

ORIGINATOR: Vicky Day

DECISION NO. 28 /2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision

SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner

SUBJECT: Secretariat role for the Women in the Criminal Justice System Strategy Group

SUMMARY:

Norfolk's Women Offender Steering Group was established in 2018 to deliver the government's strategic objectives for female offenders as per the Female Offender Strategy, 2018. This sets out the governments framework that it is through effective partnerships, at national and local level, that progress can really happen. In particular, the role of third sector partners, such as women's centres and working with local statutory bodies.

The Steering Group has supported the development of female offender policy over the last two years. In particular, through the [Women Offenders of Norfolk Diversion, Engagement and Rehabilitation \(WONDER\) scheme](#) which seeks to help vulnerable women in criminal justice settings access the services and support required to address the root causes of their offending.

In 2020, the Steering Group acknowledged the need for refresh and the development of a Countywide Strategy Group to further progress governments strategic objectives, particularly to evaluate current service provision, identify gaps and lead accountability for delivering the best possible service for women in the criminal justice system.

Through the expertise and knowledge of its new members, the Strategy Group will continue to align and provide valuable advice and challenge to help shape local pathways for female offenders and to the aims of the recently published, National Female Offender Concordat.

The Strategy Group is co- chaired by the OPCCN's, Head of Prevention and Rehabilitation and the Eastern Region, National Probation Service's, Strategic Lead

for Women.

OPCCN has committed data analyst resource to the function and the information and learning extrapolated from the Norfolk Strategy Group can be shared across the East of England Probation region and Norfolk and Suffolk's Criminal Justice Board to assist in progressing the aspirations of the National Female Offender Concordat. In addition to this, the OPCCN is allocating Communication Manager resource to the group.

The group applied to and was successful in their application to the National Probation Service to provide secretariat resource for written records of the meetings, with clear action points made, target dates, status of actions and partnership attendance. This will enable the Chairs to lead on the strategic content of the meetings and set the pace for delivery outcomes.

A total of £5,538.90 will be awarded to St Giles Trust to provide the Secretariat role, (a woman with lived experience of the criminal justice system). St Giles Trust will be contributing a further £4,461.1 to allow for longevity of the post holder which will be extended to June 2022.

St Giles Trust has built up a wealth of knowledge and expertise over 50 years which enables them to support over 20,000 Service Users (SUs) each year with housing, employment, health and family issues. As an organisation St Giles Trust have gained all-round expertise and knowledge of working with and supporting vulnerable adults.

To strengthen the governance for the commissioning of this grant award the OPCCN has applied standard grant conditions. These include a performance review process and annual review of the benefits of the grant.

The day to day management of the role will be undertaken by St Giles Trust, who has overall responsibility for the worker.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the PCC for Norfolk supports the allocation of joint funding to St Giles Trust to enable the provision of the Secretariat role, which is pivotal to the delivery of the aspirations of Norfolk's Women in the Criminal Justice Strategy Group.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.



Signature:

Date: 19/05/2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

1. OBJECTIVE:

To approve funding to enable the provision of the Secretariat role, which is pivotal to the delivery of the aspirations of Norfolk's Women in the Criminal Justice Strategy Group.

2. BACKGROUND:

The NPS Divisional Business Plan, Norfolk's Reducing Offending Board, Norfolk and Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and MOJ Female Offender Concordat recognises that to achieve the aims and work effectively, all local areas require a multi-agency plan- tailored to address the specific needs of their female population. Norfolk is committed to progressing best practice and collaboration here, between the NPS and OPCCN, to join up local services and resolve gaps in provision, will have a demonstrable impact on the use of criminal justice sanctions for all women.

The WONDER project is already working progressively and effectively to address the drivers of female offending behaviour, meeting the objective of intervening at the earliest opportunity to address the vulnerabilities that lead to offending. This level of partnership working promotes the increased use of diversion, community orders and offers Courts a strong and credible alternative community provision, effectively reducing both the frequency of maternal imprisonment and less pressure on the prison estate.

Previously, due in large part to the configuration of CRC contracts, NPS women accessing some services across Norfolk has been problematic. The Strategic alliance formed here is removing these barriers and reunifying all aspects of service delivery with a focus on how best to work with sentencer's and ensuring all women across Norfolk have access to female only space.

Multi- agency working is integral to progressing NPS and OPCCN action plans for women and the membership of the Strategic Group represents the commitment of all the key players to work in collaboration with to deliver local aspirational aims.

Resourcing the administrative function will enable the strategy group to oversee the operation of the group through written records of the meetings, with clear action points made and collate valuable learning material. The administrator will work with all partners to enable findings and best practice, which can be shared.

There is interest from Suffolk, Sussex and Hertfordshire Reducing Reoffending Boards in this model of working which will ultimately enable quicker establishment of Female Strategy Groups elsewhere.

Norfolk remains at the forefront of an innovative, whole system approach to improving outcomes for women and producing an enviable blueprint for the region.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:

This new funding will enable the Strategic Group to further the aims and objectives of the Female Offenders Whole System Approach by:

- agreeing, developing and promoting an evidence-based Norfolk female offender strategy and associated delivery plan;
- holding its membership to account for delivery of commitments, through constructive challenge and advice
- providing an effective connected linkage with other partnership boards and groups whose work interfaces with female offending including the Criminal Justice Board and Norfolk Youth Justice Board; using members' individual expertise and links to provide leadership, guidance and support to Norfolk, including criminal justice agencies, health services, and the voluntary and community sector, on improving outcomes for female offenders and women at risk of offending through partnership working
- supporting the implementation of a National Concordat on Female Offenders, across Norfolk
- providing a forum for sharing expertise and knowledge, including taking account of service users' views, to inform implementation of Norfolk's female offender strategy and future national policy development locally
- promoting a problem-solving approach to female offenders and those at risk of entering the justice system
- supporting and developing multi-agency analytical products which can identify and contribute towards service delivery and response;
- supporting and contributing towards an evidence base for future multi-agency funding opportunities relating to female offending matters;
- building effective links with relevant government programmes and boards, including Domestic Abuse, Liaison and Diversion, Integrated Offender Management and the Reducing Reoffending Group;
- identifying and sharing good practice.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Not funding the scheme – this option has been rejected due the partnership funding arrangements of this scheme and the obligation so placed upon the OPCCN to put in place an administrator for the Strategy Group.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:

This project supports the PCC's strategic aim of reducing offending.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

NPS has awarded the OPCCN £5,538.90 In addition, SGT has contributed a further £4,461.10 to allow for longevity of the post holder which will be extended to June 2022.

The OPCCN is contributing in kind through the work of it's Head of Prevention and Rehabilitation, Policy Officer and Head of Communications over the life time of the fund.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

None.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	N
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Y
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Y
Have human resource implications been considered?	Y
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Y
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Y
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Y
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Y
<p data-bbox="188 1429 772 1464">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input data-bbox="1050 1444 1171 1516" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" data-bbox="1244 1444 1366 1516" type="checkbox"/> </div> <p data-bbox="188 1541 1417 1576">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</p>	

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 19/05/2021

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 19/05/2021

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*