

## Site

Yorks & The Humber Probation Service

## Name of project / initiative

Departure Lounge

## Overview

Many people leave prison with little more than their discharge grant and the clothes they first arrived in, and no one there to meet them. The Departure Lounge outside New Hall, run by YatH Probation, aims to change that. It offers a comfortable and welcoming environment to newly released women, where they can get a warm drink and snacks, use a phone and charge their own, plan their onward journey, and get information and guidance from the centre's staff. If their resettlement plan includes onward referral to other agencies, they can meet them there in person or make contact with them over Teams; and if they are being met – whether by friends and family, probation staff, or other professionals – it gives both parties somewhere to wait until the other arrives, and spend some time together before they move on – while those who need it can be accompanied by a mentor to wherever they are going. The women can also get a change of clothes, and toiletries, donated by local companies and prison staff, as well as a mobile phone if they do not have one of their own.

## Its impact

See above.

## What's special about it

This is unique to New Hall (August 2023) and YatH consider it an example of best practice in supporting people at the very earliest stage of their release.

## Wider applicability

While it does require suitable premises and funding, YatH believe that this approach could be of benefit right across the custodial estate.

## For more information:

Contact: [Elaine.Colleran@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Colleran@justice.gov.uk)

See also: [Knowx.uk/YATHPS-KBT23\(1\).pdf](https://www.knowx.uk/YATHPS-KBT23(1).pdf) [flyer]