults with health vulnerabilities. The study involves structured service mapping of local services available in 29 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales for attachment to an OOC to support adults with health vulnerabilities, including any specialist services for particular cohorts such as female offenders. The final phase of the study will include looking into improving use of service provision for women specifically in conjunction with an OOC in seven case study police forces, with learning shared nationally. It concludes in March 2023, with the delivery of the final report.

Recommendation 2: The Ministry of Justice and NHSE/I (NHSE/I is now NHS England) should set out what financial investment is being made in developing women's pathways and how this money will be spent to ensure that women's pathways are being enhanced across all liaison and diversion services. The MoJ and NHSE/I should also set out a timeframe for when they expect all women's pathways to be fully operational. (Paragraph 47)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, NHS England (NHSE)

We accept this recommendation. Liaison and Diversion services (L&D) are fully funded by NHSE. The overall funding envelope is currently £68m per year and all (L&D) services are commissioned to provide a women's pathway. L&D funding benefits from a percentage year on year increase that reflects the cost of living.

A review is currently underway to identify and highlight areas of good practice and offer support to services who may wish to further develop their L&D female pathways. There will be a workshop for commissioners and providers in November to share learning, before reporting back to the Non-custodial Partnership Advisory Group.

Recommendation 3: We recommend that the Sentencing Council considers whether an overarching guideline or guidance for sentencing female offenders is required. (Paragraph 49)

Responsible organisation(s): The Sentencing Council

We accept this recommendation. The Sentencing Council will consider whether the evidence would support separate guidance for female offenders as part of the Sentencing Council's five-year strategy (strategic objective three), published last year.

This issue is being given active consideration as part of the Council's ongoing work on equality and diversity and an exploration of the evidence will form part of the review of expanded explanations in guidelines to be commenced later in 2022.

Recommendation 4: The Ministry of Justice should set out what work it is doing with the judiciary to ensure that they have all the relevant and necessary information to inform sentencing decisions. The MoJ should also set out what work is being done to ensure that community sentences offer a credible alternative to custody. Furthermore, we recommend that the MoJ seek the views of the judiciary on ways to improve community alternatives and increase confidence. (Paragraph 61)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)

We accept this recommendation. We will develop, deliver, and maintain briefing materials that support regular engagement sessions with the judiciary and all those who work in courts. The materials will raise awareness of the specific issues faced by women who offend and increase understanding of the possible implications and opportunities of sentencing, sharing up-to-date information on the suitability and availability of community sentence options locally and evidence of good and effective practice.

Recommendation 5: The Ministry of Justice should evaluate why the number of pre-sentence reports has declined in recent years, and what work is being done to increase the use of pre-sentence reports. (Paragraph 76)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. As highlighted in the Sentencing White Paper published in September 2020, the MoJ launched the pre-sentence report (PSR) pilot last year in response to the significant decrease in PSRs being requested by the judiciary. The pilot is testing an Alternative Delivery Model which has been designed to improve the quality of information presented to court at each of the pilot sites and test whether elements of the Alternative Delivery Model lead to an increase in PSRs. An evaluation report will be published in 2023.

Recommendation 6: Regarding the pre-sentence report pilot, the Ministry of Justice should set out how it will measure the success of this pilot, and the criteria it will use to determine whether to expand the initiative. The MoJ should also set out what its targets are for the number of women who will receive a fuller pre-sentence report under the pilot, and at the end of the pilot period, it should publish an evaluation of the pilot. The MoJ should include in its evaluation the outcomes for ethnic minorities, as well as the steps required to ensure that the specific needs of BAME women are met through pre-sentence reports. (Paragraph 77).

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. A process evaluation is underway, and a report will be published in 2023, which will include perceived impacts of the pilot on ways of working in the court.

Female offenders were selected as one of the initial three priority cohorts for the pilot and ethnic minority service users have made up a proportion of the three target cohorts in the pre-sentence report (PSR) Pilot, but as of August 2022, ethnic minority service users will be explicitly included as a priority cohort in the pilot. The pilot will request more comprehensive, written PSRs rather than oral reports for these cohorts, including monitoring data relating to PSRs completed for women and ethnic minority individuals to understand better what changes may be required from both an operational and policy perspective.

There is no specific target for the number of service users who will receive a written pre-sentence report under the pilot. This is informed by both the identification of cases that would benefit from a comprehensive written report and the Judiciary agreeing to that recommendation. The focus is on delivering improvement in the quality and timeliness of reports.

Engagement with the judiciary through written reports and liaison meetings will include raising awareness of the specific issues faced by women who offend and provide an increased understanding of the possible implications and opportunities of sentencing.

Recommendation 7: Given the widespread agreement that pre-sentence reports play a crucial role for women, we agree with Lord Farmer and others that full written pre-sentence reports should be mandatory for all women facing custodial sentences. (Paragraph 78)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We do not accept the recommendation, but we support the principle behind the recommendation. The sentencing code is already clear that the court is required to request a Pre-Sentence Report (PSR) unless it considers it to be unnecessary. We recognise the value of quality PSRs and are working to improve their quality, targeting and timeliness. This is why we are running the PSR Pilot, which includes female offenders as a priority cohort as they have been identified as having particular needs for written PSRs. The evaluation of the pilot will be published in 2023.

Engagement with the judiciary through written reports and liaison meetings will also include raising awareness of the specific issues faced by women who offend and provide an increased understanding of the possible implications and opportunities of sentencing

Recommendation 8: The Ministry of Justice should set out an indicative timeline for the development of the remaining four [residential women's centre (RWC)] pilot sites. (Paragraph 87)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. As part of our grants funding competition for community interventions, launched on 1 September, we have offered potential providers of women's residential services the opportunity to apply for funding for piloting residential women's centres. The number of residential women's centres that will benefit from this funding will be determined by the number of providers which apply and which then go on to receive an award. We anticipate awards being made early in 2023 and as part of their application providers will be required to set out their timeline for establishing and running the centres.

