

Re-imagining Justice for Women

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The Commission

- Independent commission, invited to report by Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- To consider the evidence on how to improve outcomes for women in the criminal justice system
- To make recommendations for practical measures in this Parliament to reduce their reoffending
- Reverse the recent increase in the female prisoner population
- Prevention not part of the remit



Women offenders in Scotland

- In 2010/11, 19,500 women convicted of a criminal offence
- Female prisoner population has doubled in the last 10 years to 2011
- Sharper rate of growth in prison population than men in the past 10 years (now 5% compared to 3.5%)

Women offenders in Scotland

- Decrease on women under 21 given custodial sentences, increase in women over 30
- 25% of women prisoners on remand (compared to 18% for men)
- Only 30% of women on remand go on to have a custodial sentence
- 75% of custodial sentences 6 months or less
- Violent offences account for 31% of women prisoners (38% for men)
- “Other” crimes such as drugs-related and crimes against public justice 30% (21% in men)



Characteristics of Women offenders in Scotland

- High levels of trauma and abuse
- 80% of women in Cornton Vale have mental health problems
- 60% under influence of drugs at the time of the offence, 42% drunk at the time and 35% committed offence to pay for drugs
- 71% of prisoners in Cornton Vale had used drugs in the 6 months before entering prison
- Often lose contact with children and community

Women's Prisons in Scotland

- Cornton Vale prison built in 1975, capacity for 375 women and overcrowded
- Additional wings in Greenock and Edinburgh
- Independent living units in Cornton Vale and Aberdeen



Mental Health Issues

- High prevalence of depression and anxiety
- Post trauma disorders including witnessing violence, mistrust, low self-confidence
- Borderline personality disorders including transient psychotic symptoms; risk of suicide; impairment of social, psychological and occupational functioning and quality of life
- Serious and enduring mental illness, on the whole, is well managed. Although some people may continue to experience social and interpersonal difficulties

Some key issues in management of BPD from NICE guidelines

Autonomy and choice

- Work in partnership with people with borderline personality disorder to develop their autonomy and promote choice by **ensuring they remain actively involved in finding solutions to their problems**, including during crises

Developing optimistic and trusting relationships

- Build a **trusting relationship**, work in an open, engaging and non-judgemental manner, and be consistent and reliable



Some key issues in management of BPD

Access to services

- People with borderline personality disorder **should not be excluded** from any health or social care service because of their diagnosis or because they have self-harmed

Managing endings and transitions

- Anticipate that **withdrawal and ending of treatments or services**, and transition from one service to another, may evoke strong emotions and reactions in people with borderline personality disorder
- Ensure that such **changes are discussed carefully beforehand and are structured and phased** and that the care plan supports effective collaboration with other care providers during endings and transitions, and includes the opportunity to access services in times of crisis

What works to reduce reoffending in women

What doesn't work

Programmes that motivate offenders and change beliefs

Intention to change and know how to change

Remove practical barriers (e.g. financial crisis, childcare)

Maintain family contact/strengthen parental bonds interventions (affection and supervision)

Throughcare

Drug treatment (residential/CBT)

Employment (if motivated, starts pre-release, addresses life-skills and self-efficacy)

Holistic resettlement/release planning

Family and peer support

Mentoring (based on best practice) to build 'connectedness' and social capital

Prison

Vocational training (especially not gender responsive)

What works

Recommendations

- Service redesign
- Alternatives to prosecution
- Alternatives to remand
- Sentencing
- Prisons
- Community reintegration
- Making it work



What are they doing in there?

