

**To: North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority**

**On: 11 December 2015**

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**Report by: Chief Officer**

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**Heading: Services to Women in the Justice System (1)**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1** In response to recommendations made by The Commission on Women Offenders, the Scottish Government funded 16 projects across Scotland to improve community based capacity to support women. Three of these projects were located in NSCJA at Paisley, Greenock and Dumbarton and have been the subject of previous reports to the board. This funding was for the period 2013-2015.
  - 1.2** In February 2015 the Community Justice Division invited local authorities with such projects to write to them requesting a one year continuation of funding to cover 2015-16 if they required it. The projects in Paisley and Dumbarton submitted letters for continued funding and although the Greenock project did not, the service to women has continued in the current financial years.
  - 1.3** Both projects which requested additional funding received £30k each for 2015-16 and the confirmation letters, sent on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, are attached for members information.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** Members are invited to note the report and confirmation letters.
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### **3. Background**

- 3.1** On the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 The Commission on Women Offenders, Chaired by Dame Elish Angiolini, published its report on female offending in Scotland. The report made 37 recommendations of which 33 were immediately accepted by the Government when they have their formal response in Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
- 3.2** A central recommendation of the Commission was the establishments of “Community Justice Centres” to provide one stop multi agency support for women offenders. This was one of the recommendations accepted by the Government.
- 3.3** On 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013, NSCJA were contacted by Justice Division in relation to formulating proposals for womens services to meet this recommendation. There was a 6 week period for local authorities and partners to submit bids for funding covering an 18 month period October 2013 – March 2015. Thereafter, the services would have to find their own sustainable funding. A second bid deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013 was also provided for funding covering a 12 month period April 2014 – March 2015.

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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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Norman Firth  
Partnership Manager  
Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires'  
Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership  
Municipal Buildings  
Station Road  
Dumbarton  
G82 1NR



Your ref:  
Our ref:  
12 May 2015

Dear Norman

## **GRANT FUNDING TO COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS - 2015/16**

I refer to my letter to you dated 23 February 2015, and your response dated 9 March 2015, about potential further Scottish Government grant funding to the Moving Forward service for women offenders in Financial Year 2015/16.

All 16 projects that received grant funding from the Scottish Government between 2013-15 responded to my letter of 23 February, and the statements and proposals received have been carefully considered.

I was pleased to note that some projects did not request any additional funding, having already succeeded in securing local sustainable funding, or having adapted delivery of their service to utilise other resources. In addition, the majority of projects have made progress towards ensuring the future sustainability of these important services. I am grateful for the efforts that have taken place in this regard, which will need to continue over the course of the current financial year.

I am now writing to offer individual projects a funding grant in response to their proposal, for use in 2015-16. The allocation of individual grants have been made in accordance with the aims I set out in my 23 February letter – to support the core activities of the project for the financial year; and to further support the transition to local sustainable funding in the future.

Not all projects that have requested funding have been granted the full amount. In addition, proposals seeking funding for new activities, which was outside the scope of this exercise, have not been supported at this stage.



As I indicated in my previous letter, any further grant funding for 2015-16 is made on a specifically one-off basis, and should not be interpreted as an indication that further funding will be offered.

This is an initial letter to inform you that a total grant of £30,000 has been approved for the Moving Forward service. The grant allocation of £30,000 would meet the requested funding for the employment of a dedicated staff member, and related project costs.

A full grant letter setting out the specific terms and conditions of the grant funding will be issued to you in the near future.

Scottish Government officials are considering how the announcement of additional grant funding for community justice services for women offenders will be managed. I would be grateful if you could keep this letter confidential until the details of the announcement have been determined. My team will contact you in due course to confirm the arrangements.

I would be grateful if you could contact John Mullett, [john.mullett@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.mullett@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), to acknowledge receipt of this letter, and indicate that you accept the proposed grant.

Yours sincerely

**ANDY BRUCE**  
**Deputy Director, Community Justice Division**

**Copy to:**  
Jim Hunter, Chief Officer, North Strathclyde CJA

Allison Scott  
Criminal Justice Services Manager  
Renfrewshire Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Renfrewshire House  
Cotton Street  
Paisley  
PA1 1TZ



Your ref: AS/AB  
Our ref:  
12 May 2015

Dear Allison

## **GRANT FUNDING TO COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS - 2015/16**

I refer to my letter to you dated 23 February 2015, and your response dated 25 February 2015, about potential further Scottish Government grant funding to the Women's Community Justice Service for women offenders in Financial Year 2015/16.

All 16 projects that received grant funding from the Scottish Government between 2013-15 responded to my letter of 23 February, and the statements and proposals received have been carefully considered.

I was pleased to note that some projects did not request any additional funding, having already succeeded in securing local sustainable funding, or having adapted delivery of their service to utilise other resources. In addition, the majority of projects have made progress towards ensuring the future sustainability of these important services. I am grateful for the efforts that have taken place in this regard which will need to continue over the course of the current financial year.

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Not all projects that have requested funding have been granted the full amount. In addition, proposals seeking funding for new activities, which was outside the scope of this exercise, have not been supported at this stage.



As I indicated in my previous letter, any further grant funding for 2015-16 is made on a specifically one-off basis, and should not be interpreted as an indication that further funding will be offered.

This is an initial letter to inform you that a total grant of £30,000 has been approved for the Women's Community Justice Service. The grant allocation of £30,000 will support the employment of the volunteer co-ordinator post, to support the ongoing work to embed these enhanced services in the area.

A full grant letter setting out the specific terms and conditions of the grant funding will be issued to you in the near future.

Scottish Government officials are considering how the announcement of additional grant funding for community justice services for women offenders will be managed. I would be grateful if you could keep this letter confidential until the details of the announcement have been determined. My team will contact you in due course to confirm the arrangements.

I would be grateful if you could contact John Mullett, [john.mullett@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.mullett@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), to acknowledge receipt of this letter, and indicate that you accept the proposed grant.

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**Deputy Director, Community Justice Division**

**Copy to:**  
Jim Hunter, Chief Officer, North Strathclyde CJA