

September 2018



"Today there are 3,850 women in our prisons. I want to see this fall, with fewer women in prison for short sentences."

**David Gauke,
Secretary of State
for Justice.**

Briefing on the Ministry of Justice Female Offender Strategy

About Clinks

Clinks is the national infrastructure organisation supporting voluntary sector organisations working in the criminal justice system (CJS). Our aim is to ensure the sector and those with whom it works are informed and engaged in order to transform the lives of people in the criminal justice system and their communities.

We do this by providing specialist information and support, with a particular focus on smaller voluntary sector organisations, to inform them about changes in policy and commissioning, to help them build effective partnerships and provide innovative services that respond directly to the needs of their users.

We are a membership organisation with 500 members, including the voluntary sector's largest providers as well as its smallest. Our wider national network reaches 4,000 voluntary sector contacts. Overall, through our weekly e-bulletin Light Lunch and our social media activity, we have a network of over 15,000 contacts. These include individuals and agencies with an interest in the CJS and the role of the voluntary sector in rehabilitation and resettlement. For more information see www.clinks.org

Clinks has a key role in supporting and representing organisations that work with women in contact with the CJS. As well as supporting the sector with information, resources and events, we sit on the Advisory Board for Female Offenders to share the sector's expertise with the Ministry of Justice. We also convene the Women's Networking Forums as part of the Reducing Reoffending Third Sector Advisory (RR3) Group, in partnership with Agenda; these bring together women's organisations to provide an opportunity to feedback on policy developments and foster partnership working within the sector.

About this briefing

The Ministry of Justice published their Female Offender Strategy, in June 2018. This was informed in part by a call for evidence facilitated through the Advisory Board for Female Offenders. Clinks submitted a detailed response informed by feedback from 28 organisations who attended the Women's Networking Forums, direct consultation with three women's organisations, and evidence gathered through Clinks' case studies.

This briefing provides: a summary of the main aspects of the Female Offender Strategy; offers commentary on the key priorities contained in the strategy; and reviews the commitments made by the government as it seeks to translate this strategic vision into practice. It also analyses the likely impact and opportunities the strategy demonstrates for voluntary organisations working to support women in contact with the CJS.

Alongside the strategy the government has also published:

- new police guidance on working with vulnerable women guidance
- best practice in developing a local Whole Systems Approach.

Summary

In recent years the government has sought to develop a stronger strategic focus on the needs of women who come into contact with the CJS. In 2013 the Ministry of Justice published its first *Strategic Objectives for Female Offenders*¹. A cross-departmental Advisory Board for Female Offenders (ABFO) was established in March 2013 and this was accompanied by a National Offender Management Service (NOMS) *Stocktake of Women's Services for Offenders in the Community*². In 2016, the Ministry of Justice published a *Prison Safety and Reform White Paper*³ which announced the department's intention to publish a female offender strategy in 'early 2017' with an ambition to 'improve the treatment of female offenders in custody and in the community'. Since that time the strategy has been subject to delay, due in large part to wider political instability and significant Ministerial turnover, including at the Ministry of Justice.

The Female Offender Strategy⁴ has now been published and applies to England and Wales. It sets a 'direction of travel' for working with women in contact with the CJS and is organised around three central priorities:

1. Earlier intervention
2. Community-based solutions
3. Better custody.

Clinks welcomes the Ministry of Justice's recognition of the need for a more gender informed approach to women, acknowledging the marked differences in the offence profile of men and women, the contrasting drivers to their offending and responses to contact with the CJS. We are very pleased to see acknowledgement of the important role of the voluntary sector's holistic model of women centred services in response to these needs. The strategy also recognises the 'intersectionality' of need experienced by many women with protected characteristics, such as race, sexuality and disability, but it is unfortunate that there is little in the way of concrete proposals contained in the strategy to address this.

