

REQUEST FOR DMPC DECISION – DMPCD 2016 002

Title: Whole System Approach - Female offender Grant Funding – MOPAC Application

Executive Summary:

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has made £200k available in this financial year to support local areas who are seeking to develop a joined-up, multi agency approach to improve support for female offenders. They have invited bids from selected areas within England and Wales including London. Bids are to be submitted by Tuesday 12 January.

On 21 December 2015 you signed off a decision to allocate £500k to jointly commission with the London Community Rehabilitation Company an end to end service for female offenders, with funding from MOPAC to pilot innovation. This included scaling up existing best practice and testing the impact of holistic women's centres, delivered through a hub and spoke model in South and West London. Through a bid to the MoJ for funding we will aim to extend the scope and duration of the innovation as part this programme. This provides a longer period on which to evaluate impact.

The MoJ bid will go through internal governance mechanisms, and will be signed off by the Chief Operating Officer (COO) before submission.

Recommendation:

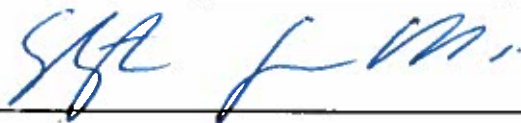
The DMPC is asked to approve a bid of £100k to the Ministry of Justice for female offender grant funding and further to delegate authority for final sign off of the MoJ bid to Helen Bailey, COO at MOPAC.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

11/1/2016

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Government Equalities Office has made £200k available to support The Whole System Approach – Female Offenders Grant. Offending is available within this financial year (with potential to carry over funding into 2016/17). This grant seeks to support areas in developing a joined up, multi agency approach to improve support for female offenders.
- 1.2. The deadline for bids is 12 January 2016 with successful bidders notified week commencing 18th January 2016.
- 1.3. The DMPC is required to sign off the intention to bid for grant funding as part of the scheme of the delegation. The DMPC is requested to delegate authority for final sign off and quality control of the bid to the MOPAC COO.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The bid will be for funding to contribute to the end to end service for female offenders that MOPAC are jointly commissioning with the London CRC, which is due to be completed by March 2016. The investment will be matched with MOPAC's contribution of £500,000 to pilot innovation in ten local boroughs to expand the service to additional offenders, with a particular focus on providing a robust package of support (including group work, peer mentoring and enhanced advocacy) for those female offenders at risk of receiving custody sentences and with the objective to reduce reoffending.
- 2.2. The additional £100k would provide an opportunity to extend the provision with the innovation element both in terms of the cohort but also to provide a longer time frame in which to test impact.
- 2.3. The criteria for funding includes that projects must commence no later than 31 March 2016 and there will be one single payment. If funds have not been utilised by this date recipients may be able to carry funding into the financial year 2016/17. Application also need to meet five criteria which are specified within the application form attached as APPENDIX 1.
- 2.4. There are limited risks for MOPAC in that a whole system approach to female offenders is being commissioned with the London CRC and which meets the funding conditions both in terms of the assessment criteria and the spend timeline. The MoJ funding will provide opportunity to increase the scope of the provision, and the current steps taken put MOPAC in a very strong position to meet the requirements as set out by the MoJ.
- 2.5. Quality control will be managed by COO.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. This report requests approval to bid to the MoJ for £100k of funding, if successful this money will enable an extension to the scope and duration of the current MOPAC pilot of an end to end service for female offenders. The funding is for financial year 2015/16 with the possibility that any unspent funds may be rolled forward into 2016/17.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation states that DMPC approval is required for all bids for grant funding.

5. Equality Comments

- 5.1 MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 5.2 To ensure maximum impact of this funding whilst ensuring value for money, a targeted approach of use of the funding is required. Female Offenders will be a priority focus due to their bespoke needs and the positive impact that interventions can have on this target group. Female offenders are also an agreed priority for the Reducing Reoffending Board and wider work is being developed to test approaches for providing an enhanced service to females in North and East London. As this pilot is being developed in South and West London it allows for a further approach to reducing female offending to be tested.

6. Background/supporting papers

- 6.1. Please refer to DMPC Decision 2015 116 – To jointly commission with the London CRC and end to end service for female offenders, with funding from MOPAC to pilot innovation.

Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the MOPAC website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of **this** form to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date (if known):

Is there a **part 2** form – NO

If yes, for what reason:

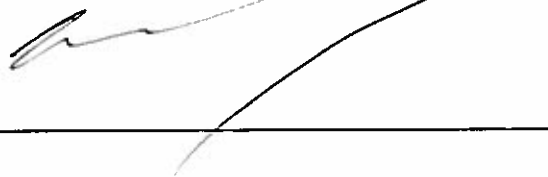
ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
Head of Unit: The Head of Strategy has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal Advice: Legal advice is not required.	✓
Financial Advice: The Head of Strategic Finance and Resource Management has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Equalities Advice: Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Operating Officer**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature



Date

11 / 01 / 2016.



Ministry of JUSTICE

WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH – FEMALE OFFENDERS GRANT FUNDING

Funding Area: England and Wales
Status: Open to receiving applications for funding
Start Date: 24 November 2015
Closing Date: 12 January 2016

Key information

The Government Equalities Office has made £200k available in this financial year to support local areas who are seeking to develop a joined-up, multi-agency approach to improve support for female offenders.

The timetable for the application and awarding of funds is:-

24 November - Invitation to bid for funding
12 January – Deadline for bids
13/14 January – Panel assessment of bids
w/c 18 January – successful bidders notified

Funding will be a single grant payment in the financial year 2015/16. Projects must commence not later than 31 March 2016. If funds have not been utilised by this date recipients may be able to carry funding into the financial year 2016/17, subject to any local accounting requirements and agreement by the Ministry of Justice.

Only applications for funding that meet the all of the listed criteria will be considered.

The terms and conditions on which successful applicants will be awarded funding can be found at Annex A of this document.

IMPORTANT!

Signed and completed applications should be submitted in PDF format to the Female Offender policy team at cjwst@justice.gsi.gov.uk **not later than 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016.**

We regret that forms received after this deadline will not be eligible for consideration for funding.

Whole System Approach (WSA) – Female Offenders

The Government wants to encourage and support areas to bring together local agencies (criminal justice, statutory and third sector) to develop a multi-agency approach to address the often complex needs of female offenders, many of whom are some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged women in society.

The whole system approach to female offenders aims to assess a woman's needs at the point of entry to the criminal justice system, and to provide holistic support throughout her criminal justice journey. This is about using existing resources differently to target support more effectively, avoiding gaps or duplication in service provision, and supporting women to access provision successfully.

There are anticipated to be savings to the criminal justice system through fewer women in court and custody, and reoffending. We expect there also to be wider social and economic benefits, including fewer victims of crime, reduced truancy and fewer children taken into care, fewer victims of domestic violence, and reduced demands on health and other local services such as housing.

WSA - Female Offenders Grant Funding Application Criteria

Applications for the WSA - Female Offenders grant funding must meet **all** of the following 5 criteria. We regret that it is not possible to accept applications that only partially meet the criteria.

1. The bid should demonstrate how the proposed project will deliver the key aims of the whole system approach, namely:
 - Targeted support for female offenders and those at risk of offending, many of whom are vulnerable and have complex needs
 - Reductions in the reoffending rate of female offenders;
 - Reductions in the number of women going to court;
 - Reductions in the number of women going to prison on short sentences;
 - Better engagement with appropriate services to improve outcomes for identified needs amongst this cohort e.g. domestic violence and sexual abuse; mental and other health issues; substance misuse; accommodation; finance and debt; education/training needs and employment; learning difficulties and disabilities issues.
2. Funding should be used to help unlock further funding or other support to develop and implement a whole system approach for female offenders.
3. Projects should be innovative (i.e. funding should not be used for existing projects unless it will test a new way of working or other new element) and should contribute to early intervention and diversion out of the CJS.

4. Projects should include an emphasis on looking at support for victims of domestic violence and how to get women into employment & training.
5. The bid should set out anticipated learning from the funded project, with a focus on what works, and how this will be shared with the Ministry of Justice to inform understanding of good practice, and contribute to an understanding of the different models needed in areas with high and lower-density female offender populations.

Applications for grant funding

In order to apply for WSA – Female Offenders grant funding, please complete the following form and return it by email to the Female Offender policy team at cjwst@justice.gsi.gov.uk, **not later 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016.**

Forms should be completed electronically, printed and then signed manually. Scanned copies should then be returned via email in PDF format. Forms that have **not** been completed electronically will not be accepted.

You must complete all sections of the form.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST	
All boxes on the application form have been completed electronically	Y/N
The application form has been signed	Y/N
The signed application is being submitted in PDF format	Y/N
The application form is being submitted by 5.00pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016	Y/N

