

Women's Breakout Monitoring Report 2011/2012



WOMEN'S
BREAKOUT



Introduction

Women's Breakout is the representative organisation for a national network of women-centred services offering effective gender specific community alternatives to custody. In 2011/2012 a second round of funding from the collaboration between MoJ/NOMS and the Corston Independent Funders Coalition awarded grants to 30 projects to continue their holistic work supporting women at risk or involved in offending. This report is based on the data that the 30 projects provided to NOMS through quarterly reports during the 2011/2012 financial year.

The data monitoring forms were designed by NOMS but there has been an ongoing process of development involving Women's Breakout, the women's team at NOMS and the funded projects to improve the quality of data collection. As with any exercise in turning local data collated through different systems and working processes into a national picture there is a potential for errors, but Women's Breakout has been working to minimise discrepancies between organisations.

High level metrics

Two high level metrics were set for the Women's Community Services programme as follows.

- 1 To reduce the women's prison population.

The target to reduce the female prison population is shared by a range of other providers, including Women's Community Services. The aim for was to achieve and maintain a reduction of 150 below the 'low' women's prison population projection by March 2012, that is, to achieve a women's prison population of 4,150 based on projections published in August 2010.

Although the final figure on the 30th March 2012 was 4,226¹ (2% higher than the target) it is still 74 women less than the predicted 'low' target of 4,300 and 574 women less than the 'high' target².

The impact of the riots on female prison population has not been fully calculated, but as of 1st February 2012 91 females had been sentenced to immediate custody in relation to the riots.³

In 2011/2012 reoffending rates were significantly lower in areas with a Women's Community service than the predicted rate.

- 2 To reduce women's reoffending.

This metric was set to achieve an identifiable reduction in women's re-offending in areas where there were NOMS/CIFC funded women's services. Performance against this metric was assessed

¹ Prison Population Weekly 30th March 2012, MOJ

² Table A2: Breakdown of projected prison population for high, medium and low scenarios, England and Wales Prison Population Projection 2008-2015

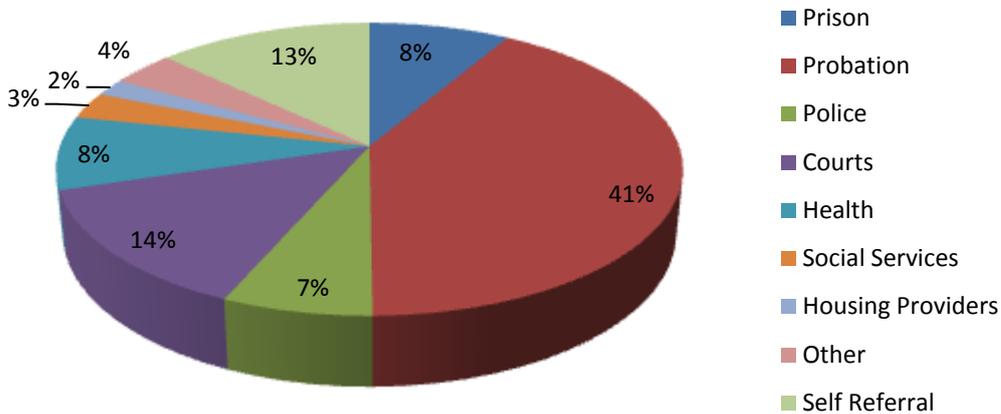
³ Statistical bulletin on the public disorder of 6th-9th August 2011



against local reoffending rates, and in every quarter the actual reoffending rates in areas with a funded project was significantly below the predicted rate, demonstrating the impact of our projects on reoffending for women.

Referrals 2011/12

The referrals target for the projects for the year was 4835. By quarter three they had reached 93% and by the end of the year they had exceeded the target by 16%, reaching a total number of 5771 referrals. Referrals are received from a wide range of services, with 64% from Prison, Probation, Police and Courts.



In Quarter 2 there was a 22% increase in the number of referrals, in Q3 there was a 17% decrease and in Quarter 4 there was an 11% increase. This pattern is consistent with trend data over four years where the Christmas period sees a decline.