Recommendation 9: As it develops its plans for the Swansea centre and other sites, the Ministry of Justice should set out in greater detail how the centres will operate in practice, including how they will differ from custody. Additionally, the MoJ should set out how it intends to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the pilot. (Paragraph 88)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. In May 2022 we announced that we will invest over £10m in the residential women's centre (RWC) in Wales over the next 3 years. We are currently revising our timeline for implementation following the recent decision by the local planning committee to reject our application to develop the site. We anticipate the RWC will support up to 48 women every year and it will be run by the probation service which will procure specific interventions from women's services providers. We are currently developing our operating model for the centre. Once that work is complete, we will develop operational instructions and guidance for staff, providers, courts, and the judiciary as appropriate. We are about to run a feasibility study to assess best options for evaluating the RWC in Wales.

Recommendation 10: We would welcome reassurance from the Government that there will not be a diversion of resources away from existing Women's Centres. The Ministry of Justice should also set out how it intends to continue to support the work of Women's Centres in the community alongside the development of RWCs. (Paragraph 89)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. On 31 August we announced that £24 million has been secured over the next 3 years to support women in or at risk of contact of the criminal justice system, through investment in the women's community sector and through promoting better local integration of services to support women.

Women's services providers will be able to bid for grants to support:

- core costs, such as heating bills.
- new interventions, such as a court support worker, extending their service into new areas, supporting employment opportunities or a residential women's centre; and
- the integration of women's services in local areas into a Whole System Approach (WSA).

Recommendation 11: The Ministry of Justice should now commit to rolling out the programme so that Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) are available in all court areas to achieve 100% coverage. (Paragraph 95)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, NHSE

We accept this recommendation Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) for substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) and for secondary care mental health treatments are already available in every court area.

NHS England are responsible for the roll out of new primary care mental health treatment requirements and have funds to deliver 100% coverage by 2023/2024.

Recommendation 12: We would welcome further clarity on the Government's plans for the 500 places. The Ministry of Justice and HMPPS should set out:

- **A breakdown of how the 500 prison places will be used. For example, how many places will be allocated as open prison places; how many places will be allocated to replace old for new prison places and how many will be entirely new places in the closed estate;**
- **How many old prison places in the female estate have been decommissioned since the announcement of 500 new places, and how many it anticipates will be decommissioned in the coming years;**
- **How many new prison places have already been built, and what the timeline is for completing the construction of the remaining places; and**

The modelling the MoJ and HMPPS undertook to determine that 500 places were needed. (Paragraph 102)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation.

The new facilities in the women's prison estate will aim to provide 456 additional places through a mix of twelve open (25 places per unit) and six closed units (26 places per unit) across five women's prisons: HMPs Drake Hall, Eastwood Park, Foston Hall, Send and Styal.

Additional funding from NHSE will support health and wellbeing services for this new provision, working collaboratively with agencies and using a gender specific approach to health, wellbeing, and trauma informed care.

The new smaller communities of accommodation are specifically designed to be trauma informed with visible aspects such as windows without bars, smaller units, better layouts and bigger association spaces. What is not included in the design, and what has been avoided, are just as important. For example, dark, narrow corridors and blind corners may trigger responses linked to sexual assault, or communal showers or areas that require undressing in front of others may trigger sexual abuse trauma.

The programme is currently moderating tenders for the design and construction contract, and we expect a contractor to be onboarded by the end of October 2022. We have started the pre-planning application enquiry process and submitted these to local planning authorities in December 2021. We anticipate submitting full planning applications later this year to support our current plans for construction starting by the end of 2023. We expect the first women to be in the new facilities in early 2025.

Due to the age and condition of the prison estate it is inevitable that some prison buildings will reach the end of their useable, economically viable lifespan necessitating removal from use. Since late 2020, 240 places which no longer met statutory fire safety standards have been permanently decommissioned in the women's prison estate.

The most recent prison population projections were published in November 2021 and show that the adult female population is predicted to increase to 4,300 by the end of 2026. This compares to the population of 3,195 as of July 2022. This increase is due to an additional recruitment of 20,000 police officers, the impact of courts recovering from Covid-19 and long-term sentencing trends. If the predicted increase does not occur, we have committed to using the new places as an opportunity to close down older facilities in the women's estate.

Recommendation 13: The Ministry of Justice should set out how it intends to evaluate and measure the success of the new Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) process in comparison to the previous version of the process. (Paragraph 116)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. MOJ and HMPPS have commissioned an internal review to consider the impact of ACCT v6, which includes the women's estate. The review will specifically gather the views from women on how they perceive ACCT processes to affect their self-harming behaviour and how the ACCT process is being used by staff to ensure that the right level of support is in place to suit the needs of the individual. The findings of the review will be used to help further embed the revised version of ACCT.

Recommendation 14: Whilst the ACCT should be seen as a means to achieving a successful outcome for women in prison, the Ministry of Justice and HMPPS should set out what work is being done alongside ACCT, to ensure there is not an over-reliance on this process. (Paragraph 117)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. Ensuring the safety of our prisons is a priority for the Department. We have established a multi-disciplinary Women's Self-Harm Taskforce to address the high levels of self-harm. The aim of the taskforce is to focus on work, research and interventions that improve prisoner outcomes. Key actions to date include: a review of prolific self-harm in the women's estate; delivery of specialist training for new officers; recruitment of psychologists to support the delivery of Support through Enhanced Management (StEM) for women with complex needs; piloting a Compassion Focused Therapy (CFT) intervention; rolling out a woman-specific Offender Management in Custody (OMiC) model; and commissioning a review of health and social care with NHS England.

