

WOMEN'S PATHFINDER

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT ARE WOMEN'S CENTRES?

Women's Centres are community-based services that provide tailored support covering every aspect of women's lives, taking into account their specific experiences. These services are by women, for women and offer support to any women who might benefit, including women in contact with, or at risk of contact with the criminal justice system.





WHY A WOMEN CENTRED SERVICE WORKS TO REDUCE OFFENDING

Women's Centres provide understanding environments that take into account responses to trauma and work with women in a non-judgemental way. Due to this approach, they are often able to reach and engage women who might otherwise feel alienated by standard service provision. As Women's Centres address the root causes of offending such as mental ill health, harmful substance use and homelessness, they provide essential services that can prevent women from being swept into the criminal justice system.

Trauma Responsive Support & interventions

Women's Centres provide understanding environments that take into account responses to trauma and work with women in a non-judgemental way. Women's Centres provide support that encompasses all aspects of a woman's life, usually under one roof by in house specialist staff and through partnerships with other agencies.

Poppy*

Poppy was referred to the Pathfinder Service via the Checkpoint Service at Llay Custody Suite. She was arrested for an alleged assault on members of her family. Poppy has a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, anxiety and depression. Her caseworker supported her in accessing support and treatment. As a result, she developed a greater awareness of her mental health needs and how to control and manager her emotions. Through the trust built with her caseworker she disclosed her experience of domestic abuse and how she had normalised this behaviour.

Poppy was supported by her caseworker to understand and identify triggers and personal needs that contributed to her actions and behaviour during the incident. Work with Poppy has resulted in improvement in her mental health and wellbeing. Her confidence has improved, and her relationships have improved. She can now manage her finances and engaged with Social Services successfully, resulting in her daughter being removed from the child protection register and being returned to her care. She now feels she is listened to and believed in and is receiving ongoing support from the Women's Centre.



Hannah*

Hannah was referred to the service by Checkpoint from St Asaph Custody suite.

She had been arrested for a theft offence. Hannah was deeply sorry and ashamed of her actions and recognised that it was related to her poor financial situation at the time. After support to address her debts her poor mental health improved, and she began to see a better future. Weekly appointments with her caseworker addressed the thoughts and actions around the offence and the consequences of her actions on her and the other people involved.

As a result of the time with Pathfinder, her finances became under control, and this had a positive effect on her mental health. She was able to take on a job placement which built her confidence and self-esteem. She now wishes to become a volunteer to help others in a similar situation and obtain permanent work.



*Names have been changed

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