



Women's Work

Turning a new leaf



Annual Report
2005-2006





Primary Aim


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To support female substance misusers who are involved in street prostitution in Derby City, to improve their health and emotional well-being.

Encouraging those with addictions to accept drug treatment & work towards reducing the harm caused to themselves and others.

- To offer confidential support and guidance to those who wish to change their current lifestyle.
- To deliver regular street outreach services.
- To tackle drug addiction within the client group by improving access to and retention in drug treatment services.
- To liaise with members of the wider community and relevant agencies to address the wider consequences of substance misuse.
- To actively promote safe sexual practices.
- To educate and inform women on how to stay safe while engaged in their current lifestyles.
- To offer a safe space within a caring and supportive environment by the provision of drop-in services.



Chair's Report

Here we are with our third annual report. It's been another busy year at Women's Work. Dionne and the rest of the team have put in some hard work to ensure the success of the organisation. There is now a regular team of 16 volunteers, which means that the strain on staff is considerably reduced. We hope to implement a formal training programme for volunteers in the future so that they can benefit from their experience with us as well as the organisation benefiting from their dedication.

This year we applied to the Charity Commission for charitable status and were delighted when we were recently told we can officially call ourselves a Charitable Trust.

The day-to-day work continues apace. We have increased staffing levels to 3 project workers. This has meant that we can now offer another drop-in session on Monday between 12 – 6pm. The drop-in on Thursday evening has also been extended by four hours. These two events have enabled us to reach more women. An in-house counselling service has also been established.

Our links with Foston Hall, the local women's prison, has allowed us to give talks to inmates on a monthly basis to inform them of the work that we provide and the services we have on offer. This work also enables us to continue to support the women whilst they are in prison.

Training for staff was high on the agenda this year and they have been on various courses. Committee members were also able to take advantage of training. For instance, the Drug Awareness course that I attended was very informative.

At the moment we are on the brink of a whole new era for Women's Work with the formation of a strategic alliance with Derby Community Safety Partnership Drugs Team. This will enable the organisation to grow and increase its strategic capacity, which is essential to ensure the work continues well into the future.

By working closely with Derby City Safety Partnership we can demonstrate the effectiveness of our organisation and how important its survival is.

May I wish everyone well and we look forward to our next year with great anticipation.

Lynn Wood
CHAIRPERSON

OVERVIEW

The Women's Work Project, funded through SRB, was originally a partnership between Derby Women's Centre and The Edge Project and started its operation to support street sex workers in Derby City in April 2003. With an initial staff team amounting to 1.8 jobs, 3 volunteers and a box room as an office, Women's Work has surpassed all the original outcomes set out in the project specification 3 years ago.

The Project has now developed into an organisation with 6 paid staff, 16 volunteer support workers and 7 committee members. Women's Work has acquired its own office premises and is now a Registered Charity.

Throughout the lifetime of the project 269 women have been supported. 150 of these have visited the drop-in and accessed various services offered by the project.

It has been an eventful 3 years and, now the foundations are set, the focus as we enter Phase Two of the project will be on consolidating what has been achieved to date.



Project Manager's Report

With the initial phase of the Women's Work Project successfully completed I too look forward to the next few years where a Partnership with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team will see the project transformed into a Tier 2 drug intervention facility.

The project staff will focus on increasing the numbers of street workers entering and being retained in treatment, and reducing the harms to themselves and the community caused by the use of drugs.

The WWAG developed and managed by the project has achieved some success this year in highlighting the housing needs of our client group. The housing sub-group has been instrumental in the commissioning of a research study funded by Derby Homes. This has resulted in the development of a strategic group who will focus on the viability of the development of specialist supported accommodation for the women we support.

Staffing capacity is likely to be expanded this year, which should see the project operating more outreach and drop-in sessions as well as enabling us to support more women on a one to one basis.