We have allocated a total of £37m on safety measures over the next three years. This includes 290 ligature-resistant cells; trialling alternatives to wet-shave razors; providing emotional resilience training to new arrivals; training prisoners to provide peer-to-peer wellbeing support; creating multidisciplinary specialist support teams who will work with individuals to address their risk of harm to self and others; and we are establishing an innovations taskforce bringing together experts from across the sector to develop new ideas to address the drivers of self-harm and violence in prisons. Additionally, we have committed to expanding and supporting our workforce to enable a greater focus on offender management and key work; ensuring a more resilient estate by both building additional prison places and undertaking refurbishments with the current estate; improving access to healthcare and substance misuse treatment; and creating a regime that supports safety with an increased focus on creating a secure estate.

Since publication of the White Paper, we have also funded a number of activities to support improvements in safety, including additional support for women with complex needs, specialist support for women who have experienced abuse and extra support during early days in custody.

Recommendation 15: The Ministry of Justice should confirm whether OMiC has now been rolled out fully across the female estate, and if it has not, the MoJ should set out a timeline for achieving this, including when it is anticipated that all women will be allocated a keyworker. (Paragraph 118)

Responsible organisation(s): HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. OMiC Key Work and Case management has now been fully rolled out across the women's estate, meaning all women will receive key work time.

The model that has been developed for women allocates resources based on level of need as well as risk. Sentenced women assessed as having the most need or presenting the highest risk receive an enhanced case-management service which includes additional time with their Prison Offender Manager (POM) rather than Key Work with a Band 3 Officer. This approach has been taken so that women can develop a relationship with one person, and because the boundaries between what is key work and what is sentence management cannot always be easily defined for those women who have the most need. Many of the issues linked to an individual's complexity of need will often be underpinning or relevant to their offending behaviour which a POM is best placed to help them address and support them with.

Recommendation 16: The MoJ should clarify who is required to undertake the [trauma-informed] training. Additionally, the MoJ, HMPPS and NHSE/I should set out how the training will be structured and whether there will be mandated refresher training. The MoJ and HMPPS should also confirm what proportion of staff have completed the training to date, and the timeframe for all staff to have completed the training. The MoJ and HMPPS should also set out how it will monitor the completion of the training on an ongoing basis. (Paragraph 125)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS, NHSE

We accept this recommendation. Initial training for new Prison Officers working in women's prisons has been enhanced to include consideration of the needs of women in custody, including the impact of trauma. Since January 2021, all new Prison Officers are expected to attend this training as part of their initial prison officer training. There is no mandatory refresher training of initial prison officer training, however we also provide one-week Women's Estate Specific Training (WEST) for prison officers who join the Women's Directorate from elsewhere in the estate, or who were unable to attend Women's specific initial prison officer training.

Local Becoming Trauma Informed (BTI) training was also routinely delivered to all staff in women's prisons prior to Covid restrictions with the expectation of 80% of prison staff being trained. Staff training was suspended for most of the period of Covid restrictions and accordingly training records are unfortunately out of date. This training has now recommenced following Covid restrictions being lifted, along with a significant backlog of other critical safety training that prisons must prioritise, including First Aid and Fire Safety. We cannot currently set prisons targets for BTI completion this financial year, however this will be re-assessed at the start of 2022/23 by the Director for Women, who will also monitor training levels. There is currently no mandated BTI refresher training, however research is underway which explores the perceptions of the impact of the training from the perspectives of both prisoners and staff who have completed it. Evidence from this research will inform future training strategies.

Recommendation 17: We reiterate the recommendations made in our Report 'Mental Health in Prison' and seek an update from the Government on the steps it is taking to address the use of prison as a place of safety or for a person's own protection. (Paragraph 131)

Responsible organisation(s): MOJ, The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHSE

We accept this recommendation. The draft Mental Health Bill, published for pre-legislative scrutiny on 27th June, includes reforms to prevent courts from using prison as a place of safety. This means that defendants and convicted people awaiting an assessment or treatment under the Mental Health Act 1983 will be transferred directly to a therapeutic setting. The draft Bill also includes reforms to the Bail Act 1976 to prevent defendants being remanded to custody for their own protection, solely on the grounds of mental health. MoJ has established a cross-agency working group to develop and deliver a clear implementation plan to safely operationalise these changes and ensure that those who are acutely unwell can access the care they need more swiftly.

Recommendation 18: The Ministry of Justice should set out what the scope is for the review, and the timeframe for its completion and publication. (Paragraph 132)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, DHSC

We accept this recommendation. MoJ has now concluded its internal review into the use of the power to remand defendants for their own protection under the Bail Act 1976. The Government has set out proposed reforms in the draft Mental Health Bill, published for pre-legislative scrutiny on 27th June 2022, which includes proposals to prevent the use of

this power where the court's sole concern is the defendant's mental health. A cross-agency working group has been established to develop and deliver a clear plan for implementation and ensure this reform can be safely operationalised.

Recommendation 19: The Ministry of Justice should put in place mechanisms for the collection of reliable data on the use of custody as a place of safety or for a person's own protection for all cohorts of prisoners (male, female, and youth). (Paragraph 133)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We do not accept this recommendation. A cross-agency group, established by MoJ, carried out extensive work to explore potential data sources to better understand the circumstances in which these powers are used. The group concluded that there is no robust source of data or proxy measures which can provide an accurate, complete picture of the issue. It would not be practical to introduce mechanisms to start collecting this data now, when our focus is moving to implementing reforms which will prevent the use of custody as a place of safety or for a person's own protection, where the court's sole concern is the defendant's mental health.

Recommendation 20: Whilst we acknowledge that the pandemic may have contributed to the increase [of assaults], the MoJ and HMPPS should set out what work is being done to address the level of assault across the female estate and to prevent it from increasing further. (Paragraph 137)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. Reducing violence in prisons is a priority for this Department, and we are continuing to take action to make prisons safer. Whilst the rates of assault fell considerably at the start of the pandemic and have risen since, they remain below pre-pandemic levels. Exiting the COVID-19 National Framework has allowed us to give prisoners more time out of their cells to engage with staff and to take part in purposeful activity. We will continue to focus on supporting and rehabilitating prisoners, as well as implementing key safety interventions effectively.

