

# ANNUAL REVIEW & IMPACT REPORT 2016/17

CAMDEN

wow  
women@thewell

54-55



# Message from the Chair

**The last year has seen women@thewell embed the development strategy that was set out in 2015. Our focus has been to develop the work that has been undertaken over the last nine years in creating and establishing a place of safety and support for women. We sought to develop the organisation to reach out to women where they are, and this year has seen the development of a much needed outreach service.**

We are undertaking purposeful change and development, responding to the challenging external environment, with a clear mission to focus on the needs of women whose lives have been affected by prostitution. This requires the organisation to respond to a multiplicity and complexity of experiences faced by women.

The underpinning vision and on-going commitment of Sister Lynda Dearlove continues to retain the organisations mission. Additionally, Caroline Hattersley joined the organisation as Head of Service, and her leadership over the last year has enabled effective and confident implementation of the strategy outlined in this review.

Essential to the success of women@thewell is without doubt found in the care and commitment of the staff team and they work together to meet and support women who access services here.

As part of the work to ensure opportunities, circumstances and support available to women improves, we are committed to developing effective partnerships with a range of organisations and people both nationally and internationally.

This year, Rachel Moran, Executive Director of Space International, and bestselling author of Paid For, My Journey Through Prostitution, joined the organisation as an Ambassador for our work. This appointment underlines our commitment to ensuring that women's voices are at the centre of policy discussions and at the heart of the decisions that affect their lives.

Moving into 2017/2018 we are committed to further developing the evidence base on which effective services are developed and built and we are involved in a range of research projects to further this aim.

Next year too, we will celebrate our 10th Birthday. We will continue to focus on strengthening developments in service delivery and build on our commitment to speaking up for the women who come to seek support from us, and for those who are not able to do so. This essential work is not possible without the dedicated support of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors and funders.

Without this support we would be unable to reach out to women in need of support, and I would like take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all those who support our work.

Kathryn Hodges  
Chair of Trustees

# Our Vision & Mission

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

**Mission:** **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.

In order to fulfill this **Mission**, we aim to:

- 1.** Reach out to and provide supportive services to women whose lives are affected, or at risk of being affected, by prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation.
- 2.** Provide a trauma-informed, holistic response to the needs of these women in a creative and supportive environment which is informed by Gospel values.
- 3.** Work with these women to enable them to develop appropriate and sustainable exit strategies from multiple cycles of abuse
- 4.** Contribute to and engage in local, national and international debate, research and policy development; challenging the demand for the sexual exploitation of women and promote effective exiting services.
- 5.** To be the service of choice

# Aim 1:

## Reaching out to women

In 2016 we received funding from the Big Lottery to support us to develop a specialist outreach service to support women to exit prostitution.

### What we said we would do:

We planned to support 40 women in the first year with this service through delivering regular outreach shifts

### What we did:

In the first 6 months of the programme the team supported 68 women

### Of these 68 women...



3 were referred to specialist services such as domestic violence and mental health services



29 women were supported into accommodation



14 women were supported to make successful benefit claims

3 women were supported to get a



54 women were supported with substance misuse

Regular street outreach began in October 2016.

In the first three months of street outreach the team had 48 street contacts with 26 women

# Aim 2:

## A holistic response

We continued to provide our Drop In service 5 days a week supported by volunteers and the Advocacy and Support Team

### What we said we would do:

We planned to support 200 women through the drop in service. Supporting 160 of these with...

One-on-one sessions from our Advocacy Support Team

30 volunteers and professionals, who provide therapeutic activities, skills based workshops and wellbeing treatments

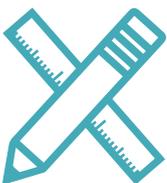
### What we did:

We supported 229 women via our drop in service...



**166** women received **one-to-one support**

We had 44 regular volunteers supporting our work over the year.



**139** women **engaged** in activities and **81** women **regularly participated** in activities at the centre

We were also successful in securing funding to support the continuation of our wellbeing programs.

# Aim 3:

## Develop sustainable exit strategies

Our key focus is to support women to build a life free from exploitation and abuse.