Further, it is positive that the strategy highlights that "coming into contact with the criminal justice system, and in particular custody, can undermine the ability of women to address the issues that have caused their offending." It notes that short term custodial sentences are less effective in reducing reoffending than community penalties and highlights a specific intention to see fewer women coming into the CJS.

The strategy envisages a limited role for government and promotes a framework for implementation that is:

- Locally led - encouraging local areas across England and Wales to feel empowered to design approaches tailored for the specific needs of women
- Partnership focused- ensuring join-up across government at a national and local level, including with voluntary organisations
- Evidence-based- continuing to develop the evidence base to better understand what works.

As a result the strategy is largely aspirational with its focus on awareness raising, facilitation, co-ordination and training, in contrast to direct legislative action such as sentencing reform. Moving forward it is likely that outcomes for women in the criminal justice will continue to be negotiated locally rather than prescribed centrally, and this will present both challenges

and opportunities for voluntary sector organisations and the women they support.

Early intervention

It is welcome that the Female Offender Strategy places significant emphasis on early intervention and explicitly states that the MoJ will work to reduce the number of women coming into a contact with the CJS by:

- Intervening earlier to address vulnerabilities that can lead to offending and
- Diverting women from the CJS where it is appropriate to do so.

The rationale for re-orientating public services away from acute care to prevention and early action were articulated in the highly influential Allen Report⁵ and are now commonly cited in policy debate. The strategy leans heavily upon these arguments, but it is disappointing that it does not highlight explicitly how this will be achieved, given that so many of these mechanisms fall outside of the direct remit of the Ministry of Justice.

A multi-agency response

The Female Offender Strategy calls for sufficient gender informed provision in local areas to meet the needs of all women in contact with the CJS. It encourages greater collaboration between voluntary sector providers, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), health services and local authorities to address the barriers that prevent women with multiple and complex needs from accessing services effectively. The strategy explicitly notes that the MoJ would like to see “local agencies and commissioners working with us and investing in women’s centres and other women-specific services.” It also recognises the integral role of charitable trusts and foundations in providing funding for specialist voluntary sector organisations supporting women, and highlights the MoJ’s intention to work closely with them in the future “to ensure local services can continue to build on their expertise, experience and support.”

To kick-start this process, the MoJ launched a grant competition to distribute £3.5m of funding between 2018-2020 (£2m in 2018/19 and £1.5m in 2019/20). The deadline for applications was extended to 12th September 2018. Funding will be provided to develop provision for women with experience of domestic abuse and to support local areas to develop and embed local Whole Systems Approaches building upon previous Whole Systems Approach seed funding. Given the overrepresentation of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) women in the criminal justice system as described in the Lammy Review, applications to support the needs of this cohort will be a priority for funding. The MoJ will also invest an additional £1.5 million capital funding to support the development of community-based provision for women. Funding is discussed in the conclusion to this briefing and more detail on the grant funding competition is set out in Appendix 2.

As Clinks and our partners working to support or advocate on behalf of women in contact with the CJS have highlighted, the direction of travel signified by the strategy is welcome but we are concerned that resources allocated by the MoJ are not sufficient to translate these aspirations into reality.

Diversion

Where appropriate, the strategy also encourages greater use of diversion away from the criminal justice system and into specialist services intended to address the root causes of women’s offending. This will be achieved through the following:

- **Optimising Liaison and Diversion:** The NHS are currently enhancing 'women's pathways' across all Liaison and Diversion services in England, with a 'women's lead' appointed in each service with responsibility for delivery. It is welcome that these pathways are being co-designed with women with lived experience of the CJS. Coverage for Liaison and Diversion schemes are 82%, with full coverage expected to be delivered by March 2020. As health is devolved in Wales, they have developed Criminal Justice Liaison Services. It is not clear in the strategy how these services are being tailored to meet the needs of women.
- **Supporting the police:** New guidance for the police on working with vulnerable women at the point of arrest has been developed in partnership with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). This includes guidance on need assessments, arrest and charging decisions.
- **Improving out of court disposals:** In recent years there has been a significant reduction in the use of out of court disposals (OOCs) to deal with low-level harms that would otherwise be charged and dealt with in the criminal courts⁶. The MoJ will look to support the replication of quality diversion schemes developed by the police for women.
- **Promoting retail-based diversion:** The strategy recognises the high prevalence of shop theft offences committed by women, and gives details of a retail-based diversion scheme being implemented in Bury that diverts women caught shoplifting to their local women's centre or service rather than processing them through the CJS. Further data will be gathered from this approach and shared with other areas.

