

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: AD/SH/2267

By E-mail only - SeneddEquality@Senedd.Wales

16 January 2023

Dear Jenny

Many thanks for your letter dated 12th January 2023 sent on behalf of the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

It is important to clarify that funding was given for the delivery of the Women's Pathfinder programme. Your letter and recent media coverage on this subject would suggest that the funding was for the North Wales Women's Centre (NWWC). This is not the case. Let me assure Committee members that we remain as committed as ever to the Women's Pathfinder programme and to delivering effective outcomes and support for women within the justice system in North Wales. This commitment is set out clearly in the North Wales Women's Justice Strategy we published in September 2022. The overall aim of the new strategy is "supporting women to live crime-free, positive and healthy lives, improving well-being and making communities safer". The new direction will build on the Welsh Government Women's Justice Blueprint for Wales.

The contract with the NWWC was originally due to come to an end in September 2022. The decision was made to extend the contract to March 2023 and would not be renewed thereafter. The contract was extended in order to give the NWWC as much notice as possible. This was clearly communicated to the management and trustees at the earliest opportunity when my Chief Executive and Deputy PCC met with them at the centre in September. My office and I have remained in regular contact with them on this matter. Indeed, I personally attended their 21th anniversary celebrations recently and articulated the rationale for the decision taken.

Our steadfast commitment to supporting women in the Criminal Justice System will not change as the contract with the North Wales Women's Centre comes to an end. We always seek to support and commission the widest and most effective range of services possible using the funds available to us, even in difficult economic climates like the present. At times, this need to support a range of services may mean funding new and emerging organisations and reviewing the funding that goes to projects we have supported generously up to now.

This decision was not taken lightly, and a number of options were carefully considered, including entering into a new contract with the NWWC. However, whilst I recognise the important work done by the Centre, I have a wider responsibility to the communities of North Wales to ensure we secure maximum value for money from the services we commission. Based on the evidence available to me, it was our assessment that the Women's Pathfinder service could be delivered more effectively and efficiently via other means.

From April 2023 our internal diversionary programme, Checkpoint Cymru, will deliver the Women's Pathfinder service. Checkpoint has made great progress since its introduction in 2019, despite the impact of Covid-19, and I am confident that it will continue to deliver great support to both male and female offenders in North Wales. I would be happy to share further details on Checkpoint with the Committee if that would assist.

I do not envisage this to be the end of the relationship between the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the NWWC and look forward to working with them where possible on other suitable projects that serve the women of North Wales in the future.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Dunbobbin
Police and Crime Commissioner

O 25 Mai 2018 ymlaen mae'r rheoliadau sy'n berthnasol i brosesu gwybodaeth personol wedi newid. Gelwir y rhain yn Rheoliadau Diogelu Data Cyffredinol (RhdDC). Darllenwch ein Polisi Preifatrwydd sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth ar sut ydym yn prosesu'ch gwybodaeth personol ac "Eich Hawliau" o dan RhdDC.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, a byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg pe dymunir. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg gyda'r swyddfa yma yn arwain at oedi.

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh, and will respond to correspondence in Welsh if desired. Corresponding in Welsh with this office will not lead to delay.