

# THE NUMBERS

- On average, 305 vulnerable women per year leave the 4 prisons in the South East of England with nowhere to sleep that night. These figures don't include those women who will be sofa surfing, staying with someone for sexual favours or going back to unsuitable accommodation that may lead to domestic violence.
- The UK reoffending rate for women is on average 60%. It currently costs around £42,000 per year to keep one woman in prison. There are currently over 3,200 women in prison in the UK which puts the reoffending cost at over £73m per year.
- Out of all adult prisoners released in 2018, 67% of those who slept rough or were otherwise homeless went on to commit another crime within a year.
- Women in prison have often been victims of much more serious offences than the ones they are accused of committing. More than half (53%) report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a child.
- 57% of women report having been victims of domestic violence. Because many women fear disclosing abuse, both figures are likely to be an underestimate.
- In 2017 just 9% of women leaving prison secured employment— compared to 26% of men. Women are more likely to be employed in a field with intensive enhanced checks, such as working with children or in hospitals, and therefore disproportionately suffer from having a criminal record.
- 31% of women in prison have spent time in local authority care as a child (compared to 24% of men). 53% of women in prison report having experienced emotional, physical or sexual abuse during their childhood.
- Women in custody are 5 times more likely to have mental ill-health than those in the general population.
- 46% of women in prison report having attempted suicide at some time in their lives. This is twice the rate of men (21%) and more than 7 times higher than the general population.
- 48% of women have committed an offence in order to support someone else's drug use. 28% of women's crimes are financially motivated, and 38% attribute their offending to a need to support their children.
- Women in the criminal justice system have often experienced multiple and compound disadvantage. Their criminalisation often follows a trigger, such as a bereavement or family breakdown, which might lead to debt or homelessness. 80% of women have been sentenced to prison for a non-violent offence, such as shop-lifting. Oftentimes, they lose their homes, children, and families as a result.

