

**ORIGINATOR: Vicky Day**

**DECISION NO. 49 /2021**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION: For Decision**

**SUBMITTED TO: Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk**

**SUBJECT: Extension of contract for the WONDER+ (Women of Norfolk Diversion, Engagement and Rehabilitation) scheme**

**SUMMARY:**

The WONDER+ scheme is a Whole System Approach (WSA) to rehabilitating female offenders and supporting women at risk of offending, funded by the Ministry of Justice, Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Norfolk County Council Public Health and the Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC).

A total of £524,000 was awarded to St Giles Trust over a three-year period (01<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021) to deliver WONDER+.

WONDER+ was subject to an external evaluation, undertaken by Crest Advisory (UK) Ltd. (<http://crestadvisory.com/>). The evaluation found evidence that Wonder+ reduced the criminogenic need of the supported women and impact on re-arrest is pointing in the right direction.

The WONDER+ contract was extended from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

An additional funding opportunity has enabled the WONDER+ contract to be extended for a further twelve months, operating across Norfolk from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

This extension in contract allows for a period of operation and embedding of the newly recommissioned women's services locally (at PCC level) under the new National Probation contracts, to support the National ADDER programme, of which Greater Norwich is a pilot site and allow for the OPCCN to build upon the recommendations from the external evaluation and data framework tool.

A total of £180,313.44 will be awarded to St Giles Trust to operate the WONDER + scheme from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, funded by St Giles Trust, Norfolk County Council Public Health (via project ADDER) and Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner.

The outcome will be the continued delivery of a community based holistic system of gender specific assessment, referral and support to meet the complex needs of this vulnerable client group.

St Giles Trust will operate the WONDER+ scheme in partnership with a worker provided by NR5 Project trading as Future Projects

As the lead partner SGT 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 SGT have gained all-round expertise and knowledge of working with and supporting vulnerable women. They have gained this knowledge from working with female SUs as part of a Through the Gate (TTG) model. SGT are currently based in 8 of the 12 female establishments, providing TTG support to those women with complex and multiple needs out of 3 prisons. Delivering female community services over 7 years SGT have established a clear understanding of the importance of the initial contact and 'first impressions' of the worker. Ensuring all staff has a good understanding of professionalism, boundaries and empathy to promote positive role models and engagement.

Future Projects, a subcontracting supplier to SGT for the purposes of WONDER+, deliver a holistic community-based support service, which is fully integrated in one of the most deprived communities in Norwich. WONDER+ will benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience the Futures team have supporting local women with, not only personal and emotional support, but practical assistance such as health, housing, finance, welfare rights and benefits, criminal justice, employment and wellbeing which strengthens social networks, resilience and skills and to create social change activities include peer support/activity groups and a variety of supportive courses.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the PCC for Norfolk supports the allocation of funding to St Giles Trust to allow for this extension in contract working directly with women at risk of offending or re-offending, across Norfolk.

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

*The recommendations as outlined above are approved.*

Signature



Date: 16/11/2021

## DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

### 1. OBJECTIVE:

- 1.1 To approve funding to allow for this extension in contract working directly with women at risk of offending or re-offending, across Norfolk.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Following the 2007 publication of Baroness Corston's report 'A review of women with particular vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System', recognition has grown that the experience and treatment of women in the Criminal Justice System should better accommodate their particular gender specific circumstances. In light of this, in November 2015 the Ministry of Justice launched a competition for funds to develop whole system approaches for female offenders. The OPCCN submitted a bid, which successfully gained the largest award, of £86,852 in January 2016, a sum that was match funded by the OPCCN.
- 2.2 The WONDER project was fully scoped, and the pilot scheme designed, with full liaison undertaken with Norfolk Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service, County and District Councils, The Norfolk & Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service and charitable service providers across Norfolk.
- 2.3 The WONDER scheme was put out to tender at the beginning of December 2016 and the chosen, preferred bid was that submitted by Julian Support in partnership with Sue Lambert Trust and The Magdalene Group.
- 2.4 In January 2017, the Ministry of Justice made £800k available over the rest of this Parliament to support local areas to develop a joined-up, multi-agency approach to improve support for female offenders and other women with complex needs who may be at risk of offending. The OPCCN submitted a bid and successfully gained an award, of £178,247 in April 2017. The OPCCN contributed a sum of £345,853 over the project life.