As we achieve independent charitable status and complete the initial phase of the project we end a partnership arrangement with Derby Women's Centre. I would like to say thank you to the staff, volunteers and committee members for supporting us in this initial phase. Although there is no longer a formal partnership, we look forward to continuing the positive working relationship we have developed with one of Derby's oldest voluntary agencies.



Service Provision

The Drop-in

This year we have been able to increase our drop-in sessions. Apart from the two evening sessions we now have two daytime sessions. The Monday drop-in starts at 12 noon and has become very popular. This session often incorporates some informal learning sessions delivered by the Learning and Development Consortium. The Thursday drop-in is a very relaxed session and the service users normally decide what activities they do.

The Outreach

We have also increased the Street Outreach Service from two nights of the week to three. We make contact with new women every month. We continue to trial some new sessions outside the usual hours that we operate. The results of these are mixed. Priority for the coming year will be to increase the outreach sessions to five per week.

Newsletter

The production of our bi-monthly newsletter continues. The newsletter has developed into a valuable communication tool for our service users who regularly contribute to its contents. It is also used to relay comments and raise the concerns of local residents. Derbyshire constabulary regularly provide us with valuable information regarding dodgy punters, which is circulated to the women and helps to raise awareness of threats and keeps them safe.

Counselling Service

This service, run by our in-house psychotherapist, has proved to be very popular. Because this service is being provided on a voluntary basis the counsellor is only available for one day a week. We aim to increase this provision with the addition of another volunteer counsellor who is currently awaiting the results of a CRB check.

One To One

Currently 12 individuals are receiving one to one support. Project workers are allocated to individuals in need of more intensive support. This could be because they are pregnant or suffering from an acute health problem etc. A worker will spend up to 4 hours a week with an individual and each worker will have 4 or 5 one to one cases at any one time. We currently have a list of 23 women awaiting the allocation of a key-worker.

CURRENT SERVICE PROVISION

Shower and laundry facilities

Advice

Pregnancy testing

Chaperone service

Therapeutic sessions

Harm minimisation

Counselling

Peer support groups

One to one support

Leisure activities

Outings

Refreshments & food hampers

Barrier contraception

Internet access

Referrals & signposting

Clothing donations



Developments this Year

The WWAG

The WWAG group (Working Women's Advisory Group), developed and run by Women's Work, continues to be a great forum to build links and to work with other agencies based in Derby City. The Housing Sub Group has made much progress this year in identifying the housing needs of our client group. The group has played a vital role in the commissioning of a research study which has been presented to Derby's Housing strategy panel. The findings in this research will help to highlight and prioritise the housing need of our client group.

Funding

The Pilgrim Trust and The Tudor Trust have both supported the project in this past financial year. SRB funding comes to an end very shortly. However, we have had the opportunity to apply again for revenue funding for what is being called Women's Work Phase 2. This bid, if successful, will provide funding and enable the project to develop new services and posts up until December 2007.

Service User Involvement

A number of our service users played an active part in the refurbishment of our new drop-in and offices, helping to paint and decorate. The development of this facility was on a wish list devised by our service users many years ago and it was great to have their involvement at this final stage too.

The women are continuously asked to comment on and put forward ideas for new developments. Their poems and pictures helped to decorate the building on the Open Day and other work is often featured in our newsletter. Now that our committee is being formed it would be good to have representation at this level too and it is an aim that we will identify a more stable individual to take on this role in the near future.

Foston Prison Link

Many of the women we work with often serve short prison sentences at Foston Hall. It was identified that during these sentences we lost contact with the women and we were unable to continue supporting them. If we managed to find out that they were incarcerated we could not visit them without them losing their visiting orders. Another difficulty was accessing information about release dates. This is a critical time for our clients as they often come out of prison drug-free. Without support there is likely to be an increased risk of them returning to risky behaviours and drug use.



