

**CHANGING
LIVES**

Probation
Service

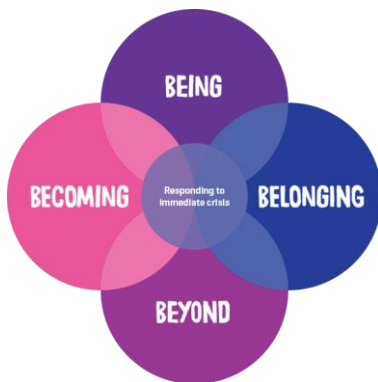


WOMEN'S CUSTODY SERVICES
Cleveland and Northumbria
Information for
Probation Practitioners

www.changing-lives.org.uk



The Power of Positive Change



Our Theory of Change – *Being, Becoming, Belonging & Beyond* – is a four-stage model of change which recognises that each stage is equally important to ensure sustained wellbeing and move-on from services. The stages of the model are:

Being: A person needs to make sense of their past, the trauma they may have experienced to be able to begin to contemplate the challenging process of change. A person needs to have hope that they can change their story and develop a different sense of self and identity.

Becoming: A person needs to have their basic needs met such as having somewhere safe and secure to live and enough funds to purchase the basic essentials if they are to begin to make change. They need access to services such as education and training to develop their resources/skills.

Belonging: People need to be welcomed by families, wider communities and employers if they are to sustain longer term desistance. They need access to opportunities to develop their strengths and aspirations if they are to belong and become fully contributing citizens.

Beyond: Changing Lives working collaboratively with other services and the wider system to support people's progress.

Our Custody Services

Changing Lives provide holistic inclusive services for women, by women. The main aim is to assist women to establish a healthy, positive lifestyle by building on their strengths to achieve their goals. We use our **Change Point Assessment Tool** and work with Probation Practitioners to identify the areas of need and priorities.

Custody>Community Partnership

Referrals can be made for all intervention pathways required. Within custody, interventions will focus upon the women's accommodation needs, as well as signposting to other professionals working with them in preparation for release. Accommodation coaches can assist with tenancy applications and by advocating with local authorities, housing associations and private landlords. Additional support is offered for those referred as having social inclusion needs.

Probation contact when women are in prison can be facilitated by our team of custody coaches or 3-way meetings can take place virtually, if preferred.

We aim to reduce trauma caused by repetition of their story and liaison is made between custody and community coaches to ensure a smooth handover.

Social inclusion work will take place involving the community coaches while in custody, in order to build relationships prior to release. Gate pick-ups with transport to onward accommodation can be arranged on release date (where safe and appropriate) and toiletries and clothing donations if required are provided. Women being released to Middlesbrough or Redcar will be supported by our partner organisation A Way Out.

The range of requested interventions will then continue in easily accessible community venues across the region:

- Ashington
- North Shields
- Newcastle
- Gateshead
- South Shields
- Sunderland
- Hartlepool
- Stockton
- Middlesbrough
- Redcar

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