As part of the £37 million investment in prison safety we will establish an innovations taskforce bringing together experts from across the sector to develop new ideas to address the drivers of violence and self-harm in prisons as well as conduct a major research study into the impact of debt on prison safety.

We have improved how we identify and manage those who pose a raised risk of being violent through introducing the Challenge, Support, and Intervention Plan (CSIP). CSIP is the mandated case management model for managing violence across the adult estate including women's prisons. It is focused on targeting and addressing the underlying causes of a prisoner's violent behaviour by tailoring a support plan around their specific risk factors to reduce their risk of further violence.

We have refreshed our safety training, and the new violence module will equip staff to understand how to mitigate the drivers of prison violence—including women-specific drivers—as well as teaching them the skills required to hold difficult conversations, de-escalate effectively and how to effectively support the use of CSIP within their establishments.

Positive staff-prisoner relationships are key to reducing violence. We have a gender specific OMiC model to provide one-to-one support to sentenced women who are assessed as having the most need.

Recommendation 21: We welcome the work of the National Women's Prisons Health and Social Care Review. Once the review has published, NHSE/I, HMPPS and the MoJ should set out an action plan for how it will respond to its findings, including operational response, policy implications and how service offers and gaps in provision will be addressed in order to meet the specific needs of women. The action plan should also include steps to improve data collection on the health needs of women in prison. (Paragraph 144)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS, NHSE

We accept this recommendation. HMPPS, with NHSE, have worked in partnership to complete a review of health and social care across the women's estate to ensure equity and a better understanding of the current effectiveness of the existing women's prison estate. The review is due to report in Autumn 2022, following which we will consider next steps.

In line with Priority 6 of the National Partnership Agreement, NHSE will also continue to work in collaboration with partner organisations to jointly plan policies and service provision to meet the specific needs of women.

Recommendation 22: The MoJ, HMPPS and NHSE/I should set out what work they are doing to:

- **improve communications between staff across all disciplines in prisons;**
- **improve the response to medical emergencies; and**
- **improve drug management processes.** (Paragraph 153)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS, NHSE

We accept this recommendation. A joint HMPPS/NHSE Information Sharing Task & Finish group has produced a delivery plan identifying a number of products to improve practice and confidence amongst prison, probation, and health staff to share information effectively and appropriately. Delivery will be spread across 2022–2023 and will target different staff groups. Consideration is also being given to how Information Sharing is captured within the Adult Health, Care and Wellbeing curriculum.

We continue to work hard with health partners to improve our response to medical emergencies. We recently amended our Prison Service Instruction to make clear that the HMPPS codes 'Red' and 'Blue' are for use within the prison only and should not be used when communicating with ambulance service staff. The revised instruction requires the member of staff using the medical emergency code to provide relevant information about the condition of the prisoner to the control room staff, to enable them to share this with the ambulance service for use in the triage process.

Alongside the revised instruction, we provided Governors with a poster for display in prison control rooms to provide clarity on the information required by ambulance services and a supply of pocket cards for staff, providing an instant reminder of the information

that they must communicate to the control room in a medical emergency. Governors continue to work with health partners to test and refine local contingency plans for the management of medical emergencies. We have created and rolled out a contingency plan for unexpected birth within all women's prisons.

On the 20 September 2021, the MoJ published a new policy on Pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units and Maternal Separation from Children up to the Age of Two in Women's Prison. It makes clear that an ambulance must be called in the event of an unexpected labour or birth, and issues guidance on identifying signs of labour and procedures in the event of an unexpected delivery of a baby in a prison.

As part of the drugs strategy, the Government has committed to investing an additional £900m across 3-years in the combating drugs mission - £780m of this will create a world-class treatment and recovery system—the largest single increase in treatment and recovery investment in England.

In addition to this investment NHS England has committed to have an additional £21m over 3 years as part of the restore and recovery and NHS England have set five priority areas. Work is currently underway with regions to establish expected tangible benefits from the additional funding allocations. Benefits profiling to support the outcomes of the additional £21M funding is currently underway for 2022–23 delivery. This will continue to be managed through the annual funding cycle.

The five priority areas of focus are:

- (1) Supporting the increase in Continuity of Care and prison leaver Substance Misuse pathways with community Substance Misuse providers and RECONNECT services
- (2) Increasing early days screening and assessments of substance misuse harms and pathways of care
- (3) Targeted support for complex individuals and intensive intervention care planning (including TBI, ADHD, Physical harm, Mental Health risk including self-harm and suicide, perinatal and maternity)
- (4) Increased focus on substance misuse, treatment models supporting health inequalities including NHS England's Core 20PLUS5 cohort and considerations around ethnicity, religion, belief and all protected characteristics.
- (5) Understanding innovative intervention and treatment options (including digital solutions)—to support psychosocial therapy and incentivise substance free living.

The Substance Misuse service specification is currently being refreshed and includes specific reference to dual diagnosis and the wider neurodiverse population ahead of consultation. The specification highlights the importance of integrated working with mental health services and the need to take a holistic approach to healthcare assessment and deliver. The refreshed specification will support the delivery of the five priorities to ensure these priorities are embedded in future service models. Work is on-going to support HMPPS/ MoJ in the establishment of Drug Recovery Wings—learning from this work will also feed into the refreshed service specification

Recommendation 23: NHSE/I should also set out the work it is doing (aside from both reviews), to reduce existing waiting lists, and increase service accessibility. (Paragraph 153)

Responsible organisation(s): NHSE, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation.