Service Provision

Correspondence highlighting these issues was sent to the Governess, Miss P Scriven, and eventually, after attending a number of meetings and completing numerous forms, the project staff were allowed to register for legal visits. The Prison staff, were very interested and supportive of the work that we do, and recognised the importance of the continuation of our work while the women were in prison. This is particularly beneficial for us in managing women that need drug treatment on release from prison. We are continuing to work with Foston Prison, as we would like to organise regular visits where we will do a presentation about the project to all the inmates, raising the profile of Women's Work and similar agencies in the region.

Social Work Student Placement

I have been working for Women's Work as a 50-day work placement for my Social Work Degree at Derby University. I have worked with various Volunteers and Project Workers and have found the organisation, the staff and the facilities available to the service users to be of a very high standard.

My initial apprehension of working with the client group that Women's Work cater for was soon put by the wayside the day I began the placement. I have been welcomed into the project, not only by the staff but also the service users, and I have learned a lot about my attitudes and values whilst working here (mainly the fact that there is a person behind the 'job' that they do and there are many reasons why they have got into the position that they have). Also, as a trainee social worker, I was surprised to know that a couple of the clients are either still going through the leaving care process or have previously been in the care of social services. It is sad to know that the system has let these women down but it is good to know that Women's Work has taken them under their 'wing' and is trying to guide them in the right direction.

Every service user has a story to tell about their lives and the reason why they have fallen into the path that they have. I say fallen and not chosen because there are many life stories told but all have the same underlying tale: an attempt to disguise the feelings of discontentment that their lives have brought to them, followed by the appreciation of the workers at Women's Work for taking the time to get to know and help them.

Marcia Lawrence
TRAINEE SOCIAL WORKER



Service User Comment

I came to the pamper session just before Christmas at the Women's Work drop-in centre. I felt by doing this it would make me feel better in myself and also other girls who felt down would get something from it as well. I had a lovely day having my nails done and the massage was out of this world! I think everyone who came got a lot from it. I hope that something like that will be done again as even if it's 2 hours it's 2 hours that makes you feel good about yourself. A big thank you to Women's Work who provided this for us.

Service User Comment

The language and play course was a great way to learn so much more about your child. I didn't think no one at all could show me how to look after my child, but I was wrong, the more I learn from different mums, the better. There were a few of us and it was really fun. We made things, played games as well as talked a great deal about all the important things we need to know about our children, from walking, talking and much more. There are things I never tried with my child because I thought he wouldn't like it, but it has helped my baby and me greatly. I've learnt how to get my baby into a proper routine and also to take time-out for myself as a mum.

Once again a big thank you to Women's Work, without them, just where would we be?

Christmas Pamper Day

As part of our Christmas festivities Women's Work arranged a Pamper Day for our service users. The event was advertised at our drop-in centre and during our street outreach sessions.

Crèche facilities were organized so those service users with babies could totally immerse themselves in enjoying the session.

Sarah Conlon, Gill Arkwright and Denise Anderson from the Learning and Development Consortium provided therapies which included Indian Head Massage, Back Massage, Manicure and Nail Painting. They also supplied a fantastic buffet lunch.

This event was an immense success and well attended.

Language and Play Workshop

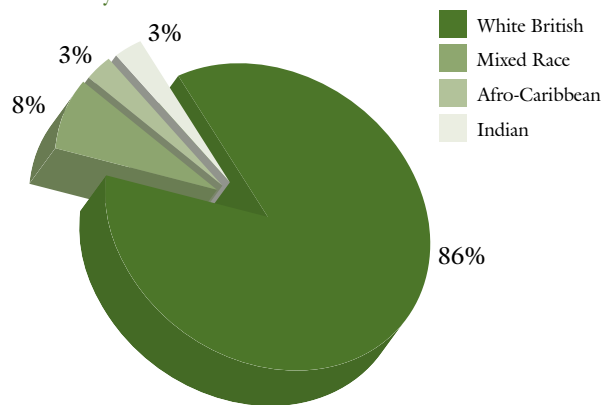
At the beginning of January 2006 we started a Language and Play Workshop for our service users who had young babies. We organised a crèche facility to ensure disruptions would be kept to a minimum and improve the learning environment.

