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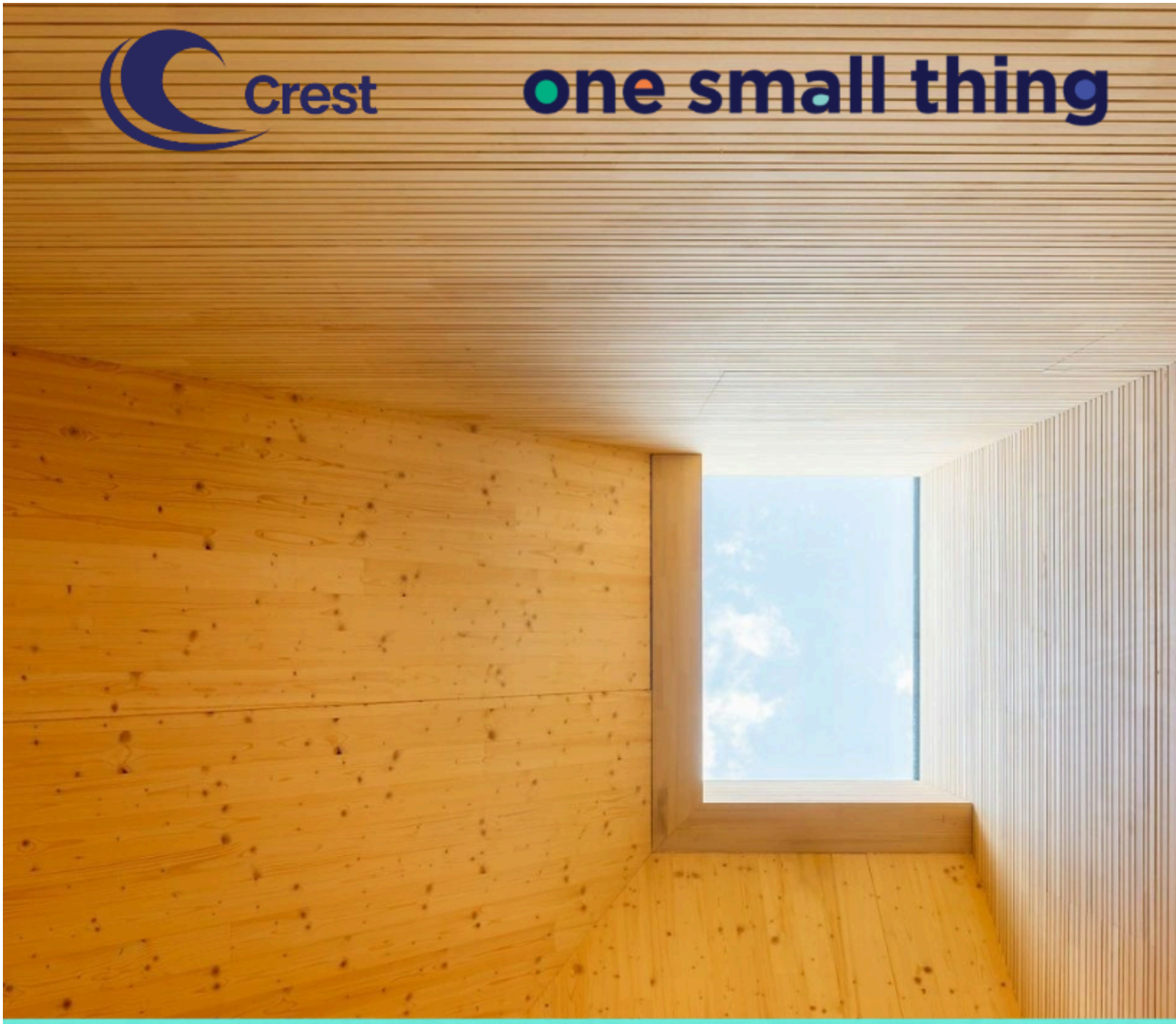

A cost-benefit analysis of the Hope Street model

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About One Small Thing

One Small Thing's vision is a justice system that can recognise, understand, and respond to trauma. Our mission is to redesign the justice system for women and their children.

We want a compassionate system that recognises the vicious cycle of trauma and disadvantage at the root of justice involvement and allows people to recover from trauma and thrive. Our core focus is on women and their children because of the additional discrimination and disadvantage they face.

About Crest Advisory

We are crime and justice specialists - equal parts research, strategy and communication. From police forces to public inquiries, from tech companies to devolved authorities, we believe all these organisations (and more) have their own part to play in building a safer, more secure society. As the UK's only consultancy with this focus, we are as much of a blend as the crime and justice sector itself.

Crest has worked with Fortia Insight to produce the research for this report. We are especially grateful to Emilio Torrini, John Siraut and Bijun Qin.

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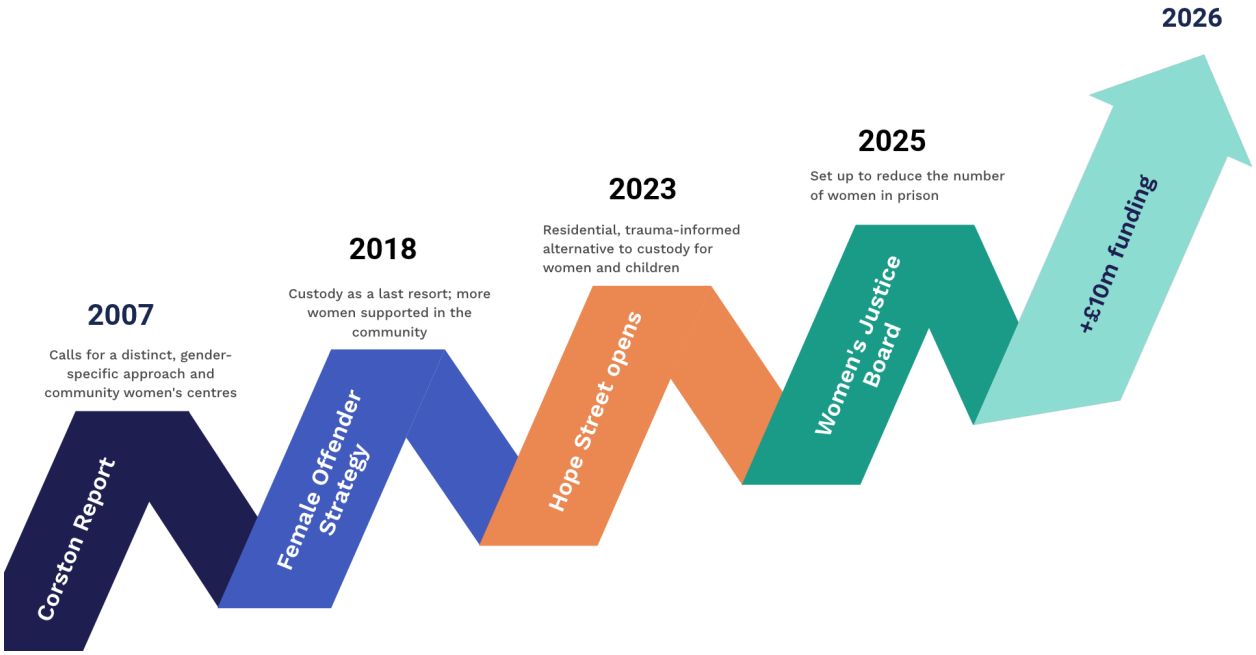
Executive summary

While women account for just four percent of the prison population and nine percent of probation supervision, they often have complex and overlapping needs. Policy has moved in recent decades towards the development of women-only responses to reduce reoffending and support more effective rehabilitation, supported by the Corston Review and the Female Offender Strategy. In March 2026, the then Minister of State for Justice, Lord Timpson, announced an additional £10 million in government funding for women's community and voluntary sector organisations over the 2026-2029 Spending Review period, bringing total government funding for the sector to £31.6 million over the period.



Hope Street opened in June 2023 and offers a different approach to supporting justice-involved women in the community, challenging the way the current system operates. Hope Street has been designed to meet the unique needs of women in contact with the justice system: housing instability, unemployment, substance use, mental health, victimisation (including experience of violence against women and girls and domestic abuse), maternal identity. It provides stable accommodation while at Hope Street, as well as dedicated keyworkers and individualised and group interventions aligned to these needs. Hope Street also provides support for women living in the community.



For every £1 spent on delivering the Hope Street model in its first four years, a trauma-informed, residential community, over £2 of benefits have been realised. Following analysis of 3.5 years of operating data, a benefit-cost ratio of 2.27 was found, which means that for every £1 spent, £2.27 is returned. When analysing only the most recent full financial year (April 2025 - March 2026), the benefit-cost ratio increases to 3.40, which means that for every £1 spent, £3.40 is returned. This analysis should be reassessed annually, as further benefits of Hope Street are realised and evidenced.