Exhibition at +44 141 Gallery, Studio Warehouse, Glasgow, 6 -14 June 2009. Opening of art project about women in prison, criminal justice and politics – and campaigning for penal reform

Community Justice Centres

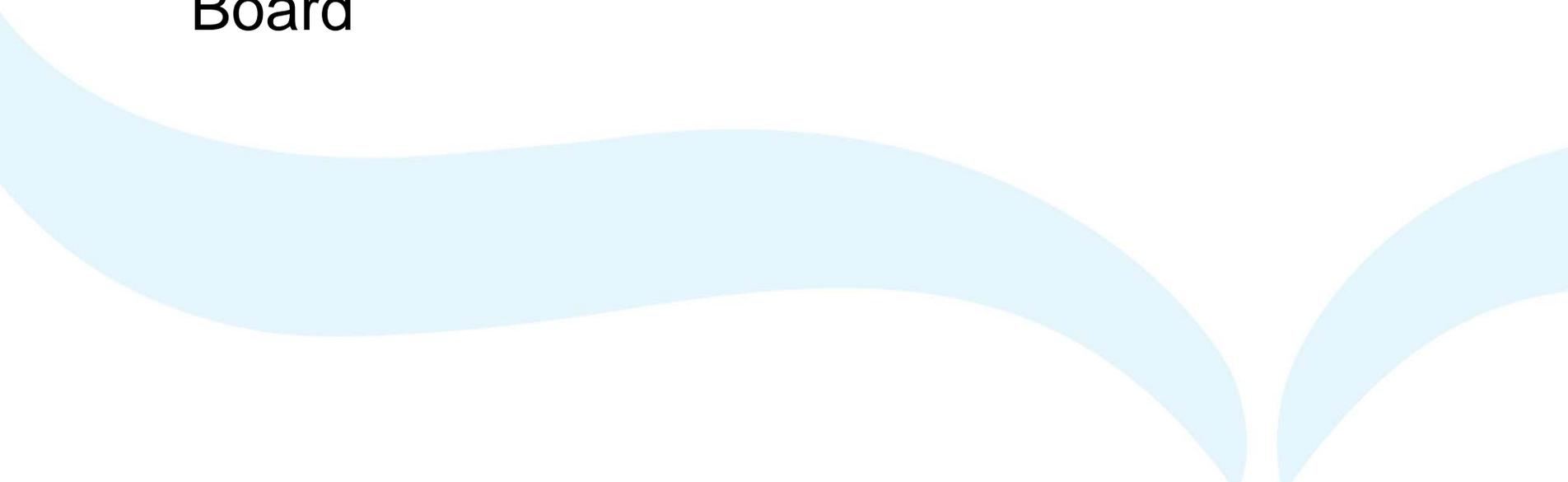
- Deliver intensive interventions that:
 - Supervise and manage women offenders
 - Challenge offending behaviours and attitudes
 - Address the root causes of reoffending
 - Provide practice advice and support on housing, benefits, employment and childcare
- For every stage of the criminal justice system
- Support access to other services
- Multi-disciplinary teams
- Intensive mentoring
- Alternative to custody

“Prisons – not fit for purpose”

- Demolish current prison and replace with small specialist prison
 - Meaningful work
 - Adequate medical centre
 - Young women’s unit
 - Mother and baby unit
 - Family-friendly visitor centre
- Use local prisons for remand



Making it work

- New national criminal justice service
 - National Criminal Justice and Prison Delivery Board
- 

Report calls for Cornton Vale jail to be demolished

Notorious all-female prison is not fit for purpose, says commission

SCOTLAND'S only all-female prison should be demolished and replaced with a smaller, gender-specific high-security women's prison, says a commission set up by the Scottish Government to review the country's prisons.

A report published by the commission says the current Cornton Vale jail is "not fit for purpose" and should be demolished. It calls for a new, smaller, gender-specific high-security women's prison to be built in place of the current jail.

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Let us have sex equality in our policy on prisons



Iain MacWhirter

Scottish MSP Iain MacWhirter has called for a radical overhaul of Scotland's prison system. He says the current system is "not fit for purpose" and should be replaced with a new, smaller, gender-specific high-security women's prison.

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Call for overhaul of system to tackle female offending

MSPs urged to demolish
Cornton Vale and consider
non-custodial alternatives

BY ANNE WILSON

A REPORT by MSPs has called for a radical overhaul of Scotland's prison system. The report says the current system is "not fit for purpose" and should be replaced with a new, smaller, gender-specific high-security women's prison.