Assessments

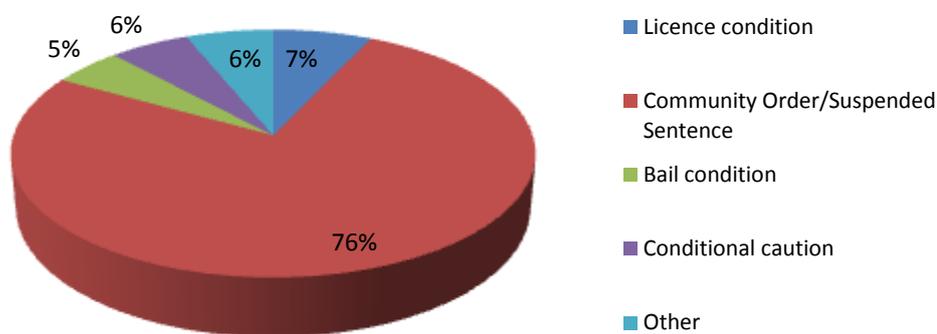
A woman who has been referred to our projects will work with her key worker to produce a full appraisal of her needs. Together they identify areas along the nine reducing reoffending pathways where she agrees that she needs support, and they then agree an action plan.

In total, 4327 assessments were made during the year.



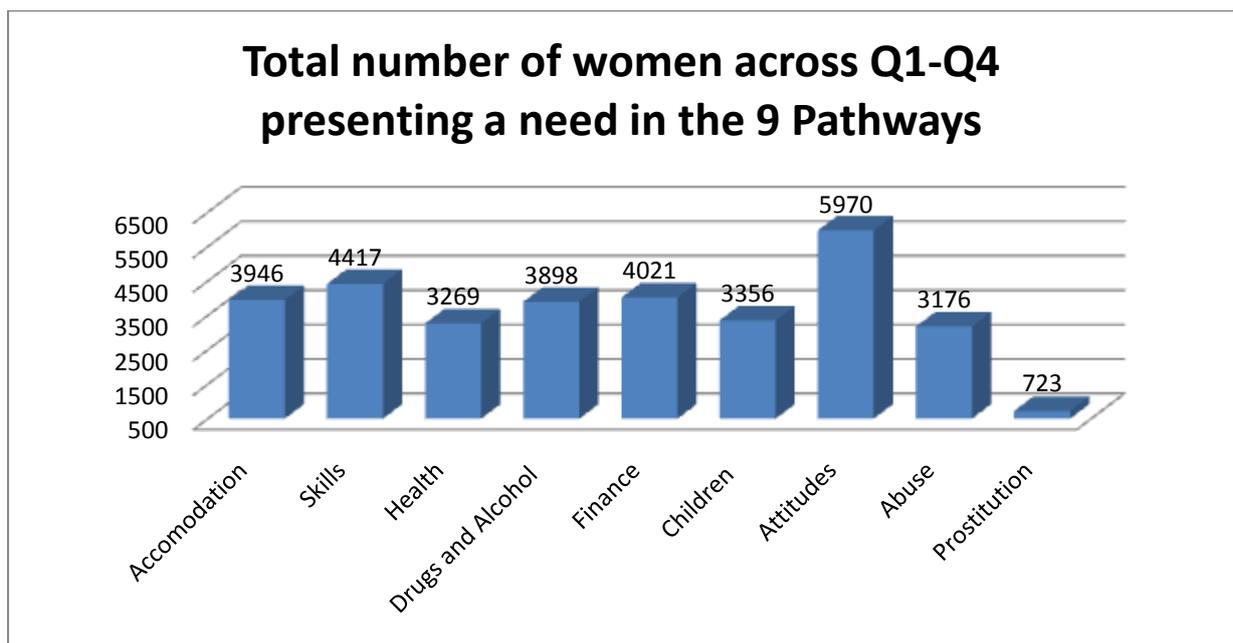
Attending as Criminal Justice System Requirement by type

During 2011/2012, 90% of projects reported women attending as part of a Criminal Justice System requirement, with the most common being a Community Order/Suspended Sentence (1308 women, 23% of all referrals attended on such a requirement).