The benefits of Hope Street lie across the public sector, not just the criminal justice system. The cost-benefit analysis has used monetisable benefits around reducing children's social care and health costs. Wider benefits identified in the Hope Street model would have a further impact in these policy areas, as well as on employment and housing.

Residential centres and communities offer the opportunity to take a holistic approach to addressing the needs of women at reachable moments; the government needs to encourage the commissioning of such centres to reduce the female prison population and reduce reoffending for women. Hope Street sits within a growing landscape of women-only approaches where holistic support, where possible, coupled with a residential component, is being delivered to better address the needs of women in the justice system. A residential centre is being proposed in Trehafod, Swansea and substance use-focused residential centres already exist, such as those provided by the Nelson Trust, Trevi and Willowdene, as well as previous residential services such as the 218 service in Glasgow, Scotland. As justice commissioning evolves with current and proposed devolution, services modelled on Hope Street should be encouraged and adopted across the country.

HOPE STREET

Cost-benefit analysis

one small thing

A pioneering residential community for women and their children

1 THE MODEL

Residential accommodation with individualised, trauma-informed support, family support and routes towards independence.

2 WHO HAS BEEN SUPPORTED

98 women lived/ living at Hope Street

112 placements since 2023

40 children supported by Hope Street

250 women from the community supported

Cumulative monitoring figures

3 WHAT IT COSTS

£7.56m

Present value of costs

11 delivery and overhead-support categories included. Capital expenditure and set-up, legal and professional fees excluded.

4 RECORDED OUTCOMES

31 of 38 positive exits moved to stable accommodation

21 of 27 monitored women improved in wellbeing

31 Children of residents supported with contact

5 WHAT THIS MEANS

£2.27

benefit being generated per £1 of cost incurred

£17.16m
monetised benefits

£9.60m
net present value

BCR
2.27

Four monetised benefits: 1) reduced reoffending; 2) avoided custody; 3) reduced children's social-care costs; and 4) reduced self-harm.

6 THEORY OF CHANGE

Accommodation and support

↓

Stabilisation and engagement

↓

Improved outcomes

↓

Potential longer-term benefits

Financial results: Expressed in 2026/27 prices.
Assessment: 2019/20–2026/27; final year is partial.

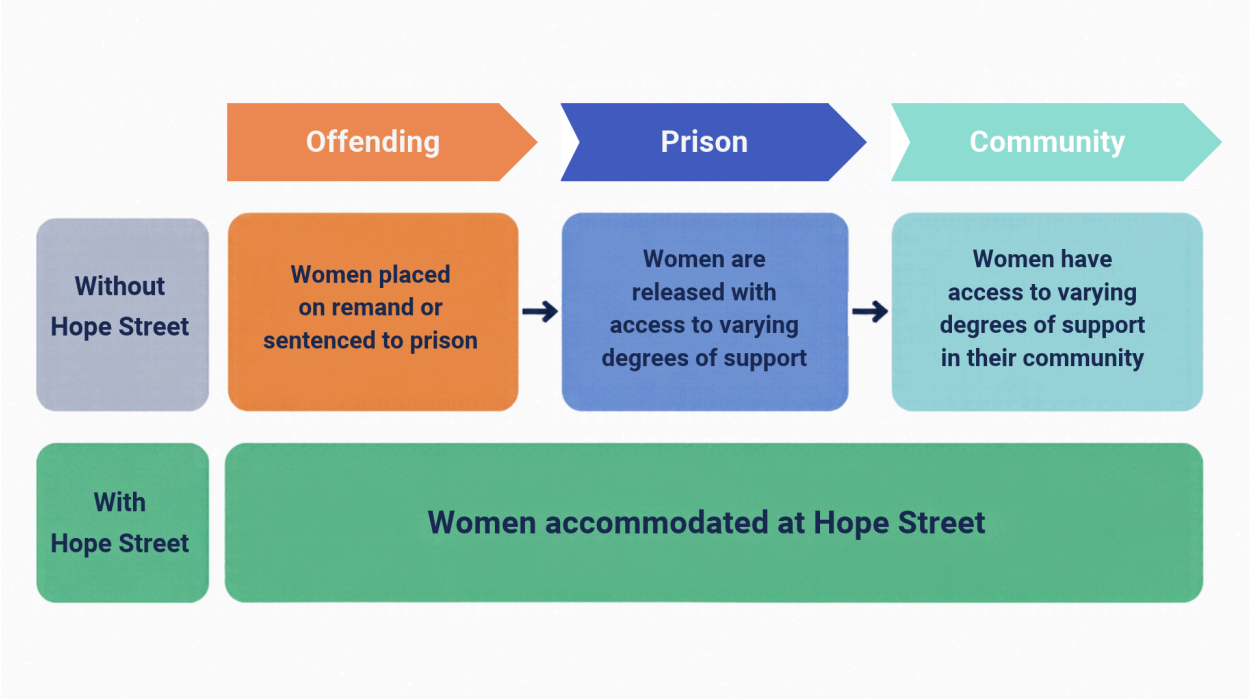


Introduction

This research report sets out the cost-benefit of the Hope Street model, commissioned by One Small Thing (a registered charity). Hope Street, opened in June 2023, is a trauma-informed residential community for women involved in the justice system. It offers accommodation to women (and their children if they are mothers) and provides tailored wrap-around support based on the specific needs of women. The support offered includes:

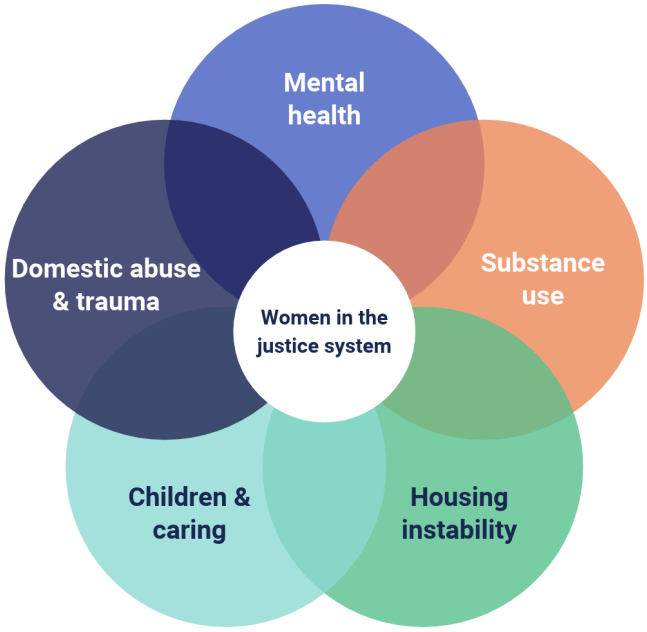
- Assessment of needs and a personalised programme of support
- The creation of a safety and support plan
- Expectation setting; residents are required to attend daily check-ins 'gatherings', engage daily with their key worker, known as a Community Partner and commit to a curfew.

Hope Street operates an abstinence-based model, requiring women to remain free from drug and alcohol use during their stay. Hope Street also provides support for women based in the local community; however, the community hub and provision are not a focus of the cost-benefit analysis. Hope Street operates within a partnership setting, with support from statutory agencies. Women are referred to Hope Street through three routes: (1) as an alternative to custody/ remand, (2) following release from prison and (3) from the community.



This Hope Street model responds to a policy and research landscape that has developed in the last two decades, which has recognised and evidenced the specific vulnerabilities experienced by women in the criminal justice system, including the Corston Review (2007), Female Offender Strategy (2018) and Farmer Review (2019). The underlying assumption of the Hope Street model is that if women are accommodated and have access to the right support aligned to their specific needs, their risk of reoffending is lowered, and they go on to benefit from positive life outcomes,

including stable housing, access to employment, training and education, improved relationships with their families and better physical and mental wellbeing. In addition to being able to demonstrate specific outcomes for women, the evidence base is further strengthened through a cost-benefit analysis which seeks to help Hope Street to articulate its value to society. As this report will evidence, the monetised benefits outweigh the costs of the service, further supporting the evidence base regarding the effectiveness of a trauma-informed and women-only approach to justice.



Nationally, between April and June 2026, 2,754 women started community sentence orders, and 911 women were released from prison, the majority of whom were released following short custodial sentences of less than 12 months (Ministry of Justice, 2026). Hope Street has accommodated 98 women since it opened its doors three and a half years ago, predominantly supporting women living in Hampshire and Thames Valley - although women from around the country can be supported when referred from Mother and Baby Units. Given the difference between the number of women in the criminal justice system and the women accommodated at Hope Street, there is a clear gap in similar provision for women being sentenced or leaving one of the 12 women's prisons in the United Kingdom. This research supports national and local decision makers and commissioners who are considering the adoption of similar provision and thereby demonstrating a commitment to a trauma-informed and women-only approach to justice that has been recognised by the sector for some time.

