



## **Moving On Project Outline Launching at Pecan in April 2012**

The most damning indictment of current re-settlement strategies for young ex-offenders is to be found in the Ofsted inspection report into the current effectiveness of procedures for the transition of young offenders into the community, "Transition through detention and custody" 2010. It finds that:

- Young people who needed support when they were released from custody often went to a situation where there was no support in the community
- Links between social care staff in local authorities and youth offending teams were unclear
- Many young women offenders felt rejected, bewildered and disillusioned with the system.

Furthermore the evidence presented in the Women's Offending Reduction Programme Action Plan (WORP) and the Corston Report, A Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice system, makes clear that the barriers facing young men and women ex-offenders committed to successful re-settlement differ significantly. The young women display a higher level of need for accommodation, relationships, emotional wellbeing and financial management and income than young men. Our analysis of current provision in our target London boroughs indicate that this is not taken into account by current service providers.

Our immediate aim is to develop a sustainable inter-agency, holistic, re-settlement support service for young women ex-offenders (15-17) emerging from YOI to return to live in Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Wandsworth.

Our secondary aim is to disseminate and promote this inter-agency model nationally to foster its integration into mainstream service delivery across England.

To achieve these aims we will:

- Recruit, train and support five teams of female coaches and mentors (some of whom may be ex-offenders themselves) for the young women pre and post release
- Provide 150 young women ex-offenders (15-17) with continuing advice, guidance and support for 12 months to ensure their successful re-settlement in the community on release from YOI
- Support the target group to develop their self-confidence, resilience, motivation, aspiration to re-settle successfully and avoid re-offending
- Help equip the target group with the basic skills and commitment to progress into education, training and/or employment

- Establish an inter-agency re-settlement service in our target boroughs comprising YOTs, Children and Young People's Services, Housing, Social Services, Education/Training providers, PCT/GP Consortia and specialist voluntary sector support agencies
- Develop a web-based interactive portal for young women offenders to gain access to the support they need and peer group networking
- Share the good practice with other support agencies and stakeholders to foster its integration into the mainstream

Our planned outcomes over 3 years include:

- 150 female young ex-offenders will have improved their self-confidence, motivation, problem solving skills and knowledge of the support services available to address the problems they face in resettling into the community.
- 100 female young offenders will have improved their confidence, life skills and basic skills to improve their employability
- 100 female young offenders will have increased their knowledge of the training and employment opportunities in the area to determine an action plan for themselves to route map their entry into training and/or employment.
- 85 female offenders will report a more positive attitude to improving their life chances.
- Establishing a more coherent and joined-up inter-agency re-settlement service for young women ex-offenders in Lambeth, Southwark, Wandsworth, Lewisham and Greenwich to improve their ability to re-settle successfully and not re-offend.