Community solutions not custody

We welcome the strategy's intention to "see fewer female offenders sent to custody for short periods" which the department will realise through seeking to build public and judicial confidence in non-custodial options. The strategy clearly outlines that "sentencing is a matter for the courts, and the severity of sentencing decisions should not be impacted by the consideration of the gender of the offender, but should instead take into account their particular circumstances." It is disappointing that the strategy does not go so far as to signal the implementation of sentencing reform as this would likely have a clear impact on reducing the number of women sentenced to custody.

Ensuring sentencers have access to comprehensive information

The MoJ will work with judges to help develop their understanding of what more could be done to ensure the particular risks and needs of women in contact with the CJS are addressed effectively in the court, and to ensure that courts receive all necessary information to inform the sentencing process. Building on previous work with Crown Court judges, the MoJ will interview district judges and magistrates to better understand how they can further support them when sentencing women.

Improving pre-sentence reports

In recent years the government has embarked upon a significant programme of court reform intended to deliver 'speedy justice'. These changes have implications for the administration of justice but the impact upon sentencing outcomes is not yet fully understood.

Recent analysis by the Centre for Court Innovation has found that between 2012/13 and 2016/17 there was a 22% decrease in the number of new Pre-Sentence Reports (PSRs) with the result that an increasing number of sentences (both community sentences and custody) are passed by the courts with no PSR. In parallel there have been significant changes in how PSRs are delivered to court, with an increasing proportion of PSRs delivered orally rather than in writing. While the analysis is not gender disaggregated, the interim report concludes that since cases with PSRs are more than ten times more likely to receive a community sentence, the falling number of PSRs is strongly linked to the decline in community sentences.

The Female Offender Strategy recognises the importance of PSRs for supporting the courts to keep someone in the community, rather than receiving a custodial sentence and calls for all PSRs, whether written or delivered orally, to include details on someone's circumstances. This includes information in relation to any dependent children, experience of poor mental health and domestic abuse issues. All PSRs should set out locally available gender-informed community sentencing options, so that courts are fully appraised of the options available to them when sentencing.

To support this process the Ministry of Justice has developed a suite of resources to support National Probation Service staff responsible for court liaison:

- An 'Effective Proposal Tool' that captures comprehensive information on local provision in the community sentencing and treatment options, which will support courts to have an understanding of the community interventions available to them.
- A new PSR interview checklist for probation court staff. The checklist will be rolled out nationally from Summer 2018 starting with pilots in the NPS North West division and South East and East divisions.
- A report template and a training package for all PSR writers to develop a workforce that can assess and respond to the specific needs of women.
- Support the roll out of the '*Safeguarding Children When Sentencing Mothers*' training material developed by Dr Shona Minson. This training raises awareness of the diverse implications of maternal imprisonment for children.

It is welcome that the strategy recognises many women find disclosing details about their circumstances to statutory CJS staff difficult. Disappointingly, the strategy does not explicitly recognise the role of specialist voluntary organisations in this respect. Organisations are able to develop trusting relationships with the women they work with and can support them to disclose personal information about themselves. The MoJ will work to ensure that when women give their consent, any relevant information they have disclosed to Liaison and Diversion services is shared with relevant criminal justice partners.

Developing more options for managing women in the community

To address the significant reductions in community orders, the strategy sets out to 'improve the range and robustness of the options for managing women in the community' and equip the courts with a more flexible sentencing toolkit. Greater robustness will be delivered in three main ways.

