

**Together Women Programme  
Yorkshire and Humberside  
12 September 2006**

This is the second formal communication to the Yorkshire and Humberside Together Women Programme Stakeholder Group. It is excellent that so many people are interested in being a part of this email distribution network. The list of members is attached – please let us know if there are any inaccuracies. Feel free to circulate the contents of this letter as widely as you feel is appropriate.

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. Yorkshire and Humberside will receive £4 million (capital and revenue) to deliver services over a three year period. 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.

Through this Stakeholder Group, we will communicate via email 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.

Following a process of competitive tendering, strong bids from three voluntary and community sector led consortia were short listed. The full bids were then evaluated by a regional panel, with support and advice from colleagues in NOMS centre.

A consortium led by Foundation Housing has been selected as the preferred provider and they have been asked to produce a detailed delivery plan to address areas of concern requiring assurance and clarification. A final contract decision will be made at the end of September, if this plan is satisfactory.

The consortium led by Foundation Housing comprises a range of partners: DISC, Touchstone, Target Housing and YWCA. The proposal from Foundation is for a service that is delivered from Doncaster Women's Centre as the core facility, with further satellite service delivery locations in Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford, with outreach to North Yorkshire in the third year of delivery.

TWP will address the needs of women offenders and will also offer preventative services, particularly diversion from prosecution and from custody. It will support an integrated approach to service delivery, building on existing services. 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.

We have appointed a NOMS Together Women Project Manager in Yorkshire and Humberside and we are hoping that the new manager will start in early November. In the mean time Rachel Denham will remain as interim Project Manager.

We plan to set up a regional TWP steering group when the contract has been let, and we will keep you informed about membership and terms of reference. The broader stakeholder group will exist alongside the steering group, in order to maximise communication and consultation.

Please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Denham or Hilary Campbell if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter. The next bulletin will be issued in one month's time.

Rachel Denham, Interim TWP Project Manager  
[rachel.denham@noms.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.denham@noms.gov.uk)

Hilary Campbell, Strategic Partnerships Manager  
[hilary.campbell@noms.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.campbell@noms.gov.uk)

*Yorkshire and Humberside NOMS  
Raines Business Centre  
Denby Dale Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 1HR  
Tel: 01924 882409*