

**ANNUAL  
REVIEW**  
2015 / 16

# Message from the Chair

**2015 saw us develop and begin to implement a new strategy. Building on our work in our centre with women, we are keen to see the organisation develop and grow and to reach out to women where they are.**

We are in a time of substantial external change, both in terms of legislation and provision of services. The impact of austerity, the increasing movement of individuals across borders and the developments in forms and types of trafficking and modern slavery are having a substantial impact on the demands upon our services. We continued to see an increase in the needs of those we support, as statutory services pulled back their provision in the wake of austerity cuts.

We are seeing other organisations close due to reductions in statutory funding and access criteria becoming increasingly more focussed along with requirements for access becoming more rigid. For many of the women we support this means that they are further excluded, for example mental health problems that cause memory difficulties mean missed appointments and perhaps sanctions or withdrawal of services. Our role in advocating for our clients is becoming increasingly necessary, along with our ability to provide ad-hoc welfare services such as food parcels for those experiencing significant destitution is vital.

On a more positive note, the changing external environment is bringing agencies together, allowing us to strengthen our external partnerships. In addition we are seeing an increasing interest in volunteering which has allowed us to increase the numbers and range of volunteers that support our work. The work we do also allows us to advocate on a larger scale on policy issues, in partnership with other agencies and by ourselves, giving a voice to those whose needs often go unheard.

Our work is not possible without the dedicated support of our volunteers, donors and funders. Without this support we simply wouldn't be able to reach out to women in need and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those that support us to make our work possible.

Kathryn Hodges  
Chair of Trustees

**“This centre helps me, keeping me busy, interacting with the staff. This place has got quite a lot of activities that I enjoy doing so I'm keeping busy”**

# Our Mission & Vision

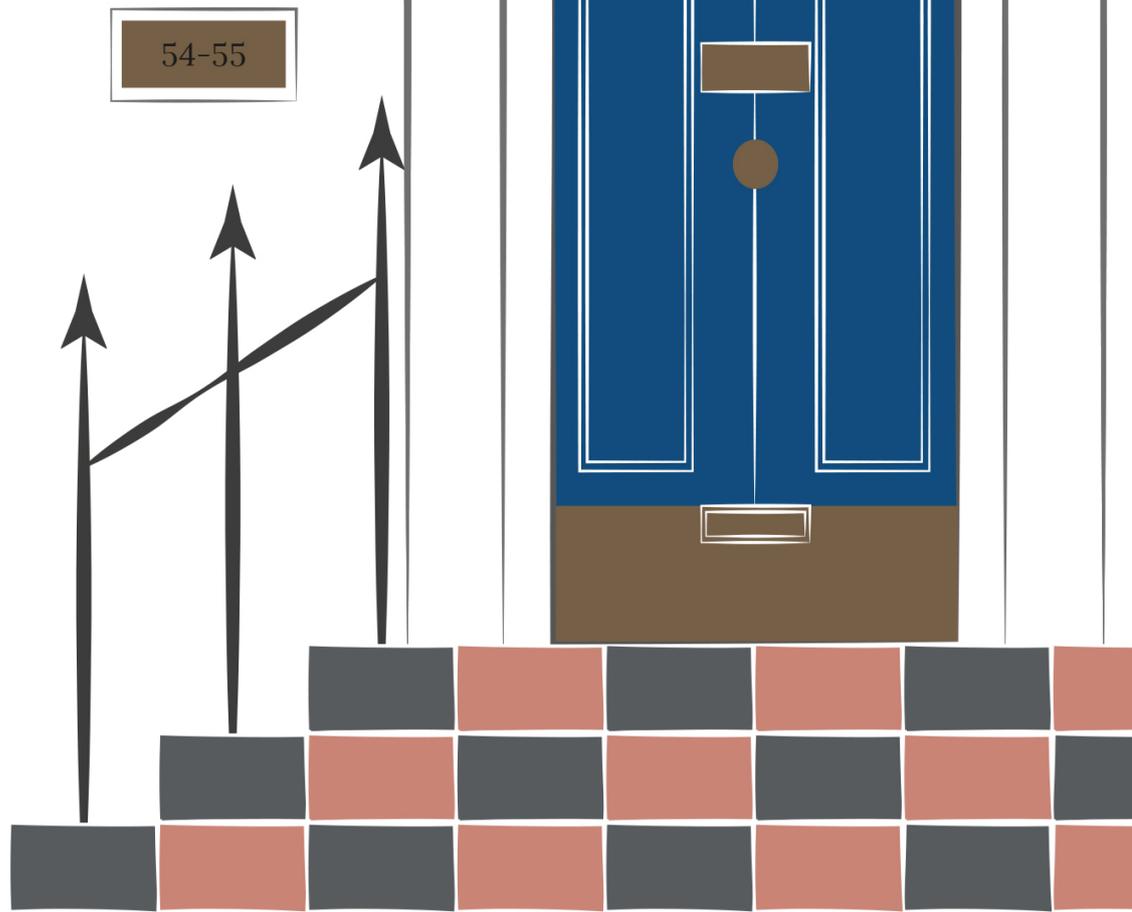
women@thewell envisions a society in which all women are empowered to achieve their full potential free from discrimination, abuse and neglect.

