

Support for Prostitutes

Streetreach offers support and advice to approximately 200 prostitutes that are working in Doncaster to help get them off the streets. The drop-in centre offers confidential support and counselling, specialist sexual health advice and pregnancy testing, and a drug misuse programme. It also runs a distance-learning programme providing women with the chance of still getting an education.

Streetreach has enabled several women to successfully stabilise their lifestyles. It has recently helped five women into employment and one is due to start an Open University course. Four women have also been able to attend short courses at Northern College, getting them back into learning in a fun and non-threatening environment. One female hopes to enroll on a full time course in September 2004.

Case Study

"Jane" is 21, lives at home with her mum and is in full time employment having started her job in the summer of 2003.

We first met Jane in 2001 through the Streetreach Outreach Team. She was actively involved in street prostitution seven days a week to fund her heroin addiction and crack cocaine use, which alienated her from her family.

Jane's 'road to recovery' was not easy. She has worked hard to address her drug problem through the Streetreach drug treatment programme and has found it very difficult to find employment. Partnership working between Streetreach and Reed Employment has provided Jane with continued support from professionals who understand the complex needs of someone involved in the chaotic lifestyle of prostitution and drugs. As Jane lapsed and relapsed, her relationship with Reed enabled her to remain engaged with the service and continue to build on the life skills developed through Reed.

Jane's mum also received valuable support from Streetreach and Reed, which led to Jane being able to move back home. The stability of being back at home allowed Jane to concentrate on her

learning and gave her the confidence and opportunity to apply for jobs through the Action Team.

Jane now has a stable life. She no longer uses heroin or is involved in prostitution and has been working in a sales position for seven months.

For further information about Streetreach contact the team on 01302 328396 or feel free to pop into the office at 28 Copley Road, Doncaster.