Women in the justice system

Evidence and policy recognise that while women commit fewer, and less serious, offences than men, the specific needs of women who offend are particularly complex, including those related to substance use, mental health, being victims of crime (e.g. domestic abuse) and having caring responsibilities. The number of women who have offended is dwarfed by men, with women representing just nine percent of probation caseloads and 4 percent of the prison population. Offending profiles are also fundamentally different in nature, often resulting in only short custodial sentences, if at all. Women are also less likely to reoffend than men, with the latest data showing 24.8 percent of women go on to reoffend compared to 34.1 percent of men (Ministry of Justice, 2026).[1] The Corston Review (2007) shone a light on the high prevalence of histories of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation among women involved in the justice system. It also recognised that many women in prison are mothers, and explored some of the impacts of this on them and their children - the exact number of children affected by maternal imprisonment remains unknown; an estimate based on available data suggests that 17,000 children in 2010 were impacted (Howard League for Penal Reform, 2011), but this figure has not been updated since.

Government efforts to reduce the number of women in prison and manage more women in the community are ongoing. In 2024, a Women's Justice Board was set up by the Ministry of Justice to provide advice, and it published a report with recommendations in March 2026. These include recommendations to support the development of residential alternatives to custody for pregnant women, direct judges not to imprison those who are the primary carer for a child up to the age of two (other than in exceptional circumstances) and to promote community sentencing for those with children under the age of 18 (Women's Justice Board, 2026). The sections below set out impacts of the justice system on women, including impacts on mothers and their children. We also include how these impacts are aligned to the support the Hope Street model provides.

The impact of prison on women

Housing

Stable housing and employment, training and education are significant challenges for women in contact with the criminal justice system. Over 60 percent of women leave prison without a home to go to. More than 15,000 women were released from prison in England and Wales without settled accommodation between April 2025 and March 2026. Of these, 14,360 were recorded as rough sleeping (Ministry of Justice, 2026). Without stable accommodation, maintaining positive mental health and preventing a return to harmful behaviour such as substance use is more difficult, and the risk of reoffending is increased (Prison Reform Trust, 2020).

[1] This references proven reoffending data adjusted to the 2011 baseline, allowing comparison over time. Without any adjustments, these rates were 26.5 percent for women and 30.8 percent for men.

Housing options for women, particularly mothers, on release from prison are limited. Some women may be placed in Integrated Offender Management hostels, Approved Premises or homeless hostels, almost all of which are mixed sex (Fair Play for Women, 2017) and where substance use is common, exposing women to situations that may undermine their desistance (Prison Reform Trust, 2018b; Crest, 2021). Such accommodation also presents a particular barrier for mothers seeking to reconnect with children, as these are not safe premises for children to visit (Crest, 2021). Even where women leaving prison are successful in securing social housing, this is allocated according to their current need as a single person, creating challenges in regaining custody of their children where their accommodation is deemed to be unsuitably sized (Farmer, 2019; Crest, 2022).

Hope Street provides safe, women-only accommodation and can accommodate women alongside their children or facilitate contact and visits. This is particularly important for women who are seeking to regain their maternal identity or custody of their children, especially as access to suitable accommodation can be a significant barrier for mothers. In addition, Hope Street can support women to plan for their onward housing needs. This includes working with local authorities or other relevant partners to find suitable accommodation, as well as providing access to Hope Street's own onward move houses.

Employment and finances

On top of the struggle to find accommodation, many women face financial difficulties on release from prison. One in three women (31 percent) reported having money worries on arrival at prison (HMIP, 2023), and many will accrue debt due to fines, rent arrears and mobile phone charges during their sentence (Birmingham University, 2020). Women find it particularly difficult to secure employment on release, with research from Working Chance (2020) finding that fewer than one in 20 women (4 percent) were in employment six weeks after release from prison, compared with over one in 10 men (11 percent). For mothers specifically, Baldwin (2025) notes that loss of homes and loss of employment, and ongoing difficulties in regaining either, significantly affect their efforts to successfully re-enter society and reestablish relationships with children.

While women at Hope Street are not in full-time employment during their stays, their support can focus on readiness to go into work, training or education, including exploring career pathways. Women are also able to work in the Hope Street cafe during their stay, which further supports readiness to work.

Substance use

Substance use is a prevalent factor among women who offend. Over a quarter (28 percent) of women report needing help with a drug or alcohol problem on arrival in prison (HMIP, 2023). A further indication of the challenges associated with substance use in custody is that 19 percent of women report having developed a problem with drugs or alcohol during their sentence (HMIP, 2025). These figures highlight both the prevalence of pre-existing substance use needs and the

potential for problems to emerge or worsen during custody. For women who were receiving treatment or medication before custody, a prison sentence can disrupt continuity of support, particularly for those serving short sentences who are least likely to have access to drug and alcohol treatment, support or desistance programmes in prison (House of Commons, 2022, Crest, 2021).

Hope Street is not a detoxification service; it is an abstinence-based service. Women accommodated there have to agree not to use substances while accommodated. Women are supported through the programme to remain abstinent.

Mental and physical health

Almost nine in ten (87 percent) women in prison report having a mental health problem, compared with around three in five (59 percent) men (HMIP, 2023). A recent Inspectorate report found that the rate of self-harm in women's prisons has increased significantly over the last 10 years and is currently 8.5 times higher than in the men's estate (HMIP, 2023). Research by Crest (2021) and Baldwin (2022) shows that for mothers who have previously had issues with substance use, being separated from children as a result of imprisonment can be the trigger for relapsing or turning to self-harm as a way to manage emotions (Crest, 2021; Baldwin 2022). In terms of physical health, whilst women in prison have access to outpatient healthcare appointments, research has shown that 45 percent of women did not attend their appointments, compared to 22 percent in the general population (NHS England, 2023). Inside prison, health and social care needs specific to women are not always assessed and responded to, leading to unmet needs around women-specific issues such as menstruation and menopause (NHS England, 2023).

Hope Street facilitates registration with and access to GPs, sexual health specialists, and dentists and support attendance at appointments, as well as supporting access to mental health support.

Domestic abuse

Over half (57 percent) of women in prison have experienced domestic abuse as adults, with the true number likely to be far greater (Prison Reform Trust, 2017). The charity Women in Prison reports that 79 percent of the women who use their services have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Some women report that entering custody offers temporary breathing space from their abuser (Baldwin, 2025). However, this separation is a consequence of being removed from their community and does not necessarily address the underlying risks or provide lasting protection from abuse. Probation data show that over a third of women who had been victims-survivors of domestic violence were considered to have a problem with their current partner (Prison Reform Trust, 2017). This suggests that a significant proportion of women may be returning to an abusive partner they were with before entering prison. For mothers, moving back in with an abusive partner or one linked to their original offence may be the only option for them to be reunited with their children (Crest, 2021, Baldwin, 2025). This can expose women to further abuse and its

associated long-term consequences for their physical and mental health. It can also expose children to further domestic abuse, which can have lasting consequences for their emotional wellbeing, development, educational attainment, and ability to form healthy relationships. These effects can extend into adulthood (Home Office, 2022).

Hope Street provides a safe and secure place for women on release from prison, which facilitates access to their children where appropriate.

Maternal identity

Research by Crest (2021) has shown that many mothers in prison have already had their children taken into care, and that the trauma of this acted as a trigger for their offending behaviour. For mothers who are separated from children at the point of arrest or sentencing, research by Baldwin (2021, 2022) has highlighted the long-lasting emotional trauma that this causes. Despite a strong commitment to sustaining their maternal identity whilst in prison, policies and practices make this difficult, including the expense of phone calls, costs of travelling long distances for visits, and 'chronically underused' Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) (Crest, 2021). Mothers in prison develop coping mechanisms in the form of substance use or self-harm to manage the emotional impact and feelings of shame from being separated from their children. On release, many face difficulty reconnecting with their children, and those who have lost custody of their children as a result of their imprisonment are not always able to get them back (Baldwin 2022, 2025, Crest 2021).

Hope Street offers accommodation that can directly support children to stay with their mothers and, where this is not possible, supports contact with and visits to/ from their children. Support also focuses on parenting skills and navigating familial relationships.

