

## **Going Home Project**

Representing the CIPD South East Wales Branch I am a member of the Steering Committee of the Going Home Project. The aim of the Project is to help 300 women ex-offenders face the major changes and long-term challenges in their lives to acquire the life skills that will help them manage their lives and contribute to their communities.

There are around 8 million people on the Government's Offender Index. One of the most challenging areas of the work is helping women to disclose to potential employers that they have a criminal record.

Going Home targets women who are in prison in England and have very little help and support to re-establish their lives back in Wales.

The Project supports women before their release from prison, offering encouragement and support, telephone and face-to-face mentoring when they are back in the community, group support in small local groups and practical support with activities such as assertiveness training and communication skills. The project also delivers advocacy, advice and signposting to mainstream services.

Going Home has a peer mentoring network of women ex-offenders supporting women recently released from prison. Over 180 women have been supported across Wales to help overcome barriers relating to housing, debt and how to disclose convictions, as well as rebuilding relationships with their children and families and supporting them into employment or training.

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