

# Women's Justice Blueprint



Glasbrint Cyfiawnder  
i Fenywod

Women's Justice  
Blueprint

Gweithio mewn partneriaethau i wella canlyniadau i fenywod sydd yn neu mewn perygl o fynd i mewn i'r System Cyfiawnder Troseddol yng Nghymru  
Working in partnership to improve outcomes for women in or at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System in Wales

## What is the vision of the Women's Justice Blueprint?

The joint Ministry of Justice and Welsh Government **Women's Justice Blueprint for Wales** sets out to improve experiences and outcomes of women in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system in Wales by:

- Reducing the number of women in the system by improving early intervention, prevention and diversionary support.
- Providing alternatives to custody and improved community support such as the residential women's centre.
- Improving understanding of women's needs through robust evidence and help improve Sentencer confidence in community sentences.

### Women's Justice Blueprint for Wales

Training Framework for organisations working with women who are in, or at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System (CJS)

As part of the Women's Justice Blueprint for Wales (Ministry of Justice & Welsh Government, 2019) the Community Sentences workstream has developed a Training Framework for staff and organisations working with women who are in, or at risk of entering the CJS. The Training Framework below outlines the recommended training areas staff working with women should receive, if possible what organisations they can request this training from, and how managers should seek to evaluate the effectiveness of training received. This training framework is a working document and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure it is kept up to date.



## Why focus on women?

**Women who commit crime often have multiple and complex needs and are typically some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in society.**

Short custodial sentences often do not deliver the best results for women, e.g. approx. 70% of women sentenced to short term custody (under 12 months) reoffended within a year<sup>1</sup>.





Women can often be more successfully supported in the community, where reoffending outcomes tend to be better and there is opportunity to address the root causes of offending, whilst minimising disruption to family ties.

<sup>1</sup> MOJ (2018). Supporting data tables: Female offender strategy. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-offender-strategy>

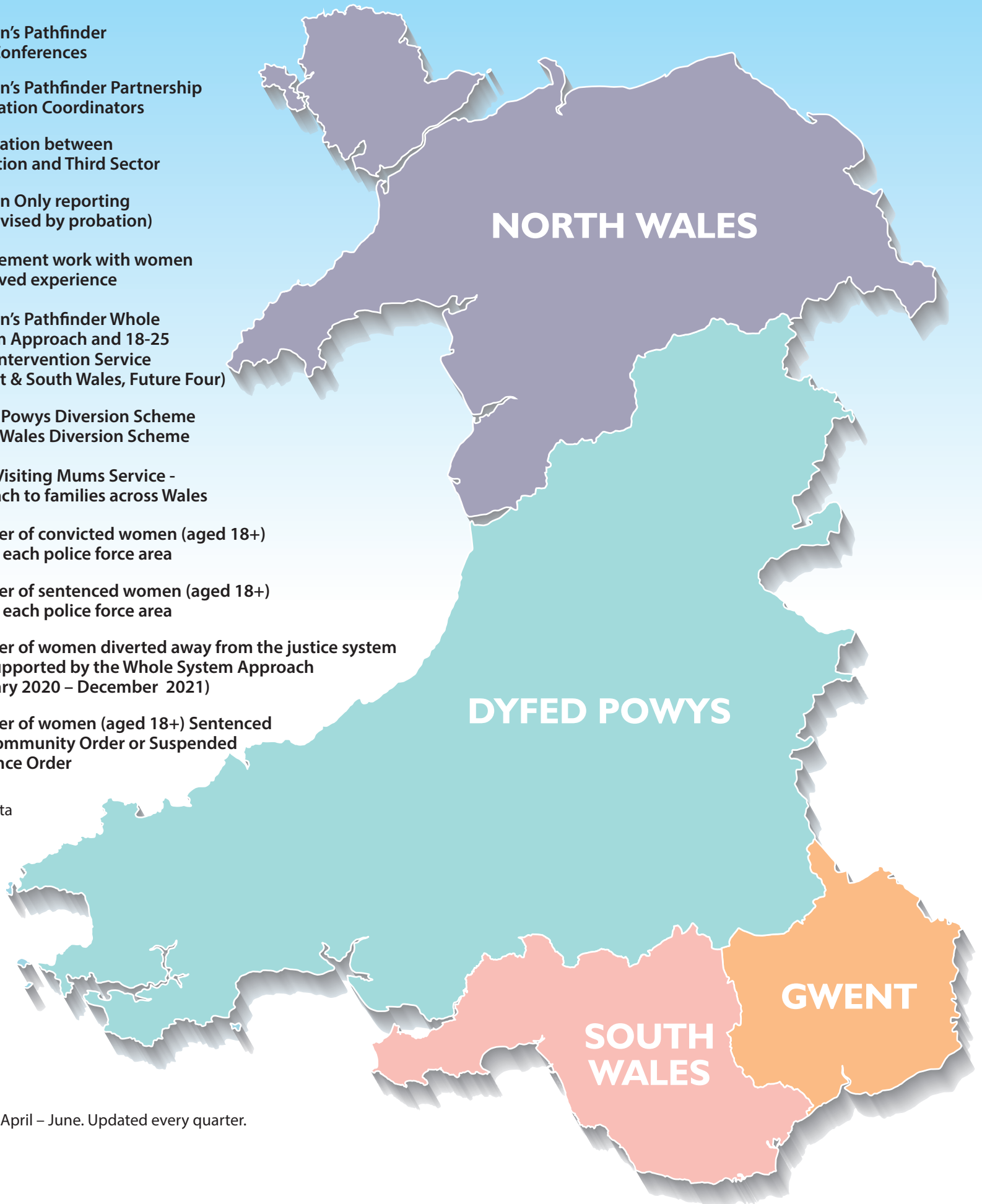
## What does success look like?

