

West Midlands Probation – Walsall Women’s Hub

[keywords: *women offenders*]

Overview

Introduced in early 2024, the Walsall Women’s Hub is a bespoke service for females on probation where they can access probation and commissioned services under one roof. It is housed in a dedicated space, attached to the main probation building, but with a separate entrance, allowing the women to access the hub without coming into contact with their male counterparts, and helping maintain a less ‘probation-like’ feel to the hub. In addition to formal supervision and probation-led structured intervention programmes, a range of services are offered there, in partnership with Changing Lives CRS, the Beacon Drug & Alcohol Service, and others, including accommodation support, benefits, budgeting, substance misuse, mental health outreach and arts and crafts groups. Further expansion of the services offered were being planned at time of writing (October 2024).

Its impact

The women in contact with the service find the hub’s separation from the main building helps to create a feeling of increased safety for them, and they value the range of services being provided in a single place. We believe it has led to an increase in compliance and engagement, and better, more seamless services and wrap around support for the women concerned.

What’s special about it

We feel this is a really good example of a wider approach and would be happy to share our experience more widely.

Wider applicability

A hub like this does require a suitable space – either a dedicated facility or a separated off area within another facility – and strong working relations with partner agencies.

Further information

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