

## *An evaluation of the Women's Turnaround Project*

### **Interim Report**

**6 July 2010**

Martina Feilzer, Alex Plows, Kate Williams, and Jo Yates

A collaborative project of WISERD and the Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice, Bangor and Aberystwyth Universities

This report will briefly outline the activities undertaken thus far regarding the evaluation of the WTP in North Wales. There is nothing to report on research findings at this stage.

#### *Research remit:*

The research will explore the women's and stakeholder's perspectives on what women need and whether the Turnaround project in North Wales has helped women to move forward in achieving their targets. Using a mixed methods approach, the research will evaluate whether the project has altered the behaviour/life-styles of the women participating in the research and how far any changes were internalised (from the perspective of the women) rather than just an external perception (on the part of workers).

#### Methods Overview

- Focus groups with clients, WTP case workers and referral agencies
- Interviews with clients, WTP case workers and referral agencies
- Case studies of specific clients
- Analysis of quantitative data on project clients using the project database (Meganexus)

#### *Progress so far:*

Officially, the evaluation began at the end of March 2010, however, contracts for the project were only signed at the end of June. The fieldwork is the main responsibility of a postgraduate student who has been awarded a scholarship for a taught MA in Social Research and Social Policy. However, the co-investigators will remain responsible for the oversight of the project and will support and supervise the design

of the research tools and fieldwork. We are pleased to announce that Jo Yates has received the studentship and accepted it. Jo, has just been awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> class degree in Health and Social Care from Bangor University and has received a particular commendation for her dissertation which contained primary research.

Thus far, the research team has attended a number of meetings with Turnaround staff, NOMS, and referral agencies to familiarise themselves with the project set-up and background and has arranged the first two focus groups; one with Turnaround staff, 7 July; and one with staff from referral agencies; 12 July.

We are awaiting a spreadsheet with all the data collated on the Women's Centre Meganexus database. We have been assured by Meganexus that a complete 'data dump' is possible; however they are awaiting the project co-ordinators consent in writing (Gemma Fox has recently returned from holiday and has agreed to supply the consent as soon as possible).

Once these data have been received we will proceed to identifying Turnaround clients for interviews and case studies (women will be selected in consultation with Turnaround staff). We are currently in the process of producing handouts for research participants; interview schedules; consent forms, etc. so that we can proceed promptly once the data are received.

At this stage, the evaluation can be regarded as progressing smoothly; co-operation by WTP staff has been readily forthcoming and welcomed. We are eagerly anticipating the dataset and once this has been received will be in a position to start preliminary data analyses and progress on the collection of qualitative data as outlined in the research proposal.