

The Effective Women's Centres Partnership



Ensuring women have the chance to thrive.

In Greater Manchester

Quarterly update - June 2025



Understanding the challenges facing women in Greater Manchester:

The Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA) is used across EWC Partnership centres to identify risks, needs and strengths among women involved with the Criminal Justice System. The assessment provides a tailored support plan for each service user. Data from the assessments also paints a wider picture of the challenges facing women in our region.

For the first time since the assessment began being used in Greater Manchester we are seeing employment and financial concerns become the most common need. (Previously mental illhealth was always the most common need). This could be due to the continuing increase in food and cost of living, difficulties finding affordable accommodation following release or lack of employment options for women with convictions. Once the Gendered Wellbeing Assessment (GWA) is in use (see right) we will be able to see if this picture is similar among women who do not have CJS involvement. The Effective Women's Centres Partnership will also carry out further longitudinal research to understand in more detail how policy decisions affect women's wellbeing.



Most common risks and needs among women assessed using the WRNA, Stockport and Salford
Apr - June 2025

Greater Manchester women's centres lead roll-out of new assessment tool.

Women's centres in Stockport and Salford will be the first in the UK to use a new holistic assessment tool for women with multiple unmet needs. The Gendered Wellbeing Assessment (GWA) is similar to the WRNA in using a gender-responsive, trauma informed approach. However it is specifically for women referred to women's centres who are not in contact with the Criminal Justice System. Use of the GWA starts in July 2025 with data from around 1,000 assessments carried out between women's centres used by research partner the University of Birmingham to validate the GWA for wider use in Greater Manchester and the UK.

Data from the assessments will provide better insights into the needs of GM women and how needs and risks are linked.



WRNA Dashboard: Apr - June 2025

41

Completed WRNA assessments
(Salford, Stockport and Oldham women's centres)

45%

Percentage of women who have seven or more unmet needs

22%

Percentage of women who said they have stable, loving relationships

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Sharing insights from the Effective Women's Centres Partnership in Greater Manchester:

Some of the organisations we have been engaging with to highlight the work of women's centres:

- **GM4Women:** Sharing research findings from WRNA data and the Complex Needs paper to increase understanding of the challenges facing CJS-involved women in Greater Manchester; attending events to raise awareness of the EWC Partnership and the work of women's centres gm4women2028.org
- **MEAM Network (Making Every Adult Matter):** Sharing Greater Manchester WRNA data on risk factors including substance abuse and mental illness; connecting with others working on policy around adults and communities facing multiple disadvantage. meam.org.uk
- **Trauma Responsive GM Network:** Sharing insights from complex needs and casework research papers, highlighting expertise of women's centres in trauma-informed case work and service delivery. trgm.co.uk/
- **TRGM Health Passports pilot:** Working alongside NHS and local authority partners to input research, insight and potential user testing on pilot trauma passport scheme for healthcare providers in Greater Manchester.
- **Alternative Providers Collaborative:** Membership for The Women's Centre Stockport through its GM-wide counselling service to connect with other VCSE groups operating across the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System, reach commissioners and NHS stakeholders and highlight the contribution of women's centres to public health. gmapf.org.uk
- **Oldham Women's Network:** Connecting with other VCSE organisations supporting women in Oldham to explore using WRNA data in funding bids for the group.
- **Living Well Stockport:** Sharing insights from The Women's Centre Stockport's counselling service and building pathways for staff members to join Complex Case Huddles with NHS mental health teams, highlighting the work of women's centres and providing extra support and expertise.
- **Healthwatch Stockport - Living Well Consultation:** Sharing stats from WRNA assessment data and The Women's Centre Stockport's counselling service on gaps in mental health support for women with multiple unmet need and insights into best practice in trauma informed, gender responsive support for women. healthwatchstockport.co.uk

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Service user artwork,
The Women's Centre Stockport