

RED LIST – 3.4.20

Urgent needs to mobilise Women Centre support women during Covid-19¹

This applies to ‘normal’ prison release of women and also any early release

From HMPPS

- In addition to pausing Post Sentence Supervision in favour of support; Stopping recall in all but most extreme cases.
- Individual risk/needs assessments: Public protection; Safe place to go (check for domestic abuse); Housing need; Mental health; Substance misuse; Physical health; Individual woman’s preference/view – communicating to women’s centres key needs
- List of locations/regions and numbers of women for potential release with basic needs (eg, housing, mental health, substance misuse, parenting)
- SPOC in each Probation Region and in each Women’s Prison
- Instructions to all prisons to facilitate no cost phone contact in and out of prison, to facilitate family contact and contact by support workers for purposes of assessment and support.

From each Women’s Prison – when women are in the prison

- Individual prison SPOC holds list of key contacts/departments for each prison
- Free phone calls for women on in cell phones to contact their support worker
- Ability for key worker to call woman and organise assessment/preparation – Include assessing needs; asking about risks and issues on release; discuss self isolation and lock down and risks with that – This will also indirectly support prison staff
- 24 hour process for outside support staff to be able to raise safeguarding/risk issues and well being checks.

From each Women’s Prison - on release/‘through the gate’

- ‘Through the gate’ plan for each woman – ie family collection; Transport to location and phone support on release from women’s centre/Birth Companions/Hibiscus etc
- Process for charging personal mobiles and providing charged up mobiles with credit for those who do not have them (many charities are making arrangements to source these but each prison should have a supply)
- Transport arrangements including taxis/internal transport, particularly if in a remote location with no public transport links

From each Probation region/CRC

- List of key contacts and contingency plans for communicating with probation officers, including to raise any safeguarding/risk issues
- Clear arrangements regarding reporting locations taking account of public health instructions regarding social distancing.

¹ These issues apply equally to men’s prisons and youth estate. If they can be addressed in women’s prisons there will be a model to follow.