

Together Women Programme Yorkshire and Humberside

I am writing to invite you to join the Yorkshire and Humberside Together Women Programme Stakeholder Group.

In March 2005 the Home Secretary announced £9.15 million funding to establish the Together Women Programme (TWP) which will support a more effective community-based response to women offenders and women at risk of offending. The Programme is ambitious in its objectives to reduce:

- Women's offending;
- Women's re-offending;
- The numbers of women remanded in custody;
- The numbers of women sentenced to custody; and
- The associated family breakdown, specifically in relation to children.

As demonstration regions, Yorkshire and Humberside and the North West will receive a share of these funds over the next three years and both regions are in the early stages of developing the services to be provided. In Yorkshire and Humberside, the Regional Offender Manager has embarked on a commissioning process and will be in a position to announce the preferred provider towards the end of July.

It is intended that TWP project(s) will offer preventative services, particularly diversion from prosecution and from custody, and will support an integrated approach to service delivery, building on existing services, ideally in the form of one-stop-shops. The TWP will demonstrate how a co-ordinated multi-agency approach, tailored to meet women's complex and inter-related needs, can be effective in achieving the stated objectives.

I have been appointed as the NOMS Interim Project Manager in Yorkshire and Humberside until a permanent post holder is announced later in the Summer. One of my early priorities is the establishment of the TWP communication strategy in Yorkshire and Humberside and I will be responsible for communications at the following levels:

- National Together Women Programme Board;
- Regional Offender Manager's Strategic Board;
- Together Women Pathway Action Team; and
- Together Women Stakeholder Group.

Once the provider(s) are identified, I will also be liaising closely with the operational Project Manager to ensure that the Project(s) achieve the objectives.

As I indicated at the outset, I am inviting you to be a member of the Yorkshire and Humberside Together Women Stakeholder Group. I intend that this will be a large and diverse group, the purpose of which is to:

- Share information with you and benefit from your expertise;
- Maintain your awareness of the Yorkshire and Humberside Project(s);
- Enable you to understand the impact of the Project(s) on your organisation;
- Enable you to influence the outcomes of the Project(s), where appropriate; and
- Disseminate information to colleagues within your organisation and around the region.

As a member of this Stakeholder Group, you will be kept up-to-date with the Project's progress, through email updates. From time to time I may ask for your views and input on progress and, where appropriate, guidance on issues arising from the Project(s).

I very much hope that you will be able to join this Group and to contribute to this important and exciting initiative. I would be grateful if you would confirm your acceptance (or otherwise) of this invitation to me on rachel.denham@noms.gov.uk. I'll circulate the list of members when it is finalised, in the meantime please let me know if you think of anyone else who might also benefit from inclusion on this group.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter.

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