women@thewell provides a creative and supportive space for women whose lives are affected by prostitution, based on Gospel values, developing an evidence based, holistic response to their needs. Acknowledging the trauma experienced by women exploited by their involvement in prostitution we aim to empower them to achieve their full potential through freedom from exploitation and abuse by providing opportunities that enable them.

**“women@thewell has made a big difference in my life for the past 3 years”**



of women report feeling **safer** than they did when they entered the **project**



# Making a Difference

## Our Services

We supported 221 women, 153 received intensive one to one support with a named worker

We continue to deliver wellbeing services and find that these are well received by the women who access them providing space and time to focus on their own needs away from the chaos of their daily lives. This area of work continues to be developed with access to counselling and other therapeutic services being explored for next year.



Provided support to **71** **women** in relation to **finance** and **benefits**

**79%** made or maintained existing progress in addressing **debts** and making **payments**



were identified as having support needs relating to **abusive situations**

**88%** addressed **issues** in a violent or abusive **relationship**



women had support needs around **accommodation**

**92%** stabilised their housing situation or **gained accommodation**

 **52**  
women  
reported involvement in  
**prostitution**

**63%** took steps  
towards receiving  
**money** through  
**legal** means only

 **65**  
women reported  
**substance misuse**

**86%** made  
progress towards  
gaining **control**  
over their  
**addictions**

## Hannah's Story

One of our women, shares her perspective on being homeless and what w@w means to her.



“I am a woman who is in my late 30s, for unusual reasons not commonly shared with the group of people who end up homeless, I have been homeless on and off for 10 years. I come from both a political and socially active background, and my family have always been involved in charity and campaigning for social justice. I have to say, although I had an educational upbringing about society as a whole and people with different backgrounds and the unfortunate part of our society who ends up destitute and in need, I naively thought I had an idea about poverty and homeless people. But I have to say; when I became homeless I encountered both women and men from all backgrounds, with shared and different reasons for being homeless. I was surprised by their survival, pain and how they almost make up a ‘street character’ for themselves in order to deal with the horror and loneliness of the ordeal, day in day out.

There are two different kinds of groups of people in society; those who have a background and a home, and those who have a background and no home. I belong to the second group, the minority of the second group, which are women. It is so easy for some of us to be labelled damaged and lost, but all of us have strength and sheer determination to survive, even when we are spiralling downhill.

I love women@thewell. It is a place which is different from other services. It provides a home for a group of women, where women can desert their ‘street character’ at the door and be women together, social acquaintances and friends, not victims and clients.

On behalf of these ladies, I want to thank the Sisters, the staff and the volunteers for providing a safe, kind and warm place, where, although the street brought us to the door, it is left out there.”

# Making a Difference

## Our Success Story

Amy, one of our support workers, received an email from one of the women she has worked with, Sophie, since she has moved on from life at women@thewell.



“**T**his is just to say hello and let you know I’m doing really well.

On the 7th June I celebrated one year clean and went out for a family meal to a restaurant with my mum, dad, sisters and brother. It was a lovely night and enjoyed every minute of it. I was also given a really beautiful gift from my family to mark the anniversary.

