



Strict embargo: 00:01hrs Tuesday 3rd June 2014

Local charity Unseen secures Big Lottery funding

Bristol based anti-trafficking organisation Unseen has successfully secured new funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

The funding is specifically for Unseen's WATER (Women's Anti-Trafficking Emergency Refuge) Project – the only safe-house in the South West and one of only three services in the country offering 24/7 support to victims of human trafficking – and Unseen's unique Resettlement Programme – supporting women as they continue their journey of recovery once they leave the safe-house.

The £225,337 grant is spread over two years and allows Unseen to continue to add the specialist support required to ensure survivors of human trafficking can begin the road to recovery and importantly become more resilient to being re-exploited.

Project Director and Co-Founder, Kate Garbers says, "In such a tough fundraising environment, we are delighted at this decision. It indicates that support for survivors is a growing priority in the UK. We want to thank the Big Lottery Fund for their contribution to Unseen's work and the opportunity this funding provides to continue giving survivors the safety, hope and choice they deserve."

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.

The Big Lottery Fund

The **Big Lottery Fund** is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.

The Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. Since its inception in 2004 we have awarded close to £6bn.

The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

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