- Reduce crime, make communities safer and ease demand on services, such as policing and health, to make a contribution to building a more prosperous, secure, healthy and active, ambitious, united and connected Wales.
- Contribute to giving children a better start in life, reducing the impact of adverse childhood experiences, such as domestic abuse or having a mother in custody.
- Ensure women and children live in a safe and secure home and as a result will be less likely to commit crime.
- Give women the skills they need to look after themselves and their children, enabling them to live rewarding and fulfilled lives within their communities
- Work with partners to ensure better emotional and physical health and more supportive relationships within families, to help strengthen our communities.

# Women's Justice Blueprint developments so far – developing the Blueprint vision towards a Whole System Approach

-  Women's Pathfinder Case Conferences
-  Women's Pathfinder Partnership Integration Coordinators
-  Co-location between Probation and Third Sector
-  Women Only reporting (supervised by probation)
-  Involvement work with women with lived experience
-  Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and 18-25 Early Intervention Service (Gwent & South Wales, Future Four)
-  Dyfed Powys Diversion Scheme North Wales Diversion Scheme
-  PACT Visiting Mums Service - outreach to families across Wales
-  Number of convicted women (aged 18+) across each police force area
-  Number of sentenced women (aged 18+) across each police force area
-  Number of women diverted away from the justice system and supported by the Whole System Approach (January 2020 – December 2021)
-  Number of women (aged 18+) Sentenced to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order

MoJ data



Covers April – June. Updated every quarter.

## Pan-Wales products and services promoting the women's agenda

- Involvement Model
- Gender and Trauma Informed Practitioner Skills Training Package
- Language & Terminology Champions
- Research & data (underpins the work of the Blueprint)
- Brochure of Support Services for women
- Pan-Wales Women's Accommodation directory

## What's happening now?

- ✓ Further involvement of women with lived experience
- ✓ Residential women's centre in south Wales
- ✓ Housing Initiative (proof of concept)
- ✓ IDVA in Prisons
- ✓ Further work on co-located services for women and women only reporting
- ✓ Vision for a Pan-Wales Whole System Approach
- ✓ Research and data
- ✓ Pre-Sentence Report for Women Pilot (Swansea and Cardiff Magistrates)
- ✓ Mental Health Treatment Requirement Pilot (Swansea)
- ✓ Development of pan-Wales Women's Champions and Language Champions

It was refreshing. I felt listened to, guided and informed.

*Woman supported by North Wales Checkpoint Diversion Scheme*

I had never been before and first off I was an absolute mess, but since working with probation I have come on in leaps and bounds, I am in work now and really trying to be 'me' again.

*Woman on probation*

I would tell anybody new to Probation that they are here to help and if you work with them, instead of against them, it works wonders.

*Woman on probation*

My Probation officer has been there for me and listened when I needed someone.

*Woman on probation*

As well as gaining skills to manage, control and change my behaviour and emotions I have also gained the ability to understand my children and husband better and acknowledge why they act the way they do too.

*Woman supported by the North Wales Women's Centre*

You've helped me turn my life around and now I'm looking forward to the future. I'm so ashamed of what I did. Thankfully now, with your help, I've got an income and am managing to pay off my debts as well as all my bills.

*Woman supported by Dyfyd Powys Pobl Diversion Service*

The support I received from you was second to none and do not know what I would have done without it, not just the court case but the lead up; because I was stressed and worried and it took a big weight off my mind. You made me feel comfortable and safe.... I can't praise the organisation and you in particular enough. I know I made a mistake but because of your support I feel I was fairly treated.

*Woman supported by Future 4 Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach Service (South Wales and Gwent)*

**The Blueprint is being delivered by a cross-sector multi-agency approach including statutory, non-statutory and third sector partners, with support from women with lived experience.**

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