



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Delivering the Government Response to the
Corston Report: A Progress Report on Meeting the
Needs of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in
the Criminal Justice System

June 2008

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Ministerial Foreword



Since being appointed as the ministerial champion for women in the criminal justice system, I have been pleased to see the significant steps which we have been able to take to deliver against the recommendations Baroness Corston made in her report in March of last year. This short paper outlines our key achievements, but also flags where further work continues to be required.

I am often asked if our commitment to improving services to women offenders means that we think women should be treated more leniently than men. This is not the case at all. We are instead recognising that the criminal justice system must take account of the fact that the needs of women offenders are often different from those of men.

This was highlighted by Baroness Corston report, and is supported by the evidence. The women's prison population has increased by 94% over the last ten years, compared to a 38% increase for men. This increase reflects the fact that courts have been using custody more frequently for women for less serious offences - over a third of all adult women in prison had no previous convictions, more than double the figure for men. Up to 80% of women in prison have a diagnosable mental health problem, and many are drug or alcohol dependent. Around half of the women in prison report that they have been abused, and a third sexually abused.

Whilst our primary focus remains protecting the public and reducing re-offending, I am determined that everything must be done to make our criminal justice system properly responsive to the needs and characteristics of women. To deliver this we must continue to challenge existing ways of working to identify new and more innovative ways to deliver services and interventions to women. We must ensure that more robust and consistent alternative provision is available in the community. And for those women who are in prison, we must make sure that the estate and regimes are tailored so as to meet their particular needs.

This is still the key to preventing vulnerable women entering a repetitive cycle of offending, short-term custodial sentences, re-offending and a return to prison.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues and officials who have contributed to the development of this response, and look forward to developing this area of work with them further in the coming months.

MARIA EAGLE MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

1. The Corston Report and its Recommendations

Baroness Jean Corston was commissioned in March 2006 by the then Home Office Minister Baroness Scotland to conduct a review of women in the criminal justice system who have particular vulnerabilities. This followed a series of six self-inflicted deaths of women prisoners at HMP Styal between August 2002 and August 2003 and the subsequent reports on those deaths by the Cheshire coroner, Nicholas Rheinberg, and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, Stephen Shaw.

The reports highlighted that there was a need to look more broadly at the reasons and circumstances that can lead women to the point where they are in custody and at risk of harming themselves. This raised further questions about whether prison was having a disproportionate impact on some women, bearing in mind the increased likelihood that they would have particular vulnerabilities, such as mental health problems, drug misuse or histories of violent and sexual abuse. The review was commissioned to examine women's pathways through the criminal justice process and the interventions and services available at each stage. It sought to identify what more could be done to tackle problems at an earlier point, so as to avoid if possible the situation whereby women with vulnerabilities end up in prison.

Baroness Corston conducted her review over a nine month period and her report was published on 13 March 2007. It contains 43 recommendations aimed at improving the approaches, services and interventions for women offenders and women at risk of offending. The recommendations fall to a number of different departments and agencies as they reflect the need for a co-ordinated cross-government response to address the multiple and complex needs of women, including health, housing, drugs, victim support, childcare, training, skills and employment, as well as criminal justice interventions.

The Government agreed with the majority of Baroness Corston's recommendations and in its response, published on 6 December 2007, made a range of commitments to take forward those recommendations. Below is a summary of the timescales committed to in the December 2007 Government response to the Corston Report.

We committed, by June 2008, to:

- Establish an Inter-Ministerial Group governance for work on women offenders and women at risk of offending.
- Appoint a Ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice.
- Establish a sub-group to the IMG to focus on driving the work forward, which will be convened by Maria Eagle MP and include the Solicitor General, Vera Baird QC MP and the Government Equalities Minister, Barbara Follett MP.
- Set up a new cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit.
- Produce a more detailed Delivery Plan for taking forward the commitments in the Government's Response.
- Publish and begin implementation of the NOMS Equality and Diversity Action Plan (to implement the Gender Equality Duty).
- Publish the Ministry of Justice Gender Equality Scheme.
- Set up a project to review current generic women's centre provision and identify how to build on existing services.

