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**To: North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority**

**On: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

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**Report by: Chief Officer**

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**Heading: Women's Services in the Community – Progress Report**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1** The Authority has previously been informed of the successful resource bids to develop services for women by Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and West Dunbartonshire Councils. Copies of the bids were submitted to the meeting of NSCJA in December 2013.
- 1.2** Renfrewshire received 18 months funding which ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to develop a volunteer support service as part of a larger multi disciplinary women's support team based in Back Sneddon Street, Paisley. The Volunteer Coordinator also helps facilitate the drop in group. The women's justice service team has engaged with 83 women during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and fully expect that figure to continue rising.

In relation to sustaining the Volunteer Coordinator post after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, the team are currently exploring alternative funding sources and are working with third sector partners to do this.

- 1.3** Inverclyde received 12 months funding to employ a Social Worker and 1 ½ support workers who are employed by Action for Children. The service provides one to one support as well as a drop in service and a groupwork programme. The service is mainly delivered in the Action for Children base in Greenock and a nurse attends monthly to provide nursing support if required. At present there are regularly 6 women attending the drop in.

In relation to sustaining the service after the funding finishes on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, the Council are looking to reconfigure existing services to ensure continuity.

- 1.4** West Dunbartonshire received 12 months funding to employ a project worker who facilitates the groupwork programme and has developed an enhanced service for women including one to one support, a drop in service and a volunteer group. The project worker is supported in providing the service by other social work colleagues and service users. Links have been developed with a range of external agencies including the local further education college who have offered placements to service users.

The Partnership Manager is currently looking at options to sustain the service beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Authority is asked to note the content of this report.

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## **3. Background**

- 3.1** In 2013, the Scottish Government invited Local Authorities to apply for funding to develop their service delivery for women offenders in response to the aims of the Angiolini Commission on Women Offenders. Submissions were invited for either 18 or 12 months funding. Proposals were required to be with the Scottish Government by 31<sup>st</sup> August for the 18 months funding and 30th November 2013 for the 12 months funding.

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## **Implications of the Report**

### **Equality & Human Rights**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Authorities website.

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**Author** Jim Hunter, Chief Officer, North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority  
Email: [jim.hunter@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk](mailto:jim.hunter@renfrewshire.gsx.gov.uk) Tel: 0141 887 6133