Reoffending

Nearly half of women (44 percent) leaving prison are reconvicted within a year of release, rising to nearly three-quarters (72 percent) for those serving sentences of less than six months (Prison Reform Trust, 2025). A study of 24 women who had been recalled to prison found that almost a third (7 out of 24) reported needing help with the combination of mental health needs, drug use and domestic violence (Prison Reform Trust, 2018). Nearly all (22) disclosed being in risky situations, including homelessness and domestic abuse, and six reported being assaulted. Just under half (11) said they had been recalled for failing to keep in touch with their probation officer. Women identified housing as the most important thing prisons must do to prepare people for release (Prison Reform Trust, 2018). For mothers, Baldwin's work (2025) emphasises that the loss of the motherhood role during imprisonment, and failure to regain it afterwards, can set women on a path to reoffending as a result of feeling they have 'nothing to go straight for', particularly where the circumstances contributing to their involvement in the criminal justice system remain unresolved.

Hope Street supports women who are sentenced/ released from prison to engage with their probation officer, reducing the likelihood of breach or recall while accommodated. The wider support addresses the needs of women who offend, aiming to reduce the risk of reoffending.

Impacts of maternal imprisonment on children

Parental imprisonment is acknowledged as one of the ten adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), associated with a fivefold increase in exposure to other ACEs (Turney, 2018). Research on the longer-term outcomes of parental imprisonment shows that children who experience a parent going to prison are more likely than their peers to have future problems, including involvement in the justice system, poor mental health, substance use challenges and dying before the age of 65; they are also likely to earn less than their counterparts as adults and stop education at a younger age (Minson, 2018). A child with an imprisoned mother is likely to suffer more negative effects than a child with an imprisoned father (Minson, 2018). The short-term impacts of maternal imprisonment include the immediate trauma of maternal separation, entering the children's residential social care system, and having to move homes and schools, with the associated impacts on education.

Trauma of arrest and imprisonment

Crest's research (2021) highlighted that the arrest of a parent, particularly a mother, is incredibly traumatic for children, sometimes occurring in the middle of the night and without any warning. For other children, separation from their mother came at the point of sentencing in court. In some cases, mothers who felt, or had been led to believe, that they would not receive a custodial sentence had not told their children about their court hearing, expecting to return home afterwards. Having a mother abruptly removed from their life can cause children to develop negative experiences of attachment and mistrust that have a profound long-term impact (Epstein, 2012). Studies have shown that after a mother's imprisonment, children often become angry and agitated and struggle in school (Children Heard and Seen, 2024). Many children also struggle with their sense of identity, and some begin to self-harm and have suicidal thoughts or attempts. Even after a mother is released, many children suffer emotionally, often from an ongoing anxiety that she may leave again and other related trust issues (Minson, 2019; Crest, 2021). Because there is still no systematic identification of children with a parent in prison, many are unable to access any emotional or therapeutic support.

Hope Street provides an alternative to custody, including remand, that supports children to maintain contact with their mothers where it is appropriate.

Entering the care system

Just over one in ten (12 percent) of children go into care when their mother goes into prison, with 9 percent cared for by fathers, 25 percent are cared for by grandmothers and 29 percent by other

family members or friends (Corston, 2007). These figures are based on older research, and more recent nationally representative data on children's care arrangements following maternal imprisonment is not available. However, more recent research highlights the ongoing challenges mothers face in maintaining contact with their children while in prison. For example, a 2024 evaluation and Crest research found that some social workers are not supporting or enabling contact or visits to prison (CASCADE, 2024; Crest, 2021).

Longer-term outcomes for children in care compared to those in the general population are well-evidenced and include lower life expectancy, poorer educational outcomes and a greater chance of involvement in the criminal justice system (UKRI, 2025). Research by Crest (2021) based on social care records related to three children whose mothers went to prison supports this. In one instance, a child was placed in multiple foster placements, which each broke down, before her mother was released and she returned to live with her. Without any support to overcome the trauma of the separation and enable a successful reunification, the relationship broke down and the child was placed in residential care in a setting hundreds of miles away from home, where she was not attending school and frequently going missing.

In the instances when children are accommodated at Hope Street, they may avoid entering the care system. Furthermore, there is the ability for mothers to maintain contact with children who may be in care or living with other family members. Support can include exploring family dynamics, rebuilding trust, facilitating therapeutic support and family-based counselling, and working with other family members. Hope Street also works with specialist services, including Not Beyond Redemption, a family law clinic, to support women to navigate the legal system.

Moving homes and disrupted education

Only 5 percent of children with a mother in prison remain in their family home after imprisonment (Minson, 2022). If they do not go into care, children may go to live with their father or extended family. Many children experience multiple house moves as a result of their mothers' imprisonment, which disrupts their relationships and their education (Minson, 2019). At school, children report being too embarrassed or ashamed to tell anyone what has happened and may be encouraged to lie about it by friends, family and even school staff, which is isolating for them and difficult to navigate (Beresford, 2018; Crest, 2021). Where their mother's imprisonment is known, they may experience bullying by peers (Beresford, 2018; Crest, 2021). All of this contributes to poor mental health which can lead to self-harm, difficulty regulating emotions, aggressive behaviour, and ultimately poor attendance or exclusion from mainstream education (Children Heard and Seen, Crest, 2021). The charity Kinship found that almost half (48 percent) of kinship carers felt the child in their care's adverse experiences, including separation from parents, had negatively impacted their ability to cope in education (Kinship, 2026).

The Hope Street model

Referrals to Hope Street

Women are referred to Hope Street through three main pathways: court referrals; referrals upon release from prison, including from Mother and Baby Units; and referrals for women in the community (e.g., from police custody and via probation). Across these pathways, a total of 391 referrals have been made between June 2023 and September 2026, resulting in 98 individual women being supported by the service.

The first referral pathway is through the courts, where a judge may decide that a woman would be better supported at Hope Street than in custody. A total of 86 referrals have been made during a court process before the judge came to a decision. The number of court referrals has remained relatively consistent between June 2023 and September 2026. The second pathway is referrals upon release from prison. A total of 147 referrals have been made through this route. The highest number of referrals occurred in 2025/26, with 62 referrals made. The third pathway is through community referrals, often through probation, which account for 158 referrals to Hope Street. Referrals through this pathway have increased year on year from 28 in 2023 to 63 in 2025/26.

Interviewees highlighted that the geographical origin of referrals has implications for Hope Street's operating costs. Where women have a local connection, the domestic violence exception can apply. This enables women who have experienced domestic abuse to access accommodation in a new local authority area, without needing to demonstrate a local connection to that area. However, where women are referred from farther away, this funding does not necessarily follow them.

Hope Street staff anticipated that court and community referrals would increase over time, while referrals from prison would decrease. However, this anticipated shift has not materialised yet. Staff highlighted the continued growth in the remand population as a contributing factor. Remand hubs are being established to respond to this demand, and Hope Street has identified an opportunity to work with these hubs to divert women on remand from custody.

Although 391 referrals have been made through the three pathways, 98 individual women have been supported by Hope Street. This highlights the difference between referral volumes and the women accessing the service. Interviews highlighted that substance use is a significant factor affecting whether women are accepted to Hope Street. A condition of staying is abstinence, which many women cannot meet. However, staff highlighted a wider system barrier: there are no detoxification services in Hampshire for women. As such, women who require support to stop using substances may have no suitable place to do so and therefore cannot get the support they need to access Hope Street.

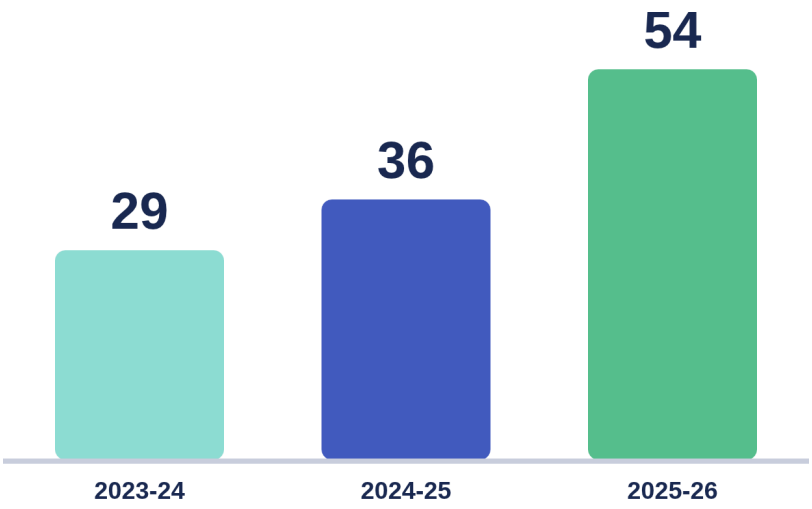
Capacity at Hope Street

Hope Street has not always been at capacity, but would not expect to be. Hope Street has capacity to accommodate a maximum of 20 women at any one time. The service operates across eight flats providing 24 beds; however, a maximum of 20 beds can be occupied to allow for flexibility for urgent moves (e.g. maintenance of flats, or where women need a separate space temporarily). Additionally, when women stay with their children at Hope Street, other women cannot be accommodated in the same flat.

