**PAS’ Example Case Studies of our work with Women and Disabled Prisoners**

**Case Study 1: Prisoner A and our Women’s Caseworker’s intervention**

Our Women’s Caseworker received a request for help from a woman in prison (Prisoner A), who was at risk of being released homeless in three weeks’ time.  Her application for Resettlement Overnight Release (ROR) to see her four children and sort out accommodation had been refused by the prison.  Without accommodation, Prisoner A could not be reunited with her children on release.  Her concern to be with her children and resume her role as their sole carer was acute, with a daughter undergoing tests for a terminal illness. Our Caseworker wrote to the prison challenging the legality of their policy to deny ROR in the last 28 days of sentence and their failure to consider the best interests of Prisoner A’s children.  The prison reversed their decision and granted ROR to Prisoner A within 24 hours of our intervention.

**Case Study 2: Prisoner B and our Community Care Caseworker’s intervention**

Our Community Care Caseworker acted on behalf of a disabled prisoner (Prisoner B) who had not been provided with a suitable wheelchair to meet his needs. The disabled prisoner had been issued an inappropriate wheelchair that was not fit for purpose. The back wheels were so small that he could not reach them to push himself along and therefore he was not capable of independent movement. This made him feel extremely vulnerable. Then the footrests broke and were not replaced. Prisoner B has a progressive spinal condition which means that he cannot raise his feet. So the absence of footrests caused his feet discomfort as they were continually dragging along the ground when he was being pushed along. This also resulted in Prisoner B’s shoes being ruined (scraping along the floor and getting worn out) as he was being pushed around the prison. Prisoner B suffered physical discomfort and embarrassment due to the prison’s lack of care. The situation also caused him to feel very vulnerable and humiliated because his mobility was severely restricted. Prison officers refused to push him in his wheelchair; some alleged they required training in order to so do. He felt the officers did not want to show sympathy or what may been seen as favouritism by other officers or prisoners. This meant that Prisoner B was unable to move around the prison unless a fellow prisoner helped him. Such action is in breach of the Public Sector Equality Duty which states that all disabled people should be encouraged to participate in public life. The Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on public bodies to provide ‘auxiliary aids’ to disabled persons (in Prisoner B’s case a working wheelchair). By the time Prisoner B contacted us, he had been using a broken wheelchair for over six months and had been submitting written and verbal complaints asking for a working wheelchair. Our Community Care Caseworker wrote to the prison pointing out the breach of their legal duty and asking them to provide a suitable wheelchair and assistance to Prisoner B. Our Caseworker threatened Judicial Review if this was not forthcoming. Within a very short time from our intervention, Prisoner B was provided with a functioning wheelchair with footrests that he can push himself. The prison now also pays another prisoner on his wing to act as his carer.