



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

## DECISION RECORD

### Decision Record Number 19

This document records a decision taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner, together with details of the advice he received prior to taking the decision.

### Decision taken

The Police and Crime Commissioner has taken the decision to:

Provide £30,000 as a one off contribution to a partnership arrangement for the delivery of a female focused pilot for Mental Health Treatment Requirements

### Details of advice taken

Advice from the Director for Delivery in the OPCC

**Stephen Mold**  
Police and Crime Commissioner

END



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

## Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

### Supporting Report to the Police and Crime Commissioner

<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Mental Health Treatment Requirements</b>	
<b>Report Author</b>	Paul Bullen, Director for Delivery	

#### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline a pilot project for Mental Health Treatment Requirements, specifically for women offenders, in Northamptonshire, including the provision of funding from the PCC.

#### 2. Decision(s) Recommended:

2.1 That the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire formally agrees to provide £30,000 as part funding for a pilot for Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTR) for women offenders in Northamptonshire.

#### 3. Relevant background / Chronology of Key Events:

3.1 The Mental Health Treatment Requirement (MHTR) is one of 11 Community Court Orders available to the Judiciary for sentencing. The requirement is a treatment option which addresses mental health and criminogenic needs that are linked to the perceived risk of offending. The order can be given either as a single order or as part of an order that includes other requirements (such as alcohol or drug treatment requirement)

3.2 74% of Northamptonshire's female offenders report that they have emotional wellbeing needs along with issues around attitude, thinking and behaviour which sits at 89%.

3.3 Locally, female offenders are twice as likely to report the need of support around mental health problems than male offenders. Evidence suggests that to reduce reoffending and to keep women safe, we should invest in gender-specific, trauma-informed interventions that address mental health needs, anxiety and depression,

personality disorder, post - traumatic stress disorder and other effects of trauma which this service would achieve.

- 3.4 This pilot will deliver between 30-40 MHTRs per annum for female offenders sentenced in the town of Northampton.
- 3.5 Each woman would have the opportunity to engage in a safe women's only environment with clinically approved psychological interventions that address their health, social care and criminal justice issues.
- 3.6 Each service user would receive interventions delivered jointly between an Assistant Psychologist addressing the mental health needs and a support worker delivering other trauma informed interventions in a holistic manner.
- 3.7 The service users would be predominantly suffering from lower levels of mental health / learning disability and substance misuse issues, which may not have been picked up by primary care and probably would not be suitable for secondary care services. Whilst some of these people would fit the criteria for an IAPT (Adult Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) Service, overall the complexity of presentation combined with the need for swift treatment and issues of literacy mean that IAPT services fail to meet their mental health needs. Many of these service users are hard to reach within the community as they may not be registered with a GP and even when they are, the services on offer may not be suitable.
- 3.8 To ensure that there are various entry points to this pilot, women can be referred at all stages of the criminal justice system including pre-sentence (while in police custody), pre-charge (in liaison with probation service and the police), at court (in liaison with court service and solicitors) and in prison (to ensure that Northamptonshire residents are linked to their local service prior to release).

#### **4. Consultation:**

- 4.1 Key stakeholders across the criminal justice system have been consulted in relation to the need for the provision. All required partners are involved in the project board to deliver the MHTR.

#### **5. Compliance Issues:**

##### **5.1 Is this a decision of 'significant public interest?'**

- 5.1.1 The total amount of £30,000 means this need not be a decision of public interest however it is delivering direct services to the public.

**5.2 Is the recommended decision consistent with the priorities set out in the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Plan 2014/17?**

5.2.1 Mental health is a key priority within the Police and Crime Plan. Swift and sure justice is also included in the plan to ensure that the criminal justice system is effective at reducing reoffending. Existing evidence on MHTR suggests it will impact on both these priorities.

**5.3 What are the financial and procurement implications of this decision?**

5.3.1 £30,000 is required as a one off cost to enable the pilot to go ahead. Other sources of funding include Northamptonshire County Council (£10,000), NHS England (£25,000) as well as funding from the National Probation Service and Prison Reform Trust.

5.3.2 Procurement support has been sourced from the East Midlands Strategic and Commercial Unit (EMSCU) to ensure that the funding is provided within the requirements of Contract Standing Orders. It has been agreed that this can be undertaken by Single Tender Agreement given the nature of the pilot and provided any longer term funding is through a different procurement arrangement.

**5.4 Will further decisions be required?**

5.4.1 No further decisions are anticipated at this time.

**5.5 Legal Implications**

5.5.1 Nil

**5.6 Risk Management**

5.6.1 A formal project board is in place to manage the project and mitigate any risks that arise. This is chaired by the Director for Delivery in the OPCC.

**5.7 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?**

5.7.1 Not formally. The pilot is aimed at women only due to 90% of women in prison being identified with mental health issues and the women's cohort in Northamptonshire being more tightly defined (c. 200 a year). Therefore a bigger impact is possible on this smaller cohort.

**6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):**

6.1 Alternative sources of funding from Ministry of Justice were sought but unfortunately this was unsuccessful. However Ministry of Justice policy is looking to roll out the use of MHTR nationwide.

**7. List of background reports used to compile this report:**

Milton Keynes MHTR pilot evaluation report  
Business Case put to NHS England for their contribution

**8. List of appendices accompanying this report (if any):**

**9. Approvals**

**Date**

Has this report been approved by the author's line manager?

Has this report been approved by the Chief Executive?

