

## **Descriptive Document**

### **Grant funding to pilot a project providing independent advocacy to women in prison who are Restricted Status and women with the most complex needs.**

#### **Background and policy context**

1. In response to recommendations made in the Women's Custodial Estate Review, NOMS have developed a Centralised Case Supervision system (CCS) to provide a centralised approach to enable Restricted Status (RS) women and women with some of the most complex needs to access the most appropriate interventions and regimes available to meet their particular needs.
2. Working alongside existing offender management, prison processes and Personality Disorder treatment services, the CCS will provide a co-ordinated approach to women's care, management and progression. The aim is that women will be accommodated in the most appropriate place to access the specific interventions they need to reduce their risk of harm to self or others and to reduce re-offending.
3. This grant funding will provide an opportunity to test the impact of Independent Advocacy on the engagement and progression of a small cohort of RS women and women with the most complex needs who find it difficult to engage and progress through their sentence plans.

#### **Timescales and funding**

4. This is a grant funding opportunity, running from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, with the option to extend for a further 2 years.
5. The total funding available under this grant is up to £100,000 per year.

#### **Project outcomes**

6. NOMS commissioning intentions<sup>1</sup> include provision to commission services which will "enhance public protection and ensure a safe, decent environment and rehabilitative culture". The aim of this grant is to create and develop new and innovative solutions that will benefit short and long term rehabilitative solutions for a cohort of women at HMP/ YOI Styal, HMP/YOI Bronzefield and HMP/YOI Foston Hall.
7. The funding seeks to enable the following outcomes:
  - a) Build trust and provide a consistent relationship and provide practical and emotional support to the women.
  - b) Improved engagement in regime, interventions and treatment services.
  - c) Empower women to make positive choices.
  - d) Women being involved in their sentence and care planning.
  - e) Women able to identify and effectively communicate their needs.
  - f) Enhanced relationships between women and their service providers.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms/commissioning>

Bidders should evidence how their solutions achieve the outcomes. The Authority will assess how the bids received achieve these outcomes.

### **Invitation to tender**

8. Bidders are invited to put forward proposals which achieve these project outcomes, and any others pertinent to the context in which this funding is offered. The grant is intended to achieve coverage at HMP/ YOI Styal, HMP/YOI Bronzefield and HMP/YOI Foston Hall.
9. The successful recipient(s) will be:
  - One organisation who can deliver the scheme.
  - A lead organisation establishing partnerships with other bodies who can deliver the scheme.
  - A consortium formed from a number of organisations with shared objectives and agreed arrangements for leadership and governance to deliver the scheme.

### **Skills and knowledge**

10. Bidders will need to show that they:
  - Will provide women only advocacy workers.
  - Can work in partnership with the prisons and other providers such as the NPS, CRC, Health, specialist service providers.
  - Promote effective partnership across Public sector, contracted services and voluntary sector to enable women with complex needs to be assessed, stabilised, and managed through specialist interventions.
  - Understand the needs of women who have psychiatric or psychological needs.
  - Understand the environment in which they will be operating and have the skills to deliver successfully within it;
  - Have the ability to oversee projects, evaluate and report on outcomes, and manage grant finances.

### **Equalities**

11. Bidders are required to set out how they will ensure that equalities issues are considered in their proposal. This should include an explanation of the way in which it will address the needs of the population of offenders with, for example, learning disabilities and difficulties, and across the nine protected characteristics specified in law.

### **Costs, monitoring, and evaluation of the scheme**

12. Bidders will be expected to forecast costs for the duration of the grant and will meet with NOMS representatives regularly to discuss progress and review expenditure.
13. Bidders are required to provide an implementation/project plan for the duration of the Grant period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 detailing realistic timescales, key stages and milestones, proposed stages for progression of agreements and commitments, engagement with key partners/stakeholders, as well as any other relevant considerations.

14. The successful recipient(s) will be required to deliver the work outlined in the implementation/project plan (to be agreed as part of the grant agreement) within a budget of up to £100,000 per annum. Payment will be made evenly in the financial year 2015/2016 in advance. Services may be delivered after 31 March 2016 but no further payments will be made after this date unless a decision is taken to extend the grant agreement.
15. Bidders will be invited to describe how their scheme can be evaluated in ways that will add to the evidence base in terms of what works to:
  - Undertake a pilot to create and test the effectiveness of an Independent Advocacy project for Restricted Status women and women with the most complex needs.
  - Ensure a safe and decent environment.