



The Effective Women's Centres Partnership

Ensuring women have
the chance to thrive.

“ I feel supported by everyone here.
It's helping me understand everything
I have gone through and still going
through. It's helping me to heal. ”

*Service user, The Nelson Trust women's
community service*

What is the Effective Women's Centres Project?

The Effective Women's Centres (EWC) Project is a collaboration between: Anawim – Birmingham's Centre for Women, Farida Women's Centre Oldham (Partners of Prisoners), The Nelson Trust, Salford Foundation, Stockport Women's Centre, Together Women, The Women's Centre Cornwall, The University of Birmingham, and The JABBS Foundation.

“ Stockport Women's Centre has changed my life for the better. The level of support I received was second to none. I couldn't have got through the last two years without them. ”

*Service User,
Stockport Women's Centre*



Our aim is to build and share evidence on how women's centres transform lives and benefit communities to inform and shift policy.

Our vision is that all women in England and Wales have access to **sufficiently funded, gender- and trauma-responsive services** where their needs and strengths are recognised, evidenced and met; their voices are listened to; and they have agency to transform the systems which impact them, **creating better lives for themselves and society as a whole.**

We're pioneering a new tool to identify historic factors and current unmet need behind women's offending – the **Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)**. This tool provides crucial evidence for policy makers on factors most closely linked to offending and the points where intervention is most effective. In the coming months this analysis and insight will also begin supporting women **before** they have contact with the criminal justice system, providing greater insight into reducing offending and generational trauma.

Women's Centres Work!

Providing an effective alternative to prison, improving health and wellbeing outcomes for ALL women:

- 1 Supporting women to address and overcome the factors behind their offending, reducing re-offending
- 2 Stabilising women in crisis, reducing pressure on the NHS, police and social care services
- 3 Providing gender-specific, trauma-informed services tailored to local need
- 4 Supporting women to thrive, improving long term outcomes for them and their families

Together we're building the evidence base to demonstrate how women's centres improve lives, benefit society, and inform debate and policy.

Our Research

Together we're building the evidence base to demonstrate how women's centres change individual outcomes, relieve pressure on public services and reduce re-offending. Our research, led by The University of Birmingham, provides valuable insight to policy makers on which intervention models provide the greatest benefit and savings to taxpayers.

Our research to date includes:

- [Meta-analytic review](#) of effectiveness of interventions for CJS-involved women
- Examining the relationships between severity and complexity of needs among CJS-involved women
- Identifying principles and practice of casework in women's centres and for supporting CJS-involved women

“ Following the Bradley report it's been wonderful to see the role women's centres have played in Liaison and Diversion services, diverting women away from the Criminal Justice System (CJS). It's important they remain an integral part of local delivery systems particularly for women with multiple unmet need. ”

Rt. Hon Lord Bradley, author:
The Bradley Report (2009)

To find out more about our research, contact:

comms@thejabbsfoundation.co.uk

Support us

- Visit a women's centre to learn more about non-custodial sentences and trauma-informed support
- Raise the profile of women's centres with central government, local authority partners, NHS stakeholders and housing providers as essential sources of support for women who struggle to access other services
- Support legislation to reduce short custodial sentences for women and increase provision for community-based alternatives to reduce homelessness and unemployment and keep families together

“I believe without the women's centre I would have re-offended already, I believe the workers want the best for us. ”

Service User, Together Women

“Women's community services play a vital role in supporting women in or at risk of contact with the justice system, offering a safe space and a holistic approach that is tailored to their specific needs and characteristics. ”

Jason Nickeas – Head of Operational Policy, Strategy and Community, HMPPS Women's Group

Find out more:

comms@thejabbsfoundation.co.uk