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WOMEN LEAVING JAIL ARE OFFERED HOPE FROM PROJECT THAT HELPS THEM TURN LIVES AROUND

Service works to tackle the root causes of offending

Helping these women isn't a soft option, it's about a better society... how do you put a price on that?

By Anne Wilson
A woman who has spent years in jail is offered a chance to turn her life around.

The project works to tackle the root causes of offending. It offers women a chance to turn their lives around. The project works to tackle the root causes of offending. It offers women a chance to turn their lives around.

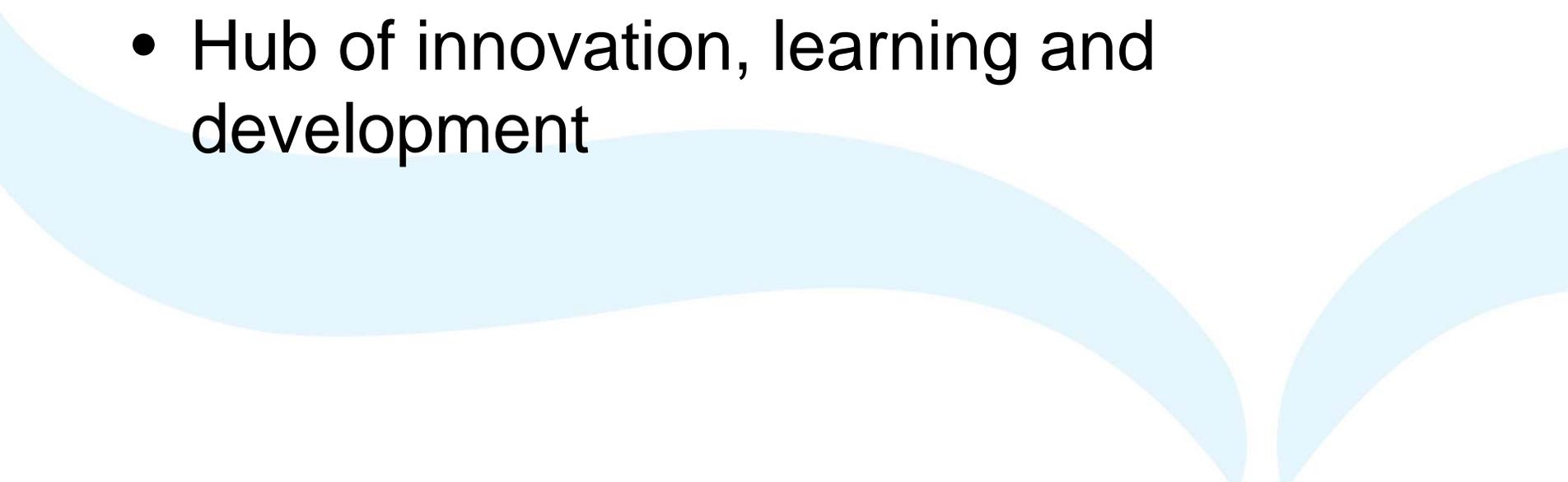
Women who have spent years in jail are offered a chance to turn their lives around. The project works to tackle the root causes of offending. It offers women a chance to turn their lives around.

Government Response



- Positive response and accepted 33 of the 37 recommendations
- Further consideration of:
 - Two new sentencing options
 - Review of services for women with BPD
 - National service for criminal justice

Future model for community justice in Scotland

- CPPs
 - Community Justice Scotland
 - Hub of innovation, learning and development
- 

New £75m women's prison scrapped, confirms Scottish minister



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-30958609>

Conclusions

- Female offenders have profound and complex needs
- Another big prison now **not** being built – discussion of “redefinition of custody” in small national prison; regional facilities and community based residential units
- New model of community justice - but can it shift resource?
- The women’s justice centre model shows great potential



Tomorrow's Women Glasgow:
Glasgow's Community Justice Centre
Funded by Scottish Government
and supported by



What women said....

