

New briefing calls for women's centres to be recognised as a core part of the Government's early intervention infrastructure

The [National Women's Justice Coalition](#) (NWJC), in partnership with the [Centre for Young Lives](#) and [The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls](#), has today (29 September 2026) published a new briefing, *Women's Centres: An Essential Part of the Government's Early Intervention Infrastructure*, calling on the Government to recognise and invest in women's centres as a vital component of local prevention and early intervention services.

The briefing argues that women's centres already deliver many of the outcomes the Government is seeking through its early intervention agenda. By providing holistic, trauma-informed support in safe, women-only environments, women's centres help women and girls address multiple challenges simultaneously, including domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance use, housing insecurity, financial hardship and contact with the criminal justice system

The publication comes at a time when the Government is placing increasing emphasis on prevention, family support and tackling the causes of disadvantage before problems escalate into crisis. The briefing highlights the role women's centres can play alongside Family Hubs, Young Futures Hubs and wider community-based services.

Key recommendations include:

- Recognise women's centres as an essential part of local early intervention infrastructure.
- Use devolution to strengthen local early intervention systems for women and girls.
- Develop a cross-departmental strategy for girls and young women, recognising women's centres as a key delivery partner.
- Establish a cross-government funding and accountability framework for women's centres.
- Invest in a sustainable national network of women's centres.
- Improve support for care-experienced girls and young women.

Women's centres deliver measurable impact

The briefing brings together evidence demonstrating that women's centres improve outcomes for women, children and families while reducing demand on public services. Research shows that women's centres can reduce reoffending rates by up to 42%, while analysis estimates that a women's centre receiving £1 million annually can support more than 650 women each year and generate approximately £2.75 million in wider socio-economic benefits.

Despite this evidence, women's centres remain unevenly distributed across the country and are often reliant on fragmented, short-term funding arrangements that limit their reach and sustainability. The briefing argues that women's centres should no longer be viewed solely through a criminal justice lens, but recognised

for their wider contribution to strengthening families, reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for women and girls.

A stronger role for women's centres

The briefing also highlights the opportunity presented by the Government's devolution agenda and wider public service reforms to better integrate women's centres within local systems. It argues that strategic authorities, local authorities, schools, health services, Family Hubs, Young Futures Hubs and community organisations should work together to ensure women and girls can access joined up, coordinated support before needs escalate.

Commenting on the publication, Abbi Ayers, Director of Strategic Development for the NWJC, said:

"Every day women's centres help women, girls and families overcome adversity, build resilience and access the support they need to thrive.

At a time when the Government is rightly focusing on prevention and early intervention, women's centres should be recognised as a key part of the local infrastructure needed to deliver that ambition. They are trusted, community-based organisations that reach women and girls who often face significant barriers to accessing statutory services.

This briefing sets out a clear vision for how the Government can build on existing women's centre provision, strengthen local partnerships and ensure that every woman and girl can access the support they need before challenges escalate into crisis."

ENDS

- [Women's Centres: An Essential Part of the Government's Early Intervention Infrastructure](#) has been published by the National Women's Justice Coalition (NWJC) in partnership with the Centre for Young Lives and The JABBS Foundation for Women and Girls
- The [Women's Services Map](#), developed by the NWJC, currently lists 120 women's centres and specialist hubs across the UK.
- The National Women's Justice Coalition is a partnership of 27 women's organisations working to improve outcomes for women and girls affected by the criminal justice system.

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