Hilary Maltby from the Read On Write Away team delivered the course. The course ran for 4 weeks and was designed to help our new mothers understand how children develop their speaking and listening skills, to highlight how we can communicate effectively and how speaking and listening links in with all areas of the Primary Curriculum. Hilary loaned each mum a rucksack packed with books, toys and a tape recorder and tapes that played nursery rhymes. During the sessions many questions were raised by our service users who completely engaged with the course and its leader Hilary.

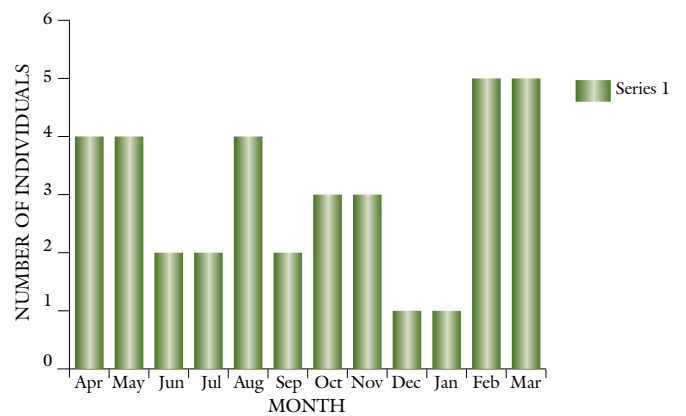
Women's Work are continuing to offer similar workshops throughout the coming year that we feel would be beneficial to our client group.

Stats and Facts

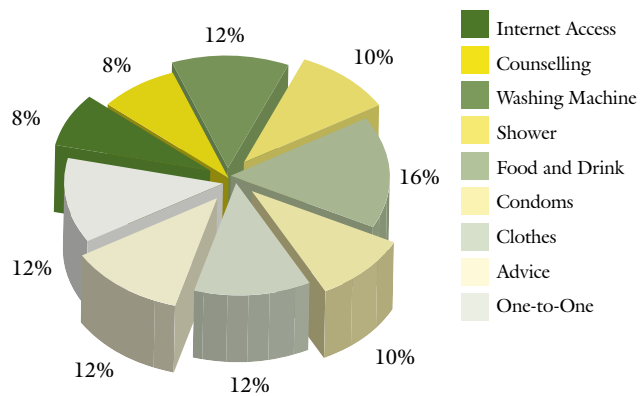
Ethnicity of new contacts



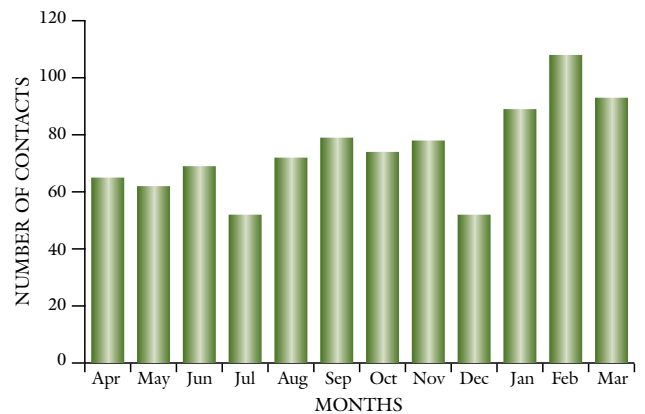
New contacts



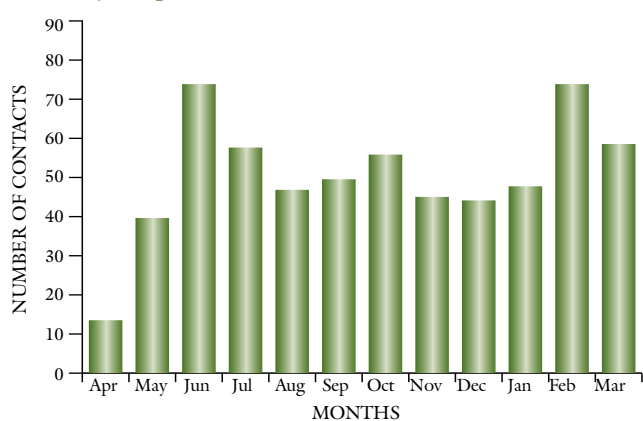
Which services do you use at Women's Work