Scale and reach of Hope Street

Since opening in 2023, Hope Street has supported 112 placements, accommodating 98 individual women.[2] The number of women supported by the service has increased year on year, from 29 in 2023-24 to 36 in 2024-25 and 54 in 2025-26, as have referrals, particularly following release from prison and the community.

Women supported by Hope Street each year



Hope Street also provides support to children of the women at the service, both directly and indirectly. Nine children have been accommodated at Hope Street with their mothers and received direct support from the service. A further 31 children and other dependents have been indirectly supported, for example through support to maintain contact with their mothers, or reconnect with them. In addition to providing accommodation, Hope Street works with women in the wider local community, focusing on group sessions, which have been attended by over 250 women. This extends the service's reach beyond the women who are accommodated on site.

[2] This includes ten women who have stayed twice and two women who have stayed three times.

Support and interventions delivered

Women living at Hope Street are offered a range of interventions intended to address their individual needs, across 1:1 keywork sessions, daily reflections, recovery sessions, family support, Education, Training and Employment (ETE) support and group work. The service also delivers support to women in the wider community.

Characteristics and circumstances of women supported

Women entering Hope Street often have multiple unmet needs and circumstances that may affect their ability to achieve positive outcomes and sustain these over time. Two in five women are aged between 35 and 44, the largest age group represented by women accommodated in Hope Street. The vast majority of women are White, accounting for 90 of the 98 individual women who have been supported.

Women also have varied offending histories. Theft is the most common last offence recorded, while assault also features prominently. Nearly one in three women accommodated had an assault against an emergency worker recorded within their offending history.

Family circumstances are another important consideration. The majority of women accommodated at Hope Street are mothers, although only nine children have been accommodated alongside their mothers at Hope Street in the last four years.

Length of stay and exit pathways

Stays at Hope Street can be significant periods of time, longer than other interventions aimed at justice-involved women. The average length of stay for the 98 women supported by Hope Street was 3 months (97 days). For women who had a positive exit, they stayed on average 8 months (247 days). Of the 98 women supported, 38 had a positive exit.[3] This is defined as a planned and supported move-on pathway, where women have demonstrated positive progression. Other exit pathways include 24 pre-engagement exits, where women disengaged within the first week of arrival for reasons such as being unable to comply with the requirements; nine system exits, where external factors beyond Hope Street's control, such as recall to custody, resulted in women leaving the service; and 29 unplanned exits, where a placement concluded before its expected completion date as a result of breaches of the woman's Hope Street licence agreement or the Hope Street Community Agreement.

According to staff at Hope Street, women may experience further improvements in their outcomes at the end of, and following, their stay at Hope Street. This may reflect the

[3] 28 women who had a positive exit have completed a questionnaire on exit allowing us to understand the impact of Hope Street on them. When describing the outcomes relating to positive exits, percentages reflect the 28 women who have completed this questionnaire.

continued application of the skills, knowledge and confidence developed during their stay as women transition back into everyday life in the community. For example, women may be better equipped to maintain stable accommodation, pursue education, training or employment opportunities, strengthen their relationships or parenting, and avoid further offending. These longer-term benefits suggest that the impact of Hope Street for women may extend beyond their stay.

Outcomes delivered by Hope Street

Hope Street seeks to address the needs of women who offend, or are at risk of entering the criminal justice system, through a combination of stable accommodation, practical support and therapeutic interventions. Hope Street aims to support women to achieve positive and sustained changes in their lives, including improvements to their mental and physical wellbeing, relationships, alongside a reduction in further offending. The key intended outcomes are:

- Reduction in short-term sentences and wider offending
- Increased contact with family and improved parenting skills
- Improvements to wellbeing (physical and mental health)
- Stable accommodation
- Financial independence through employment or further education/ training
- Improvements to substance use
- Healthier relationships
- Reduced further victimisation

Stable accommodation

Hope Street provides stable accommodation for women while they are engaged and staff provide planning and support around accommodation after Hope Street. Like many women who offend, women entering Hope Street have experienced housing instability, including the loss of their home or tenancy during imprisonment. 56 percent of women came to Hope Street directly from prison. A quarter of women also came to Hope Street after sofa surfing or rough sleeping, or from hostels, rehabilitation centres, approved premises and hospitals. The accommodation during their stay often represents an improvement on their circumstances prior to entry.

Accommodation outcomes improve for those who have positively engaged in the service. While accommodated at Hope Street, staff can support women to plan accommodation when women leave Hope Street, working with local authorities in particular to make those plans. Of the 38 women who had a positive exit, 31 moved into stable accommodation, while the remaining seven moved into other supported living arrangements.

Financial independence through employment, or further education/ training

On referral to Hope Street, the majority of women were not in employment, with only one being recorded as being in regular employment. Of the 98 women whose employment status was recorded, 52 were unemployed and a further 38 were recorded as long-term sick or disabled. Some women also have caring responsibilities for dependent children, including at least nine women at Hope Street. This can create additional barriers to entering or sustaining employment, particularly considering childcare arrangements, costs, and the flexibility required to balance parenting and work, which can limit employment options.

Hope Street provides an opportunity to focus on readiness for work and developing career aspirations. During their stay, 25 women engaged in education, training, or qualifications, suggesting that Hope Street provides opportunities for women to develop their skills and take steps towards future employment. 50 percent of women who had a positive exit from Hope Street reported that they felt more confident applying for a job.

However, immediate employment is not a common outcome for women at Hope Street. This reflects the complex needs and barriers to employment experienced by many women in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Of the 38 women with positive exits for whom employment outcomes are known, only three have entered employment after leaving Hope Street. However, qualitative evidence from the service suggests that the proportion of women in employment increases in the six to twelve months after departure. Access to education and training is more common than entry into employment. Hope Street supports women to engage in education and training both during their stay and following departure. This can provide an important pathway towards longer-term financial independence, particularly where women are supported to address potential barriers to employment such as substance use while developing their skills or qualifications. Women may require time after leaving Hope Street to continue to address their needs while in the community, engage in education or training and prepare for employment.

Case study: Hope Street supporting learning and training

Jess joined Hope Street seeking safety, stability, and a genuine opportunity to break free from the revolving door of the criminal justice system. She fully engaged with the Hope Street programme and embraced all that it has to offer.

Jess began studying a nail course, which she has fully immersed herself in. She has achieved 100 percent on all assignments so far and has shown outstanding dedication and enthusiasm. Jess is shortly due to attend an in-person nail course, which she is extremely excited about and sees as another positive step towards building skills, confidence, and future opportunities.

Improvements to wellbeing (physical and mental health)

Health needs are prevalent among women entering the service. Of the 98 women referred to Hope Street, 82 percent were identified as having mental health needs and 43 percent have a physical health need. In addition, 39 percent of women were recorded as long-term sick or disabled at referral, highlighting the wider health barriers women may face. Hope Street seeks to address these needs by supporting women to access healthcare and develop greater confidence and independence in managing their own health. All women who had a positive exit from Hope Street were registered with a GP, and the majority were reported to maintain registration after departure. In addition, 68 percent of women were registered with a dentist, and 93 percent reported that their sexual health needs had been met. Staff reported anecdotal improvements in women's physical health during their stay, including changes in personal appearance, such as healthier nails and hair, and improvements in diet. This suggests that the service may contribute to improvements in women's day-to-day health and self-care, alongside facilitating access to formal healthcare. Additionally, of those who had a positive exit, 78 percent of women reported improvements in their overall wellbeing, while 93 percent felt able to manage their own health since leaving Hope Street.

However, these improvements in overall wellbeing are not necessarily accompanied by substantial improvements in women's self-reported physical and mental health. Of those who had a positive exit, only 50 percent of women reported their mental health had improved, and 57 percent reported improvements in their physical health.

Improvements to substance use

Substance use is prevalent among the histories of women accessing Hope Street. Hope Street operates through an abstinence-based model and supports women to address substance use within a stable and supportive living environment, alongside facilitating access to specialist substance use services. For women with a substance use need, almost 60 percent were engaged in substance use services, and 35 percent had completed treatment by the time they had a positive exit from Hope Street. This evidence suggests that Hope Street can support women to engage with specialist treatment and make progress towards addressing their substance use.

However, Hope Street is not a specialist rehabilitation service and substance use can present a barrier to women accessing or keeping their placement at Hope Street, with some women leaving the service early as a result of their substance use. This reflects a wider challenge in the availability of specialist substance use support for women, both locally and nationally.

Healthier relationships

Hope Street seeks to support women to develop and maintain healthier relationships, including by helping them to recognise unhealthy relationship dynamics and make safer decisions. This is particularly important given the prevalence of relationship-based challenges that

women who enter the service face. Of the 98 women who have stayed at Hope Street, 66 were recorded as having experienced abuse, sexual abuse or domestic abuse. Hope Street provides women with a stable and safe environment where they can reflect on their relationships and develop greater understanding of what it means to have a supportive and safe relationship. Through this support, women may be better equipped to recognise unhealthy relationships, establish boundaries and make decisions to prioritise their wellbeing.

