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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Solicitor General launches vision for local justice at domestic violence support centre**

The Solicitor General, Vera Baird MP today launched an important milestone in the development of a more effective criminal justice system by visiting some people at 'the sharp end' at Woman's Trust on Lancaster Road.

The Criminal Justice Strategic Plan (2008-2011) is published today (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November) – and outlines the Government's vision for further improving the way the system works – focusing on doing more to reduce crime and re-offending. The plan sets out commitments for all the criminal justice agencies to work together to:

- Be more effective in bringing offences to justice;
- Engage the public and inspire confidence;
- Put the needs of victims at its heart; and
- Have simple and efficient processes

The Solicitor General's visit to Woman's Trust highlights the government's commitment to putting the needs of victims and witnesses first. Woman's Trust is a registered charity providing independent, confidential, women-only services to women who have been or are affected by domestic violence. They also provide training for workers in the public sector who work with women and children and who are affected by domestic violence.

On visiting the centre, the Solicitor General, Vera Baird said, "Visiting Woman's Trust today has highlighted to me the very real importance of us rolling out this strategic plan over the next few years. Making justice a local issue, putting victims and witnesses at the

heart of the system is the theory and the work being carried out at Woman's Trust shows how valuable this is when it is put in to practice".

The Director of Woman's Trust, Kyria Conner said: "Two women loose their lives every week in the UK due to domestic violence and one in four is affected at some time in her life. Woman's Trust believes that the needs of those affected by domestic and sexual violence have too long been sidelined. We welcome initiatives that can support Womans Trust in promoting these issues and the needs of those affected and are very pleased that the Solicitor General has chosen to visit Woman's Trust today. "

**Media are invited to a presentation at the Woman's Trust at 3pm where there will also be a photo opportunity with the Solicitor General** Please note that this is by invitation only. Journalists wishing to attend should register their interest with Charlotte Phillips, Senior Press Officer at the Office of the Attorney General, on 020 7271 2465 or [charlotte.phillips@attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.phillips@attorneygeneral.gsi.gov.uk). Out of office hours ring 07623 946316.