Everything is going well with my job too. I have been working at William Hill now for six months and I am really enjoying myself too. I have met some wonderful people here and get on very well with the staff and customers. The regulars know my name and I know how they like their tea or coffee.

Lastly, just a bit more good news for you. My probation officer has been really pleased with my progress. I started seeing her once a week and then it got changed to once a fortnight. However, things are going so well that my probation officer is thinking of changing it to only once a month.

And also, I’m going on holiday with my mum dad and kids in two weeks to for ten days. I’m so excited about it. Got all my bits ready, just got to pack my suitcase. I’ve even been given permission to go from probation too. I’m spending a lot more time with my family and kids now too and will attach some photos of me and the kids at a cafe which is right next to my work place so they were more than pleased when they got to see where I work.

So yeah, everything is going really well for me and I couldn’t be happier. Thank you for all your support and time and effort spent with me (and Grace too).

Will try to pop in one day but please give my love to everyone.

Love from,

Sophie xxx

# Making a Difference

## Our Supporters & Partners

We have worked hard to increase our engagement with local services, developing a lead worker model that allows support staff to develop links with statutory and other agencies across local boroughs; this includes our involvement in strategic meetings such as Camden Tasking and Targeting meetings that focus on tackling rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour in the borough. We played a key role in the development, and ongoing delivery of the Women's Safer Spaces beds project to enable chaotic women currently involved in street based prostitution to become more stable and explore exiting.

We have developed both new and continuing relationships with arts organisations locally, to enable us to provide an inviting range of activities and experiences that support both therapeutic change and broaden and enrich the experiences of the women who access our services. These include working with the Mary Ward Centre, Into the Wolf theatre company and the Seure Art Foundation.

Internationally, we have continued to work with European Women's Lobby and other national and international partners not only for a Europe Free from Prostitution but also to influence the worlds stage through the UN towards decriminalising the victims, those exploited through their involvement in the sale of sex (predominantly women) and the criminalisation of demand and all aspects of organisation of the sex industry.

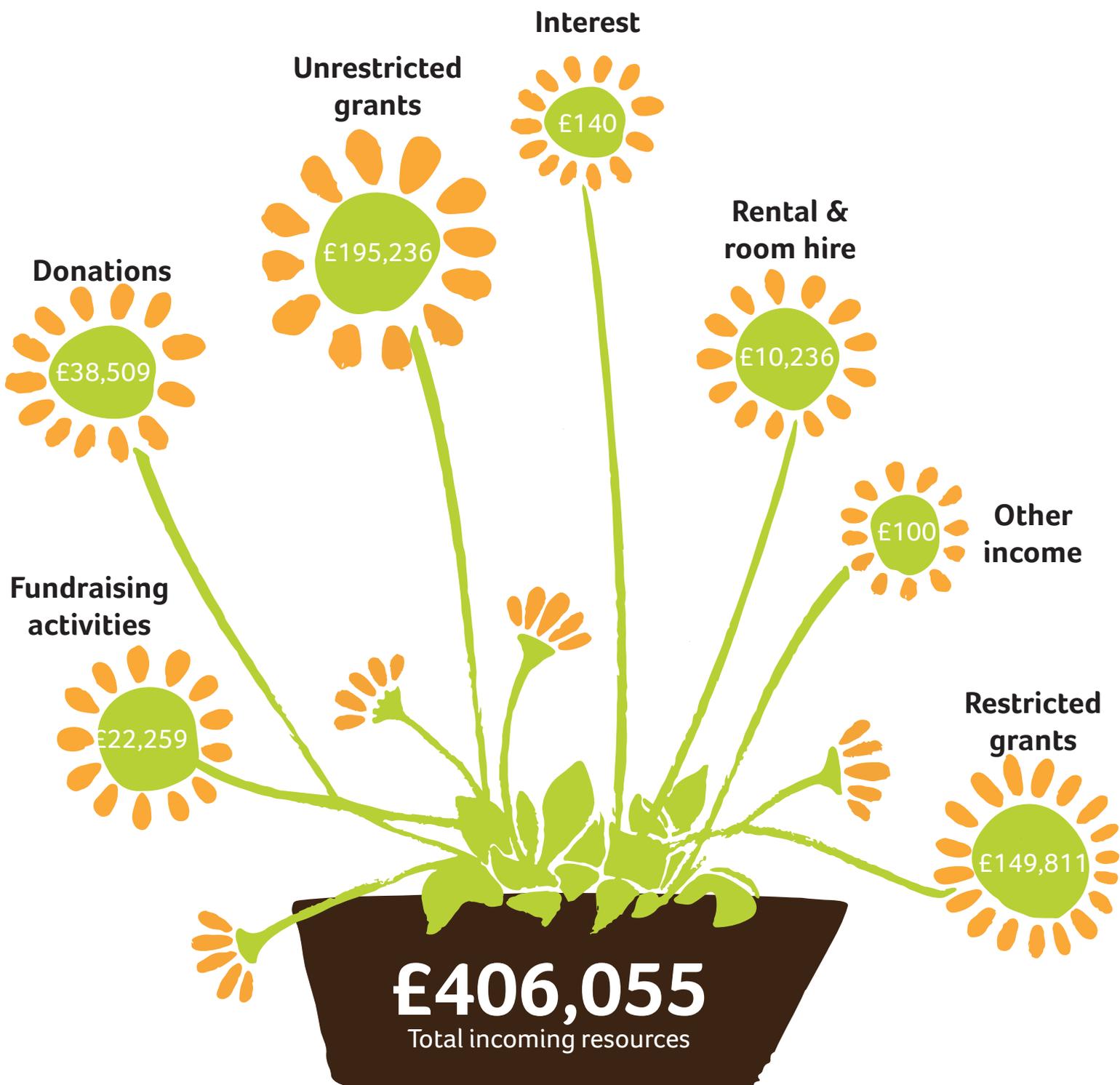
We are grateful to all the volunteers who support our work. In 2015 46 volunteers were actively engaged in delivering support. Most supported the drop in service, running activities and providing services that meet basic needs. Volunteers with particular skills and appropriate qualifications ran workshops and activities related to these, for example cooking, IT, gardening and specialist craft and wellbeing activities.

