



## Women and Girls' Initiative Learning and Impact Services

### Why Women's Centres work: An evidence briefing

#### Notes to Editors

This document provides more information on

- The WGI
- WGI Learning and Impact Services
- The WGI Partners: Tavistock Institute of Human Relations; DMSS and CWASU

#### The Women and Girls Initiative (WGI)

£44.7 million of National Lottery money has been invested by the [National Lottery Community Fund](#) in 62 projects across England since 2016 to support and empower women and girls facing violence, abuse, exploitation and mental health issues. This funding is enabling national organisations and grassroots projects to provide dedicated support for women and girls in local communities through outreach, advice and advocacy, refuge and prevention projects.

The aim of the initiative is to help build a stronger women and girls sector through:

- increased provision of holistic, person-centred approaches for women and girls
- increased role and voice for women and girls in co-producing services
- a greater number of women and girls being supported through the provision of improved specialist support
- better quality of evidence for what works in empowering women and girls
- More information about the WGI and the projects it supports can be found [here](#)

#### WGI Learning and Impact Services

TIHR, DMSS and CWASU are delivering evaluation and learning support to projects funded through the WGI. They are supporting the WGI grant holders to capture and



share learning and develop a community of services that is stronger and has greater influence.

The purpose of the support is to:

- (a) Identify what holistic approaches for women and girls looks like.
- (b) Describe how these approaches can increase and improve specialist support.
- (c) Understand what enables women and girls to be co-producers of services.
- (d) Support projects to generate and use their own local evidence.

Support is provided in a variety of ways including:

- One-to-one support for grant-holders
- An online learning hub to enable collective conversations
- Action Learning Sets
- Masterclasses and workshops
- Publication of regular reports/briefings.
- A national conference in 2020 to showcase and share project achievements and learning

More information about the WGI learning and impact services can be found [here](#)

To talk to someone about the WGI impact and Learning Services please contact either:

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- Heather Stradling, Senior Researcher/Consultant, TIHR:  
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### **Tavistock Institute of Human Relations**

The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations (TIHR) has applied social science to contemporary issues and problems since 1947. The Institute is engaged with evaluation and action research, organisational development and change consultancy, executive coaching and professional development, all in service of supporting sustainable change and ongoing learning. It is dedicated to the study of



human relations for the purpose of bettering working life and conditions for all humans within their organisations, communities and broader societies.

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

### **DMSS Research**

Established in 2006, DMSS Research undertakes research, evaluation, policy analysis and training in the social care sector. We are a small independent research organisation specialising in gender, mental health and violence and abuse.

[Website](#)

### **Child and Women Abuse Studies Unit**

The Child and Woman Abuse Studies is recognised as a world leading centre for independent research, and has completed 120 projects over its 26 years. A number of them have changed policy and practice. We also teach the only MA in Europe that connects the abuse of women and children.

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#)

### **The National Lottery Community Fund**

The National Lottery Community Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK – we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people. We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

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