



Overview of changes to HM Inspectorate of Prisons' Women's Expectations following public consultation

This document provides an overview of HM Inspectorate of Prisons' changes to *Expectations: Criteria for assessing the treatment of and conditions for women in prison*, following a public consultation which ran between 18 November and 31 December 2020. HM Inspectorate of Prisons identified several key themes throughout the consultation responses. These key themes and our response to each are outlined below.

The involvement of community agencies

- A key theme in many responses was the involvement of voluntary, community and third sector agencies to help support women in prison and on preparation for their release. In response, we have strengthened references to the involvement of external agencies in providing services throughout the *Expectations*.

Promoting positive behaviour

- Many responses queried why we had named this section 'Behaviour management'. It was felt that this title did not sufficiently reflect the intention of enabling women rather than managing them. Recognising this, we have renamed this section 'Promoting positive behaviour' to reinforce our emphasis on supporting women to make changes for themselves. We also made a number of changes to the indicators in this section to move away from the language of management.

Pregnancy

- A common theme in responses was the need for a greater emphasis on identifying and supporting women appropriately in pregnancy, particularly in relation to unexpected or still births. We therefore strengthened the focus on this by adding a new expectation in the area of equality and diversity which considers whether the specific needs of pregnant women and those who have recently given birth are met. We also added additional indicators in the areas of early days and health.

Neurodiversity

- Many submissions pointed to the importance of ensuring women with neurodivergent needs are supported appropriately. In response, we have added indicators within the areas of health and equality and diversity in relation to screening for neurodiversity and staff understanding of and response to neurodiversity.

Equality and diversity

- In addition to the specific observations about equality and diversity noted above, we made some further changes to the equality and diversity indicators with the aim of improving the

clarity of language we use. In addition, we added further indicators relating to the needs of older women.

Women serving short sentences

- Many responses highlighted the specific needs of women serving short sentences. In response, we have developed our indicators within the area of rehabilitation and release planning. We amended the indicator in relation to recall to emphasise the need for women to be provided with prompt information about their recall which they understood. We also added indicators about the resettlement needs of women serving short sentences, including in relation to accommodation.