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- Provide NOMS funding to contribute to the setting up of new demonstrator projects for women offenders in Wales and for the development of commissioning models, one on accommodation services for women in the South West Region and one on end-to-end offender management in the South East.
- Set up a project to review the future of the women's prison estate and the merits of small custodial units for women (to report by April 2008, although implementation of any changes to the women's estate will be a long term initiative).
- Introduce Gender Specific Standards for women in prison.
- Pursue opportunities for publicity and liaison with sentencers to promote greater use of community sentences for women.
- Produce a NOMS guide for Delivering Effective Services for Women Offenders in the Community (April 2008).
- Consult on the new Offender Health Strategy, including the Women Offenders Health Pathway, and publish the Strategy by mid-2008, including a work strand on court diversion, and NHS care in police stations.
- Publish a National Service Framework for Women (for commissioning appropriate provision and services), by April 2008, and begin implementation in June 2008.

By December 2008 we committed to:

- Following consultation, produce the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan which will address particular issues for women offenders, and seek to improve the strategic response to the needs of this group.
- Produce revised guidance for pre-sentence report writers on targeting offenders, including women, for community orders.
- Work to ensure Sentencing Guidelines Council guidelines on 'Seriousness' and 'Drug Couriers' address issues for sentencing of women.

This document summarises our progress against each of these objectives, and outlines our next steps for those which require longer term action.

2. Significant Developments in Improving Services to Women

The National Service Framework: Improving Services to Women Offenders

The National Service Framework for Women was published on 30 May. The Framework sets out the Government's high level strategic aims, objectives, and service ambitions for improving delivery to women offenders in line with the commitments made in the Government's Response to the Corston Report.

The headline and measurable **strategic outcomes**, as set out in the National Service Framework, and which support the MoJ Departmental Strategic Objectives, are to:

- 1) Reduce the number of women entering the criminal justice system;
- 2) Reduce custodial remands for women, and where such remands are required make them as short as possible;
- 3) Ensure sentencers are better informed about the difficulties currently experienced by women offenders in the criminal justice system;
- 4) Ensure that the needs of women who are sentenced are met in the community wherever possible, and reserve custody for only the most serious offenders, usually serving more than 12 months;
- 5) Ensure that for women who are sentenced to custody, the facilities and interventions are appropriate to their needs and that there is better continuity of provision of services on their release;
- 6) Reduce levels of self-harm by women offenders;
- 7) Reduce re-offending by women.

Undertaking this work has allowed us to take a more rounded view of several outstanding issues around the Corston recommendations, and to take the opportunities offered by the creation of the Ministry of Justice to link up better across the criminal justice system. It also means we are better placed to deliver our obligations under the 2006 Gender Equality Duty, which obliges us to demonstrate that action has been taken to respond to differences in the needs and characteristics of male and female offenders in order to ensure equal outcomes.

Improving Community Provision

Above and beyond Baroness Corston's recommendations we recognise that we need to take more pro-active steps to reduce the number of women going into custody unnecessarily. We are continuing to develop and expand community provision. Examples include:

- The National Probation Service received £40 million in additional funding in 2008/09 for promoting effective community sentences, particularly where offenders are at risk of receiving short custodial sentences. Local delivery plans produced by probation areas include commitments to locally align this funding with the aims of the Corston Report;
- Publishing the '**Offender Management Guide to Working with Women Offenders**' which details some of the issues, challenges, and opportunities

that need to be considered when working with women offenders at all stages of the offender process, including the importance of promoting and developing community-based alternatives to custody;

- Scoping the potential for a women's centre combining residential and day facilities in the South West at one or more of the sites returning to NOMS management following the completion of the Prospects resettlement pilot. NOMS have set aside resources to support this service;
- Guidance is about to be issued which asks probation areas to consider expanding the function of existing Approved Premises to provide supervised and supported accommodation for vulnerable women offenders; and
- Exploring options with Clearsprings to develop the Bail Accommodation Support Service to deliver provision that is more responsive to meeting the needs of women offenders

Improving Custodial Provision

The Government accepted in its response to the Corston Report that further work is needed to ensure prison regimes and provision are as effective and appropriate for women as possible. Considerable improvements have already been made to ensure that existing custodial settings are sensitive and appropriate for women, and more are planned. This includes:

- Introduction of new Gender Specific Standards for women in prison;
- Training of staff in working with women prisoners;
- Piloting of new 'full search' procedures for women;
- Development of regimes and programmes that are designed specifically to address women's needs (e.g. the CARE programme);
- Strategy and Resource Guide for the Resettlement of Women Prisoners;
- Initiatives to improve and sustain women prisoners' links with their families and outside community.
- Removal of female prisoners from custodial units holding men and the provision of two new prisons for women; HMP Bronzefield and HMP Peterborough

All this clearly contributes towards addressing Baroness Corston's underlying concern that, for those women who do need to be in custody, prisons must provide a service which is properly designed to serve their needs.