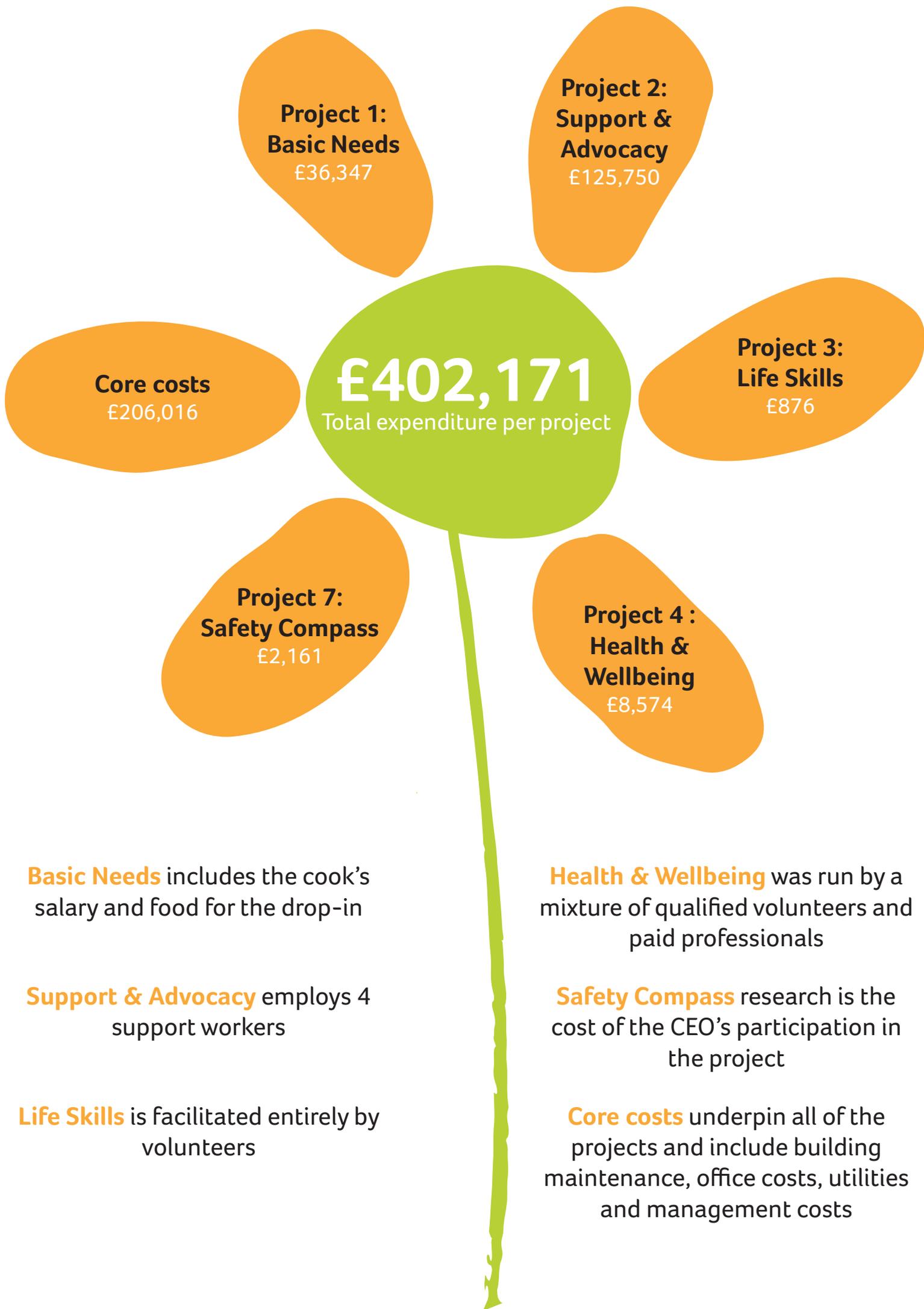
### Special thanks go to the following for their generous donations to support our work in 2015:

