



**Lanarkshire
Community Justice
Authority**

Funding Developments Proforma About your project

1. Project name

What is the name of your project?

Mentoring Support Service for Women Offenders

2. Project summary

Tell us about your project, what you plan to do, what you plan to spend the money on and where the project will be located.

The Service will be located within the Sacro CJ services at 11 Merry street, Motherwell. The service will link to the existing Sacro Arrest Referral Service based at this location and a number of external community resources where partnership working is already firmly established throughout Lanarkshire: Police, Criminal Justice Teams, Social Work, Apex, Drug Treatment Services, Health and Housing and other voluntary organisations.

All the grant will go towards funding the project worker's salary, to ensure 100% of the money is spent on service delivery. As this is a one year grant, office and administration cost will be absorbed by Sacro.

The Service will aim to encourage women in custody to make and sustain contact with a mentor who will assess their needs and support them through an agreed action plan, which will focus on reducing the risk factors which contributed towards their offending behaviour and the risk of re-offending.

The worker will make initial contact with the women at point of arrest, within Bellshill Police Station. Given the complex and wide-ranging needs of women offenders the service will offer a person centred and flexible approach to engage with and meet the specific needs facing this client group, which may involve evening and weekend working.

The worker will recruit, train and coordinate a pool of volunteer mentors from the local community, thus providing members of the public with skills and knowledge which can be utilised in the community and work towards making communities safer.

This initiative fits with Lanarkshire CJA Area Plan as it:

Enables women offenders to address the problems that result in them offending in the first place

- It helps divert women offenders from the criminal justice system
- By ensuring assessments and action plans take account of offender outcome areas.
- By providing a service which takes account of the women's needs such as childcare, chaotic lifestyles and the likelihood that they have been victims of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

3. Your outcomes

Briefly describe what difference your project will make by listing proposed outcomes (the difference your project will make to the people who use it)

Client Support

Feedback from women offenders who engaged in the established Arrest Referral Service, identified that they required support at a basic level to get their lives back to a 'normal level'. Obstacles they identified included: inability to keep appointments with social services, housing or GP's. Therefore mentors could assist with:

Housing

Mentors would provide support for housing applications, work with women to prepare household budgets (evidence from previous service users show that they are buying poor quality cheap food in bulk from the supermarket at the beginning of the week and running out of food by the end of the week. They also lack in confidence when visiting shops which put them off returning to the shop later in the week). Mentors would work to encourage "front door management". This would assist women to retain a tenancy once it is secured. Mentors could also help women access debt management where necessary

National Outcome 02, 08

Health

It is anticipated that the majority of women offenders are offending to fund an addiction or related behaviours. Mentors would link them in with addiction services and maintain contact thereafter. Mentors would help them access health/ dental/ sexual health care where needed. This may require the mentor to accompany them to medical visits. This element of the service would be invaluable to those who have few friends or family to support them.

National Outcome 03

Education/ training/ Employment

Mentors would work with women to determine areas of need which may be preventing them from accessing training or employment. eg. Literacy or numeracy issues. Mentors could accompany women to agencies such as Big +, Apex and support them through the learning process and also help build self esteem.

National Outcome 04,05,07

General Support

Baring in mind many women will have suffered abuse (domestic, sexual, physical etc) the service would deliver a self esteem building programme to raise their feeling of self worth and support reintegration back into society. In order to achieve this, Mentors would amongst other things organise outings where women are taken to cafes, garden centres etc.

Regular group meetings where women were encouraged to support each other would also be of benefit. We would enhance this element of the service by introducing visits from allied professionals (cooking classes, complementary therapies, craft classes etc).

National Outcome 01, 09

Families

If the woman has children the mentor would provide help with parenting issues, liaise with schools, health visitors etc. Family outings would also be organised to help build relationships within the home.

National Outcome 06

The service will be monitored and all outputs and outcomes will be provided to the CJA on a quarterly basis, with an annual report being published in April 2011.

4. Target Group

(E.g. young offenders, women offenders, specific social needs, people at a particular stage in the criminal justice process)

Police advised us that 2352 women have been held in Bellshill Police Station from April 09. Given this number, the 05-06 statistics on prisoners sentenced, by number of previous convictions, the limited resources and overall CJA strategy, the Mentoring service would target the following:

Young Women offenders who have been arrested and have up to two previous convictions, with a history of being poor at attendance at professional appointments.

5. Contribution to LCJA priorities

(how does this project contribute to reducing reoffending and the priorities set by the CJA in the area plan 2008-11)

This service contributes to the LCJA priorities by:

These have been highlighted above, however, overall the service will:

Enable women offenders to address the problems that result in them offending in the first place.

Fulfil action point 2.2.1 by providing a service which takes account of the women's needs such as childcare, chaotic lifestyles and the likelihood that they have been victims of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

By increasing the number of drug users to make contact with drug treatment, care services and a range of statutory agencies. Doing so reduces the risk of them re-offending to feed their drug habit and stabilises their chaotic life styles, which positively impacts upon their physical and mental health.

The service will establish joint working arrangements with key partners.

By contributing towards community safety and indeed personal safety through harm reduction and advice.

7. Project Costs

Please give estimates of cost for the project

£36.059

About your organisation

8. Organisation name

Sacro

9. Contact for the project

Jim Johnston

10. organisation type

Criminal Justice

11. Signatory

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature: