



COMMUNITY PLAN FOR HOLLOWAY

Community Plan For Holloway,
c/o St George's Church,
Crayford Road, Tufnell Park,
London, N7 0ND

07873817511
0207 971 1448
www.plan4holloway.org
plan4holloway@gmail.com



Candidate's Pledge for Women's Building on the site of the former Holloway Prison, 2021

Between 1852 and 2016, tens of thousands of women were incarcerated in Holloway Prison. Their history must not be erased.

A fitting legacy for these women is a truly visionary Women's Building, a home for the services once provided in HMP Holloway, and for women's organizations that are working to change society.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a real, positive change to improve how we support women, and for making women safer, more powerful and more equal.

The goal

Islington's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) of 2019 identifies the need and requires delivery of a "women's building/centre". The local community, women with lived experience of the prison, women's groups, and service providers call for a Women's Building of national importance providing:

- A legacy landmark of striking design and substantial presence
- Services equivalent to those offered in Holloway Prison, along with other services for women in the wider community.
- A home for activities that advance justice and equality for women, led and run by women dedicated to these principles.

I pledge that I will:

- 1.** Work with Islington Council and developer Peabody to fulfil this vision of a transformative, iconic Women's Building
- 2.** Urge Islington and Peabody to undertake a feasibility study as soon as possible to ensure the building's future sustainability and space for the organisations that were lost when the prison closed
- 3.** Only give my approval for any redevelopment of the Holloway Prison site that honours its history by providing a Women's Building in line with this vision.

This pledge was prepared by Community Plan For Holloway.

The provisions of the SPD for the Women's Building are attached overleaf.

From Islington Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): A plan for the future of Holloway Prison site (January 2019), Adopted 4 January 2018.

3.Key planning and development objectives

3.1 The site represents a real opportunity to provide a high quality, inclusive and sustainable new neighbourhood that can make a valuable contribution to the local community and built environment. A summary of the key objectives for the site can be found below....

The provision of a women's building/centre that incorporates safe space to support women in the criminal justice system and services for women as part of a wider building that could also include affordable workspace to support local organisations and employment opportunities....

4.22 The purposeful location of a number of women's services into one building would be beneficial in assisting and enabling the rehabilitation and integration of hard to reach groups of women beyond those in the criminal justice system, including those that are vulnerable, homeless, and those that fall between services and agencies.

4.23 There is currently work taking place around violence against women and girls, supported by Islington's Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy (2017-2020). Whilst some services are provided, there is no comprehensive service provision in place to address all of the issues around VAWG. This can be addressed through the provision of a safe space in which multiple services can be accessed. Safe spaces have been evidenced to foster an environment that makes it easier to come forward and report issues and, together with a simpler more accessible range of services in one place, can help to avoid women remaining in high risk situations.

4.24 The need for a women's centre/building is something that has been identified by a number of stakeholders as part of the consultation process, including the voluntary and community sector, local residents, and public sector bodies. In developing future proposals for the site, it will be important to engage with the Planning Service, the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) team, MOPAC and other key stakeholders to help assess the extent of what is required. This will be secured through a legal agreement attached to a future planning application. It will be important that a safe, women only space, with separate and secure access and outdoor amenity space, is provided as part of a high quality flexible facility that can allow multiple services to operate from the building and offer a safe and pleasant place for clients accessing the services. Whilst the council is keen to see a **suitably sized building that can accommodate these facilities provided on site**, it should be noted that it is highly unlikely that the council will be able to fund any additional services within these buildings.

4.25 The wider building could include affordable workspace to support local enterprises and employment opportunities, particularly for young people. There is also the potential to provide a service offer to the wider community with the provision of a range of well-being, therapeutic and family support services.