

An update on Unseen's Children's project

Fantastic news!

Unseen have exceeded their first target to raise £100,000 towards the opening of the UK's first accommodation project dedicated to supporting trafficked children.

Kate Garbers, Projects Director of Unseen said, "We would like to thank all those that donated and supported this campaign. This is the first step in launching a much needed service in the UK."

Unseen are currently linking with partners to identify a suitable property for the project and will then work with Ofsted to ensure everything is in place to open.

The recruitment process has started to find a registered Manager and House Parents, and as soon as a property is found Unseen will be looking to appoint the right people to take on these unique roles.

The funding to date covers the refurbishment and set up of a property and the core staff for six months, but whilst this is an encouraging start Unseen still need to secure more funding.

Now Unseen is on a drive to source funding for additional specialist staff and ensure the longer term continuation of the project.

For more information please e-mail l.westlake@unseenuk.org or call 07507 966 196

Note for editors

Unseen

- . Unseen began in 2008.
- . Government statistics show that the number of victims of trafficking found in the UK rose by 47% between 2012 and 2013. 64% were female. (Home office report 2013)
- . In 2012 25% of trafficking victims found in the UK were children, 70 of which were aged up to 9 years old. (Home Office Report August 2013)
- . Figures released for 2012 by Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) states there were 2,255 reported human trafficking victims in the UK – a 25% increase on 2011's figures. However, this is only the number of victims that chose to report the crime – and, importantly, who have been found.
- . Unseen's WATER (Women's Anti-Trafficking Emergency Refuge) project is the only safe-house in the South West and is one of only three services in the country offering 24/7 support to victims of human trafficking.
- . For women who have left the safety of our WATER project, we also offer a resettlement service to help them continue on their journey of recovery within their chosen community.
- . Unseen runs a Room Sponsorship Scheme for people to directly support women survivors at our WATER project. For details, go visit www.unseenuk.org/donate/sponsor-a-room
- . Unseen is currently working towards opening a specialist accommodation project for child victims of trafficking. For details, go visit <http://www.unseenuk.org/projects/projects-in-development>
- . The charity was instrumental in setting up an Anti-Trafficking Partnership with Avon & Somerset Police and Bristol City Council, which brings together 22 agencies in fighting human trafficking in the South West, including other NGOs and local government.