Exit data indicates that women who have lived at Hope Street experience positive outcomes related to relationships. 96 percent of women who experienced a positive exit had a better understanding of what makes a safe, healthy relationship, while 82 percent reported an improvement in decision-making skills around relationships. There is also evidence of women's positive outcomes regarding safety in relationships. Of the women who experienced a positive exit, 89 percent reported that they did not have relationships that felt unsafe. In addition, 86 percent reported an improvement in their relationships with friends.

However, these findings are based on women's self-reported experiences at exit and do not establish whether improvements are sustained following exit from Hope Street. For example, while women feel safer, this data does not demonstrate that they are no longer at risk of unhealthy relationships or domestic abuse in the longer term. Continued access to support to encourage and develop safe and healthy relationships is likely important following exit from Hope Street.

Reduced further victimisation

Hope Street may contribute to reducing women's risk of further victimisation by providing safe accommodation and support to women who are at risk of exploitation, abuse or harm from others. Its trauma-informed residential model can offer women a safer environment away from individuals who pose a risk to them, while supporting them to rebuild their confidence and independence.

Case study: reducing further victimisation

Catherine was remanded into custody just one week before the due date of her first child. At the time, she was assessed as being at high risk of serious harm and exploitation from individuals linked to a gang she had previously been associated with.

There was significant evidence that Catherine had been a victim of exploitation and abuse by the gang. Her first court appearance was infiltrated by known gang members gaining access to the courtroom public gallery, causing her distress and raising urgent safeguarding concerns.

Catherine's barrister made an urgent referral to Hope Street. The team at Hope Street collaborated with legal representatives to support a timely bail application and offered a residential placement at Hope Street.

The Hope Street team continued to liaise closely with police, probation, and the court team to risk-assess Catherine and ensure robust safeguarding measures were in place. This was a critical step to protect both Catherine and her unborn child.

Following a successful bail hearing, Catherine was collected from prison by the Hope Street team and welcomed into the residential community. Just a few days later, she gave birth to a healthy baby girl in a supportive and stable environment.

Increased contact with family and improved parenting skills

Family relationships can be disrupted by women's experiences of imprisonment, exploitation, trauma and wider instability. Hope Street seeks to support women to rebuild these relationships, strengthen their parenting capacity and, where appropriate, work towards reunification with their children. Of the women who experienced a positive exit, 86 percent reported improvements in their relationships with family, suggesting that the service contributes to strengthening women's family relationships during their stay. Where appropriate, Hope Street provides accommodation for mothers and their children, meaning they can remain together and avoid separation. Nine children have lived at Hope Street with their mothers since 2023.

Hope Street also provides tailored support to mothers seeking to re-establish contact with their children, improve existing relationships or progress towards reunification. Between October 2025 and September 2026, 39 women were part of the Hope Street Community, of whom 25 had children under 18. Four of these women were mothers living at Hope Street with their children. Five mothers experienced improved contact with their children, including permission for community contact, increased or more consistent contact, and the introduction of letterbox contact. Other recorded outcomes include a step down from Child Protection Plan to a Child in Need Plan, the ending of Children Services involvement, and one resident exiting to a mother and baby assessment unit and being reunited with her daughter. A further two women were working to re-establish contact with their children, supported by the Not Beyond Redemption family law clinic.

Reduction in short-term sentences and wider offending

Hope Street aims to reduce women's involvement in the criminal justice system, including supporting women to avoid custodial sentences and reduce the likelihood of further offending. 29 women referred to Hope Street have accessed Hope Street through the court pathway, providing an alternative to women who might otherwise have entered custody.

Women are supported to remove barriers to compliance with the criminal justice system, and are supported to understand and attend court, probation, licence, bail, treatment, health and children's services requirements; provide advocacy, reminders, travel and coordination.

The service supports women with complex offending histories; among 79 recorded offences that caused women to be in contact with the justice system at referral, theft was one of the most common offence types, accounting for 22 offences, followed by assault and grievous bodily harm (GBH), accounting for nine offences. In addition, 31 of the 98 women accessing Hope Street were known to have Assault against an Emergency worker as a current or past offence. This highlights the complexity of the cohort and the range of offending-related needs.

Hope Street plays a particularly important role in supporting women to engage with probation. 88 percent of women at Hope Street have been subject to probation supervision, and generally women engaged with probation more effectively while at Hope Street.

Case study: Hope Street campaigning against short sentences

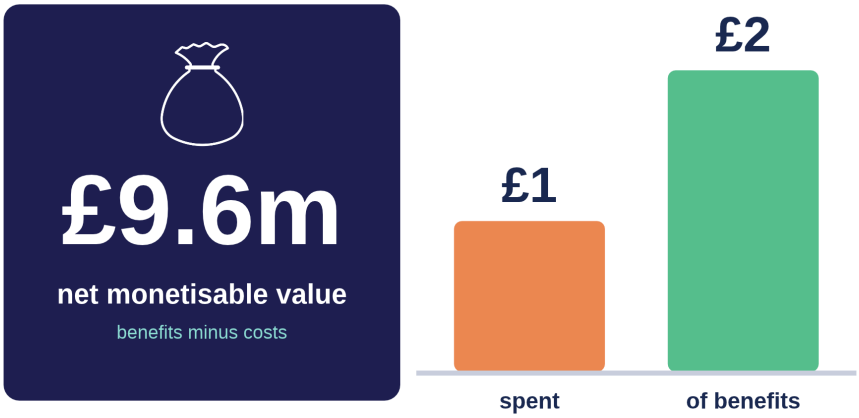
Jasmine was sentenced to a Community Order with Probation. In her first week at Hope Street, it became clear that Jasmine was struggling to comply with aspects of her Probation Order. She exhibited cognitive challenges, including difficulties with memory and processing, and was struggling with basic self-care such as bathing, washing her hair, and preparing meals. On two occasions, Jasmine stayed away from Hope Street, once with a male acquaintance and another time with family. These incidents prompted her Probation Officer to breach her, citing high risk of serious harm (ROSH) to her ex-partner and declaring her "unmanageable in the community." The PO recommended custody as the only viable sentencing option to the Court.

The Community Director at Hope Street disagreed with this assessment and submitted a separate report highlighting Jasmine's unmet needs and the significant impact these challenges had on her ability to engage with and comply with her Probation Order. The report urged the Court to adjourn proceedings for 12 weeks to allow time for crucial assessments, including Adult Services, a GP evaluation, and a psychiatric report. The Court accepted Hope Street's recommendation and adjourned the case. During the adjournment, Hope Street supported Jasmine through her assessments, which led to her being prescribed antipsychotic medication. When Jasmine returned to Court for sentencing, she was not sent to custody. In their ruling, the magistrate remarked:

> "Hope Street is an amazing place, and the work and support given to the women who reside there is remarkable. Thank you again, and we look forward to working with you in the future."

Cost-benefit analysis of the Hope Street model

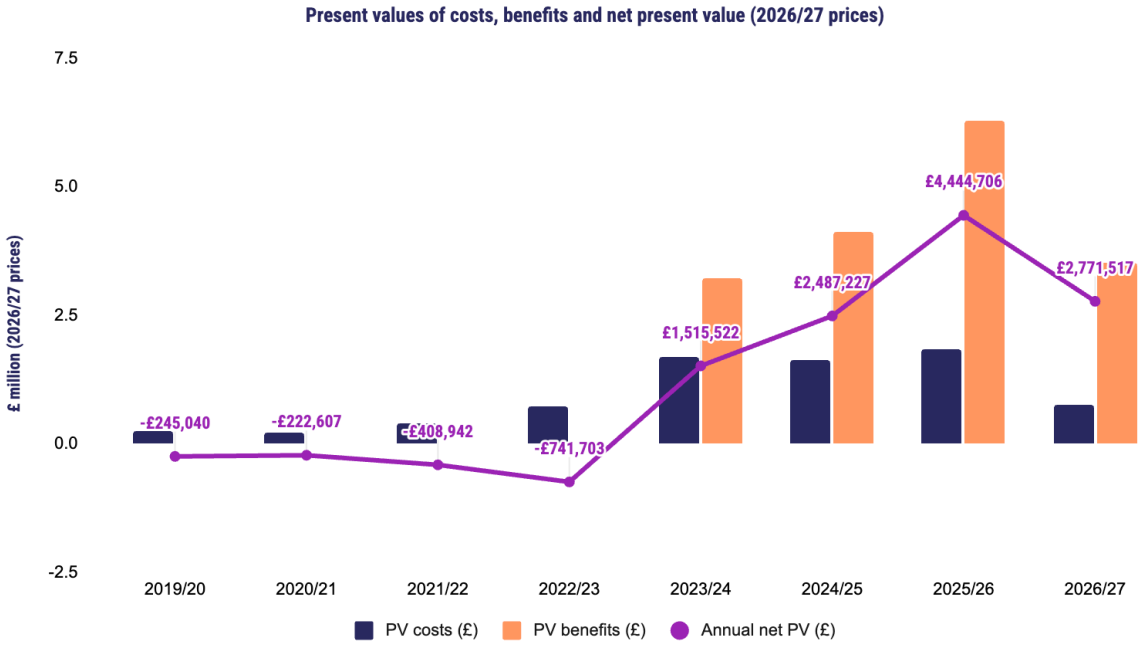
One Small Thing commissioned Crest to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the Hope Street model, supported by Fortia Insight. Cost-benefit analysis is a process of comparing costs to benefits to support an understanding of the value of a policy.