Mental Health

Lord Bradley is undertaking an independent review of the assessment and placement of offenders who are mentally ill, or who have learning difficulties or disabilities. Lord Bradley has met with service leaders from the Together Women Project and Calderdale Women's Centre to identify the specific needs of women, and the range of alternative services, which support women in the community.

We are committed, by July 2008, to deliver:

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- An evaluation of staff training provision across the criminal justice system to ensure consistency for those working with women with multiple needs, particularly women with a diagnosis of personality disorder.
- A self-harm national stakeholder event, bringing together national key opinion leaders who will be reviewing current evidence, practices and approaches to self-harm and self-injury. This will inform the delivery of guidance for self-injury.

We are committed, by February 2009, to deliver:

- Woman-centred training for non-specialist staff in primary mental health/well-being interventions.
- The development of 'pathways' for the provision of comprehensive mental health care to women across the criminal justice system will identify priorities and make recommendations informed by key policy guidance and reports
- Close liaison with the Bradley Review to influence recommendations on alternative arrangements for women with mental health issues and learning disabilities so as to shape the forthcoming Offender Health Strategy

3. Proposal for small custodial units: conclusions of the working group

One of the recommendations proposed by Baroness Corston concerned the creation of **small custodial units**. In her Report, Baroness Corston said:

‘For those women for whom a custodial sentence is necessary, small custodial units should gradually replace the system of women’s prisons which should be dismantled and incorporated into the male estate. The new units should be easily accessible for visitors, for example, in city centres. Over time they should be removed from the Prison Service and run by specialists in working with women, under the direction of the Commission for Women who offend or are at risk of offending...Units should house 20-30 women. The target group of women offenders would be those who have been given custodial sentences of over 2 years.’

She therefore recommended:

‘The government should announce within six months a clear strategy to replace existing women’s prisons with suitable, geographically dispersed, small, multi-functional custodial centres within 10 years.’

The Government Response committed to establishing a short project to look at the future of the women’s custodial estate, and to consider Baroness Corston’s recommendation. In reaching its conclusions the Working Group, which has now reported, considered two key questions regarding the restructuring of the estate to provide a network of small custodial units:

- Did the Group agree with the principles that Baroness Corston laid down for women’s prison design, and,
- Did the Group agree with the proposal to deliver these principles through 20-30 place small custodial units?

The Working Group recommended that:

- The principles underlying the concept of small custodial units be accepted and, as far as possible, taken into account when developing the women’s prison estate.
- The model of small custodial units not be accepted as the best way of embedding the principles because of certain weaknesses identified by the Working Group.
- A model of a range of smaller units within women’s prisons be developed to provide a more supportive environment for vulnerable women.
- The potential to reconfigure the women’s prison estate, including a range of approaches for family visits, be considered further in the light of Baroness Corston’s recommendations to divert women from custody by providing access to appropriate facilities within the community

Baroness Corston's Principles

In summary the Working Group accepted the principles underlying the concept of small custodial units, including the principle that smaller prisons could reduce distance from home. These principles are:

- Multi-Functional Provision;
- A Suitable Environment;
- Maintaining Family Links; and
- Supported Resettlement.

Multi-Functional Provision

The Working Group supports Baroness Corston's recommendation for multi-functional units; providing a range of accommodation for women on remand, sentenced and in re-settlement, as well as women of varying risks categories.

However, it noted that a multi-functional unit would require an institution of a certain scale in order to deliver all the necessary services. This would also help provide flexibility in managing the prison population, reducing movement between prisons, and would support effective offender management by sustaining access to interventions and linking with support services. It could also reduce concerns about being transferred to another prison, and the disruption caused to family members.

A Suitable Environment

The Working Group recognised that we need to configure prisons so that they take better account of women's needs to reduce women's vulnerabilities and levels of self harm and suicide. This should include providing an environment which balances the need to allow women to freely associate with the need to allow privacy where possible, and which should facilitate the prevention of bullying.

To achieve this, the Working Group supported the need for a range of smaller units within women's prisons to provide a more supportive environment for vulnerable women. International evidence from New Zealand and Canada suggest that smaller 'self-care' units help to reduce the austerity of the institutional environment and provide independence and self-reliance to build self-esteem.

However, it may be the case that smaller prisons could reduce distance from home for women and better meet women's needs. For example, the Working Group considered a model 140 place institution which could be made up of four units of 35 places. This style of design, for example, could deliver services targeted to women's needs while also

providing flexibility in handling the prisoner population. This has the potential to deliver many of the benefits of the model for small custodial units through providing an environment which is less institutionalising.

Maintaining Family Links

The Working Group agreed that the quality of family visits was important and could be delivered through a range of approaches, such as through provision of accommodation adjacent to the prison for children to spend time with their mother as part of re-settlement. The Working Group saw the need for a range of approaches for family visits to be considered further.

Supported Resettlement

Finally the Working Group recognised the need to ensure links to the offender's community to support resettlement. However, the Group considered that this could be better delivered through the further development of wrap-around services within the community that are being developed as part of the strategy to reduce women entering custody.

Small Custodial Units

Whilst accepting the principles underlying the concept of small custodial units, including the principle that smaller prisons could reduce distance from home, the Working Group found a number of potential weaknesses with the proposed model of small units holding between 20 and 30 women offenders. These are detailed in more depth below and include:

- The Impact on Delivering Services
- Potential Effects on Vulnerable Women
- Ensuring Appropriate Provision for the Target Group
- The Impact on Women Prisoner Movement
- The Impact on Managing Risk
- The Impact on Resources which could be Deployed Elsewhere

It concluded that there was not significant merit in re-configuring the current estate to provide a range of 20-30 place custodial units. The Group took five key issues into account when reaching this decision:

The Impact on Delivering Services

It would be difficult to deliver the full range of services and provision efficiently if there were only 20-30 prisoners. Kitchens, education and training facilities, drug treatment, and running offending behaviour programmes all require a certain economy of scale. The small scale of the proposed unit would not provide for this, and as such may not cater for the full range of each woman's needs. A particular risk would be to the delivery of small scale services to meet particularly complex needs, as we may not be able to gather enough offenders in any one location to deliver efficiently without increasing movement around the estate.

Potential Effects on Vulnerable Women

Some of the women prisoners consulted expressed concerns about the increased likelihood of bullying in the potentially claustrophobic environment of such small units. Evidence from Canada highlights negatives as well as positives to this model, suggesting that improving staff training and regime provision is more important than prison design in supporting the needs of women. In considering value for money it is important we take into account where best to allocate funds to provide for the greatest improvements. We are not willing to risk women's safety until we are satisfied there is a model which reduces bullying risks.

Ensuring Appropriate Provision for the Target Group

With their emphasis on community links and closeness to home, small custodial units would be of most benefit to lower-risk, short-sentenced women offenders. However, this is the same group of women whom the Corston Report proposed should be dealt with in the community wherever possible and appropriate. The Government accepts this principle, and we are taking forward a programme of work in order to achieve it.

If we are successful in achieving this goal, the number of women held in custody would be much smaller than at present, and those women would on the whole be serving sentences of two years or more. These more serious, longer-term offenders often have a different set of needs and requirements which may not in fact be best served by small custodial units. In particular, the closeness to home issue is not so pressing.

As such, if we were to proceed with small custodial units we could in effect be designing a solution for a group of offenders who we would rather see in the community. We need instead to consider the separate and distinct needs of the longer-term, more serious offenders for whom prison will be predominantly used, and who may require a different solution.

The Impact on Women Prisoner Movement

Anecdotal evidence suggests that distance from home may have a disproportionate impact on women because of the importance of family ties. The average distance from home for women¹ is **about 58 miles**. The average distance varies for women prisoners from different NOMS areas: for non-Foreign National women from the North East, the average distance is around 34 miles, whereas for those from the South West, the average distance is 97 miles.

As many women offenders require a wide-range of support services and interventions which could not be efficiently and effectively delivered to a large number of small units, women would have to move around the estate to a greater extent than they do already in order to access specific services. There is therefore a real risk that small units would increase, not decrease, prisoner movement, disrupting offender management and family links.

