**OMiC Implementation and the Transition from Wellbeing Checks to Key Work**

1. **Introduction**
   1. At the end of April 2021 we will be rolling out OMiC across the Women’s Estate. As part of this roll out we need to safely move away from Well Being Checks which have been in place since December 2020 as part of our COVID regime mitigations to reduce self-harm. Well Being Checks are seen to be a critical element of our drive to improve safety and well-being for women during the restricted regimes which are currently in place. We must ensure we manage this transition as the restrictions are lifted in a way which continues to ensure Safety is prioritised. Rolling out our Women’s Estate OMiC model is a critical element of our Safety Strategy which is why it is still being prioritised during the pandemic.
2. **Key Work & POM Expectations from 1st May 2021**
   1. From this date it is expected that all women will receive **1 key work session per month** and we will work with you over the coming months to increase this to the weekly expectation based upon your local circumstances. The critical element to the early stages of the roll out is to provide a consistent and high quality session which is appropriately recorded and incremental steps to the weekly expectation will require this foundation to be in place.
   2. For women assessed as high complexity of need, who receive an enhanced case management service, the expectation is that they should receive 45 minutes per month additional engagement time with their POM.
   3. It is essential that key work and POM sessions are recorded in the relevant sections of DPS/NOMIS.
3. **Well Being Checks Expectations from 1st May 2021**
   1. Prisons are asked to review all the women currently within the priority groups set out in the operational guidance and identify those who will continue to benefit from and require the daily wellbeing checks.
   2. A local system must be in place which records this decision and identifies which women have been identified to continue to receive these daily checks. A local system must also be in place which enables women to be reviewed or considered for the daily wellbeing checks going forward. Daily wellbeing checks will remain in place for the cohort identified locally and must be recorded. (In line with section 2 above Keyworker or POM time must still be delivered to this group as well as the daily wellbeing interaction).
   3. All women not currently receiving daily wellbeing checks are expected to have weekly wellbeing checks in place until the OMiC model is fully rolled out. This requirement will be reviewed as we move through the different COVID regime levels over the coming months. Where an individual has a key worker/POM session it is reasonable for the wellbeing check not to take place in that same week.
   4. All wellbeing checks must continue to be recorded in the Case Notes section of NOMIS.
4. **Assurance** 
   1. It is essential that prisons maintain assurance processes for Well Being Checks and put in place the necessary assurance structures and support for Key Workers in line with your implementation plans. Assurance structures will still be maintained within the PGD Office.
   2. HOMDs will need to put processes in place to assure themselves that POMs are undertaking engagement sessions with high complexity of need women. Immediate relevant information that is discussed should be shared with residential staff and/or the wider staff group.
   3. As this transition takes place it is essential that Governor’s and their Safer Custody Teams give close and timely scrutiny to any impact that the transition between wellbeing checks and key work has upon the wellbeing of the women in our care. Particular attention must be given to both the number of women self-harming and the total number of incidents to enable urgent intervention if required.

1. **Communication**

**5.1** A guide to the difference between welfare checks, wellbeing checks and key work will be provided for staff to assist with the transition away from the Wellbeing Checks Operational Guidance.

**5.2** As OMiC is rolled out it is essential that there is good communication with women regarding the changes including the identification of their key worker or POM. This will be part of your OMiC implementation plans. Particular attention needs to be given to communication with those women who will be moving from daily wellbeing checks to weekly checks.