- **“Its been a different experience here really positive and helpful. I’m making some real changes in my life for the first time”**
- **This centre is a good chance for me. From the beginning I could feel the warmth and welcome. It makes me want to keep coming back”**
- **I’ve found structure here. My confidence is better and now I can talk to people which I couldn’t before. I’ve come on a lot”**
- **“As soon as I came through everybody came up and introduced themselves, staff and service users...I liked it that much that I came back down that afternoon about an hour later for the group, the confidence building....its dead welcoming....I felt a bit uplifted to be honest when I left”**

Issues

- Addictions
- Housing/Homelessness
- Low self Esteem
- Lack of Confidence
- Sense of hopelessness
- Social Isolation
- Loneliness
- Depression / Anxiety
- Mental Health
- Self Harm
- Bereavement
- Employment Barriers
- Poverty
- Childcare
- [Persistent] Offending
- Physical Health
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Assault
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Complex Trauma

Community Justice Centres - The 'Ingredients'

- **Safe Environment**
- **Trauma model/Trauma informed practice**
- **Multi Agency working**
- **Practical/emotional support**
- **Empowerment**
- **Pro social modelling**
- **Proactive outreach**
- **Service User Involvement**
- **Activities and skills development**
- **Person centred approach**
- **Staff attitudes**

**Trauma Model
Multi Agency Working
Service User Involvement**

Complex Trauma



3 Stage Trauma Model

- Safety and Symptom Stabilisation
- Remembrance and Mourning
- Reconnection

(Herman 1992)

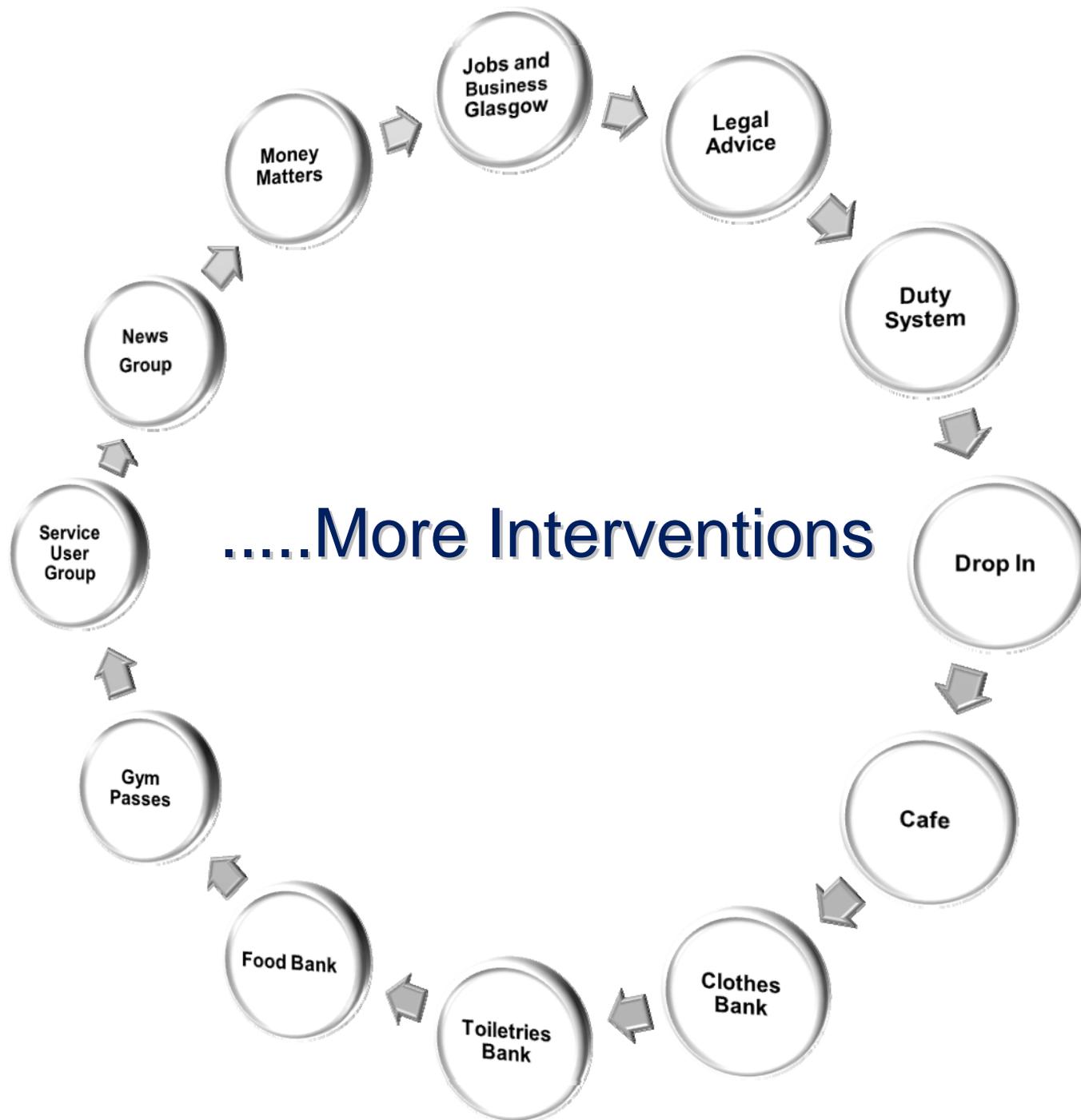
Trauma Informed Practice – The Principles

