

Trustees' Annual Report

01.04.2019 - 31.03.2020

Partnerships

Street Talk currently works in partnership with the following organisations providing the following services.

Chrysalis Project (St. Mungo's Broadway)

Two hostels exclusively for women involved in street prostitution in the London Borough of Lambeth.

Street Talk art therapist Catriona Alderton runs a weekly art therapy group and women in the hostel are referred to Street Talk for one-to-one psychotherapy. Each year there is a mural painting project at the hostel run by Catriona which the women, hostel staff and the Street Talk team take part in together.

St Mungo's Safer Space

Enhanced support for women involved in street prostitution across three hostels and one drop-in centre in the London Borough of Camden.

Street Talk art therapists Asta Jakobs and Catriona Alderton provide one-to-one psychotherapy and art therapy to the women in all three Safer Space hostels. Helen Valentine, a student in the third year of her master's degree in art therapy joined Street Talk on supervised placement and ran groups at two Safer Space hostels.

Medaille

Hostel for women who have escaped from traffickers in East London.

Street Talk takes referrals from the hostel for psychotherapy and art therapist Asta Jakobs runs an art therapy group as well as working one-to-one.

Hibiscus Women's Centre

Day centre for vulnerable women, including women involved in street prostitution, women in the criminal justice system, women who have been trafficked, asylum seekers and those who have no recourse to public funds in the London Borough of Islington.

Street Talk psychotherapist Amanda Chapman attends Hibiscus weekly, offering long term one-to-one work.

Street Talk provided a weekly art therapy group at Hibiscus between April and September run by Debbie Thorne who was on a supervised placement and in the third year of her masters degree in art therapy.

Street Talk provided a twelve week photography project run by Charlotte Hockton, a photography master's student. A group of six women who had been the victims of trafficking went on a trip to a different location in London each week, using the camera to become familiar with a city none of them had chosen to live in. The course culminated in an exhibition of their work at the Resource for London building on Holloway Road.

Solace Women's Aid / The WiSER Project

Service for "hard to reach" women who are extremely vulnerable but not able to access other women's services, sometimes because they are from a culture where asking for help is not permitted.

Street Talk psychotherapist Amanda Chapman provides long term, one-to-one work. She works over the phone with those women who are unable to attend in person.

HMP Bronzefield

Women's prison in Ashfield, Middlesex.

Street Talk takes part in meetings at the prison to support women who have a background in street sex work or who have been trafficked. Street Talk takes referrals for psychotherapy from the prison's trauma team for women who are about to leave prison, in order to offer support at a critical time.

Resource for London

Resource centre for charities in the London Borough of Islington.

Resource for London is now providing Street Talk with free use of office space in their building on Holloway Road, Islington.



Direct Referrals

Street Talk psychotherapists Rose Maxwell and Pippa Hockton provide long term therapy with women referred directly to Street Talk from other organisations.

HERA

Programme designed to equip women with the business skills to start a career or launch a business.



Events

Pieces of London, July - October

Photography exhibition at the Resource for London building on Holloway Road showcasing the photographs taken by women who took part in Street Talk's photography project in partnership with Hibiscus Women's Centre.

Launch of a new charity, October

A former service user is now launching a charity of her own, aiming to teach baking to young people in south London to keep them out of gangs and crime. Street Talk hosted an evening event where the founder made a presentation about the charity to an invited audience.

CEASE Summit 2019, October

A conference organised by CEASE UK. Street Talk was invited to attend as one of a number of supporting organisations who exhibited at the conference.

Witness to Courage, November - January

An exhibition of the work of three Street Talk art therapists at the Resource for London building on Holloway Road.

The Centre for Social Justice Partnership Conference 2020, January

Street Talk took part in the conference as part of a consultation on addiction and the criminal justice system.