¹ Distance from home refers to distance between prison and either home address or, where data on this is not reliable, reception address, court address or probation address. Source is CUBE: EPDU Closeness to Home Database, September 2007.

The Group also noted that small units were not necessarily the best way of achieving closeness to home, and that women's needs could be met equally well by a smaller number of larger units. This is because many female offenders are concentrated in certain areas, such as large towns or cities. For example, in March 2008 there were 264 female offenders from the Greater Manchester area in prison; this would translate to a need for nine 30 place units very close together, or significantly fewer larger institutions

The Impact on Managing Risk

Although women are not as strictly categorised as men, having only three bands (restricted status, closed and open), it would pose a significant operational challenge to handle the range of high to low risk women across an estate of around 150 units of 20-30 places while ensuring that those most vulnerable were not affected. Relatively small numbers of staff also runs increased risks to control and order, and reduces our flexibility in being able to separate women from each other as is sometimes necessary.

The Impact on Resources which could be Deployed Elsewhere

A major issue which the Group considered was alternative uses for any resource which may be required, and whether any additional benefit from small units was larger than that which could be accrued from alternative investment strategies, such as improving provision in the community which could act as an alternative to prison.

Moving Forward

Baroness Corston's underlying concern was that provision for women held in custody must be designed properly so as to meet their needs is being treated as a priority. The Gender Specific Standards for Women Prisoners, which were published on 28 April 2008 in a new Prison Service Order (4800), cover all areas of regime provision and will enhance the significant improvements that have already been achieved in the care and management of women prisoners and planning for their resettlement.

Based on the principles which Baroness Corston identified, we are piloting the following approaches to inform any future restructuring or renovation:

- The design of a new 77 place wing at HMP Bronzefield (due for completion in 2009) will provide an opportunity to implement, test and embed a new approach to the physical environment and delivery of regimes that could test out these principles. The unit will be divided into three blocks providing flexibility to manage the specific needs of distinct groups. Each block will have a combination of single and double cells as well as in-cell showers and baths for privacy. The proposed design also includes a range of flexible spaces for interviews, association and education in the central area linking each of the blocks, including private meeting spaces for offender manager meetings, and smaller spaces for the provision of interventions and education.

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- At HMP Downview and HMP Askham Grange we are piloting a new approach to support links with family members by providing accommodation adjacent to the prison for women to spend time with their children. This will enable women to build and strengthen relationships prior to release. Whilst closeness to home is an important means of supporting women's contact with their children, it is also important to ensure quality and supported contact.

In the longer term, we will utilise any headroom gained from increased community provision to re-configure the prison estate if necessary, and if resources allow, so that women's establishments are of optimum size and specification for meeting women's needs.

4. Progress to Date and Next Steps on Delivering the Government Response to the Corston Report

The actions we are taking to improve the services we deliver to women in custody only provide one part of the picture. In order to summarise the Government's approach and main areas for action, we have grouped the Corston Report recommendations into the following five themes and set out below how the Government will take forward the recommendations in each of these areas:

- Governance
- Sentencing
- Community provision
- Prison
- Health

Governance

We committed, by June 2008, to:

- Establish an Inter-Ministerial Group governance for work on women offenders and women at risk of offending. **Reducing Re-offending IMG now has a standing agenda item on women.**
- Set up a new cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit. **We have established a cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit. Resources have been committed by Department of Health, Attorney General's Office and Government Equalities Office.**
- Appoint a ministerial Champion for Women and Criminal Justice.
- Establish a sub-group to the IMG to focus on driving the work forward. **The sub-group now meets bi-monthly. Members include the Solicitor General and Ministers from the Government Equalities Office, Department of Health, Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Home Office.**
- Publish and begin implementation of the NOMS Equality and Diversity Action Plan (to implement the Gender Equality Duty). **A draft plan has been produced and we will publish and begin implementation by the autumn.**
- Publish the Ministry of Justice Gender Equality Scheme. **The Gender Equality Scheme was published on 1 April.**
- Produce a more detailed Delivery Plan for taking forward the commitments in the Government's Response. **This report sets out the progress that has been made at the six-month point, explaining how future actions will be delivered. A more detailed Delivery Plan will be produced at the twelve-month point.**

Next Steps – **We have established a cross-departmental Criminal Justice Women's Unit which will manage and co-ordinate the work on Corston. A senior civil servant has been appointed as Head of Unit.** This will be a key step forward in integrating services to women offenders and building an appropriate focus on preventative work.

