

# Prostitutes aim to prove they care for community

Litter-pick planned to help them start their return to normal life

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**PROSTITUTES** are to clean up streets in Derby as part of a project to show they care about the community they work in.

Between 10 and 20 of them will be picking up litter left by other prostitutes, their customers and drug users in Normanton.

The scheme called Keep The Beat Neat, was organised by charity Women's Work, which runs a drop-in centre for the prostitutes in Charnwood Street.

Rachel Walrus, 37, said she had been a prostitute in the area for nine years and wanted to do something about the problems it brings to the community.

She said: "We will be picking up things like condoms and syringes left by working women and their clients.

"And we will also pick up rubbish from other drug users in the area.

"Residents complain about problems that prostitution cause in the area and we need to show that we care about what they think and we are part of the community."

Miss Walrus said being part of the project was a step towards getting well again after an eight-year

heroin addiction. Thanks to the Charnwood Street drop-in centre she is on a course of Methadone, a heroin-substitute prescribed to wean addicts off the drug, and is looking for a job.

She said: "A lot of the girls getting involved in the scheme are ex-drug users as well. We are all being helped by the centre to get out of prostitution.

"Doing this kind of thing gets us closer to leading a better life. I regret getting involved in prostitution now."

The prostitutes and four volunteers from Women's Work will be cleaning up streets in Normanton and Peartree on Tuesday, September 11.

Dionne Reid, project manager at for the charity, said she hoped the Derby City Council-funded scheme would continue on a monthly basis.

She said: "The project will show the women what problems their work causes and also show people in Normanton that the women are human too.

"I'm hoping it will be the first of a number of projects like this."

Mrs Reid, of Littleover Lane, Littleover, said there were around 80 prostitutes, both active and inactive, in Normanton and she wanted more to join in with the schemes.

She said new projects would be advertised in her organisation's regular newsletter, which it provides for the street workers.

## NEAT MOVE:

Charnwood Street drop-in centre staff who are behind the plan, from left, Lyndsey Rook, Sarah Camplin, Dionne Reid, Rachel Sandford, Pear Brevett.

Picture: Mike Inman  
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