Lectures

A Street Talk team member gave lectures on the Street Talk model to psychiatry departments at

- the Worcestershire Royal Hospital
- the Whittington Hospital, London
- Birmingham Association of Psychotherapists
- the Association of Medical Psychotherapists, London

Case Studies

Graduation

In November the Street Talk team attended the graduation ceremony of a woman who first came to Street Talk when she was released from prison. After serving five years, her main concern was to be reunited with her son. Without accommodation he would not be allowed home. Street Talk referred her to Reunite, a charity which provides housing for women leaving prison with children. Street Talk provided family therapy to enable mother and child to start again as a family following five years of separation.

The mother continued in therapy with Street Talk over several years. She found work and eventually began a degree in business. She graduated in November with an upper second class honours degree and is now launching a charity of her own to divert young black people from crime.

Supporting a woman who was trafficked

This woman was one of the six who participated in Street Talk's photography workshop in partnership with Hibiscus Women's Centre. She had been trafficked from Albania but had also been held in an immigration removal centre. She was struggling with PTSD and isolation. The photography group gave her confidence, a little group of friends and on the trips to different locations in London she began to feel more at home here. She curated the exhibition of photography by the group and acted as a guide to visitors.

Following the course she felt confident enough to enrol in a course at a college in North London. This was going well until she was moved by the National Asylum Support Service. She was moved to three different locations over the course of twelve hours, the last being Urban House in Sheffield. She was desperately unhappy there and her mental and physical health deteriorated significantly.

Street Talk advocated for her, team members visited her and we found a local volunteer to mentor her and who provided her with new bedding and clothes. Street Talk referred her to the Red Cross at that point to help her to find her brother whom she believed was in the UK. She was moved to Hull where our therapist kept in close contact with her. The therapist called the police one night when she was afraid a man was trying to break into the building where she was living alone.

She has now found her brother and is living with him and his wife. She remains in close contact with Street Talk. Most recently Street Talk replaced her broken phone, so she could stay in contact. She is doing better now and feeling more positive and settled in this country.



Celebrating with a mother who was involved in street prostitution

Six years ago, the daughter of a woman who Street Talk was supporting was removed at birth by social services due to her mother being heavily caught up in street prostitution and addicted to heroine and crack. At the time, social services opposed the mother's request for a parenting assessment and intended for the baby to be placed for adoption, but with Street Talk's support and advocacy in the family courts a judge ruled that the mother would be funded to go to detox, rehab and then undergo a parenting assessment. Motivated to keep her baby she became abstinent and eventually recovered the child aged eighteen months.

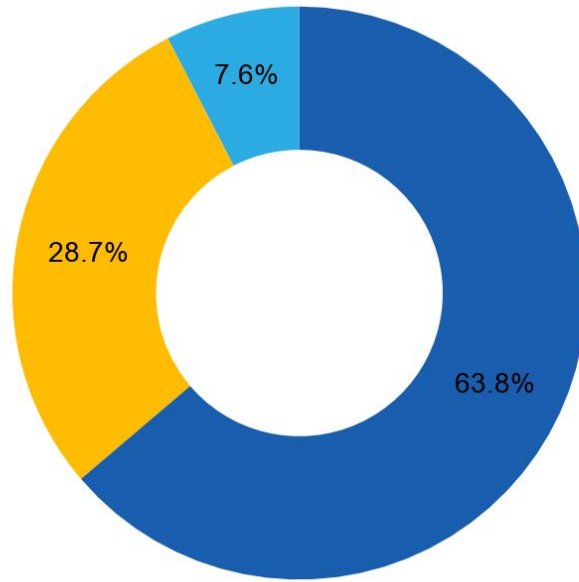
The mother remains in contact with Street Talk and this year Street Talk team members celebrated her child's sixth birthday. The family continue to do well without any involvement from social services for the last four and a half years. The little girl was awarded a certificate for 100% attendance at school and is lively, happy, taking part in many activities at school as well as doing well academically. The mother's success has shown that women from the most chaotic backgrounds can recover and can sustain their recovery when they have support and when they find their motivation.

Income & Expenditure

Income

£72,813

- Grants
- Fundraising & Donations
- Partnerships



Expenditure

£90,593

- Sessions & Staffing
- Staff/Volunteer Expenses
- Beneficiary Expenses
- Charity Admin & Training