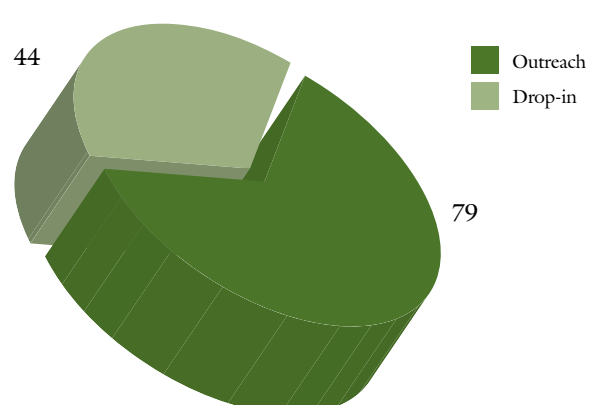
Monthly outreach contacts 2005-2006



Monthly drop-in contacts 2005-2006



Individual contacts seen in 2005-2006





Service Review Findings

These are some of the statements made on the evaluation questionnaire.

I am now clean

I have put on weight

A relapse prevention group would be useful

I feel better within myself

I like being able to have a shower and get clean clothes

The facilities are great

I am easily discouraged so I am grateful for the support I get to stay clean

I find it useful being able to talk about my problems

Not using drugs while I am at the drop-in

Each of the service users that use the facilities available at Women's Work were asked to complete an anonymous Evaluation of Service Questionnaire to assist us in targeting future service improvements and additions, and also as a guide to how well the services that are provided were meeting their needs.

The majority of the women, 57% who completed a form, were told about the services available via the outreach programme, which is run by Women's Work, 43% were informed by friends. 59% now use the drop-in services between 1 and 2 times per week, 33% use it 3 or 4 times and 8% less often. 100% of those completing a form stated that 'the staff at Women's Work work in a discreet, confidential, supportive and helpful manner.' This could be the reason why all of the women that filled in a questionnaire have said that they would recommend the service to others.

The results highlighted one thing that the service users of Women's Work would like to see as an improvement, that is the provision of more daytime drop-ins, particularly on a Tuesday. This has been mentioned by a number of service users, the reason being that there aren't very many places open in the day on a Tuesday.

91% of the service users questioned stated that their drug usage had decreased while engaged with the project. Of those, 100% felt that their health had improved due to the reduction in drug use, the support received at Women's Work and the facilities available for them to use.



Paula's Story

Eighteen months ago Paula was a heroin addict and street sex worker. After accessing the Women's Work drop-in facility and with support and encouragement from her key worker she began a methadone program and eventually entered residential rehabilitation. This is her story so far..

This is my second contribution to the Women's Work Annual Report, proof that I'm still going strong. It has been 18 months since I last used heroin or crack. It seems like a lifetime ago, almost as if I was another person then, which I suppose is close enough to the truth.

I was happy enough to complete the rehabilitation program at Phoenix House then to move into my own flat. It seems strange that the only person I'm now avoiding is the television license man rather than a handful of dealers I owe money to! It's good to be able to walk down the street and not have to turn away every time a police car passes just on the off-chance there's a warrant out for me.

I try and keep myself busy; so far I've gained Health and Hygiene, First Aid and Drama certificates. I've also completed a course on working with the deaf using sign language skills and Mediation between disputing neighbours. I also worked at Tesco supermarket over the Christmas period. Last September I started a full time Access course in Art and Design, and have every intention of completing this.

