

Street Talk

Registered charity no. 1117588

Trustee's Annual Report

April 1st 2022 - March 31st 2023

Objectives and Activities

Street Talk's mission is to provide professional, specialised mental health care of the highest quality to women trapped in street prostitution, women who have been the victims of trafficking, or any vulnerable woman. To listen to each woman's personal story, to enable each woman to overcome those obstacles which keep her trapped in a life of exploitation and to enable her to live in safety and with dignity. To share the learnings accrued over Street Talk's two decades of operation with other organisations within the sector and to promote *Therapy of Presence*, the clinical model pioneered by Street Talk that has already enabled hundreds of vulnerable women to engage successfully with psychotherapy. To campaign and influence policy in areas relevant to Street Talk beneficiaries and to give a voice to marginalised women.

This year Street Talk has provided the following services

One-to-one psychotherapy for women who come to the service without a referral

Taking place in our therapy space at Resource for London and over the phone. We are receiving growing numbers reaching out to us for help.

Telephone helpline for women in crisis in Camden hostels

Originally set up for women in crisis at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, after the borough of Camden forced all rough-sleepers into hostels. Leaflets and posters were put in all the Covid Protect hotels and hostels and we continue to get a few women using that service.

One to one psychotherapy taking referrals from partner organisations

We currently work with women referred by Solace Women's Aid Westminster, WiSER Project Islington, SHP Kali Project Barking and Dagenham, Safer Beds Camden, Hibiscus Women's Centre, as well as individual referrals from Islington Social Services and Nia.

Art therapy groups

Over the course of the year, we ran four art therapy groups in Hibiscus Women's Centre, Medaille Trust hostel, Safer Beds Endsleigh Gardens and the Chrysalis hostel.

One to one art therapy

Two women had one to one art therapy. One woman with NRFP who is struggling with a psychotic illness and not accessing NHS care, and one woman who is in end of life palliative care who first came to us at a day centre.

Weekly Art group

A new initiative this year was a weekly art group at Kilburn Women's Centre which was just art for fun, community and peer support rather than clinical purposes.

Photography groups and exhibitions

A photography project took place over five months in partnership with Medaille Trust. Women from the two London Medaille Trust hostels came together to do weekly photography field trips together, taking pictures, learning a new skill as well as finding confidence to travel the city and have company with new people.

An exhibition of the women's photographs is currently on show at Resource for London until 20 May

Another exhibition featuring photographs taken by a second group who worked together for six months in the previous year took place in June in partnership with Hibiscus. Four asylum seeking women from China, Nigeria, Egypt and Sierra Leone showed their work to an invited audience. Their work remains permanently on show at Hibiscus Women's Centre.

Advocacy for individual women's rights

The women who came to us over the course of the year had many complex needs and had almost all been failed by services in different ways. Advocacy alongside the therapy seems to provide all round support.

Accompaniment throughout immigration proceedings

We provide reports to the court authenticating women's stories which are frequently disbelieved by the authorities. Our work is to evidence that the mental health symptoms are consistent with PTSD caused by extreme fear and that the women have told a consistent story over the years which we have worked with her.

When requested by the women or by their legal team we attend court with the woman and have been called as a witness.

Alongside the practical help outlined above it is important to stress that there is almost no mental health support for people going through the asylum system. The process takes a catastrophic toll on the mental health on those put through it and our main role is to bear witness and work with women to manage the despair, terror, uncertainty and dehumanisation the system incurs.

Accompanying women through family proceedings

We provide reports for the court and psychological assessments as well as accompanying women to social services case conferences as well as court.

Where we believe a woman has parental capacity, we will support a woman in her fight to be allowed a parenting assessment and to evidence her parenting capacity in other ways.

Accompanying women to criminal court hearings

Reports were provided to explain circumstances and to draw attention to mental health issues and we accompanied women although the cases were still heard online this year.

Legal support

Street Talk beneficiaries continue to receive legal support from Martin Stewart, a lawyer who works pro bono for up to one day each week when needed. He works on housing, benefits, crime and family matters. The therapist working with the woman will work together with their lawyer to make as strong a case as possible and where that will help to include relevant information on woman's mental health which otherwise would not be taken into consideration.