Residential women's centres

Stable accommodation is identified as a key ingredient in the desistance process and the Strategy sets out the current challenges women experience in relation to securing appropriate, safe and stable accommodation. The strategy outlines the MoJ's intention to provide closer integration between the Bail Accommodation Support Service (BASS) (which has been expanded to provide access for people including women, released on licence with no accommodation to return to) and women's centres.

The strategy recognises the gap in provision for Approved Premises (AP), which provide accommodation for people defined as high risk, and the MoJ are seeking to identify suitable AP provision for women in London and Wales, where they recognise that the need is pressing.

The strategy sets out a commitment to develop a residential women's centre pilot at

five sites across England and Wales. These centres will develop an intensive residential support package and build the evidence base for future investment decisions about whether the model can be taken to scale. No detail is provided on the scale of investment on offer, the likely location of these pilot sites or whether they will adopt the existing woman centred ethos that defines the work of current centres. The government has promised a process of engagement to develop the detail of the pilots and it will be vital that voluntary sector organisations are enabled to play an active role in this process.

Community sentence treatment options

The strategy rightly draws attention to the consistently low use of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs). Drawing upon casework data the Ministry of Justice estimate that:

- 22% of women supervised under a court order have a mental health issue
- 29% an alcohol misuse issue and
- 32% a substance misuse issue.

However only a fraction of these women receive a specialist court intervention despite the evidence that a CSTR may produce better outcomes than a custodial sentence. The Ministry of Justice is currently working with the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS England and Public Health England to develop a protocol intended to increase the use of CSTRs, including a women-only site operating out of a women's centre in Northampton. It is anticipated that the evaluation of this work will inform national rollout later in 2018.

Electronic monitoring and emergent technologies

The strategy envisages further moves to extend the reach of electronic monitoring and explore the potential of emergent technologies such as location monitoring and alcohol testing. Much will depend upon how the technology is used, and it is welcome that the strategy recognises that "electronic monitoring is most likely to improve outcomes when used in conjunction with interventions that contain rehabilitative components".

Ensuring appropriate probation support for women in the community

The strategy recognises the need for continued workforce development to ensure that women managed in the community receive the support they need. Building upon the HM Inspectorate of Probation thematic inspection of women's services,⁷ the strategy confirms that the National Probation Service (NPS) will appoint a dedicated senior probation officer in each division for an initial period of one year, with strategic responsibility for women offenders. These 'women's champions', who will be in post from September 2018, will be responsible for 'monitoring and driving up performance, supporting training problem-solving service issues and implementing gender informed practices.' All CRCs have now identified a women's lead and the MoJ are encouraging them to focus on similar issues. It is essential that both the NPS and CRC lead work to engage with specialist voluntary sector organisations to ensure the needs of women under probation licence are met.

The strategy recognises the need to improve the delivery of through the gate services for women to support their resettlement. This is likely to take place as part of the Ministry of Justice's current review of the delivery of probation services. An eight week public consultation was launched by the MoJ on July 27th 2018, which seeks views on proposals to stabilise the delivery of probation services over the next two years and a longer term strategy for probation services beyond 2020. More information can be accessed here.

Particular emphasis is placed upon the distinct needs of BAME and foreign national women in contact with the criminal justice system. The strategy does not provide significant

detail on how criminal justice agencies will address these needs but instead states that government will work with the voluntary sector and other specialist organisations to improve their capacity to share best practice and form networks through facilitated events and more structured communication of policy developments. MoJ and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) is currently working to implement the Lammy Review recommendations, and for significant progress to be made to improve outcomes for BAME women there is a need for clear action to be taken as part of this.