Governors work with NHS commissioners and providers to ensure that prisoners can access healthcare in a timely manner, and where necessary address staffing requirements to improve access to the full range of commissioned health services. As recovery requirements will vary significantly from prison to prison, Local Prison Health Delivery Boards (which bring together health and prison staff) are best placed to understand what is required and for putting in place joint plans to respond.

Recommendation 24: The MoJ, HMPPS and NHSE/I should set out the progress they are making against each recommendation in both reports from the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO), and how lessons learned are being applied across the female estate. (Paragraph 166)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS, NHSE

We accept this recommendation. MoJ and HMPPS have accepted and completed all of the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) recommendations from the reports into the tragic deaths of Baby A and Baby B, and have since published a new policy on Pregnancy, Mother and Baby Units and Maternal Separation from Children up to the Age of Two in Women's Prisons that addresses learning from the PPO reports. The new policy forms an important part of our organisational response to the learning from Baby A and Baby B. HMPPS utilised the policy review to undertake further consultation with NHSE, to ensure national learning was addressed where appropriate and that we had the appropriate clinical input.

NHSE have responded in a number of ways to the recommendations of the PPO reports on the tragic deaths of Baby A and Baby B.

We have produced a specification to address the needs of pregnant and post-natal women (Pregnancy and post -natal specification) which will ensure that all women have high quality and consistent services across the estate to address their needs. The National specification was published in June 2022. NHSE are currently working with regional teams to assure that it is commissioned, and we expect this to be achieved by end June 2023.

The current review of the women's estate includes the built environment and feeds into how the Pregnancy and post -natal specification will be delivered. NHSE also continues to work closely with MoJ on policy and HMPPS on operational deliverables to implement the PPO recommendations and improvements to the health offer for pregnant women in prisons. This will ensure that women who meet the eligibility criteria for RECONNECT services will continue to be supported post-release where their health needs require continuity of care.

NHSE is also aligning with current policy HMPPS policy on pregnancy, mother and baby units and maternal separation; the MoJ Women Offenders Concordat; and the wider Women's Health Strategy being developed by the DHSC.

Outputs have included the development of the National Pregnancy and Post Natal Specification, development of national gender specific reception screening and recruitment to the Women's Review Implementation Programme Team.

Recommendation 25: The Ministry of Justice should set out its progress against each of the remaining 21 recommendations [from the Farmer Review for Women], including the timeframe for actioning them. (Paragraph 177)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS, NHSE

We accept this recommendation. We have now completed 25 out of 31 of Lord Farmer's recommendations in the 'Importance of strengthening female offenders' family and other relationships to prevent reoffending and reduce intergenerational crime'. We will be publishing a progress update on all recommendations from Lord Farmer's report by the end of 2022.

Recommendation 26: The MoJ should set out what work it is doing to ensure that vital information such as this [primary carers in prison], is collected and published. It should also set out an indicative timeline for the collection and publication of this data. (Paragraph 178)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. Changes were made in February 2022 to the Basic Custody Screening Tool (BCST) which is used to collect this information on reception into prison. We are awaiting early indications of figures to determine whether the self-declared nature of this information provides a clear understanding of the scale of the problem. The Prison Strategy White Paper also committed to work with OGDs to improve our collective understanding of the overall number of children affected by parental incarceration.

Through the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) programme, we are investigating opportunities for improved data sharing, including data held by other government organisations, to allow us to better identify prisoners with children. BOLD is a £19.7m Shared Outcomes Fund project, which seeks to enable better evidenced, joined-up and more effective cross government services through linking data across government.

Recommendation 27: The MoJ needs to do more to ensure that all families are made aware of the Assisted Prison Visits Scheme. (Paragraph 179)

Responsible organisation(s): HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. We are piloting changes to the scheme to enable more children to visit, which will be evaluated, and subsequent recommendations will be implemented. There will be a relaunch of the Help with Visits scheme with refreshed posters and leaflets made available in all prisons. Work on the relaunch, which we aim to be ready before April 2023, is in progress, including an update to the financial thresholds.

Recommendation 28: The Ministry of Justice should set out what measures, if any, that were introduced in response to the pandemic, will be kept on a long-term basis. Additionally, the MoJ should set out the situation with regard to family contact as it currently stands; the MoJ should include information on the number of monthly family visits that took place across the female prison estate pre-Covid, and how many are now taking place. Additionally, the MoJ should set out what measures have been put in place to ensure that women are able to access family visits as needed. (Paragraph 180)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. During the pandemic we introduced a raft of temporary measures to help maintain family contact. These included issuing additional free PIN phone credit, supplying locked mobile phones for use in establishments where there was no in-cell telephony and supplying iPad tablets to establishments so prisoners could virtually attend important event such as funerals. We also introduced social video calling, the national roll-out of which was prioritised in the women's estate. Social video calling has been retained as a permanent provision for establishments as a supplement to face-to-face visits. Additionally, all establishments have been encouraged to look at their individual additional family support provided during the pandemic to ascertain what is suitable to be added to their own family strategies as a permanent part of their family offer.

Details of the number of family (or extended) visits were not collated centrally pre-pandemic as these were organised by individual establishments to meet the needs of their own prisoners' families and did not require a visiting order or any other central administration.

The new prisoner's family performance measure, which was launched in June 2022, does require information on family visits to be collated. Establishments are now required to provide evidence that:

3. (e) The establishment has regular extended visits that are open to all prisoners.
6. (f) Prisoners with protected characteristics have fair and equal access to opportunities to engage with family and significant others, specifically with regards to visits and extended visits.

This information will be held centrally from February 2023, when performance measures are due to be returned.

