

HULL LIGHTHOUSE

www.hulllighthouse.co.uk

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Changes ahead. Due to extensive & expensive repairs required, we have had to let the Evening Outreach vehicle go. However rather than this be a step backwards, it has proved a very positive step forward. We had a really good look at how we did the outreach; the negatives and the positives, what would be missed and what would be gained. The overall conclusion was that being on foot, on the street, connects directly with the women. We wanted to have a visual presence now that the vehicle was no longer there, so have invested in waterproof coats that work nicely with the fleeces and a couple of back packs. We weren't sure what the response would be from the women, but so far it's been extremely positive. Here are a few comments:-

'It's a comfort to see you walking up the street'

'I often looked out for you but wouldn't see the vehicle, but now I can see you approaching'

'Now we know it's you!'

We continue to work alongside other agencies during the Evening Outreach which enables us to offer more direct support there and then on the street as well as referrals.

The working partnership includes sexual health by Mesmac, rough sleeper/ homeless help by Emmaus, homeless/housing options by HHCP, health issues by a nurse practitioner and emergency first aid by British Red Cross.



Having a good volunteer base alongside these agencies, allows us to be consistent in our presence on the streets and to bring help with the issues faced by these very vulnerable women.

Meet a Trustee Hi, I'm Shirley Ross. I'm mum to two small children and married to Mike who is a city councillor. When not on maternity leave, I work as a town planner for East Riding Council and in my own time volunteer as a Lighthouse Trustee and Guide leader.

I've been a Lighthouse trustee for 3 years and have seen changes over this time, including trustees leaving and new trustees coming on board. Highlights for me have included a Christmas lunch outing with some of the women, the 20th birthday celebrations and the Untold Story book launch.

We never forget that God is at the heart of what we do as a charity. It is important to me that Trustee meetings open in prayer, a task which often falls to the very capable Rev. Andrew Stead, and that staff support each other in prayer as well as pastorally. This prayer helps us trustees as we make important financial decisions which affect the charity, its staff and the women. I take a particular interest in fundraising, which ensures that funding streams are found both locally and nationally so that Lighthouse is both able to continue its current work and expand what it is able to provide.

I'm on a steering group where women involved in Lighthouse suggest new ways of working and reaching more women who need to access our services. They also feedback on what aspects of our work they think are working well or could benefit from being changed. **This helps to ensure that the women we serve are at the heart of what we do as a charity.**

Research We have recently had the privilege to be invited to participate in three very different research projects – Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence, Support from Child Exploitation to Adulthood and Challenging Perspectives Through the Arts. Each one of these research pieces highlights the issues faced by many, if not all, of the women we support and we sincerely hope that they contribute to the opening of people's eyes to what's going on around them.



We have a number of free copies still available and there are two ways of obtaining a copy. You can send us a stamped addressed A4 jiffy envelope with £3 postage on it or you can donate £5 to cover postage and costs. Details, etc. are available from lighthouse@community-house.co.uk or 01482 442953.

We are always looking for fresh ways to fundraise, so if you have any ideas or feel inspired to organise an event, please come and speak to us.

Don't forget to check us out on Social Media

Facebook — **Lighthouse Project Hull**

Twitter — **@LighthouseHull**

PRAYER POINTS

*Funding for our full time Outreach Worker **still** continues to be a pressure. We are in the process of sending off yet another grant application to cover the position, so please pray for a successful outcome, as this really is a major post for the running of the Charity.*

We have received a number of referrals to the daytime outreach from women we have worked with in the past who are struggling again or who we couldn't manage to engage properly. Please pray that we can help these women overcome whatever barriers they are facing in their recovery.

There are a number of women out on an evening that we are struggling to engage. Please pray that we will be able to connect with them through the outreach and start to support them during the day.

We appreciate all the support from our funders:-

Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust / Sir James Reckitt Foundation / Esmee Fairbairn Foundation / Lloyds Bank Foundation / Trusthouse Charitable Trust / the MCF