IOLM	Pilgrim Trust
Laing Trust	City Bridge
St Andrews Holborn	London Catalyst
Esmee Fairbairn	Lankelly Chase
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	Fareshare
Charlotte Marshall	Francis Crick
Sir Harold Hood Charitable Trust	Garfield Western
Bisgood Charitable Trust	Homeless Transition fund
London Probation Trust	University of Bristol
Plater Trust	Centre for Social Justice
Comic Relief	

# Our Finances

The information in this summary is taken from the full audited and unqualified annual accounts which were approved by the trustees in May 2016 and have been submitted to Companies House and the Charities Commission. Copies of the full accounts can be obtained from [www.watw.org.uk](http://www.watw.org.uk) or by applying to our office





**Basic Needs** includes the cook's salary and food for the drop-in

**Support & Advocacy** employs 4 support workers

**Life Skills** is facilitated entirely by volunteers

**Health & Wellbeing** was run by a mixture of qualified volunteers and paid professionals

**Safety Compass** research is the cost of the CEO's participation in the project

**Core costs** underpin all of the projects and include building maintenance, office costs, utilities and management costs

# Our Future

Going forward we are refocussing and restructuring our services to provide greater capacity to engage those considered hardest to reach by statutory agencies and to provide greater clinical and technical skills and experience at all levels within the organisation.

