

wightDÄSH  
DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT HUB

# Why are we changing?

In existence as Island Women's Refuge for 25 years

- Expanded services
  - Outreach
  - IDVA
  - Young Women's Project
  - Freedom Programme
  - Work with male survivors
  - Children's therapeutic worker
  - Helpline
  - Disability worker
  - \*Coming soon – Parenting after Domestic Abuse programme

# What is missing?

- We want to offer services with no time limits
- Life can stay very complicated after domestic abuse crisis has passed
- We want to offer services that FULLY meet needs of women and girls
- Experience of domestic abuse often exists alongside other forms of disadvantage

# Big Lottery Women and Girls Initiative

- £48.5 million fund
- Recognition that the women's sector has been significantly affected by recent cuts in public sector spending
- Four desired outcomes
  - Increased provision of holistic, person-centred approaches for women and girls at risk
  - Increased role and voice for women and girls in co-producing services
  - A greater number of women and girls are supported through the provision of improved specialist support
  - Better quality of evidence for what works in empowering women and girls



WOW!

WOMEN ON THE WIGHT

# Women only. Discriminatory? Unlawful?

- Equality Act 2010 – Public Sector Equality Duty
  - The Act recognises that some equality groups (e.g. women) are disadvantaged in some areas of life as a consequence of past or current discrimination and exclusion
  - The Act enables public, voluntary and community and private sector employers and providers of services to take steps to help particular groups overcome disadvantage, meet needs that are different from the needs of other groups or increase participation
  - Therefore the Act makes it lawful to take positive action measures that involve different treatment of different equality groups which would otherwise be unlawful

# SMD – Serious and multiple disadvantage

- Women with mental health problems
- Lone mothers
- Migrant women
- Women who speak little English
- Traveller women
- Those who are isolated
- Women with disabilities/learning disabilities
- Women who are homeless or in poor quality or insecure housing
- Women dependent on drugs and/or alcohol
- Women who are sexually exploited/involved in prostitution
- Women subjected to domestic violence and abuse
- Women who have lost their children to the care system
- Women involved with the criminal justice system

# SMD

- Poor family relationships and trauma from abuse in childhood are viewed as setting girls on the path to later advantage
- Not just one problem in isolation. Often a number of linked problems at once, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental illness, extreme poverty and violence and abuse
- Rather than responding to what the person is experiencing, a range of disconnected services each tackle individual problems. Those in most need of support have difficulty navigating the systems that could help
- Results in women accessing services late (in crisis) or not at all



# How do we know?

Research by agenda – Alliance for Women and girls at risk

- One in 20 women have experienced extensive physical and sexual violence as both a child and an adult
- Approximately 11,000 women in hostels
- Nearly 7000 women sent to prison each year
- 80,000 women involved in prostitution
- Still more 'invisible women'

# Impact of SMD

- Women and girls fail to meet their potential
- Society misses out
- Cost to the public purse
  - A+E and other health attendances
  - Interactions with police and criminal justice system
  - Children's social care including children taken in to care
- The cyclical nature of SMD

# So what will WOW! do?

- Treat women and girls as the experts in their own lives
- Remove labels, remove stigma
- Involve
- Support
- Empower

# Co-production



*"Co-production is not just a word, it's not just a concept, it is a meeting of minds coming together to find a shared solution. In practice, it involves people who use services being consulted, included and working together from the start to the end of any project that affects them."*

- Define people who use services as assets with skills
- Break down the barriers between people who use services and professionals
- Build on people's existing capabilities
- Include reciprocity and mutuality
- Work with peer and personal support networks alongside professional networks
- Allows organisations to become agents for change rather than just being service providers



# So where are we now?

- Building acquired and open - 4-5 Lower St James Street
- Centre manager in post
- Some group work already being delivered
- Formal launch early in 2017
- Planning continuing

# Welcome to WOW!

- Freedom Programme
- POWER
- Information room – access to internet and landline (with human support!)
- Arts based activities
- Food based activities
- Drop in
- Taster sessions
- Run mainly by volunteers
- Future activities determined by beneficiaries
- All women and girls welcome – no criteria to meet
- Four year funding with the hope of becoming sustainable
- Website and social media content still in development

## Contact us now

- Telephone number: 01983 300423
- Email: [Laura.Franklin-WOW@btinternet.com](mailto:Laura.Franklin-WOW@btinternet.com)
- 4-5 St James Street, Newport





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