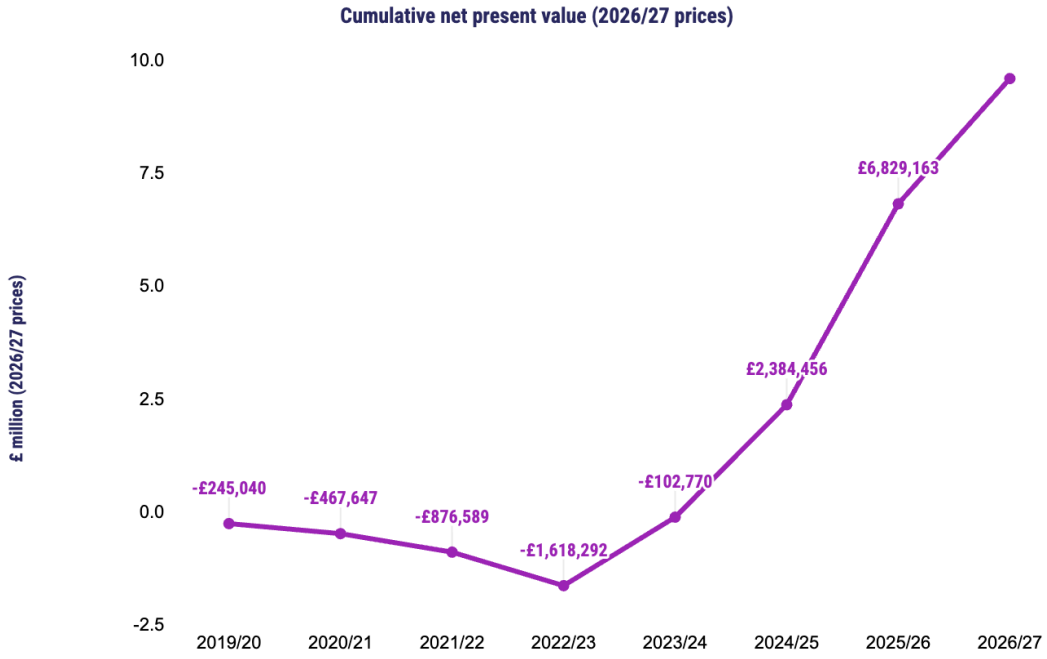
In total, since it opened in 2023, Hope Street has delivered £9.6 million of monetisable value (this figure subtracts monetisable benefits from monetisable costs). The benefits of Hope Street are larger than its costs - for every £1 spent on delivering Hope Street in the last four years, more than £2 of benefits have been generated; the benefit-cost ratio is 2.27. These cost-benefit analysis figures are based on the following monetisable benefits: reducing reoffending, avoiding custody, reducing children's social care costs and reducing self-harm incidents. When analysing only the most recent full financial year (April 2025 - March 2026), the benefit-cost ratio increases to 3.40, which means that for every £1 spent, nearly £3.50 is returned.

There are costs incurred setting up Hope Street before benefits are realised. This value of the service is negative from 2019/20 to 2022/23 as Hope Street is set up, reflecting expenditure before benefits started to be generated. Annual Net Present Value becomes positive at £1.5 million in 2023/24, and peaks at £4.4 million in 2025/26, as women are referred to the service.[4] The model records a further £2.77 million in 2026/27, although this final year contains partial-year data and so is not directly comparable with the preceding full years.

[4] Net Present Value = Total present value of all benefits-Total present value of all costs



Once Hope Street becomes operational, value increases year on year. It becomes positive at £2.38 million in 2024/25, indicating that cumulative discounted benefits exceed included costs by that year. Cumulative NPV subsequently rises to £6.83 million in 2025/26 and £9.60 million in 2026/27.



Benefits that have been monetised

These cost-benefit analysis figures are based on the following four monetisable benefits: reducing reoffending, avoiding custody, reducing children's social care costs and reducing self-harm incidents.

The biggest proportion of benefits lies in reducing the cost of reoffending, representing £7.7 million in benefits (26/27 prices). These benefits look at the economic and social costs potentially avoided through reduced reoffending among women supported by Hope Street Model, using costs on adult reoffending. Benefits generated by Hope Street have been monetised using data by comparing women accommodated who have or have not been recalled to prison during or immediately after their stay at Hope Street, assuming that these impacts on reoffending last for around 6 months afterwards.

The next significant proportion of benefits is reducing children's social care costs, representing £6.8 million in benefits. These benefits look at care placement expenditure potentially avoided because children can remain with, or receive support through, their mothers because of the support provided by Hope Street Model. Benefits have been monetised using local authority money spent on children. Benefits generated by Hope Street have been determined primarily using data on the number of children who have been accommodated at Hope Street, who were accommodated on average for 4 months at Hope Street. This has also been determined by the number of children who have been supported in maintaining contact, or indeed, reconnecting and being reunited with their mother, with the benefits of reducing the impact of separation from their mother; these mothers were accommodated on average for over 6 months. As a caveat, some of these children supported indirectly may have been in care placements while their mothers were accommodated at Hope Street and the intention of the benefits articulated here is to support the impact of reuniting and/or maintaining contact between child and mother.

There are also benefits around avoiding costs associated with custody, representing £2.0 million in benefits. These benefits look at the prison expenditure avoided by accommodating women at Hope Street as an alternative to custody, using costs of expenditure on prisoners. The benefits generated by Hope Street have been generated by considering the number of women who would otherwise have entered custody as a result of their sentence, using an average female custodial sentence length of just over 6 months

Benefits also exist around reducing self-harm experienced, representing £0.6 million in benefits. These benefits look at healthcare costs avoided through fewer self-harm incidents, using costs to health of self-harm incidents. Benefits generated by Hope Street have been determined by understanding the prevalence of self-harm in cohorts of women in custody compared to the prevalence of self-harm experienced by women accommodated at Hope Street.

Monetised benefits

Monetised benefits	Description	Data source
Reduced reoffending	The economic and social costs potentially avoided through reduced reoffending among women supported by Hope Street Model	• Number of women who were recalled during their stay at Hope Street • Reoffending unit cost (proxy): adult reoffending costs divided by the number of 'reoffenders' in the associated year • Benefit duration (assumption)
Avoided custody	Prison resource expenditure potentially avoided where Hope Street Model provides an alternative to custody	• Number of women who would otherwise enter custody • Custody unit cost • Female prisoner custody duration
Reduced children's social-care costs	Care-placement expenditure potentially avoided because children can remain with, or receive support through, their mothers because of the support provided by Hope Street Model	• Number of children living at Hope Street • Number of children indirectly supported by Hope Street • Average length of time children received support • Fostering and care unit cost
Reduced self-harm incidents	Healthcare costs potentially avoided through fewer self-harm incidents	• Estimated incidents without Hope Street Model • Incidents with Hope Street Model • Cost per incident

Benefits that have not been included

Hope Street has identified evidence to support a wider set of outcomes for women accommodated in the centre. But these outcomes have not been included because robust monetisable data and long-term outcomes data are not available. These include broader wellbeing, accommodation, substance use, employment, training and education, healthy relationships and parenting skills, and reduced victimisation.

Accommodation would be a useful benefit to monetise; particularly, future cost-benefit analysis could demonstrate the value of providing stable and alternative accommodation for women while they are staying there, as well as the impact of onward accommodation after Hope Street. In this analysis, there was insufficient evidence on alternative accommodation for other referral pathways and onward accommodation, as well as the duration of these benefits.

Furthermore, there is an opportunity to map the benefits of improved wellbeing. 21 women accommodated noted improved wellbeing; it is possible to identify costs for improved wellbeing; however, further detail would be needed to understand the duration of these benefits upon leaving Hope Street and how these figures spread over the year of operation.