### What we said we would do:

We planned to develop stronger relationships with partner agencies across London to help us better support women

We planned to secure funding to develop a specialist post to support exiting, both within our services and with other agencies.

### What we did...



Developed further relationships with partners



Expanded our work into new areas of London



Strengthened and formalised partnerships with the **Metropolitan Police Kidnapping and Trafficking Unit**



Strengthened and formalised partnerships with accomodation providers to support women victims of Modern Slavery



Supported the police by providing a reception centre **supporting over 20 women victims of trafficking**



Secured funding for 2017/18 to recruit a specialist Exiting Coordinator

# Aim 4:

## Contribute to local, national and international debate



We continued to respond to London and Central Government consultations providing evidence through our work and the experiences of the women we work with.

We have continued to work with the European Women's Lobby, SPACE International and other national and international partners. In 2016 we became the official UK member of The Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP) International and attended their Second World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls.

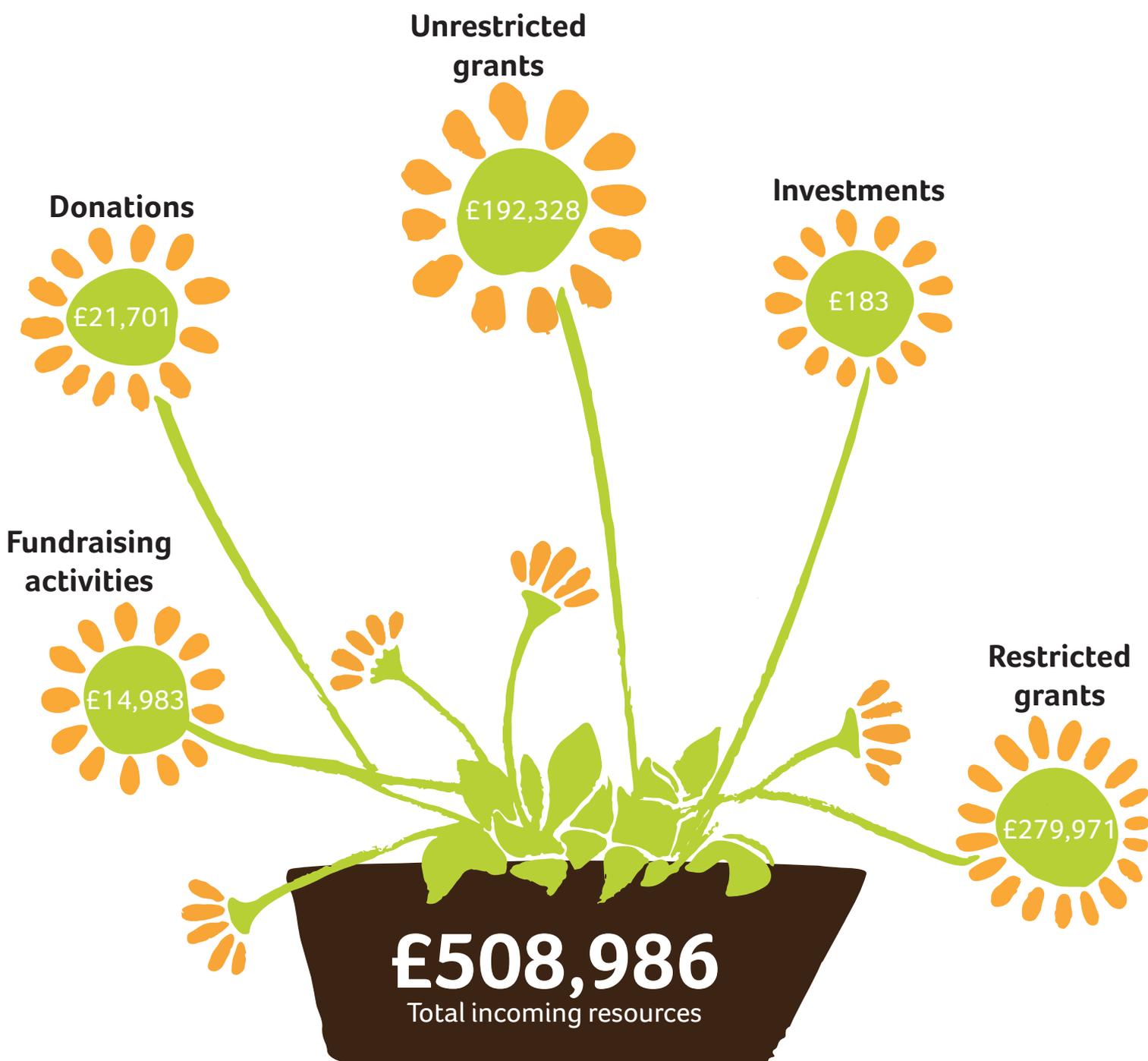


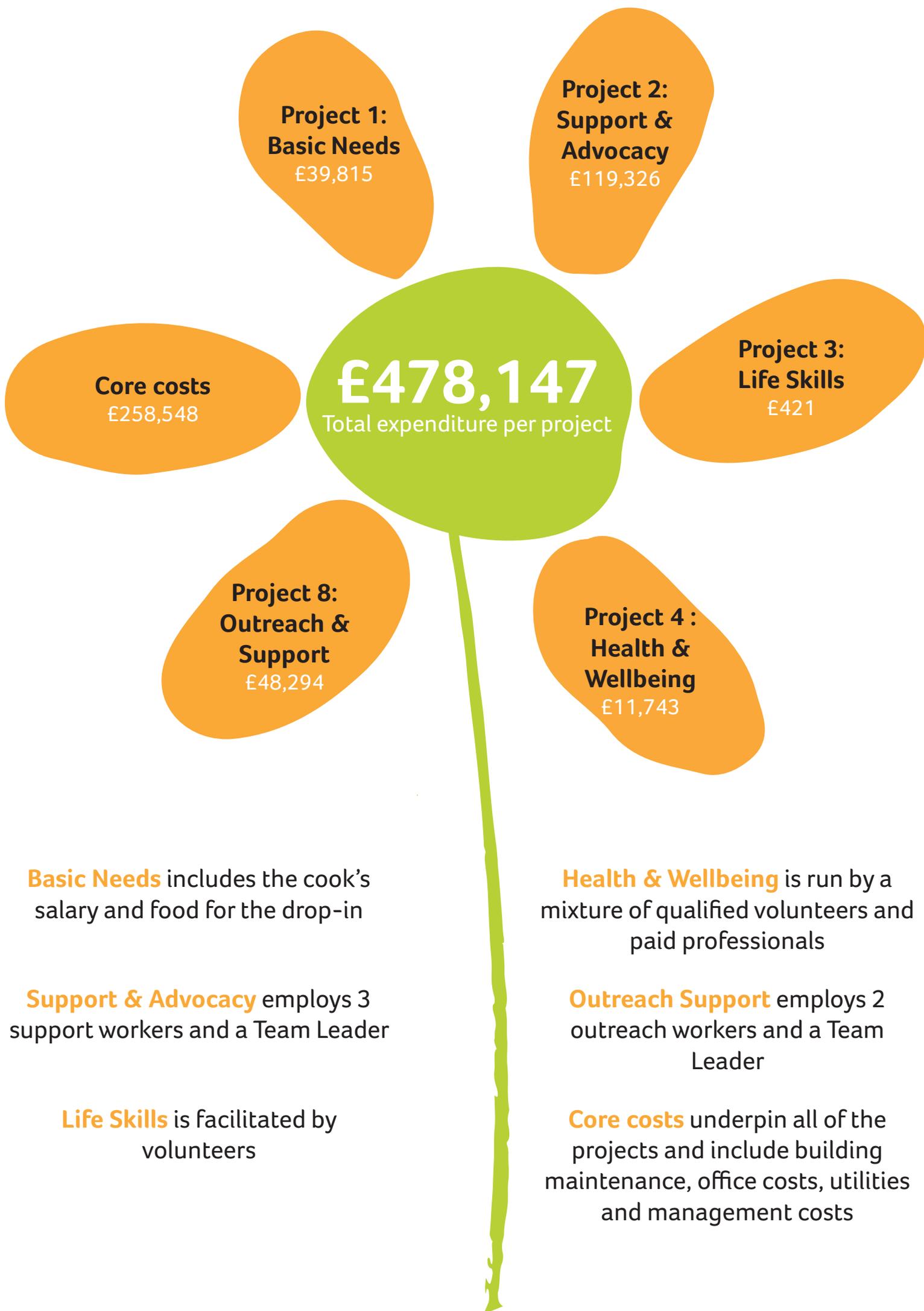
We continue to work towards a Europe Free from Prostitution and have continued our work through the United Nations (UN) towards the decriminalising of victims who are exploited through their involvement in the sale of sex and the criminalisation of demand and of all aspects of organisation of the sex industry. We work collectively not only in Brussels and the many countries considering what has become known as the Nordic Model, as best represented by the French legislation that was enacted in 2016. We were involved in presenting on these issues at the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016 and 2017 both within the formal side events in partnership with the Holy See and through NGO parallel events in partnership with SPACE, CAP and the National Board of Catholic Women.



