

'I don't know what I would have done without Women's Work'

SEX workers or women with drug and alcohol problems are among those who are being helped by the charity Women's Work.

The Derbyshire-based organisation, set up by Dionne Reid, offers support to women and their families through workshops, family outings, exercise sessions, educational courses and one-to-one guidance.

Women's Work also provides support for women in prison and help is offered to offenders to deal with problems such as drug treatment, accommodation and health to try to break the cycle and reduce the risk of re-offending.

Bee, an inmate at Foston

Prison, said: 'I don't know what would have happened to me if it weren't for Rachel from Women's Work coming in.

'A couple of weeks ago I went through one of the worst times in my life – detoxing off meths. I felt like the staff didn't care. Nobody helped me. I felt like ending it all. Then Rachel turned up. Talking to her really helped me.

'She reassured me that the way I was feeling was normal. I wasn't going mad.

'When I need things chasing up, she listens and does it for me. She has helped me in so many ways.

'Not only is she here for me in jail, but once I get

out I know that I have a link when times are hard with Women's Work.

'Without them I don't know what would have happened to me.'

>> For a referral form (to be filled in by the Probation Service, Integrated Offender Managers, Police and Courts), visit womenswork.org.uk, email info@womenswork.org.uk or write to Women's Work

(Derbyshire), The Villa, 30 Charnwood Street, Derby, DE1 2GU, 01332 242525

>> For a list of organisations that could help you in your area, ring Financial Freedom's information line on 0800 014 1168.

■ Vicki Owen



VITAL SUPPORT: Dionne Reid, pictured with her team, set up the Derbyshire-based charity