

Keeping a Face for the World:

An Analysis of Women's Experiences, Journeys and Outcomes

Key Findings

The prevalence of multiple needs in women does not vastly differ from that of men, but addressing those needs is done most successfully with:

- A person-centred and asset-based approach
- A trauma and gender-informed approach
- A trusting relationship with a Multiple Needs Navigator or Peer Mentor who helps co-ordinate multi-agency support over a long period of time
- A range of services and interventions, designed to keep women safe, as well as maximise positive outcomes

WY-FI data shows that:

- Younger women are more likely to experience multiple needs
- Suitable, safe and secure housing is critical to establishing successful outcomes for women
- Women are more likely to have a prison stay, and transitions between prisons, communities and services are critical to support these women.
- Prison stays whilst on WY-FI caseload have not improved outcomes for these women.
- Women are more likely to experience issues that may not be in a service's remit to address, for example relationship issues, confidence/resilience and emotional wellbeing. These issues can make it difficult for women to engage, which can lead to exclusion from a service. They also increase the risk of reoffending behaviour.

Recommendations: working with women with multiple needs

Multiple Needs Navigator support does not need to be gender-specific, but the services they refer people into need to be much more gender informed. Workforce training and co-production of services can begin that process.

Services must work together to provide flexible, person-centred support for a wide range of issues for women, including:

- More women-centred services (ideally co-produced with women who use these services)
- A range of face to face, online or telephone appointments and other interventions.
- Accommodating women's children so that they can continue to engage
- Housing First type accommodation once "Everyone In" accommodation ceases
- Tailored support for women at risk of domestic abuse in the event of future local, regional or national COVID-9 related lockdowns
- A trauma informed approach to service delivery – by definition nearly all women with multiple needs will have experienced trauma
- Services using the same assessment tools that include information relevant to women's journeys and histories
- Multi-agency support plans, agreed at multi-agency meetings, that hold agencies to account

Working with a woman who have children is also an opportunity to work with the children themselves, as they are highly likely to present with multiple needs as adults.

Alternatives to prison must be prioritised, especially in the case of lesser offences or recall, where there is no threat to people.