Better custody

The MoJ has dropped their commitment to building new community prisons for women which they announced in their Prison Safety and Reform white paper, which is most welcome and something which Clinks and other organisations in the sector had called upon them to do. The Female Offender Strategy recognises that reductions in the female prison population, particularly those serving short custodial sentences, will not be delivered overnight. Moreover, it remains the case that a sizeable number of women in custody who are serving longer determinate and indeterminate custodial sentences are unlikely to be suitable for point of arrest diversion or community sentences. In such cases the Ministry of Justice retains a significant duty of care to ensure women are accommodated in safe and humane conditions that support rehabilitation and promote desistance from crime in the community on release.

Adapting the custodial environment

The strategy acknowledges the findings from the Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) on Deaths in Custody rapid evidence gathering exercise⁸ and the bulletin issued by the Prison and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) review of recent investigations into the deaths of women in custody.⁹ It places a particular focus on working to improve prison safety for women recognising that "every death in custody is a tragedy". Given the numbers of self-inflicted deaths of women in custody, that reached a high in 2016, a renewed emphasis upon prison safety is welcome. However the strategy's proposals are limited to administrative improvements as set out below. It is disappointing not to see greater emphasis on how the design of prison regimes, availability of work and rehabilitative programmes and integration of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL)¹⁰ into sentence progression contribute to feelings of hope, self-worth and personal responsibility, which are essential for long term desistance.

The proposals include:

- The introduction of a dedicated Group Safety Lead to help Governors address the particular challenges to safety in their establishments, identifying effective practice that is bespoke to women and sharing it across the Women's Estate.
- Improving staff training through introducing specific training around the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork case management system to ensure staff have a better understanding of the needs and behaviour of women with complex needs in contact with the CJS.
- The roll-out of a trauma informed approach to working with women, facilitated by Lady Edwina Grosvenor and her charity One Small Thing.
- Partnership working with NHS England and Public Health England to set clear standards which all prison health services should meet. This will see services joined up to tackle the comorbidity of mental health and substance misuse issues.
- The MoJ are undertaking a review of interventions that are available across the female custodial estate to ensure they are delivering the most effective treatment options for women and are responding to their needs.

Focusing on families links

Last year the MoJ launched the report from the 2017 Lord Farmer Review, which Clinks' Chief Executive Anne Fox co-chaired, on the importance of strengthening male prisoners' family ties to prevent reoffending and reduce intergenerational crime. The strategy announces that Ministry of Justice has asked Lord Farmer to undertake a further piece of work to review his recommendations through the lens of the needs of women, given that many women in prison are primary carers of their children.

This follow on review will explore how to strengthen family ties, especially with their children, for women serving sentences in the community and after they have been released, as well as for those women in custody. Lord Farmer will publish the findings of this by the end of 2018. Clinks is providing the secretariat and a member of the expert advisory group for the review.

Rehabilitative support in custody

The MoJ launched their Education and Employment Strategy in May 2018 which outlines steps the department are taking to empower prison governors to design and implement an education curriculum that meets the needs of the women in their care. Alongside the strategy, the MoJ announced they were undertaking a review of the current rules surrounding release on temporary licence (ROTL). Before any changes are implemented, the department will monitor the likely impact this will have on women.

Empowering the prison workforce

HMPPS has designed a new Offender Management in Custody Model tailored for the needs of women and work has now started on plans for new gender-informed standards for working with women prisoners. All women's prisons are required to comply with gender-informed standards for working with women prisoners, which are set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 4800. The MoJ will replace this with a Women's Policy Framework that will incorporate guidance on best practice for working with women in contact with the CJS. Although the MoJ intends for this to be applicable not only for prison officers but for the workforce across the CJS, it is not clear if this also relates to staff working for voluntary organisations or how it might be funded and delivered. The MoJ are currently developing the framework in consultation with other Government departments and external stakeholders and aim to publish a final version by Autumn 2018.

The MoJ will support governors to recruit prison officers based on criteria which reflect the particular values and skills needed for a gender -informed approach. It is welcome to see the strategy note that given the overrepresentation of BAME women in prison, it is vital that the workforce is not only conscious of the impact of protected characteristics on the experience of women in contact with the CJS, but is also representative of the women they work with. The Lammy Review made two recommendations in relation to the prison workforce, citing the need for BAME recruitment and leadership targets. The Government accepted both these recommendations. It has set an objective for 14% of all recruits (across HMPPS) being BAME by 2020, and to increase the diversity of the senior leader cadre by December 2020.