This year we worked closely with a partner from Duncan Lewis to take the asylum case of one of our women to Upper Tribunal for the first time. We provided psychological evidence for the case.

Mentoring

One to one mentoring, supporting women by accompanying them to appointments which many find very hard, accompanying them to go out from where they are living and do simple things like go to a café or for a walk in a park to improve their well being and to give them some social contact. Mentoring provides a good volunteering opportunity for women who have come through the service.

Referral to specialist services

The therapists refer women on addiction services, mental health specialists, parenting classes, and other services when that would provide additional support.

Practical Support

Provision of essential items for women including food or supermarket vouchers, medication, nappies and other supplies for babies, clothing, telephones, laptops, travel cards, funded partly through partnership with Family Action who provide the grants for individual women.

Respite from the street at St Beuno's Retreat Centre

Two women, one rough sleeping with no recourse to public funds and just out from immigration detention centre, and one recently discharged from hospital were accompanied by two of us from the Street Talk team to St Beuno's for a four-day residential stay for a period of rest in September.

Campaigning activity

One of the changes this year has been that we have devoted more resources to campaigning. This has been in response to the proposed changes in asylum policy. We joined Together With Refugees, an alliance of organisations in the sector, and have been busy campaigning to protect the human rights of displaced people to have asylum with dignity. We are also partnered Human Trafficking Foundation for joint campaigning.

We made the decision to focus on the campaign against the proposed changes in asylum/immigration law and to hold back on other campaigns we have been involved in previously because this matter is so critical. However we did take up the opportunity to share lived experience and case studies to the consultation with Government in partnership with the Women's Resource Centre on the treatment of women going through family court

We organised a conference on whether therapy is reaching the most vulnerable.

Campaigning against the removal of asylum seekers to Rwanda in partnership with the Human Trafficking Foundation

We are in the process of organising round table discussion about the causes of street prostitution in partnership with the Centre for Social Justice.

Promoting the Street Talk model

We work hard to share our learning, specifically about how to work therapeutically with people who are usually excluded from therapy and to promote the *Therapy of Presence* model. Our most important goal is to evidence that people with complex needs who have come from a background of trauma can use therapy to recover.

We continue to share the book *Not Angry But Hurting* with colleagues in the sector, we have provided consultations on the model to other organisations in the sector and take up invitations to give talks on the model.

Possibly the most significant achievement to date was when during the course of the year St Mungo's Safer Beds engaged a psychotherapist to practise the *Therapy of Presence* model with the women in their three hostels in Camden. We have a strategy to remain small so that we can ensure high standards of work, but we know that there are very many people we can't reach. Encouraging others to practise the model is a way to extend the reach of the work, to scale up effectively.

Training

One of our psychotherapists completed an accredited training in using yoga to work with people with long-term, deep-rooted trauma.

We successfully applied for places to take part in Stronger Voices, a six-month communications training provided by Media Trust for small and medium charities. It was a rigorous course, roughly two mornings a week over six months, but time very well spent, improving skills and confidence and making some valuable connections within the sector and beyond.

Anger management

A weekly anger management session was provided for one beneficiary. In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Governors have given due

regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Over the course of the year, 150 women engaged with Street Talk. Around 1600 individual contacts were made. More than 1100 hours of counselling was provided.

Quantification of Street Talk's services is complex due to the nature of the women's engagement, which, according to the needs of each individual, may be chaotic in the early stages, and in the long-term may be sporadic.

Street Talk's model emphasises quality, long-term work over raw quantity of beneficiaries and this informs our strategy of sustainable growth.

Conference

In November 2022 Street Talk hosted its first ever conference entitled *Unconditional: Is therapy reaching the people who need it most?*

Around 100 people took part from a wide range of organisations including service users and professionals from the charity sector, the NHS, local government and academia.

The aim of the conference was to start a conversation about who is excluded from psychotherapy and other forms of care and how it can become more inclusive.

