

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner**Notice of Decision**

Nottinghamshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

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For Decision or Information	Decision
Date received*:	15.03.21
Ref*:	2021.027

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: Supported Accommodation: Women in the CJS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The National Probation Service, Clear Directions housing agency and the Nottingham Women's Centre are collaborating via the PCC's Women and girls in the CJS steering group plan to implement and evaluate a supported housing pilot for vulnerable women in the Criminal Justice System in Nottinghamshire.

The model aims to provide safe and stable accommodation and access to wrap around services that are imperative to women's journeys towards desistance from crime. While it is envisaged that the accommodation offer will be self-funding via Local Authority housing benefits, however all partners recognise that the appointment of an appropriately trained support worker also be critical to the project's success.

The PCC and National Probation Service have agreed to jointly fund the support worker role for the duration of the one year pilot at a combined cost of approximately £28,000 (comprising Probation Service Officer Salary and overheads).

INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)

A recent analysis of recalls over a twelve-month period in the Midlands and North East NPS has demonstrated that these complexities are contributing toward the recall of women to custody. A revolving door situation for women severs ties and protective/supportive networks in society, relationships become weakened and routes towards desistance and stability are ever more tenuous.

The Farmer review on strengthening relationships and family ties specifically for women in 2019 highlights the 'utterly indispensable' nature of protective relationship for any woman in her pathway towards desistance. Access to family relationships and children is therefore an imperative part of this process and particularly hindered by multiple recalls to custody.

The model of complexity demonstrates the need for additional resource for women in the CJS to allow for appropriate and consistent management and support of them. Housing models which do not cater for these multiple and complex needs are not conducive with the wealth of evidence which demonstrates the need for such gender specific management.

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It is clear that the role of an Offender Manager in the NPS or CRC is one of public protection and intervention delivery to address underlying factors linked to offending behaviour. Whilst services exist for women to access practical and emotional support, the complexities and vulnerabilities described above so often act as a barrier for women in the CJS in becoming involved in such services. Evidence from projects such as the 'Pause project' demonstrate the invaluable nature of 'handholding' and support roles with from practitioners with low caseload numbers in achieving success in terms of rehabilitation and reintegration with society.

The project is proposed to be delivered for an initial period of twelve months with an evaluation of the model built in to this for consideration of potential expansion at the end of the initial term.

An agreement is in place with Notts Women's centre for the NPS-recruited support worker to be based at their office which provides immediate links to the centre and builds relationships between staff. As women are placed in the properties, they will be allocated support worker resource based an assessment of complexities and using a tiered model: T1 – 2.5 hours per week, T2 – 5 hours per week, T3 – 10 hours per week. A mixture of these tiers in the bed spaces would require a full-time position of the support worker.

During time at the property the women would be supported to develop relationships with protective family and peers, access support from Notts women's centre, budget and develop independent living skills and also be supported to work towards gaining stable and long term move on accommodation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement/ something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

£14,000 – PCC contribution match funded by the National Probation Service.
 Revenue Funding from Community Safety Grant – 2021/22 budget.

Signature: 
Chief Finance Officer

Date: 16th March 2021

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes		No	✓
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**				

DECISION:

The PCC is requested to confirm the following:

1. To approve a £14k match funded contribution to the 12 month Supported Accommodation Pilot for women in the criminal justice system – 2021/22 budget

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OFFICER APPROVAL

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:



Date: 16/3/21

Chief Executive**DECLARATION:**

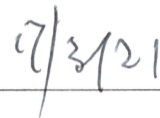
I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

**Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

See guidance on non public information