- 2.5 In addition, funding was committed from partner organisations including Norfolk and Suffolk Community Rehabilitation Company (NSCRC) and Norfolk County Council Public Health.
- 2.6 The WONDER+ scheme was put out to tender at the beginning of December 2017 and the chosen, preferred bid was that submitted by St Giles Trust in partnership with Future Projects and City Reach.
- 2.7 This additional funding opportunity enabled the WONDER project to be expanded in scope geographically and systemically. It enabled spread across all of Norfolk, covering all rural and urban areas. It also allowed the WONDER project to include pathways for diversion at the point of community resolutions, in the County, Magistrates and Family Courts, while also linking in relevant prisons and rehabilitation pathways thereafter, and also using health services to identify and refer vulnerable women who have a likelihood to offend. It is the 'WONDER+' project and commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- 2.8 WONDER+ was subject to an external evaluation, undertaken by Crest Advisory (UK) Ltd. (<http://crestadvisory.com/>). The evaluation found evidence that Wonder+ reduced the criminogenic need of the supported women and impact on re-arrest is pointing in the right direction.
- 2.9 In 2020, Norfolk's Female Offender Steering Group acknowledged the need for refresh and the development of a Countywide Strategy Group to further progress governments strategic objectives locally and to build upon the findings of the WONDER+ evaluation. This new group, Norfolk's Women in the Criminal Justice System Strategy Group, is co-chaired by the OPCCNS Head of Prevention and Rehabilitation and the Eastern Region, National Probation Service's, Strategic Lead for Women.
- 2.10 In December 2019, HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), launched their model of procurement through the dynamic purchasing framework. In line with the female offender strategy HMPPS commissioned outcomes to meet the specific needs of women in order to provide a whole-system approach. This national commissioning is slowly embedding at local PCC level. Contracts were awarded in June 2021.
- 2.11 In September 2020, the Home Office (HO) in conjunction with Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (PHE) announced they are piloting an intensive whole system approach, known as ADDER, to tackling drug misuse in select locations. Norwich is one of those areas and will build on and expand existing partnership working in the Greater Norwich area to drive sustained health and crime related outcomes. ADDER's overarching aims are to, reduce drug related offending and drug related deaths. Delivery is focused on three main areas, enforcement, diversion and recovery. WONDER+ was awarded £67,250.00 via PHE to deliver (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022) a gendered response to this local concern. The pilot phase of Project ADDER will now run until the end of 2023. WONDER+ has been awarded a further £45,000.00 via public health to continue to deliver this gendered response.

2.12 This extension in contract allows for a period of operation and embedding of the newly recommissioned women's services locally (at PCC level) under the new National Probation contracts, to support the National ADDER programme, of which Greater Norwich is a pilot site and allow for the OPCCN to build upon the recommendations from the external evaluation and data framework tool.

### **3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

3.1 To strengthen the governance for this contract extension to WONDER+, the OPCCN has applied standard grant terms and conditions. These include a systematic performance review process and annual review of the benefits of the grant.

3.2 The desired outcomes from the Scheme are:

- Targeted support for female offenders and those at risk of offending, many of whom are vulnerable and have complex needs;
- Reductions in the reoffending rate of female offenders;
- Reductions in the number of women going to court;
- Reductions in the number of women going to prison on short sentences;
- Better engagement with appropriate services to improve outcomes for identified needs amongst this cohort including: domestic violence and sexual abuse, mental and other health issues, substance misuse, accommodation, finance and debt, education/training needs and employment, learning difficulties and disabilities issues.

3.3 Short-term benefits are expected to be:

- Increased partnership working, both statutory partners and with the third sector
- Increased information sharing
- More informed disposal decisions by Police
- Improved problem-solving approach to offender management
- Better Quality of service for women offenders
- Improved quality of life for Women and their children

3.4 Medium to longer term benefits are expected to be:

- Reduction in crime
- Fewer victims
- Reduction in re-offending rate
- Reduction in demand on the local CJS
- Savings to the public purse

### **4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

4.1 Not funding the scheme – this option has been rejected due to:

- Funding arrangements as outlined in section 6.
- Ensure local provision remains consistent, supporting vulnerable women at risk of offending/re-offending during the embedding period of women’s services through HMPPS’s dynamic purchasing framework, which will impact upon and may change local service and delivery.
- To allow time for the strategy group to build upon WONDER+ evaluation and data framework tool.
- To deliver and support the national and local aims of project ADDER.

**5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED:**

5.1 This project supports the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan and the strategic aims of prevention of offending and to support victims and reduce vulnerability.

**6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 A total of £180,313.44 will be provided over a one-year period, as outlined below:

6.2 A Financial Breakdown of budget for a one-year service, over one financial year

<b>WONDER+ extension budget split for extension period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023)</b>			
<b>SGT Contribution</b>	<b>Project ADDER Contribution</b>	<b>PCC Contribution</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
£45,078.36	£45,000.00	£90,235.44	£180,313.44

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:**

7.1 None

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	<b>No</b>
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	<b>YES</b>
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	<b>YES</b>
Have human resource implications been considered?	<b>YES</b>
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	<b>YES</b>
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	<b>YES</b>
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	<b>YES</b>
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	<b>YES</b>
<p data-bbox="204 1384 788 1420"><b>Is this report a Confidential Decision?</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; gap: 20px;"> <input data-bbox="1066 1402 1187 1473" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" data-bbox="1259 1402 1380 1473" type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> </div> <p data-bbox="204 1496 1430 1532">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the <a href="#">PCC Decision Making Policy</a></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: 16/11/2021**

**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: 16/11/2021**

**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.*