Finally, there are opportunities to understand readiness for and engagement in employment, training and education. Keywork for women accommodated focuses on readiness for work and supporting women to identify and nurture career pathways and engagement in work - employment outcomes are a significant benefit generator as individuals go from costing the state money to generating income for the state. Mapping employment outcomes after Hope Street would be a significant bolster to future cost-benefit analysis - at present, there is insufficient information on additional employment, earnings, duration or changes in benefit entitlement.

Conclusion

Hope Street is still relatively early in its journey, having only opened its doors in June 2023; however, it is already returning benefits. Hope Street will continue to grow in terms of reach, with aims to improve referrals into the service and more consistently meet high levels of occupancy. What is more, these benefits are still narrow, due to data availability, meaning there is an opportunity to improve the BCR estimates in future years, as better data becomes available.

The benefits of sustaining stable accommodation at Hope Street should be a particular focus of future cost-benefit analysis, particularly in the context of the government's focus on tackling rough sleeping and homelessness. Furthermore, the government's focus on reducing the number of young people and adults who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) creates an opportunity for Hope Street to demonstrate its contribution in this area. Capturing data on women's readiness to work, and their engagement in employment, education and training, will be important to understanding and evidencing these outcomes in more detail.

Therefore, we recommend Hope Street builds on this cost-benefit analysis annually, updating it with further service data on outcomes and finances and supplementing with public sector data sources. Data being collected on outcomes by the service is an asset and Hope Street's long-term evaluation will further build on this evidence.

This research provides credible evidence that holistic trauma-informed and women-only residential centres and communities, like the one One Small Thing have pioneered at Hope Street, have benefits that outweigh the costs. This supports a continuing focus from the government to develop policy, commissioning and funding that addresses the specific needs of women in contact with the criminal justice system, particularly in the context of the current capacity and ongoing policies focused on easing prison capacity.

Establishing effective services requires significant upfront investment and lead-in time. However, Hope Street demonstrates that, once up and running, services can deliver benefits quickly. This requires confidence in an approach that prioritises improving long-term outcomes rather than immediate ones. Hope Street provides an example of how sustained investment in this type of provision can offer a sustainable response to the challenges of reducing reoffending and improving life chances for women involved in the justice system.

Annex

Methods

A mixed methods approach has been undertaken to provide One Small Thing with a credible analysis that articulates the current costs of the criminal justice system's approach and how this compares to the Hope Street model. The approach has included a literature review, engagement with One Small Thing staff, and a cost-benefit analysis.

We have addressed the following questions through this research:

- What are the certain and potential outcomes of the current approach?
- What are the unit costs of these outcomes?
- How does the Hope Street model, in theory, remove or mitigate these outcomes?
- What evidence is there on the scale of impact that is or could be achieved by the Hope Street model?
- What is the overall actual or anticipated cost saving of the Hope Street model?
- Does this represent value for money?

Literature review

A review of the literature and evidence on the outcomes that result from women involved in the criminal justice system was undertaken by Crest. This informed mapping of short, medium, and long-term outcomes that could result from women's imprisonment. The outcomes mapping included the impact on women, their children, and wider society to create a holistic picture of the implications of the current approach taken by the justice system.

Using resources such as the Greater Manchester Cost Benefit Database, government publications such as the Economic and Social Costs of Crime, and a review of academic and grey literature, Crest identified costs associated with the outcomes, assessed their robustness and applicability depending on age and quality of original estimation, and applied inflationary adjustments where relevant, in line with HM Treasury Green Book guidance.

Engagement

Crest engaged with staff from One Small Thing and Hope Street through a workshop and three interviews. This engagement supported understanding of the outcomes of Hope Street, and the mechanisms through which change happens.

The engagement focused on the following areas:

- Identifying how the model mitigates or removes the costs/outcomes of women's imprisonment
- How credibly any change in the outcome can be attributed to Hope Street
- What evidence might exist to support these claims

For the outcomes identified, Crest assessed whether the impact is clearly known and quantified (e.g. the removal of the costs of women's imprisonment), evidenced through evaluation already conducted (either by One Small Thing or other similar academic studies), or unknown and thus needs to be estimated based on assumptions and the theory of change.

This information on outcomes, costs and the development of assumptions to overcome any data gaps informed the cost-benefit analysis. Further details on the assumptions included in the cost-benefit analysis are included in the following section of this report.

Cost-benefit analysis

Adjustments

Discounting and adjusting for the inflation rate

Costs and unit costs were converted to the relevant annual price basis using the GDP deflators. Annual costs and benefits are expressed in 2019/20 prices, Hope Street's starting year, and discounted to 2019/20 at 3 percent, in line with the Green Book (2026). This removes the effect of inflation. Values are presented in 2026/27 prices in this report to enable meaningful comparison and ensure that monetary values are interpretable in real terms by decision makers. This price adjustment does not change the benefit-cost ratio (BCR).

Additionality

The Green Book defines additionality as outcomes resulting from an intervention. In this CBA, the additionality input is zero, so no benefits are deducted.

Optimism bias

Optimism bias is the tendency for appraisers to be over-optimistic about key project parameters, including capital costs, operating costs, project duration and benefits delivery. Applying optimism bias decreases the estimated nominal benefits and increases the nominal costs. As the costs provided for the CBA were actual expenditures already incurred, rather than forecast costs, no optimism-bias uplift was applied to costs. Given the assumption-driven nature of the benefits, an optimism bias of 15 percent, based on HM Treasury Green Book guidance on optimism bias, was applied to all benefits to turn nominal values into nominal economic values.

Estimating value for money

There are two key metrics used to assess value for money through CBA, the benefit-cost ratio (BCR) and net present value (NPV), defined as:

$$Benefit - Cost\ Ratio = \frac{Total\ present\ value\ of\ all\ benefits}{Total\ present\ value\ of\ all\ cost}$$

$$Net\ Present\ Value = Total\ present\ value\ of\ all\ benefits - Total\ present\ value\ of\ all\ costs$$

The present value of benefits is also known as real, discounted economic benefits. The present value of costs is also known as real, discounted economic costs.

Sensitivity analysis

Conducting CBA, either for appraisal or evaluation, typically involves many assumptions about which costs and benefits to include, and what the evidence implies is a reasonable estimate of the size of benefits and their monetary value. This means that there is uncertainty about the BCR and NPV estimates. Sensitivity analysis involves exploring the sensitivity of expected outcomes of Hope Street to potential changes in key input variables. It can be used to test the impact of changes in assumptions by estimating the best- and worst-case scenarios for each benefit. The BCR and NPV should then be estimated in both scenarios to provide a range within which it can be expected that the true BCR and NPV of the programme will lie, given the best available evidence. Note that these are sensitivity scenarios, not statistical confidence intervals.

Limitations

One Small Thing's capital costs were excluded. A full assessment would compare the capital cost with the building's remaining value. This simplifying assumption may affect the BCR, as the building's discounted future value may not offset its capital cost.

Notes on reoffending benefits: Residents without recorded recalls were used as a proxy population for estimating reduced reoffending benefits. However, recall does not confirm reoffending: a woman may be recalled without committing a new offence (for example, for breach of probation conditions) or reoffend without being recalled. The estimates may therefore overstate or understate the costs avoided. It is also limited by the knowledge of One Small Thing about the long-term outcomes of women when they leave Hope Street.

Notes on children's social care benefits: The children's social-care calculation uses support durations as a proxy for avoided placement durations, for both directly and indirectly supported children. Without individual placement histories or evidence about each child's likelihood of entering care, the analysis cannot establish whether these costs would otherwise have arisen. For indirectly supported children, they may be in a care placement, but the assumption has been made that supporting reuniting and/or maintaining contact with their mother derives a benefit in the long term, so these costs are used as a proxy.

Notes on self-harm benefits: Self-harm benefits are monetised using hospital-presentation costs. Although recorded incidents align with the self-harm categories used to calculate these costs, they

may not have required hospital treatment. This may overstate the healthcare resources associated with the incidents.

General notes on benefits: Potential overlap between benefit categories could not be fully assessed. Benefits on avoiding custody are intended to capture imprisonment linked to the initial referral to Hope Street, while reduced reoffending covers subsequent offences and their consequences. These categories are conceptually distinct, but the reoffending monetisation includes criminal justice costs, including imprisonment. Without linked records of initial cases, subsequent offences and custody periods, the analysis cannot confirm that costs are not counted twice.

Finally, accommodation, employment and broader wellbeing benefits remain unmonetised because supporting data was unavailable. For example, the analysis could not assess and monetise the extent to which women's wellbeing improved during their stay at Hope Street, based on available data. Including these factors could affect the BCR. Sensitivity analysis and optimism-bias deductions illustrate uncertainty but do not resolve these limitations. The scenario range is not a statistical confidence interval.

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