Intervention

In every quarter the 'Attitudes' pathway had the highest number of women presenting with that need, with 26% more women demonstrating a need in this area than the next highest area 'Skills and Employment'. The 'prostitution' pathway had the lowest number of women presenting with that need.

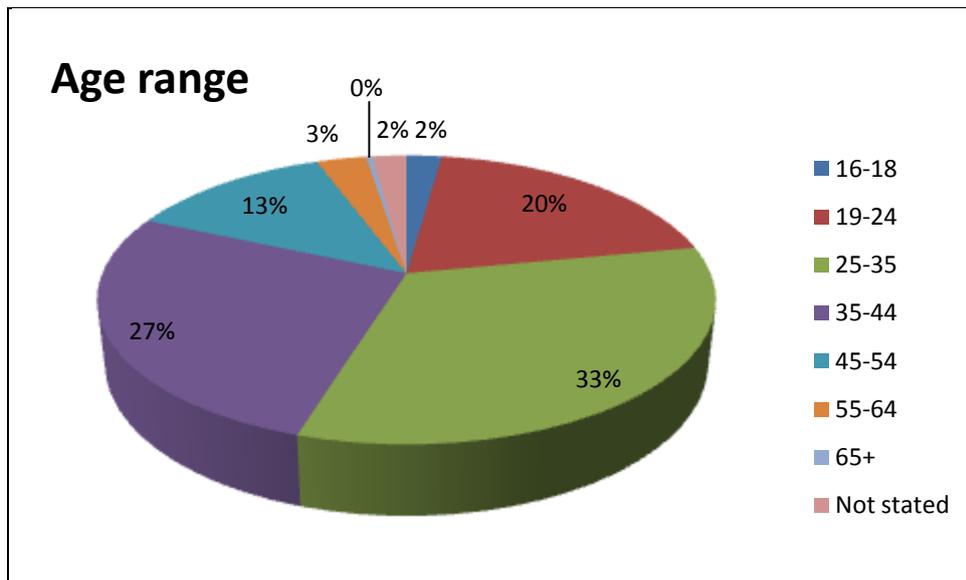




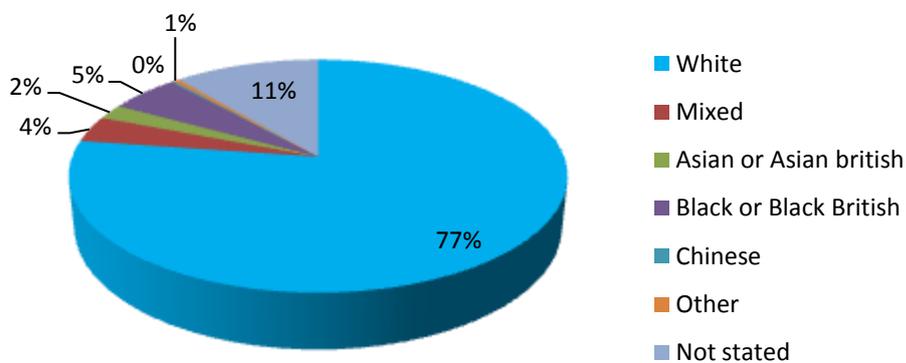
Profile of the women who were referred to the Projects

The women who were referred to our projects have multiple and complex needs.

- 41% of women had needs in more than 4 pathways
- 60% of women were involved in criminal proceedings at the time of referral
- 36% of women with children had their children living in care or away from the



Ethnicity





Outcomes

The projects were given freedom to add outcomes specific to their projects under the pathways around 80% chose to add at least one field. On average projects only added 1 extra field but one project added 48 to one pathway. The most common added outcomes were:

Pathways	Most common outcomes
Accommodation	Improved living situation
Skills and Employment	Started voluntary work
Health	Accessing or engaging with health and wellbeing services
Drugs and Alcohol	Referred for specialist support
Finance, Benefit and Debt	Improved budgeting skills/ now accessing appropriate benefits
Children, Families and Relationships	Maintained or improved family ties
Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour	Recognition of victim awareness
Supporting women who have been abused/ raped or experience DV	Reduce in frequency of DV/Abuse
Supporting women who are/have been involved in prostitution.	Healthy and safe