When I left Derby I had to cut myself off from everyone with whom I'd had drug related relationships. Some of the people I was in rehabilitation with have returned to using drugs so I've had to cut off all contact with them.

Lyndsey, from Derby Women's Work, has been one of the very few contacts that I've continued to keep and I have appreciated that. I am a stranger in a strange city so it's good to hear from someone familiar to me. I've got friends from college so my social life has improved vastly.

I wouldn't say I've got what I want, but I would say I've got what I need and that's what I call progress!

Paula Kyle
SERVICE USER

Thank You

It would not have been possible for Women's Work to achieve the level of success it has without the support of others. On behalf of the Committee Members and the Staff Team we would like to say thank you to all the agencies and individuals who have contributed to the project in the past year.

Funders

Derbyshire Community Foundation
Pilgrim Trust
SRB Team
The Tudor Trust

Agencies

Argos
Addaction
Birds Bakery
Centenary House
DRI Accident And Emergency Team
Derby Community Safety Partnership (Drug and Alcohol Team)
Derby Women's Centre
Derbyshire Constabulary
Derby Rape Crisis
Derby Housing Options
Derby Playhouse
Derby Lions Club
Derby CVS
Hartington House
Lauren's Link
Marks & Spencer
Origination
Padley Day Centre
Rolls-Royce
Ski Centre
The Edge Project
The Elms Clinic
William Donaldson Clinic
Wilkinson Stores
Waterworld



The Staff Team

Dionne Reid – Project Manager
Lyndsy Rook – Project Worker
Rosheen Hopwell – Project Worker
Rachel Searcey – Project Worker
Rachel Sandford – Administrator
Andrew Buxton – Finance Officer
Christine Earl – Domestic Assistant

Committee Members

Lynn Wood – Chair
Jenny Stephens – Treasurer
Maria Wade
Kit Salt
Kim Fox
Jill Bryan
Marrienne Connally

Volunteers

Anne Keeling
Abigail Allen
Natalie Bryan
Angela Kiernon
Bernedette Pietruszewski
Holly Tabberer
Jackie Callinan
Julie Clough
Natalie Bryan
Sarah Hampton
Satya Patel
Sharon Wall
Wendy Kazor
Michelle Timney
Michelle Parker
Donna Hargreaves

A Personal Note

I can hardly believe three years have passed since the start of the Women’s Work Project. Being involved in the project from the start puts me in an ideal position to reflect on its journey.

There have been difficulties, particularly in the initial start up of the project. However, I feel these difficulties have been eclipsed by the progress that has been made. Much dedication and hard work has gone into building a project that is able to stand as an individual organisation and it has all happened relatively quickly. Thanks to a committed staff team and our volunteers; I feel we have achieved all we can within the organisation in its current format. I now look forward to future developments, which will involve a partnership with Derby Community Safety Partnership Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

I think we can safely say, ‘Mission Accomplished’.

Dionne Reid
PROJECT MANAGER

Labels – Who Am I?

YOU SAY:	I SAY:	MY NAME IS:
Prostitute	Woman	Rachel
Whore	Lady	Sarah
Call girl	Mother	Fiona
Fallen Woman	Sister	Kelly
Harlot	Friend	Lorraine
Hooker	Aunt	Susan
Loose Woman	Wife and Partner.	Mary and Ruth.
Scrubber		
Streetwalker		
Tart and Trollop.		

