

# Unsung heroine who deserves recognition

## A special woman with very extra skills gives help and support to vice (

A busy Doncaster mum has been short-listed for a Yorkshire Women of Achievement award for her tireless work to help vulnerable young women involved in prostitution.

**Lois Astley reports.**

TRUDY Hannington's dedication to the Streetreach Project has spanned 13 years and in that time, she has successfully built up the trust of hundreds of young people, offering them support and counselling and has helped many to leave prostitution.

She was nominated for the award by Dee Hammerson, Head of Youth Service at Doncaster Council, in the category of Unsung Heroine.

The awards, which have been running for 18 years, are organised by Sue Ryder Care Wheatfields Hospice and as one of only four finalists in her category, Trudy will attend a glittering ceremony at the Queens Hotel in Leeds in June.

"I feel that I am very privileged to know Trudy," said Dee.

"She fills me with admiration for her and hope for the vulnerable young people of Doncaster, who could slip into prostitution. She is an extra-special person of high integrity who really deserves recognition."

Trudy's talent for communicating the project's vision to others has helped Streetreach go from strength-to-strength and as its lead, she is often

### 'Streetreach and Trudy as its champion are leading the way'

**Dee Hammerson**

invited to speak on its valuable work at national conferences as well as being regularly visited by workers and managers from allied services nationwide.

As manager of Streetreach, her many duties include borough-wide responsibility for child protection in the Youth Service, inter-agency work with sexually exploited young people and Portfolio Holder for prostitution on Doncaster Council's Community Safety Partnership.

Trudy's vigorous campaigning has resulted in Streetreach expanding considerably from its early days as solely an outreach project. The scheme now offers an established drop-in centre, a community detox project where Trudy and her team provide out of hours support to young women with drug withdrawal symptoms and their families,



**Winner:** Trudy Hannington, has been nominated for a top Achievement award. Above a prostitute at work on the street

Trudy deserves to be nominated for the Yorkshire Woman of Achievement award because, for the past 13 years, she has worked determinedly for the well being of vulnerable young women who have been involved in prostitution in Doncaster.

"It was Trudy who highlighted the issue to the relevant agencies in Doncaster and has worked with these agencies, the young women and the local community to recognise the problem and deal with this issue.

"Streetreach as a Project and Trudy Hannington as its champion are recognised nationally as leading the way in this very valuable area of work."

Alyson Woer, Fundraising and Publicity Manager for Sue Ryder Care Wheatfields Hospice, said: "The Yorkshire Women of Achievement awards are a celebration of the tremendous accomplishments of women from all walks of life. They have all shown unwavering commitment to helping others, but still don't believe they've done anything special."

and a preventative programme in schools and youth centres to de-glamourise prostitution.

The young women have easy access to advice, information and counselling and they work in groups boosting their self-confidence. They acquire skills such as ICT, cookery, crafts and sports and have also written a poetry book about their lives. Some are attempting awards such as Youth Achievement and The

Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Others have become peer mentors to other vulnerable young women and many have, with the help of Trudy, successfully exited prostitution and have gone on to lead happy, fulfilled lives.

If they feel that they might slip back, Trudy and the team are always there for them, either in person or at the end of the telephone.

Dee added: "I believe that