

**Submitter:** Andy \*dewar

**Company:** Turning Point Scotland

**Email:** andydewar@turningpointscotland.com

**Phone Number:** 0141 427 9425

**Awards Category:** Category 4: Silo Buster

**Awards Entry Number:** C40042

**Name of project, service, individual entering or nomination,**  
: Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service (Turning Point Scotland & Aberlour)

### 1. Overview

Please provide a short introduction to the person, project or service. Briefly mention any aims and objectives if you think they are relevant. You must clearly outline how it relates to the [category](#) you are entering. You should answer any questions we have asked in the [introduction](#) for this award category.: 70% of women that are remanded in custody awaiting trial do not go on to receive a custodial sentence.\*That time behind bars has a profound effect on their lives and can result in losing their tenancy, their children and their employment.

The Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service is a joint approach by Turning Point Scotland and Aberlour using their experience of supporting women with an involvement in the justice system and their children, pooling and sharing knowledge and resources, to provide and encourage the use of better and more appropriate alternatives to remand.

The service aims to reduce the use of remand in favour of community options that are designed to address the underlying causes of women's offending, whilst maintaining family relationships and engagement with support services in the community.

The strength of this approach is the partnership working, bringing professionals together across a whole range of agencies to identify women that may benefit from support. Co-located within the offices of Criminal Justice Social Work, the service has developed relationships with Police Scotland, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Court Social Work Teams and the Drug Court.

\*The Commission on Women Offenders final report 2012 p.46

### 2. What did you do?

Please describe the work carried out and explain how it meets the [criteria](#) we have asked for in the ['what we are looking for'](#) section for this award. Highlight any practice which was **distinctive, innovative or creative and include details of on-going work still in progress.**: The reasons women end up in the justice system are related to a whole range of issues, for example family breakdown, victims of abuse, controlling relationships ultimately leading to extremely poor mental health and self-medicating with alcohol and drugs. Trauma is at the root of many of these issues and therefore this must be addressed in the longer term.

Clearly, prison settings on remand are not an ideal place to address these issues. Supported bail offers intensive support to women, to not only reduce the need for remand but ultimately reduce future reoffending.

Community based options are a more appropriate way to deal with these issues and provide the stability of maintaining a tenancy and contact with children. Loss of a home and access to children only serves to make the situation worse, on mental health and increases the risk of substance misuse and further offending.

Since January 2016, Turning Point Scotland and Aberlour have delivered the Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service employing 3 workers. The two employed by Turning Point Scotland work with women with drug and alcohol problems, associated mental health issues and homelessness. The Aberlour staff member works with women with children to improve parenting skills and offers support.

The service works with some of the most socially excluded, deprived and vulnerable women in Glasgow. The scale of the complexities of issues the staff are working with has been extremely revealing, in terms of the issues associated with physical health and well-being. For example, the service has supported at least 6 women who have been diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder.

In the year or so the service has been operating, 47 people have been supported by the Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service with 24 existing individuals, 16 currently on a programme.

The Service offers support on a 1:1 basis and on an assertive outreach basis. It offers an opportunity to address issues around housing and homelessness, substance misuse, mental and physical health and offending behaviour.

The programme is a mix of addressing relevant issues such as cycle of change, victim empathy, drug and alcohol issues. Programmes are developed working around children affected by parental substance misuse, complex family support needs and trauma recovery. This is also support to build on and develop family and parenting skills.

Housing is an extremely important aspect of the work and the staff work with women on bail to prevent them being remanded and assist with housing. We have extended the partnership approach to Y People to offer 10 temporary furnished flats.

Support is provided to attend appointments in the community and comply with any conditions attached to bail or an order.

This blend of outreach and partnership approach involving a range of different agencies is helping to reach women that previously may not have had the opportunity to engage with services and receive the intensive support required to avoid remand and reduce their reoffending.

### **3. What did you achieve**

**Please describe and provide evidence of how the work has made a positive impact to the lives of those you have helped to support. Evidence can include research, practice, wisdom, service data or lived experience. Aim to reflect the criteria in the ['what we are looking for'](#) section where possible.:** Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service is building an evidence base of better working practices that support women to develop new skills and change their behaviour but also towards interventions that can motivate the women to build hope. The service works closely with criminal justice social work to develop more effective practice and working out how to co-produce change together.

Turning Point Scotland has its own internal outcomes based assessment tool for funders to show progress. When women are referred to the service they are assessed on 7 outcomes: Criminal Activity, Substance Misuse, Psychological Wellbeing, Physical Health, Social Functioning, Living Situation and Parenting capacity.

These outcomes are scored 1-5 with 5 being the best and 1 poor. They are assessed on initially arriving into the service and again during the programme.

The assessment period between January 2016 and January 2017, 25 women receiving support had scored on average 2.38 on their first assessment and 3.07 on their second, showing a consistent improvement in reducing criminal activity and substance misuse while improving psychological wellbeing, physical health, social functioning, living situation and parenting capacity.

Between the same time period, looking at 16 service users that had left the service, 1 had found employment, 1 had moved into permanent housing and 7 had achieved their goals at least in part,

agreed in their initial support plan.

So far the Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service have assisted women to access safe and secure accommodation, access addiction services for substitute prescriptions, reduce offending behaviour, adhere to bail conditions and court orders, access physical and mental health services and increase their social inclusion.

Looking at the case of one woman in particular, she is now in safe secure accommodation close to her daughter, she is attending 218 day service, has rebuilt relationships with her family and is seeing her daughter again regularly. She is now setting herself goals to work towards which are to gain custody of her daughter and to be in employment by next year. She has not committed any known offences whilst she has been engaging with the service.

This is quite a turnaround considering when this woman first began working with them in April she was homeless due to the breakdown of her long term relationship, she had no family support due to a breakdown in family relationships and was at high risk of breaching her bail conditions as they were not to enter the area she had resided in for many years. The combination of events affected her mental health significantly and left her alone and isolated.

Through engaging with the service, her worker advocating on her behalf, her being provided with practical and emotional support and setting goals this woman's immediate issues were addressed in a short period of time. This in turn has impacted positively on the woman's mental health, confidence and quality of life.

#### **4. Why should you receive an award?**

**Please summarise the reasons you feel this person, project or issue deserves an award in no more than 100 words.:** Time spent on remand for women increases the likelihood of physical and mental health issues, drug and alcohol misuse and further offending for the women themselves as well as impacting on their children.

Community alternative options to remand are cost effective and can have positive longer lasting results. The Glasgow Women's Supported Bail Service is working with some of the most vulnerable women in the city and dedicated professionals at Turning Point Scotland, Aberlour, Y people, criminal justice social work are committed to addressing their needs through better, more effective joint working.