Clinks Good Prison Project¹¹ illustrates how a small investment to implement a model of bespoke voluntary sector coordination tailored to the specific needs of a prison can result in significant outcomes contributing to safer and more rehabilitative prisons. The Ministry of Justice should consider how such a model may support their work towards better custody for women.

What next? A framework for implementation

The publication of a Female Offender Strategy in the current climate is an achievement

and should be welcomed. Less positive is that the implementation framework does not set out a particularly strong role for central government in driving forward the strategy's aspirations. The voluntary sector retains a critical role in supporting the MoJ to realise their ambitions within the following 'framework for implementation'. However a lack of centrally prescribed action means the sector will have to negotiate local landscapes to influence and ensure they are a part of implementation. The implementation framework is split into three areas: locally led, partnership focused and evidence led as set out below

Locally-led

The Ministry of Justice are committed to sharing practice from local areas currently engaged in the development of local Whole Systems Approaches and continues to explore the potential of justice devolution with Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) signed with metro Mayors in London and Greater Manchester. The MoJ is keen to devolve power and responsibility from central government to local areas so it has the levers it needs to deliver Whole Systems Approaches in their communities.

Partnership-focused

The government is working with national partners to develop a 'National Concordat on Female Offenders.' It is hoped that the Concordat will act as a joint statement of intent, agreement and understanding about how public services should work together in local partnerships to identify and respond to the often multiple and complex needs of women in contact with the criminal justice system.

The concordat will establish a clear framework of best practice principles and guidance, that local organisations and partnerships can use to commission services, develop high quality services, and deliver better outcomes for women. Once published it is hoped that local organisations and partnerships will voluntarily adopt the concordat and outline how they will work together to improve outcomes for women. It is hoped that the Concordat will be developed and agreed by the end of 2018.

Evidence-led

Finally, the MoJ has committed to building the evidence base on 'what works' and will use evidence from their existing Whole Systems Approach areas to inform their understanding of this. It is welcome that the MoJ will proactively work to engage with BAME women with lived experience of the CJS, and the organisations supporting them to inform the development of their policy in this area.

The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that it will publish an annual update on the progress of the work of the strategy. Changes will also be made to the Advisory Board on Female Offenders, including a refresh of its membership, in order to improve its effectiveness.

Conclusion: counting the cost

For the reasons outlined in this briefing, Clinks has welcomed the publication of the Female Offender Strategy but we have significant concerns that the level of funding earmarked by the MoJ falls short of what is required to ensure the ambitions of the strategy are realised. In response to the strategy's publication. Anne Fox, Clinks' Chief Executive Officer said: "We warmly welcome the aspirational nature of the strategy and much of its specific commitments. These include reducing the use of imprisonment; improving services in the community; noting the importance of specifically addressing the needs of black, Asian and minority ethnic women; recognising the important role of voluntary organisations in supporting women's complex needs and commissioning Lord Farmer to review family ties for women

which we will support him with. We are, however, concerned that the financial package announced today falls way short of what will be needed to enable voluntary sector services to affect real lasting change for these women and that lack of detail on timings and responsibility will make it hard to track progress and ensure the department can be held to account”.

While Clinks acknowledges the MoJ’s current financial constraints, it remains regrettable that the strategy fails to deliver the investment required to secure the long-term sustainability of specialist voluntary organisations working with women. Putting to one side the direct cost to the MoJ of managing women in prison and the community, recent estimates suggest that the specialist women’s voluntary sector would need approximately £23.3m-£70.7m per calendar year just to work with current numbers of women under supervision in the community by CRCs or the NPS (see Table 1). The impact of under-funding of this sector, has been seen in recent years, with four women’s centres closing between 2015 and 2017.

