



HM Prison &
Probation Service

Greater Manchester's Problem Solving Court for Women

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Preventing victims by changing lives

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Developing the PSC Model

Background to the model:

- 81% of women sentenced to custody do not present a risk of harm to the public. They often have a high level of mental health, domestic abuse, substance misuse and self harm needs
- 50% of these women will serve sentences less than six months.
- Since 2014, women have attended non-statutory PSC reviews, whilst sentenced to a Community order or Suspended Sentence Order

Aims:

- To reduce short custodial sentences & reduce reoffending; to improve trauma awareness and address social injustice

Journey for the woman

Criteria at sentence stage:

- At risk of Custody or a medium to high level Community Order/Suspended Sentence Order
- Have multiple complex needs that may include: debts, physical and mental health, adverse childhood experiences and trauma, parenting, accommodation, substance misuse, and domestic abuse
- A resident in Greater Manchester, sentenced at either a Magistrates or Crown Court
- Motivated to address their problems

The sentence process:

- Expectations of the woman, their practitioners and their support workers
- who we meet, where and why we meet them

Support and sustainability

Stakeholder engagement:

- Since 2014 supported by the Women Centres & HMCTS
- Since 2017 supported by Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Since 2021 supported GMIRS & other partners
- Continuously developing trauma awareness & informed practice

Current operating model:

- Today we have a GM wide model with a hybrid approach
- The challenges we have faced when evolving & sustaining



Measuring success?

- Re-traumatising vs. Good news stories
- Flexibility vs. Compliance
- Up-tariffing vs. true alternative to custody?



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Outcomes for women and their communities

Area	Proven re-offending rate (March 2021)
GM adult women offenders	15%
Merseyside adult women offenders	22.1%
West Midlands adult women offenders	17.2%
South Yorkshire adult women offenders	22%
West Yorkshire adult women offenders	21.6%
E&W adult women offenders	21.3%

- **Successful completions:** Q2 23/24 58.9% (over 500 women since 2017)
- **Cost Benefit Analysis:** £1 invested, £17.60 saved