Recommendation 29: The Ministry of Justice and HMPPS, alongside education providers, should set out how they are working to address this data gap [prior educational attainment, learning needs, care experience and school exclusion] and ensure that data is collected and made available publicly. (Paragraph 188)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ, HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. MoJ and HMPPS use CURIOUS, a data management tool facilitating the management of contracts, to capture data, including from the women's estate. It includes details such as initial assessments, courses undertaken and the outcomes of those courses. We are expanding the use of CURIOUS and developing our approach to capturing data around a full range of learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD)

and additional learning needs across the prison estate. Where appropriate a prisoners' individual personal learning record (PLR) can also be accessed to find data on prisoners' prior educational attainment.

We published data on prisoners' education assessment and achievement in August 2021 (Prison Education Statistics 2019–2020). We will explore the potential to breakdown relevant excerpts of this data by gender as part of the next planned data release in Autumn 2022. A further publication is planned for 2023 which will set out prison performance ratings against new education metrics that cover: attendance; progress in English and maths and vocational qualification success rates.

In addition, work through the Better Outcomes through Linked Data (BOLD) programme, which will run until March 2024, will seek to derive new insights into the link between employment, education (including school exclusion) and reoffending, to explore the impact of education and employment on post release outcomes and how this differs for different cohorts, including women.

Work is currently ongoing to improve data on prisoners with care experience. To create a safe environment for prisoners to share their care experience, we have dedicated leads in every prison to help identify and support prisoners belonging to this cohort and have recently created a bespoke guidance leaflet for prison and probation staff, which will be published at the end of October to coincide with Care Experienced Week 2022, an annual awareness initiative.

Additionally, a research project is currently in progress, in association with Lancaster University, looking at linked MoJ/DfE data, to explore the intersections between ethnicity, care experience and criminal justice systems involvement. The project is due to run until January 2023.

Recommendation 30: The Ministry of Justice should set out what work is being done to broaden provision of employment, training, and education to meet the specific needs of women, both on short sentences and long sentences. (Paragraph 194)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. As set out in the Prisons Strategy White Paper (PSWP), we are committed to delivering a transformed Prisoner Education Service for all prison, including investing in a digital and data platform needed to develop personal learning plans for prisoners.

We will be recruiting Education, Work and Skills Specialists in all prisons to develop their curriculum and Neurodiversity Support Managers to better meet the individual learning needs of prisoners. Of the 12 Women's Prisons recruiting Neurodiversity Support Managers, 5 have already offered the role to successful candidates and the rest are currently going through the recruitment process. We are also developing personal learning plans that will ensure women have a tailored plan that will help them develop the knowledge and skills they need to get employment on release.

We are also working to do all we can to get prisoners ready for employment. This includes improving employability skills and adapting the estate and regime to increase opportunities for work-based training within prisons and on Release on Temporary Licence. For example, we are establishing the Employability Innovation Fund, which will provide funding for prison governors, including those in women's prisons, to enable them to work with more employers and training providers to repurpose workshops, deliver sector specific skills training to meet the changing needs of the economy and smooth the path from prison to employment.

MoJ and the Department for Education (DfE) are working together to bring forward regulations that will change the law to allow prisoners to undertake apprenticeships. The new regulations should come into force in early October.

Although apprenticeships will be initially targeted at prisoners eligible for release on temporary licence (ROTL) in the open estate, the regulations have been drafted to enable in-prison apprenticeships and MoJ will explore the feasibility of this to a longer timescale. We are currently working with East Sutton Park (one of the two female open prisons) to ensure they are linked up with employers so that female prisoners are included in the programme at an early stage. We have also engaged with Askham Grange, but they have said that they would prefer to join the programme later on.

For more details on employment, see response to recommendation 32.

Recommendation 31: [We welcome the changes to release on temporary licence to give prison governors greater autonomy and allow prisoners more opportunities to work and train with employers while serving their sentence. However, it is not clear how these changes have considered the specific needs of female offenders.] The Ministry of Justice should set out how the needs of female offenders were considered in this regard—specifically in relation to Education, Training and Employment (ETE). Additionally, the MoJ should set out how the changes have improved women's access to ETE opportunities and should provide data to demonstrate this. (Paragraph 200)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. In the PSWP we committed to transforming the opportunities for work in prisons and on ROTL to increase job prospects for prison leavers.

The needs of female offenders and the challenges presented in the women's estate were taken into account in developing the ROTL Policy Framework that was issued in May 2019. All women's prisons are able to conduct ROTL for eligible offenders, to ensure that ROTL is available for women across the country.

Since publication of the White Paper, the Women's Estate has been working to ensure that all 12 women's prisons have Employer Advisory Boards, Prison Employment Leads and Employment Hubs in place to support and empower women to engage in employment opportunities in the prison, on ROTL and on release (see further detail under recommendation 32).

Data on ROTL is published quarterly at [Offender management statistics quarterly—GOV.UK](#) and monitored carefully to ensure that ROTL is being used to best effect. Immediately following the issue of the new policy framework in May 2019, ROTL numbers began to

rise and, by the end of 2019, work related ROTL for women had risen by 48% year on year, and ROTL for education and training by 13%. The pandemic had a significant impact on access to ROTL, numbers fell across the board and have not yet recovered to pre pandemic levels. In the first quarter of 2022, however, we saw a year-on-year increase in the use of work-related ROTL for women by 128% and education and training-related ROTL for women by 340%.

Recommendation 32: The Ministry of Justice should set out how their New Futures Network strategy for female prisons differs to that for the male estate, taking into consideration the specific challenges that are present in the female estate. Additionally, the Ministry of Justice should set out what progress has been made in developing the New Futures Network and how success is being measured, including the number of women who have been placed into employment since it became operational. (Paragraph 201)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. In the PSWP, the Government set out a range of commitments to build links with employers to maximise job opportunities and deliver a presumption in favour of giving offenders the chance to work; and to equip prisons to support more prison leavers into employment.

To achieve this, the New Futures Network has a dedicated role to partner prisons and probation with businesses, and a specialist Employment Broker to do this for women's prisons. These partnerships provide businesses with individuals who are ready to take up work opportunities within prison industries, as part of work based ROTL, and on release.