- Acknowledgement
- Safety
- Trust
- Choice and Control
- Compassion
- Collaboration
- Strengths Based

(Trauma Toolkit, 2nd Edition, 2013)

Interventions.....

- **One to one/ practical support**
- **Pro active outreach**
- **Multi agency case discussions**
- **Housing advice and support**
- **Mental health assessments and interventions**
- **Trauma interventions**
- **Employment advice**
- **Sexual health advice**
- **Service user involvement**
- **Prison gate pickups**
- **Prison throughcare**
- **Sports activities**
- **Leisure activities**
- **Literacy workshops**
- **Informal peer support**
- **Staff supervision**
- **Staff training**
- **Publications**



Multi Agency Working

- Shared Vision
- Common Goals
- Shared Knowledge
- Shared Information Systems
- Learning from each other
- Proactive Outreach

Activities and Service User involvement

Activities

NHS Health Improvements



Urban Roots



Digital Art



Adult Literacy

'Together Women' Centre - Leeds



16 Days of Action Preparing for White Ribbon Day



Easter Fun



Halloween Party



Christmas Joy



Benefits for Women - Outcomes

SHORT TERM

- **Increased motivation**
- **Increased interest in Recovery**
- **Faster access to services**
- **Clear pathways to services**
- **Increased attendance at appointments**
- **Faster response to crisis**
- **Increased knowledge of services**
- **Increased choice of services**
- **Service user involvement**
- **Women identifying new skills**

MEDIUM TERM

- **Improved physical and mental health and well being**
- **Substance misuse reduced/ stabilised**
- **Reduced social isolation**
- **Increase in self esteem and self belief**
- **Increased employment motivation**
- **Increased ability to sustain tenancies**
- **Improved relationships**
- **Improved attitudes/ behaviours**
- **Improved literacy skills**
- **Completion of orders**
- **Increased credibility of Centre**
- **Increased staff expertise, knowledge and understanding**
- **Less duplication of services**



Tomorrow's Women Glasgow
The Adelphi Centre
12 Commercial Road
Glasgow G5 0PQ

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What makes Tomorrow's Women work when other services haven't?

- Effective partnerships – all relevant partners, budgets, secondments, MDT working
- Trauma informed model
 - Attitudes
 - Practical help and psychological support
 - Involvement
- Perseverance, proactive outreach, intensive support
- Adapting services to meet women not expecting them to fit in to our existing models
- A welcoming environment
- Intensive but seems to work....