Some of the learning arising from the day:

- The need for more inclusive and accessible entry into therapy as a profession, perhaps apprenticeships
- More awareness on therapy trainings of vulnerable and excluded groups
- More awareness across professions of the needs and background of people from Gypsy Roma Traveller Groups
- It's OK to be kind and compassionate. It is not OK for professionalism to come in the way of basic kindness and humanity
- NHS model of therapy failing so do we stop referring vulnerable people into that process? Does it do more harm than good?
- The importance and equal value, even enhanced value, of creative therapies which don't rely entirely on language
- The importance of placing lived experience at the heart of services. Don't speak for people.
- We need to challenge the concept of deserving and undeserving
- It's OK to do things differently. Therapists are too constrained by the limitations of their training which is reductionist.
- We constantly need to question whether a service is there for the benefit of the client or the professional.
- History, what happened to previous generations is important.

We felt the conference was a success and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. There is a definite appetite for a follow-up event in future.

Achievements and Performance

Each of the 150 women who had contact with Street Talk over the period has reported some positive outcome. These may include 'hard' such as managing addiction, exiting abusive relationships, exiting street prostitution, getting off the street and into accommodation, moving from supported accommodation to independent living, etc.

However, for many of the women, these outcomes are distant goals. Street Talk has learnt that, 'soft' outcomes which may seem insignificant (e.g. simply engaging with service or attending an appointment with a therapist), will, given time, eventually lead to hard outcomes.

The overall aim of Street Talk's work is to enable women who have been brutalised to encounter their own humanity. When women feel entitled to live in safety and with dignity the hard outcomes follow. It is constantly challenging to quantify outcomes. Small acts of kindness go a long way in recovery from trauma, but they are almost impossible to measure. Below are the outcomes we have been able to measure.

None of the women who took part in one-to-one therapy or art therapy would have been able to access therapy through any conventional practitioners. All would be excluded for reasons such as addiction, homelessness, learning-difficulties, chaotic lifestyle or poor self-advocacy. The fact these vulnerable women with complex needs saw a therapist is, in and of itself, arguably Street Talk's most significant outcome

Financial Review

Income	£173,000
Trusts and Foundations	£107,000
Award Grants	£35,000
Donations and Fundraising	£11,000
Major Donors	£10,000
From Solace Women's Aid/WiSER Project	£10,000

Expenditure	£151,000
Salaries, Pensions and Tax	£98,000
Sessional Staff	£40,000
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	£5,000
Admin and Overheads	£5,000
Practical Support	£3,000

Total cash funds at end of year:	£204,000
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Street Talk's top funders over the period were Tudor Trust, Segelman Trust, The Aurum Charitable Trust, and The London Community Foundation.

The Trustees are satisfied that there are no uncertainties about the charity's abilities to continue as a going concern.

Reserves Policy

Street Talk's policy is to aim to hold reserves equal to at least six months operating costs in order to guarantee safe cessation of therapeutic services, which was the case at the end of the reporting period.

Structure, Governance and Management

Street Talk is a registered charity. The governing document is the Constitution. Trustees are selected by the Board.

Trustees

Aoife Ritchie

Works in NHS mental health services and completed her psychotherapy training placement with Street Talk.

Charlotte Littlewood

Works in NHS mental health services and completed her psychotherapy training placement with Street Talk.

Colleen Rhodes

Former service user.

Fatima Ba

Former service user.

Keran Burris

Former service user.

Rebecca Hammond

Business owner/operator.

Sophie Jones

PR professional.

Consultants

Simon Dodds (lawyer)

Advises on strategy and development.

Dr Jan Birtle (psychiatrist)

Advises on the clinical model and sharing the learning.

Eileen Aird (psychotherapist and supervisor)

Advises on clinical standards.

Thomas Humphrey (marketing)

Advising us on communications strategy for sharing the clinical model across the sector.

Staff

Director, clinical supervisor, psychotherapist

Pippa Hockton

Operations, fundraising and reporting, communications & compliance

Oliver Hockton

Art Therapists

Catriona Alderton

Vera Howard

Beata Somogni (training placement)

Psychotherapists

Amanda Chapman

Karl Svarts

Rose Campbell

Shirley Sutton

Sandi Baiju

Alison Caldow

Tuesday Benfield

Laura Guy (training placement)

Partnerships

Aside from external and independent referrals, Street Talk also works in partnership with the following organisations.

Chrysalis Project (St. Mungo's Broadway)

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

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.