# Finances

The information in this summary is taken from the full audited and unqualified annual accounts which were approved by the trustees in December 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 3 support workers and a Team Leader

**Life Skills** is facilitated by volunteers

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

**Outreach Support** employs 2 outreach workers and a Team Leader

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

# One Women's Story

## M's Story



'M' made contact through Facebook with a group of individuals looking for women to come to the UK to work in a restaurant. After a number of messages through Facebook, she met these individuals and was immediately transported to the UK. On arrival her passport, mobile phone, money and valuables were taken from her and she was accommodated in a run-down property in London with other women. From here she was held against her will and forced to engage in street prostitution and required to hand over all money received to the group holding her.

After this had been going on for several weeks she asked an individual on the street for help who brought her to us. On arrival she was very frightened and reluctant to talk about her situation in detail. Her knowledge of English was very poor so our support worker made use of translation services to try and engage her and help her to tell us her story.

We supported her to ensure that she could not be contacted by the Traffickers. After a cup of tea and a chance to sit quietly with our support worker, she began to tell us her story. We contacted the agency responsible for providing safe house accommodation for women who have been trafficked and they set about arranging a bed and transport to the safe house for M. Because we were concerned for her safety we accompanied M to a local police station. On arrival at the police station we talked with a female officer and M decided to formally report what had happened to her.

Her bravery was evident, following this very traumatic experience, and with the help of our support worker she began to share fully the details of what had happened to her. Through the telling of her story, her demeanor began to change, from a timid and frightened woman, to one of empowerment and anger at how she had been treated and all she had experienced.

That night she was taken to a safe house in London from one of our partner agencies and the next day she was taken out of London to a safe place where she is in the process of recovering from her experiences and accessing a range of support to reclaim her life.

In early 2017 the group who trafficked her and many other women were brought to justice receiving lengthy prison sentences.

# Aim 5:

## To be the service of choice

We are proud of the work we do, and we are grateful for the support of our funders and partners including:

The Big Lottery  
Comic Relief  
The European Commission  
Esmee Fairbairn  
MOPAC  
Conrad Hilton  
29th May Trust  
Charlotte Marshall Trust  
Sir Harold Hood Trust  
Bisgood Charitable Trust  
Souter Charitable Trust  
Pilgrim Trust  
City Bridge Trust  
Laing Trust  
Tampon Tax (Office for Civil Society)  
London Catalyst  
Frances Crick

2016

2017/18

As we move into 2017/18 we will continue to build and strengthen our services to ensure we can provide the best possible support to women whose lives are affected by prostitution. The years ahead are full of unknowns as the UK moves further along the 'Brexit' process, we will continue to respond to emerging and developing needs and to advocate for systematic change.

In the coming year we plan to support 70 women via our Outreach and Support service and to develop volunteer opportunities to help us add capacity to the service. We will support at least 200 women through our drop in, and 160 women with one to one support. We will develop our new Exiting Coordinator post and seek funding for additional specialist support in the area of sexual violence. We will develop our work with volunteers and take steps towards developing the research evidence base for the work we do.

# Support Us

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: .....