Table 1: Estimated cost of supporting women subject to criminal justice supervision in England and Wales, 2017

Cost (£): Based on % of Women Supported					
	Number of women (2017)	Support Costs (£)	33%	50%	100%
Community orders	10,641	£3,500	12,290,355	18,621,750	37,243,500
Suspended Sentence Orders (SSOs)	6,752	£3,500	7,798,560	11,816,000	23,632,000
Post-release supervision	5,665	£1,750	3,271,538	4,956,875	9,913,750
Grand Total			£23,360,453	£35,394,625	£70,789,250

Sources: Ministry of Justice Offender Management Statistics. Table A4.14: Offenders supervised at end of period, under court orders and pre and post release supervision; Table A2.7: Sentenced admissions into prison by sentence length; Court Outcomes by Police Force Area: Analytical Tool for England and Wales.

A letter co-signed by voluntary sector organisations, members of the House of Lords and PCC representatives, all of whom are members of the Advisory Board on Female Offenders was sent to the Secretary of State for Justice on the 27th June 2018 making clear that the £3 million of new funding allocated by the Ministry of Justice is simply not sufficient to deliver against the Departments commitments. The authors went onto note that in light of the decision to hand back around £50m to the Treasury that was earmarked for new prisons for women, “the failure to reinvest any of that money in this strategy is even more difficult to comprehend and is likely to have grave consequences for the implementation strategy, and the women it is designed to support”¹²

We will continue to advocate on behalf of specialist voluntary organisations working to support women in contact with the CJS and will work to ensure their views and experiences are taken into account as the MoJ works to implement the priorities highlighted in the strategy.

Appendix 1: The Female Offender Strategy Grant Programme

- Eligibility. Applications are invited from any organisation(s), including third sector and statutory bodies such as local authorities, Police and Crime Commissioners or consortium bids.
- Funding. The Ministry of Justice has a budget of £3m available over two years (2018/19 and 2019/20) and £0.5m capital available in 2018/19 only.
- Outcome areas. Funding must be used to support the following aims:

Funding Options	Total Amount	Period Funding available	Fund	Purpose
Grant Funding A	£2m resource	£1m in each of 18/19 and 19/20	Resource funding specifically to support female offenders with experience of Domestic Abuse (DA)	This will be for use in the sustainability, improvement or development of women’s community support or WSA model that specifically targets female offenders with experience of domestic abuse
Grant Funding B	£1m resource	£0.5m in each of 18/19 and 19/20	Resource funding to support female offenders where the primary focus is not addressing issues arising from experience of DA	This will be for use in the sustainability, improvement or development of community support or WSA models for female offenders and women at risk of offending (including women who have experienced DA, where this is not the specific aim of the project).
Grant Funding C	£0.5m capital	18/19	Capital funding to support female offenders	This will be for use in covering capital costs in the sustainability, improvement or development of community support or WSA model for female offenders and women at risk of offending (e.g. purchase of space, equipment, covering of overheads, and improvement of infrastructure



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- Grant Size: Resource Grant Funding Agreements will have a minimum value of £50,000 to a maximum value of £250,000 inclusive of VAT. There is no minimum or maximum bid for capital Grant Funding Agreements.
- Duration. Resource Grant Funding Agreements will commence on the 7th November 2018 until the 31st March 2020. Capital Grant Funding Agreements will commence on the 7th November 2018 until the 31st March 2019.
- Decision-making criteria. Bids will be selected on the basis of the following four criteria:
 - » has submitted a bid in compliance with the guidance document;
 - » meets the minimum requirements set out in the "Qualification Questionnaire";
 - » achieves the minimum requirements set out against criteria within the "Technical Section";
 - » whose bid is deemed to be the most economically advantageous, taking account of the aims of the Female Offender Strategy (2018)



CLINKS

Clinks supports, represents and advocates for the voluntary sector in criminal justice, enabling it to provide the best possible opportunities for individuals and their families.

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End notes

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