*I have never been and never will be a label,
but I am and will always be a human being.*

by R. Sandford

Financial Report

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the Year Ended 31 March 2006

2005		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		2006	
Total		£	£	£	£	Total	£
18303	Opening Balance		-1897	4786		2889	
Receipts							
76246	Grants	Note 1	24568	72002		96570	
369	Fundraising		815	0		815	
0	Sundry		482	0		482	
6	Interest		7	0		7	
76621			25872	72002		97874	
Payments							
47904	Wages and associated costs		156	59769		59924	
14800	Capital expenditure		646	95		741	
9035	Project Resources		2861	143		3004	
6990	General Running Expenses		14834	845		15679	
4680	Rent		560	5680		6240	
2612	Travel		2280	432		2712	
1790	Training		1142	1639		2781	
1356	Professional Fees		150	0		150	
1202	Repairs and maintenance		451	0		451	
884	Transfer to Derby Womens Centre		0	0		0	
749	Volunteers expenses		495	373		868	
33	Sundries		100	0		100	
92035			23675	68975		92650	
- 15414	Surplus/Deficit for year		2197	3027		5224	
	Transfer between funds		1138	-1138		0	
2889	Fund balance at end of period		1439	6675		8113	

TREASURERS REPORT

Income during the year amounted to just short of £98,000 principally made up of Grants from Derby City Council (SRB), Derbyshire Community Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust.

This Income supported our Expenditure of just under £ 93000. Wages and associated costs made up 65% of this, with the balance going on general running costs, rent, training and other ancillary costs involved in sustaining the project.

Our cash balances at the start of the year were a modest £3000 and at the end of the year just over £8000. Of this only £1400 can be attributable to our Reserves which is a figure well below the guidelines recommended by the Charity Commission. Our Reserves policy continues to be one of trying to build up our General Funds year on year to a more acceptable level. The balance of £6600 is earmarked for spending in the coming year.

Looking to the future it is pleasing to report that continuation funding has been sanctioned by Derby City Council that will sustain the project until the end of 2007 which will give a considerable measure of stability.

Finally can we again thank all our supporters and funders who have helped the project meet the challenges presented to it. This really does make a difference to local communities in the city.

Jenny Stephens
TREASURER

Financial Report

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

as at 31 March 2006

2005 £		2006 £
	Fixed Assets	
9245	Equipment	9245
2705	Bank balances	8087
184	Cash balance	26
2889		8113
<hr/>		<hr/>
12134	TOTAL ASSET	17358
	Less Liabilities	
0	Creditors	0
<hr/>		<hr/>
12134	NET ASSETS	17358

Chair _____

Date _____

Treasurer _____

Date _____

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1

Grants received and fund balances were as follows

Grants received	£
SRB 6	69502
Derbyshire Community Foundation	2500
Pilgrim Trust	24568
	<hr/>
	96570

Restricted funds balances were as follows

	Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Closing Balance £
SRB 6	0	69502	62827	0	6675
Derbyshire Community Foundation	60	2500	2560	0	0
Small Change	1227	0	89	-1138	-0
Local Network	3500	0	3500	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4786	72002	68976	-1138	6675

If you are interested in helping to promote the aims of the Womens Work Charity and would like to become a member of the organisation or a trustee, then please copy and complete the application overleaf and return it to us. We will then contact you with further information.



Application for Membership

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Current Address: _____

Tel No (day): _____ Tel No: (eve): _____

Please provide two references

One should be from someone who has known you at least 5 years (and is not a family member).

Reference 1

Name: _____

Address: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Reference 2

Name: _____

Address: _____

Relationship to you: _____

I am willing to stand as a candidate for the election to the Board of Trustees of Women's Work. I confirm that I am eligible to serve as a Company Director and Charity Trustee. If elected I am willing to make every reasonable effort to attend meetings (usually monthly). If I agree to serve on a sub- committee I will also attend relevant meetings. I confirm that I am willing to assist in project activities when possible. I understand that, if elected, I have a legal obligation to act honestly and responsibly and always in the best interests of Women's Work and its beneficiaries.

Signature _____ Date _____

All records are kept confidential and must be updated regularly.
It is your responsibility to inform the Secretary of any changes to personal details.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Proof of ID: Yes / No

Document seen: _____ Witnessed by: _____

Satisfactory References? Yes / No (If no state reason)



**Women's
Work**
Turning a new leaf

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Debry

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E-mail: derbywomenswork@hotmail.com

