



HerStory House

WOMEN'S RESIDENTIAL
SERVICE AND WELLBEING HUB





OUR SERVICE

HerStory House is a specialist supported accommodation, specifically designed for women with multiple and complex needs who have offended.

The service is commissioned jointly by HM Prison & Probation Service and NHS England & NHS Improvement, as part of the Offender Personality Disorder (OPD) pathway.

The Corston Report, called for a radical change in the way that women at risk are treated across the whole of the criminal justice system. Corston advocated a women-centred approach through the extension of women's community centres. HerStory House delivers a woman-centred, holistic package of support, in a safe and women-only environment.

YOUR SUPPORT

Our referrals are prioritised based on an individual's needs or complexities which may include:

- **Current and/or historical exposure to trauma or adverse childhood experiences**
- **Cycles of homelessness**
- **Substance use**
- **Difficulty living within a community setting**

We are committed to empowering women with the skills to thrive in a community of their choosing, maintain their independence and build hope for a healthy future.

HerStory House is a high support female residential service, working in partnership with South London and Maudsley (SLAM). The service is comprised of two flats, each with two private bedrooms and their own shared kitchen and bathroom. There is also a communal kitchen, living area and garden.

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Gendered approaches can help unlock solutions to complex problems and deliver multiple outcomes for vulnerable women.

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The purpose of HerStory House is to provide women with a safe therapeutic space in an enabling environment, in preparation for independent living.

Residents are supported daily by forensic recovery practitioners, to develop and enhance their life skills whilst building constructive relationships and links with the community. A care plan is created for each resident at the start of their stay, which is reviewed every three months to assess their progress. They are also offered weekly key work sessions where they discuss their goals, identify needs and develop personal action plans in relation to their care plan.

The ground floor of HerStory House is a Well Being Hub for the residents and other women screened into the pathway to engage, socialise, develop and foster healthy relationships. The therapeutic programmes and activities enable them to learn new skills and create positive and healthy relationships. The objective is to offer a safe space for every woman in the pathway that needs it and to empower them in their efforts to reintegrate into society.



REFERRAL CRITERIA

- Female 18 years+
- Screened into the OPD Pathway
- Currently residing in prison, secure hospital or approved premises. Other premises approved by offender managers will also be considered
- Displays risks and complex needs suggesting a need for a high level of specialist support
- Has previously struggled to live independently in the community
- Would benefit from a psychologically informed approach and access to an individualised programme
- Willing to engage in the activities of the house and the support offered
- Must have a formulation completed by a forensic psychologist and an up-to-date OASys assessment completed by the Offender Manager
- Minimum 12 months remaining on their licence.
- Managed by National Probation Service, London

CONTACT US

For further information or to refer someone, please email:
referrals.hsh@penrose.org.uk

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Penrose is part of the Social Interest Group (SIG). The group provides a range of residential and support services. www.socialinterestgroup.org.uk



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