The Employment Broker for the women's estate takes feedback from women's prisons about the type of roles women are looking for on release and works with colleagues who are national sector specialists to find suitable opportunities for female prison leavers. This process of feedback will be enhanced by the introduction of Prison Employment Leads who will know their cohort and work closely with the Employment Broker.

The New Futures Network will work with all women's prisons to:

- recruit more Prison Employment Leads into every women's prison (responsible for developing an establishment-level employment strategy, matching prisoners to jobs on release and providing support tailored to local needs)
- launch further Employment Hubs (where prisoners can access job opportunities and support with CVs and job applications)
- recruit new ID and Banking Administrators (to ensure prisoners have ID and a bank account before release)
- launch further Employment Advisory Boards (chaired by business leaders, these link prisons with industry to provide challenge and advice on the skills delivered in prisons)

The New Futures Network will be providing operational guidance as necessary to support these initiatives, tracking milestones and working with prisons to assure quality standards for each initiative.

As of 5 September 2022, 10 Prison Employment Leads are in place in women's prisons and 6 Employment Hubs are operational.

New Futures Network is one of many organisations that are dedicated to finding work opportunities for both men and women in prisons. Organisations include Education Providers, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Prison Work Coaches and a range of other partners. DWP has 17 Prison Work Coaches based in women's prisons, who provide employment support throughout their time within custody.

HMPPS publish statistics on the employment rate for all prisoners 6 weeks and 6 months after their release. The latest statistics were published in July 2022 and can be broken down by gender.

In the financial year April 2021 to March 2022, 3.8% of women (compared to 10.4% for men) leaving prison were in employment after 6 weeks and 6% (compared to 14.5% for men) were in employment after 6 months.

Recommendation 33: The Ministry of Justice should set out how it will ensure that women are able to access this service provision [Community Accommodation Service] as needed, and whether a proportion of this accommodation has been specifically reserved for women leaving prison. (Paragraph 214)]

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. In the PSWP, we committed to ensure that no one who is subject to probation supervision is released from prison homeless.

MOJ has developed a Community Accommodation Service (CAS) so that prison leavers can access risk appropriate accommodation. The service brings the existing Approved Premises, Bail Accommodation and Support Service, and the new provision of transitional accommodation together under the auspices of one accommodation system.

All of our accommodation services consider the needs of women. We provide accommodation dedicated to single gender usage as required.

For high risk-offenders, we have increased capacity for women in the Approved Premises estate. To date the Approved Premises Expansion Programme has provided an additional 39 bedspaces for female offenders on top of the original 150 beds (6.5% of AP provision), delivered across eight sites.

For bailees or those released on Home Detention Curfew, a new contract which will replace the BASS service with a new Community Accommodation Service (CAS-2), will come into place in October 2022. The new service will continue to have gender specific accommodation and retains the requirement for a minimum of 10% of the bed spaces to be reserved for females with accommodation in every probation region area.

MOJ's new Community accommodation service-Tier 3 (CAS-3), which provides up to 84 nights temporary accommodation for all individuals released from prison subject to probation supervision at risk of homelessness, will be rolled out across England and Wales by the end of this year. The new service will have gender-specific accommodation, with 10% of bed spaces in each probation region reserved for female offenders.

The latest data, published 28th July 2022, supports our response that women are not disadvantaged in accessing our transitional accommodation service. Between 1st July 2021 and 17th June 2022, approximately 2,400 individuals, who would otherwise have been homeless upon release, were accepted on to our transitional accommodation service. Of these places 94% were for male residents, and 6% were for female residents. Males currently comprise 96% of the prison population, and females 4%.

We also introduced Strategic Housing Specialists in 20 prisons last year. Four of these roles are in women's prisons namely: HMP Styal, Bronzefield, Peterborough and New Hall. Our White Paper outlines our commitment to increase the number of Strategic Housing Specialists from 20 to 48 across England and Wales. This will include one within every female custodial establishment.

Recommendation 34: The Ministry of Justice should set out what the basic accommodation consists of (e.g., hostel spaces, hotels etc.) and how it has considered the specific needs of women in this accommodation offer. (Paragraph 215)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. The community accommodation service uses basic, private rented sector accommodation to provide up to 84 nights of temporary accommodation for all prison leavers who are at risk of being released homeless. In the event a bed space is not immediately available, or the accommodation need is very short-term, prison leavers can be accommodated in hotels for a short period of time, up to 14 nights, as a short-term holding arrangement before moving onto private rented provision.

The service takes account of the needs of women with accommodation provision dedicated to single gender usage as required. CAS3 providers are required to ensure that 10% of their provision in each probation region is dedicated for supporting female prison leavers. Community Probation Practitioners, working together with local partners, are responsible for ensuring that vulnerable female prison leavers receive appropriate support and are provided with housing beyond the 12 weeks' temporary accommodation. Community Probation Practitioners have access to additional support for women through the Women's Commissioned Rehabilitation Service. This provision is a holistic service offer, delivered by expert and experienced women's services, that covers a broad range of interventions including accommodation support.

Recommendation 35: The Ministry of Justice should develop a cross-department strategy to address the accommodation needs of women in the criminal justice system. The strategy should detail different departments' responsibilities and how work will be conducted across government to respond to the accommodation needs of women in the criminal justice system. (Paragraph 216)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We do not accept this recommendation because this is already being delivered through other means. The Ministry of Justice, working together with Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Welsh Government and Other Government Departments, is delivering its strategic vision for reducing reoffending (as detailed in

the Prison Strategy White Paper and Beating Crime Plan) and delivering against the Government's manifesto commitment to eliminate rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament (Ending Rough Sleeping for Good).

