



“Mentoring has helped me turn my life around and I know it can do the very same for other women who need support and help in their life”

Service User - Women's Mentoring Service, Lanarkshire



Supporting women in the criminal justice system

Shine is a Public Social Partnership delivering Women's Mentoring across Scotland.

A Public Social Partnership involves public and third sector bodies co-designing services or interventions to deliver agreed social outcomes. This approach encourages effective partnership working across sectors, places the third sector at the heart of service design and delivery, and explicitly emphasises outcomes rather than activity.

PSPs typically consist of three stages:

Design: third sector and public organisations work together to design how interventions can be delivered and how social benefit can be maximised.

Piloting: the interventions are delivered by third sector organisations for a limited time. During this period partners can adjust how the interventions are delivered, in order to achieve maximum social benefit.

Tendering for longer term delivery: interventions which successfully meet the agreed outcomes would usually expect to receive mainstream funding from the public sector partners. Typically this involves the public sector partners tendering a contract to deliver the interventions in the longer term. In some cases, longer term delivery could be secured through continuing pilot activity or through grant funding.

The funding, for two years of the three year programme, amounted to £3.65M, and will allow the recruitment and establishment of a core group of 24 mentors who will provide intensive mentoring services for up to 720 women offenders per year, across Scotland.

Eight third sector organisations formed the PSP supported by the Scottish Prison Service, the Association of Directors of Social Work and the eight Community Justice Authorities.

The service is designed to work with women who are on remand in prison or are being released from short term sentences of less than four years, provided they are not subject to statutory supervision. It will also work with women in the community who are on Community Payback Orders and at significant risk of imprisonment.

The PSP service is a pilot to determine the effectiveness of the concept with a view to future sustainable funding for PSPs being provided by local authorities and the public sector. External evaluation by Scottish Government will measure outputs and outcomes of the PSP over the two years, to gauge effectiveness.

Shine Women's Mentoring Service is delivered across Scotland by:



In association with the Scottish Prison Service, Association of Directors of Social Work and Scotland's Community Justice Authorities. Shine is funded by the Scottish Government, Scottish Prison Service and The Robertson Trust.