

# Support for women experiencing multiple child removal



**Trio lead**  
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Evaluation and Impact Lead  
GMCA

## Trio members

- Lilly Bule
- Charlotte Crabtree
- Phyll Hamilton/NEST

Start

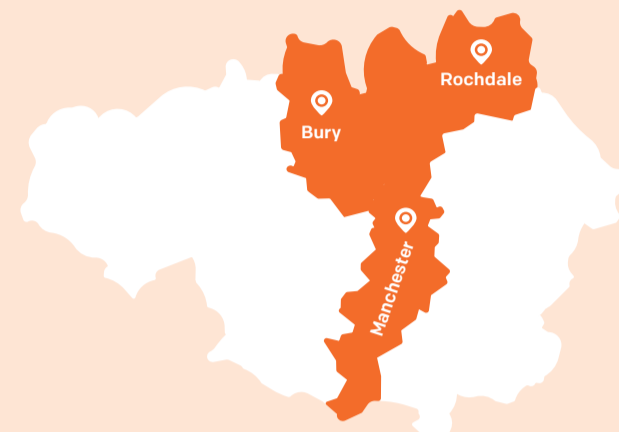
Hopelessness

Timely

Overwhelmed

## Our starting point

Women who have experienced multiple child removal are not being adequately supported. Trapped in cycles of trauma, women are not supported to recover in their communities without stigma or rejection. Our experiment aims to gather insights into how to better support women and practitioners at all stages of the removal process. We aim to change perceptions of women who have had children removed to encourage more empathy. To date, the focus has mostly been around post removal support for women.



## System barriers

Exhausted front line teams focused on managing demand and risk

Community organisations operating at the margins, on short-term funding

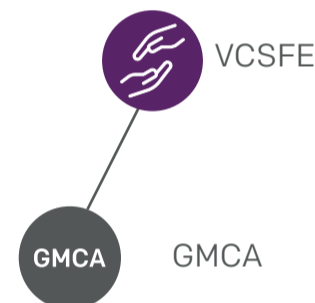
Purpose and outcomes defined primarily within services against national KPIs



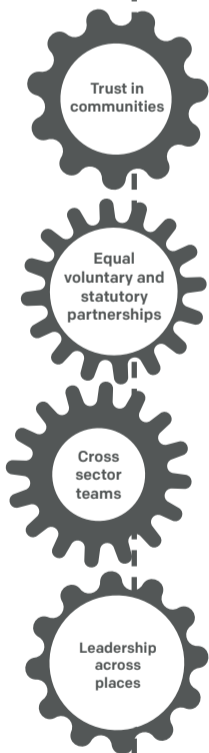
*A plethora of additional barriers: limited mental health support, lack of investment, stigmatisation, substance misuse, limited access to housing and siloed working.*

## Our system shifting trio

Our trio connects a frontline worker with lived experience, the NEST team, and a Shelter/Changing Futures worker, who has seen the impact of limited support. This combines several touch points and perspectives on women who have/are at risk of having children removed. In the future we would like to involve courts, substance misuse services, and male colleagues/allies



## Lightbulb moments



- Referrals from NEST to Watering your Soul providing emotional support.
- Storytelling from women being supported by WYS illustrated barriers in real time.
- Hit home that there is no support for women going through this process.
- We contributed to the design of a women's support worker at the Pankhurst Trust, working with a woman with lived experience.
- Setting up a peer support network
- Increasing our understanding of the stigmatisation of women who have experienced multiple child removal
- Finding that areas are not working in a trauma informed way, despite saying that they are
- Creating a list of support services across GM for women experiencing child removal
- Discovering an offer of trauma informed training for people working with women – Action Together and Back on Track

## Our biggest challenges

- Lack of empathy and understanding, this isn't something people think about.
- Lack of evidence about this issue
- Lack of safe space for women and practitioners to share experiences and learning

## Our insights and breakthrough

Work of Watering your Soul – women are reaching out and can trust their worker, meaning they are not worrying alone. Seems to be getting more traction and being discussed at higher levels (national government), WYS hired some workers as a result which is a starting point.

## Next Steps



- Trauma informed training for workers, continue to look for capacity and resource for more support.
- Sharing learning from workers at WYS and Pankhurst, and about the impact on children who are removed.
- Continued work with women referred,
- Sharing stories to educate others on the stigma women face and links to homelessness assessments/housing

## Now

- Proud
- Determined
- Just the start

**We aim to change perceptions of women who have had children removed to encourage more empathy.**