St Mungo's Hammersmith Women's Hostel

Hostel for so-called difficult to reach women in Hammersmith.

St Mungo's Kilburn Women's Hostel

Hostel for women with complex needs in Brent

Human Trafficking Foundation

Street Talk has taken part in joint campaigning with HTF in previous years but we are working more closely with HTF providing clinical supervision to the LEAP group and training in trauma to their team.

Medaille

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

Street Talk takes referrals from the hostel for psychotherapy and remote one-to-one art Therapy.

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.

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.

Solace Women's Aid / Westminster Housing First

Offering intensive support to women who are "hard to reach" very much modelled on the WiSER Project with Islington Solace.

Single Homeless Project / Project Kali

Housing First project offering intensive, wrap-around support to women with complex needs who have experience of homelessness.

Resource for London

Resource centre for charities in the London Borough of Islington.

Media Trust

Supporting small charities with communications.

Women's Resource Centre

Organises an alliance of activist women's organisations to campaign for women's rights.

Family Action

Provide small grants and supermarket vouchers to 20 partner charities of which Street Talk is one.

The Centre for Social Justice Alliance

Sharing lived experience and learning from small charities to influence government policy.

Together with Refugees

An umbrella campaigning organisation.

St Beuno's Retreat Centre

Welcomes Street Talk women of all faiths or no faith for periods of respite from the street.

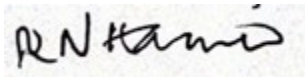
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

Law firm offering pro bono advice and legal services to Street Talk.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Hammand', on a light-colored background.

Rebecca Hammand

Trustee

17/1/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Street Talk	1117588

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	4/1/2022		3/31/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Tudor Trust	30,000	-	-	30,000	30,000
Citi Bank / London Impact Awards	30,000	-	-	30,000	-
Segelman Trust	27,500	-	-	27,500	-
Aurum Trust	15,000	-	-	15,000	15,000
Donations & Fundraising	10,874	-	-	10,874	17,205
Major Donor	10,000	-	-	10,000	15,000
London Community Foundation / Together For London	-	10,000	-	10,000	-
Solace Womens Aid	-	9,760	-	9,760	9,480
The CSJ Foundation / Borrows Trust	-	8,500	-	8,500	-
London Community Foundation / Dodds Trust	-	7,000	-	7,000	7,000
Impact 100 London	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
London Quaker Service Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Society of Retreat Conductors	-	3,120	-	3,120	-
Royal Warrant Holders Association Charity Trust	-	1,000	-	1,000	-
Other	-	-	-	-	34,400
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	128,374	44,380	-	172,754	133,085
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	128,374	44,380	-	172,754	133,085
A3 Payments					
Salaries, Tax & Pensions	87,962	9,940	-	97,902	86,313
Sessional Staff	7,143	32,760	-	39,903	26,760
Staff & Volunteer Expenses	4,635	-	-	4,635	2,888
Practical Support & Service User	1,037	1,680	-	2,717	1,425
EVENTS & Conference	1,500	-	-	1,500	401
IT, Phone & Web	1,367	-	-	1,367	1,053
Printing & Postage	751	-	-	751	523
Fees & Membership	640	-	-	640	530
Publicity & Marketing	394	-	-	394	-
Training	275	-	-	275	7
Art Materials	261	-	-	261	-
Insurance	117	-	-	117	117
Group Activities	95	-	-	95	-
Meetings	85	-	-	85	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	106,262	44,380	-	150,642	120,017
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	106,262	44,380	-	150,642	120,017

<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	22,112	-	-	22,112	13,068
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	30,861	151,000		181,861	-
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	52,973	151,000	-	203,973	13,068

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds 02305716	52,973	151,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	52,973	151,000	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Rebecca Hammond	12/19/2023	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees

Street Talk

On accounts for
the year ended

31st March 2023

Charity no

1117588

Set out on pages

Receipts and payments accounts CC16a pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Responsibilities
and basis of
report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's
statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

13-JAN-2024

Name:

René Albert van Velzen

Relevant
professional
qualification(s):

I am familiar with charity R&P accounting through my role as treasurer for a charity.

Address:

5 Lupton Street

NW5 2JA

London