

Women's Breakout Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2017

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2017. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Objectives and aims

Women's Breakout is the established infrastructure organisation that has offered expert support to the women's voluntary and community sector that is working to make a difference for vulnerable women who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, or who are at risk of that outcome; and has spoken in strategic arenas on behalf of this sector.

Women's Breakout is focused on two areas:

1. Keeping close to the needs and aspirations of member organisations and developing the tools and delivering the support that are a priority for member organisations
2. Acting as the strongest voice and advocate to influence policy making and delivery through collaboration with other strategic agencies and organisations

Working closely with its membership organisations, Women's Breakout aims to prevent women from entering a cycle of offending behaviour and involvement with criminal justice, including prison. We recognise that the causes of offending are multifaceted and that a holistic response is therefore prerequisite for success in reducing offending but also in enabling women to lead successful lives more broadly. This will include reuniting families, reducing substance abuse, securing accommodation, facilitating training and employment, and accessing mental health treatment

In providing this service, Women's Breakout Trustees have regard to public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Key Achievements 2011/17

- Built a network of 59 organisations with a shared agenda and model of service delivery.
- Provided a platform for our members and for their service users to speak and be heard in national arenas.
- Supported our membership to understand and participate in a significantly changing commissioning landscape through targeted communications, one to one visits and discussions, themed meetings and events.
- Provided network opportunities for the wider membership, including a highly successful annual conference/AGM.
- Developed and implemented high quality, targeted communications that includes the use of regular e-bulletins, website management, twitter, blogs and social media.
- Visited member organisations, providing support, advice, information sharing, and networking possibilities.
- Developed a model of quality assurance.

- Engaged the direct participation of our membership in many opportunities to influence.
- Provided leadership to the sector
 - Provided consultancy through the Transforming Rehabilitation journey.
 - Developed knowledge around using Social Impact Bond funding to support the provision of services for vulnerable women that goes beyond criminal justice, encompassing preventative work with women at risk.
 - Developed a body of knowledge relating to quality, cost and impact of services for vulnerable women.
- Represented the sector
 - Raised awareness with Ministers and Ministry of Justice officials about circumstances for our member organisations; and with prime providers of probation services and other local commissioners about the role and impact of our member organisations in delivering services for women.
 - Contributed our members' expertise and experience to responses to consultation papers.
 - Participated in enquiries and studies relating to women in the criminal justice system.
 - A member of: Advisory Board for 'One Small Thing'; Violence Against Women And Girls External Consultation Group; the Bradley Group; Ministerial Advisory Board for Female Offenders 2013-2015.
- Collated and presented monitoring data that tells the story of women on a national scale.
- Social Impact Bond:
 - Developed and supported a network of eight organisations working to build a Social Impact Bond funded network of providers.
 - Secured funding for the development stages of the work.
 - Developed a quality assurance model for the Social Impact Bond.
 - Delivered awareness raising events with six different stakeholder groups.
 - Supported the Gloucester and Newcastle and Gateshead service providers in developing locally funded Social Impact Bonds.
- Re-Unite
 - Sustained the network following transition, and improved the monitoring and communications work.
 - Organised two themed events: monitoring and sustainability, and mothers in the criminal justice system.
 - Produced a report 'Children on the Edge'.
 - Embedded work on mothers impacted by the criminal justice system in our communications.
- Secured funding until November 2017 despite challenging times for umbrella organisations.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Principal funding sources

The principle funding source for the year are grants from Porticus UK, Commonweal Housing, Big Lottery and Allen Lane Foundation.

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a level of reserves (that is those funds that are freely available) that the charity should have. The reserves are required to operate and meet the charity's objectives.

FUTURE PLANS

After six years of working in this space, the Board of Trustees of Women's Breakout have concluded that while there is still much work to be done, in the current political and economic climate the impact of Women's Breakout will be significantly increased if the organisation merges with another organisation that shares its values and direction of travel and brings strategic influence. Following careful consideration, an approach was made to another organisation and discussions to bring together the two organisations is well advanced. During 2017/18 Women's Breakout will undergo a process to merge the work of Women's Breakout within this organisation, whereby Women's Breakout will be formally dissolved.

We are entering into this merger to ensure that

- the voice of women impacted on by the criminal justice system continue to be heard where decisions are made;
- the experience and voice of those who work with women in the criminal justice system in an evidenced and effective way can be successfully involved in shaping future policy and practice;
- high quality services are available in communities to give women impacted by the criminal justice system the best possible outcome for themselves and their families;
- community services are available to support the government's stated intention to reduce the female prison population and improve the quality of services available to women across the country.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, the articles of association, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Organisational structure

The charity is governed by its trustees however the day to day running is managed by J Russell.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable reassurance against fraud and error. The risk register is included in the organisation's Business Plan.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

08377494 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1150996

Registered office

93 Chatterton Road
Bromley
BR2 9QQ

Trustees

Ms L M Dando Director of Charity

Professor L R R Gelsthorpe University Professor
Miss M Nicholson CEO
Ms J M Southgate Head of Policy
Ms G E Stevens Tax Director
Mrs N C Van Vliet Head Of Communities Development - resigned 21.11.16
Ms L F H Seebohm Director of Charity
Mrs R C A Hooper Company Director
Ms E M Harris Freelance Consultant
Ms L Mezoughi Lawyer
Ms K Mooney – Independent - appointed 28.6.16
Company Secretary
Ms J N Russell

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent examiner

Lindley Adams Limited Chartered Accountants
28 Prescott Street
Halifax
West Yorkshire
HX1 2LG

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Women's Breakout was formed in February 2010, and was hosted under Womencentre Halifax, and governed by Womencentre Halifax. On 28 January 2013 Women's Breakout was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, and on 27 February 2013 Women's Breakout received confirmation from the Charity Commission of its charitable status. On 13 January 2014 Women's Breakout became entirely independent from Womencentre Halifax.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf
by:

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Ms G E Stevens - Trustee