



Hope Street

one small thing



**A pioneering residential network at the heart of the
community for Southampton and Hampshire**



Hope Street Hub Café

Hope Street is...

Hope Street is a brand new, purpose built, trauma informed and gender specific residential community for justice-involved women and their children. It has been co-produced and designed through extensive consultation with expert advisors and women with lived experience of the justice system and their voice is present across the whole of the Hope Street model.

Hope Street is a temporary home for women and their children along with support, education and training. They will have support from full time on-site staff, as well as spaces to heal and to meet with each other and visiting friends and family.

Hope Street is also for the local community to access a community café space and group activities such as exercise classes. Filled with natural light and greenery, we will create a calming and inspiring environment that allows for private reflection, healing and recovery.

Hope Street aims to:

- Reduce the number of women going to prison
- Prevent maternal separation and intergenerational trauma
- Enable women and children to lead happier lives free from the impact of crime

Who?

Research has shown that 82% of women currently being sent to prison in England and Wales have not committed serious or violent offences. They have invariably been victims of neglect, abuse and disadvantage with a third having been in care as children.

60% of women receiving short prison sentences are mothers: their children then often end up in care and they lose their homes.

After a short sentence, of only a few weeks, they are left with no family and no home, and in a much worse situation, compounded by the trauma of prison and with little support to assist them in rebuilding their lives.



Hope Street women's lounge

How?

Hope Street offers a community-based alternative to women receiving short custodial sentences, being unnecessarily imprisoned on remand or released from prison to homelessness. If women have a community sentence, they can meet requirements in a safe and nurturing environment, where their children can be safely with them.

Hope Street aims to help them address the root causes of the issues they are facing, equipping them with skills and giving them an opportunity to build a new life, significantly reducing the cost to the public purse. Current estimates put savings at around £968.3 million per year if this model was rolled out across the country¹.

The project is based on the best research and consensus and co-designed with service users and partners from across the justice system, community and voluntary sector. It will be evaluated over 5 years and used as a blueprint for change.

Hope Street provides:

- a 24-hour staffed residential Hub, with accommodation for up to 24 women and their children.
- individually tailored programmes to enable women to address the reasons for their involvement with the justice system and to plan for the future;
- a wide range of opportunities for women to improve their education, skills and life chances;
- activities that allow women to fulfil the requirements of a community sentence including unpaid work and accreditation that will provide better future employment opportunities;
- supported move-on housing across the County to prepare for their own home;
- ongoing outreach support for women and their families for up to 12 months in their own home.

¹ Figure based on estimated diversion of 4,000 women per year from prison and includes estimates of savings across prisons, social care and health services and associated reoffending rates



The Hope Room group work space



Hope Street Hub inner courtyard

Why Southampton?

Of the 877 women arrested in Hampshire between 1st November 2018 and 31st October 2019, 33% were from Southampton. Women from Southampton who receive a custodial sentence are sent out of area, often more than 60 miles away from their home, making it very difficult for their families to visit them. It therefore makes sense to prioritise Southampton as the preferred location for the **Hope Street** Hub because it has the greatest need.

We selected a derelict site for our Hub in central Southampton to convert to a project which feels homely and welcoming: a nurturing home for our residents and their children, an inspiring workplace for our staff and a friendly centre for local residents and visitors.

The site is close to green space which lends itself to the natural healing environment we seek to create in **Hope Street: a centre of excellence, co-designed and fully inclusive of women, and uniquely, of their children.**

Planning and consultation

The planning application to establish **Hope Street** was granted following extensive consultation with those directly affected in the surrounding area. We have also consulted with women with lived experience and local stakeholders.

Hope Street was officially opened by HRH The Princess of Wales in June 2023.

One Small Thing

Hope Street was developed by the charity One Small Thing, which strives for positive change in the justice system by implementing small changes in a big way.

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.

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