Sentencing

We committed, by June 2008, to

- Pursue opportunities for publicity and liaison with sentencers to promote greater use of community sentences for women. **The recently published document 'Community Sentencing – Reducing Re-offending, Changing Lives' includes material on meeting the needs of women offenders.**

By December 2008 we will:

- Work to ensure Sentencing Guidelines Council guidelines on 'Seriousness' and 'Drug Couriers' address issues for sentencing of women. **The Sentencing Advisory Panel is due to publish its consultation paper on sentencing of drug offences (including drug couriers) within the next few months.**

Next Steps – Further publicity through appropriate material for sentencers is being planned.

Community provision

We committed, by June 2008, to:

- Set up a project to review current women's centre provision and identify how to build on existing services. **The first project meeting took place on 3 April.**
- Provide NOMS funding to contribute to the setting up of new demonstrator projects for women offenders in Wales and for the development of commissioning models, one on accommodation services for women in the South West Region and one on end-to-end offender management in the South East. **Funding has been allocated for NOMS Wales and the South West to set up demonstrator projects for women offenders.**
- Publish a National Service Framework for Women (for commissioning appropriate provision and services), by April 2008, and begin implementation in June 2008. **The National Service Framework was published on 30 May.**
- Produce a NOMS guide for Delivering Effective Services for Women Offenders in the Community (April 2008). **The Offender Management Guidance for Working with Women was published on 30 May.**

By December 2008 we will:

- Following consultation, we will produce the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Plan which will address particular issues for women offenders, and seek to improve the strategic response to the needs of this group. **The response document to our consultation on reducing re-offending will highlight the needs of women offenders as a particularly vulnerable group. The response will be published later in the year. The National Service Framework for women sets out the Government's strategic aims and objectives for improving the services delivered to this group**

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- Produce revised guidance for pre-sentence report writers on targeting offenders, including women, for community orders. **Following consultation, the revised targeting guidance is nearing completion and will be issued shortly.**

Next Steps – We will develop a project to test the exact scope and scale of the numbers of women offenders we can aim to divert from custody into community provision. This project will inform the service specification and costing work taking place to enable the National Service Framework to be implemented. This project will develop a delivery plan, taking into account:

- affordability;
- the need to create adequate services in the community to meet these women's needs, including detoxification and mental health services;
- any necessary re-allocation of funds from custody to community; and
- any necessary transition arrangements.

Any such process would need to be carefully managed in the short-term as the community service is built up and the custodial service is reduced in size.

Prison

We committed, by June 2008, to:

- Set up a project to review the future of the women's prison estate and the merits of small custodial units for women (to report by April 2008, although implementation of any changes to the women's estate will be a long term initiative). **The working group has reported and its findings are published on pages 9-13 of this document.**
- Introduce Gender Specific Standards for women in prison. **We published PSO 4800 on 28 April.**

Next Steps – We will ensure that the wider, long-term prison estate strategy includes a focus on re-configuring the existing women's estate to meet the needs of those remaining in prison, driven by the principles identified by Baroness Corston and defined by the working group on small custodial units. These principles are:

- Multi-Functional Provision;
- A Suitable Environment;
- Maintaining Family Links; and
- Supported Resettlement.

Health

By June 2008 we have committed to:

- Consult on the new Offender Health Strategy, including the Women Offenders Health Pathway, and publish the strategy by mid-2008. **The emerging Offender Health and Social Care Strategy for women, led by the Department of Health, will include specific commitments to meet the Corston recommendations.**

Next Steps – The Offender Health Women’s Programme Team will:

- Deliver a three-year women’s programme, as agreed with Department of Health and NOMS. This Programme will deliver its objectives in partnership with other governmental agencies and ensuring, as far as possible integration into mainstream policy;
- Produce health related commissioning guidance specifically focussed on services for women and their families by December 2008.
- Review, and set out recommendations for improvements for, the health care provided to women in police custody, in court cells and during transportation to prison.
- Engage and collaborate with the regions, in order to implement the deliverables, this may take the form of ad hoc commissions or elements of work specified within the service agreements.
- Work to implement the commitments made in the Offender Health and Social Care Strategy when published