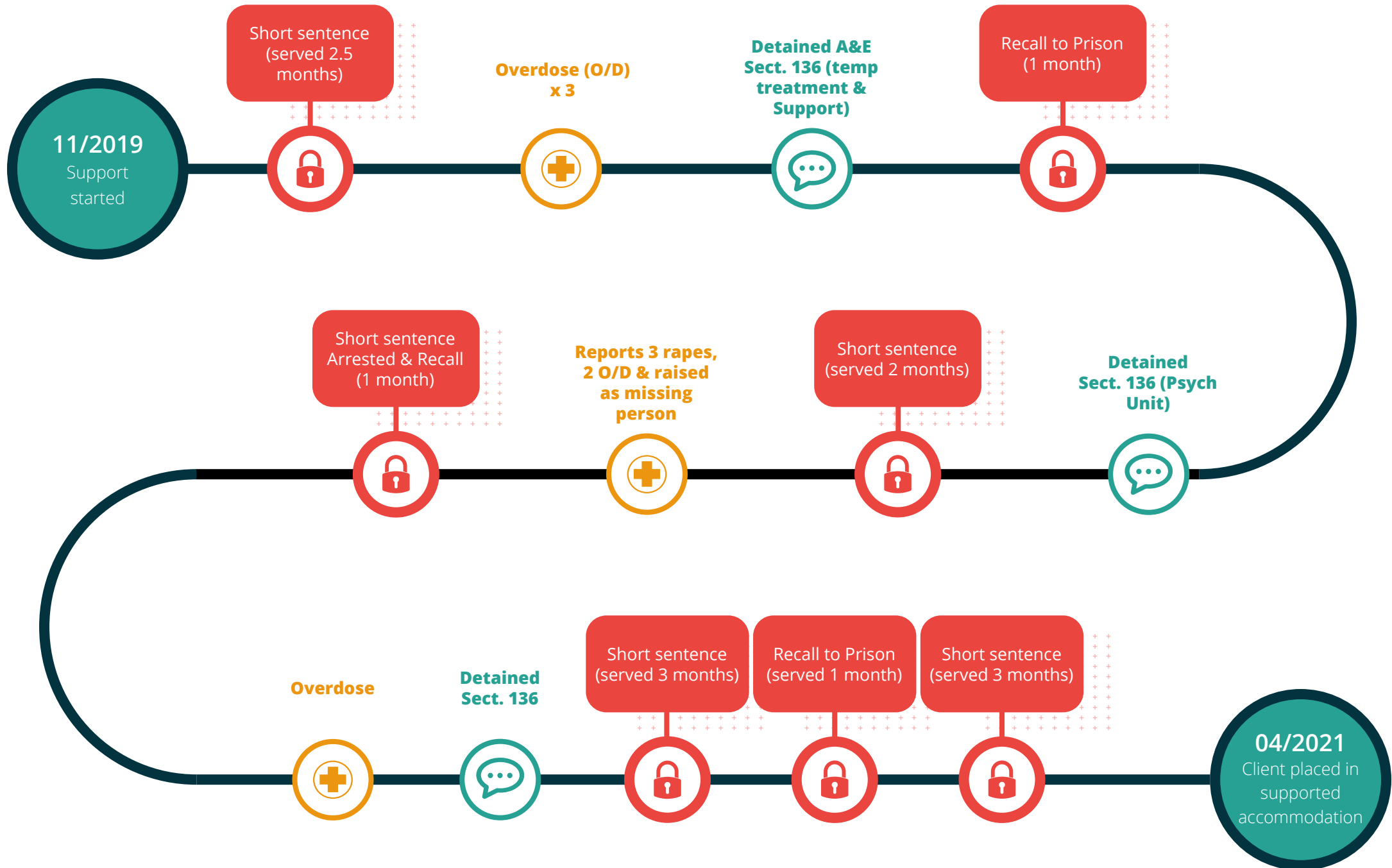


Offender Journey Timeline



Background:

FLSE (Women's Specialist Worker) started supporting Anna in Nov 2019. Anna's prison sentences often followed from mental health crises and dangerous behaviour towards herself and others. Gaps in system were identified as funding challenges for specialised supported housing; without which both the client and community were at risk. Many in custody have mental health problems, this case reflects that the cycle of short, prison sentences and inappropriate interventions, like mental health detentions, may be detrimental to people like Anna.

Offender Journey

This timeline illustrates the cycle of Anna returning to custody for short sentences, often after a MH crisis. Anna feels 'no one cares' or 'is really listening to her'. She displays deeply traumatised behaviour and will often allege being sexually assaulted by men she meets when intoxicated. Prior to her current placement, there was insufficient support for Anna's MH, and she was frequently released from section 136 and not detained, despite the severe risk she poses to herself.

Current Status and Specialist Worker Reflections

After her March 21 prison release, Adult Social Care arranged for high support accommodation for Anna, where she receives support from personal assistants (PAs) 24 hours a day. This intensive support has been positive to date. Anna reflected that she feels safer with this level of support. Although this accommodation is high cost, due to the intensive support, we might reflect that this level of support is necessary for someone with Anna's complexity. The short prison sentences did not stop Anna offending, and did not support her mental health difficulties. Anna's offending might have been deemed a 'cry for help', therefore enforcement feels punitive with someone who is so clearly in need of mental health intervention.

Client history /challenges

Anna is a 40-year-old woman, with a complex history of mental health stemming from childhood trauma and abuse. She has a diagnosis of emotionally unstable & anti-social personality disorders. She suffers from depression, multiple suicide attempts and self-harm incidents, resulting in serious injuries. Due to her childhood abuse, Anna shows signs of post-traumatic stress.

Anna's MH support MH needs have meant she struggles to live independently. For much of her life she has been housed in supported accommodation, hospitals, and prisons. Outside of hospital or prison, all accommodation placements have broken down. When Anna drinks alcohol her behaviour becomes very volatile, leading overdoses or harm to others (assaulting emergency workers). Her offences are often antisocial behaviour incidents.

Custody is often seen by agencies as 'safest place' for Anna due to self-harm risk and lack of options available to Adult Social Care (ASC) and the MH Trust. Anna has a social worker and a MH practitioner. Despite extensive support she continued in a cycle of self-harm incidents, police and ambulance interventions often resulting in assaults on staff, housing evictions and short prison sentences. Anna makes multiple calls to emergency services when in the community.



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