This approach was set out in the Prisons Strategy White Paper and a key part of this is to ensure that no one who is subject to probation supervision is released from prison homeless. Part of this work includes plans for supporting women with accommodation needs on release, including ensuring that 10% of beds in the temporary accommodation service are allocated to women in women-only properties so that they feel safe, while increasing the number of women categorised to open conditions and reviewing the use of ROTL to smooth the transition back to society.

Recommendation 36: The Ministry of Justice and HMPPS should set out what work is being done to mitigate the disadvantage some women may face to their resettlement when they are held in custody far from their homes. (Paragraph 219)

Responsible organisation(s): MoJ

We accept this recommendation. As part of the new Resettlement Approach, Probation Practitioners will start to build a relationship with women wherever they are held, through contact prior to release. As part of this approach, all resettlement prisons, including women's prisons, will have an embedded pre-release provision who work closely with prison staff and the Offender Management Unit (OMU) to develop and strengthen relationships with Community Offender Managers (COM) and Commissioned Rehabilitative Services suppliers (CRS). These pre-release teams (PRT) ensure efficient and effective processes are in place to access people quickly, no matter which prison they are located in. They provide immediate resettlement needs and pre-release support, including undertaking specialist work around accommodation and debt, and referral to CRS on behalf of the COM. For out of area people, they provide the link between the person in prison, their COM and CRS provider in their home area and provide a direct point of contact for CRS suppliers seeking to engage with the individual.

In addition, PRT support COMs by identifying an individual's resettlement needs at the beginning and end of their sentence and assist them with referral to prison based support services during the custodial period and CRS services pre-release. We recognise that an individual's needs cannot be addressed in isolation, requiring a partnership approach, and have commissioned CRS services to respond to the often multiple and complex needs of women identified during their pre-release phase and/or in community based contact with their COM. Although CRS services are mainly community focused and based in local areas, facilitating ongoing support following a person's release from prison, we provide accommodation and personal wellbeing, mentoring support services in prisons during the 12-week pre-release period.

We will also pursue legislation to enable offenders who are at risk of reoffending to be released up to two days earlier, where a release date falls on a Friday or before a bank holiday. This measure will take into account the personal circumstances of an offender to ensure that public protection is maintained. A Private Members' Bill has been introduced on this issue which will have its Second Reading in December.

We will also develop a resettlement passport that provides women with key information and services that they need to adjust to life in society. Each passport will be a personalised document covering mental health, drugs, education, skills, work, accommodation, and family ties. We will take an iterative approach to passport development, working with initial prisons to trial implementation of passports by the end of this year.

Recommendation 37: The MoJ and HMPPS should set out when this [short sentence] function will be rolled out across all probation regions, and what work the Short Sentence Team will undertake to support women to resettlement successfully back into the community and how success will be measured. (Paragraph 225)

Responsible organisation(s): HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. A new performance measure will be introduced during 2023 for a pre-release assessment to be completed for people with 10 months or less to serve at point of sentence. The performance measure will provide assurance that pre-release planning is taking place. The Short Sentence Functions will consist of staff who will work with all people on probation with 10 months or less to serve in prison. This will enable them to be fast tracked and offered direct engagement. The delivery of short sentence support work for women will be done by pre-release teams embedded within women's prisons who will provide the link between the woman in prison and her Community Offender Manager (COM) and Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) provider in her home area.

All sentenced people (including those on short term sentences) are eligible for support from specialist providers, including accommodation specialists. They will receive support prior to release to address their identified needs, including sustaining tenancies as appropriate. This will enable them to be fast tracked and offered direct engagement. It will ensure better connection with a hard to reach/engage group with high levels of recidivism.

Success will be measured by monitoring improved levels of compliance and reduced rates of enforcement action. We would expect to see an improvement on accommodation outcomes. Work to sustain tenancies has the potential to improve number leaving prison retaining their accommodation where appropriate to do so.

Recommendation 38: The MoJ and HMPPS should set out what work they are doing to ensure that women experience continuity of care from prison through to release. (Paragraph 226)

Responsible organisation(s): HMPPS

We accept this recommendation. Under the resettlement approach, all women's prisons will have an embedded pre-release team based in the prison. The embedded pre-release teams will provide pre-release support not currently available via Commissioned Rehabilitative Services (CRS) including Finance, Benefit and Debt services to the people in prison.

Probation Practitioners will work with Women in Prison, Prison Offender Managers (POMs), Pre-Release teams and CRS providers to assess need and support continuity of care. They will build on progress made in prison and support engagement post release with services. A Mentoring service is available via CRS women's services for those who struggle

to maintain engagement in the community. This includes engagement with personal well-being and health services. The RECONNECT service supports those who have engaged with treatment in prison to continue treatment post release in the community.

In the pre-release phase, CRS providers will deliver resettlement and pre-release interventions to support sentence management activities completed by the Probation Practitioner and pre-release staff in the prison. The CRS contracts are designed to support sentenced women and those subject to Probation supervision in the community to address the needs linked to their offending and to achieve the stability they need to do so. Those services which are delivered pre-release, the Accommodation, Personal Wellbeing (mentoring through the gate) and Women's contracts, will continue post-release and attendance at appointments with CRS Suppliers will be part of mandatory Licence appointments. This continuity of support is a key element of the CRS provision. All eligible cases will receive support prior to release and for accommodation this will be delivered by suppliers based in the areas to which they will return. CRS Accommodation Suppliers will be based in the women's prisons within the geographical area they cover. For people being released to areas outside this geography, this support will be delivered via visits or by phone/video rather than by staff based in the prison.

Women on remand are supported to meet their immediate resettlement needs and prepare for release by Probation pre-release staff in prisons. We have committed to supplementing the existing support from Probation staff with access to specialist accommodation support, which will include help to address tenancy issues; and finance and debt support for all women on remand or sentenced in custody. We aim to have commenced this additional provision by the autumn of this year.