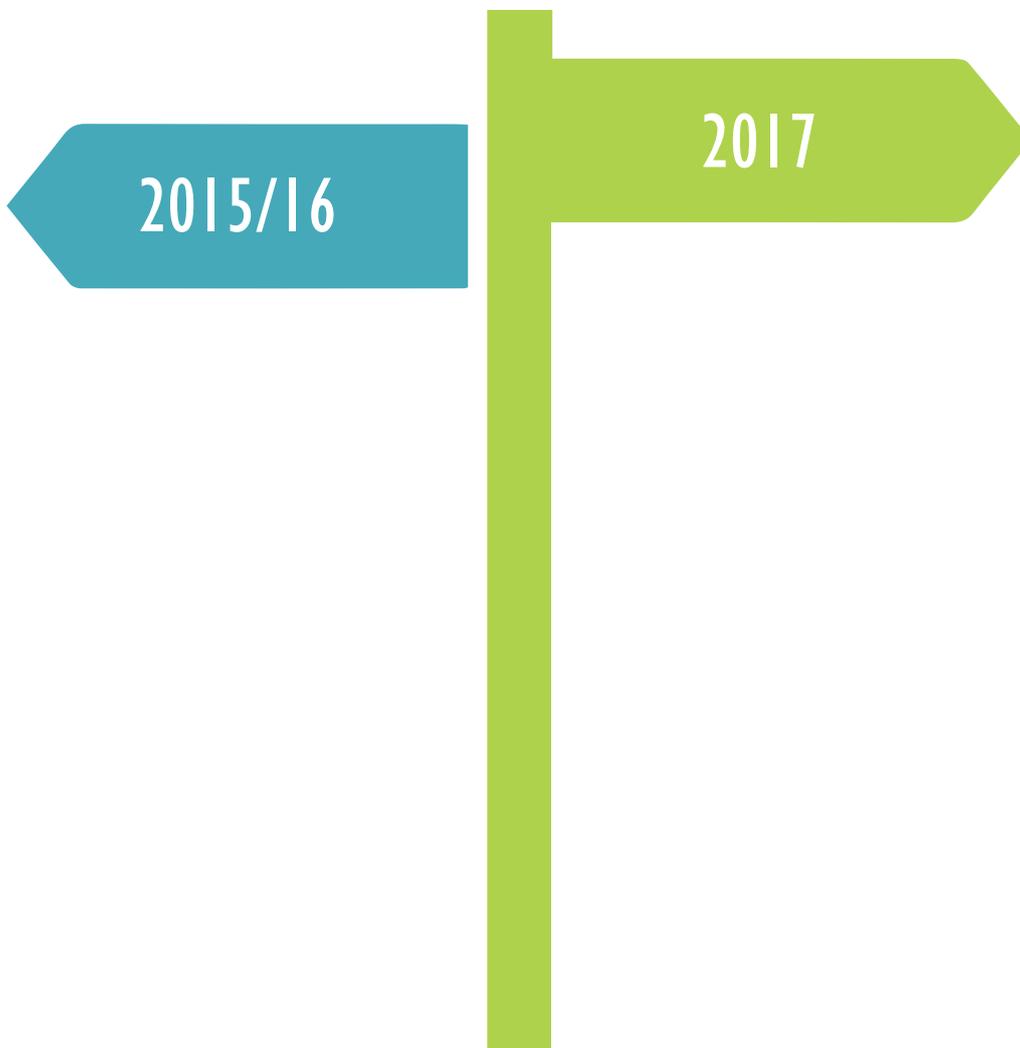
Into next year we will be testing a more structured approach to progression for the women that use our services and the intention is that this work will allow us to provide more support to women and support engagement with other agencies and the local community, whilst still being able to keep in touch with women who may be anxious about falling back into difficult situations.

We have received a 5 year grant from the Big Lottery from July 2016, that will enable us to deliver on our strategy and reach out to women involved in or at risk of becoming involved in prostitution.

We plan to support 70 women a year with our new Outreach and Support Service and at least 160 women will receive one to one support through our existing Advocacy and Support Service.



**“Thanks to the support at women@thewell, I  
have hope now, for a better life”**



# Give a Gift

It can take many years of small steps and frequent setbacks to see a life turned around. We want to be here for as long as it takes each individual.

Your donation helps each of these small steps and enables us to be here to celebrate these as big achievements.



Visit [www.watw.org.uk](http://www.watw.org.uk)  
Our website will take you to our Just Giving page where you can choose to make a one off donation or set up a standing order.



Text **watw01** to **70070** and state the amount you would like to donate.



Make cheques payable to '**women@thewell**' and post them to the following address:  
**54/55 Birkenhead Street, London WC1H 8BB**

**Boost your donation** by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate - Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

## What your gift could mean



**£10** pays for a replacement birth certificate so a woman has identification.



**£25** pays for 15 warm lunches for our women within the drop in.



**£50** pays for an hour of specialist therapy such as counselling or massage.



**£150** pays for emergency accommodation for a vulnerable woman for 4 nights.

## Gift Aid It!

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the relevant boxes below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of  
£ .....

- today;
- any future donations;
- or donations made in the past 4 years

to [women@thewell](mailto:women@thewell)

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details

Title: .....

First name: .....

Surname: .....

Home address: .....

.....

.....

Post code: .....

Date: .....



**women@thewell**

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**020 7520 1710**

**[www.watw.org.uk](http://www.watw.org.uk)**

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