



The Haven Wolverhampton Newsletter 2011

Supporting women and children who are vulnerable to violence and abuse
WINTER

Welcome from Chief Executive Kath Rees



The Haven has had some wonderful successes over the last year which we are delighted to report in this newsletter. We are extremely grateful to

all who have offered their support through volunteering, donations and gifts in kind. This year The Haven made a conscious move towards recognising the contribution of key male supporters in our awareness raising efforts through the launch of The Haven Heroes campaign. We hope that through new and innovative campaigns such as this that we can raise awareness of Domestic Violence to new and captive audiences. This year we have also worked to raise the profile of Wolverhampton and the work of The Haven in Nigeria, Hong Kong,

Rome, Uzbekistan, Russia, London and locally through our consultation responses and presentations on our work delivered by both staff and those women who access our services.

Whilst we do not have the machinery of government or the resources of business and financial institutions we have the passion and determination to ensure that women and children experiencing Domestic Violence have a safe place to live and a staff team who know how to listen and act. On behalf of the Chair, Board, Staff and Volunteers at The Haven we thank you for your kind donations and support. We look forward to continuing the good work of The Haven in 2012.

Kath Rees
Chief Executive Officer

Haven Opens Charity Shop

We are delighted to announce that The Haven Wolverhampton will be opening a charity shop unit in the City Centre. The shop, which will be known as 'The Haven Wolverhampton Clothesline', will sell second hand clothes, toys and other goods in order to raise money for women and children affected by Domestic Violence.

We wish to invite all supporters to attend the grand opening of **The Haven Wolverhampton Clothesline at 10 Salop Street, Wolverhampton City Centre, from 10am on Tuesday 15th November.**

We look forward to seeing you there.



The Haven Bus

On Friday 4th November members of The Haven Wolverhampton board and staff were delighted to attend an event which saw the unveiling of a brand new National Express Bus named after The Haven.

'The Haven Refuge' bus is one of 9 new, state of the art vehicles commissioned for use in Wolverhampton. All 9 buses have been named after key figures or organisations in Wolverhampton as chosen by National Express West Midlands.

The Haven is delighted to have been recognised in this truly unique way and is grateful to all at National Express West Midlands for their generosity and support.

We would like to encourage our readers to be on the lookout for 'The Haven Refuge' bus whilst out on your travels. If you spot the bus please be sure to let us know where you have seen it by sending us as a tweet - **@TheHavenWton**

Refuge Refurbishment Update

In the last edition of The Haven newsletter we reported that refurbishment work had begun on one of The Haven's oldest refuge buildings. We are delighted to announce that refurbishment is now complete!

The refuge re-opened on 11th July having been completely transformed to include a modern living room, kitchen and dining

room and vibrant playroom areas for the younger residents.

Our thanks go to all who supported the re-development including Lewis Architecture Ltd and B.E Barkers and extra special thanks go to the Trustees of Trinity Housing Venture whose very generous donation made the redevelopment possible.



Haven wins prestigious Training Award



The Haven Wolverhampton is delighted to have received a prestigious National Training Award given in recognition of those Investors in People accredited organisations that have put training at the heart of everything they do.

From thousands of entries from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland just 36 organisations were chosen to receive awards. The Haven became the Regional Winners of the National Training Award in the medium employer category as a result of demonstrating the benefits of linking the training needs of staff to the business needs of the organisation.

The Haven Wolverhampton's qualification "Working with Survivors of Domestic Violence" was initially created and written by Alison Worton Jones, Training Coordinator and Andrea Cifuentes-Poseck, Volunteer Coordinator, after it was determined that there was no subject specific training for those working in the field of Domestic Violence.

Previously Haven staff were able to access training through the local authority, but this was not subject specific and was designed for other professions such as the probation service.

Drawing on the four decades of experience of staff and with the support of Open College Network West Midlands Region (OCNWMR) a detailed Domestic Violence Awareness programme was designed for Haven staff, volunteers and external stakeholders.

Alison Worton Jones, Training Coordinator at The Haven said

"Previous training available to refuge workers was not fit for purpose. With 97% of frontline staff engaged in subject-specific training, the organisation will benefit from a staff team up-skilled in dealing with vulnerable women and the specific sensitive issues around Domestic Violence."

The qualification is now accredited through the Open College Network West Midlands Region and is mapped to the National Occupational Standards through Skills for Justice and Skills for Health.

Alison Worton Jones and Tina Bill, HR Manager, attended The 25th National Training Awards Ceremony which was hosted by Chris Banks CBE and Theo Paphitis in London on 5th October 2011.

The National Training Awards judging panel added that the training was 'exemplary' and 'a credit to The Haven's success.'

Haven Drop In Sessions are a success

Over the summer The Haven Wolverhampton launched a new initiative which aimed to provide women with the opportunity to speak and discuss their experiences of Domestic Violence with a qualified member of Haven staff in the interim period before becoming full engaged with The Haven Community Advocacy Service.



The Haven Community Advocacy service offers specialist support to help female victims of Domestic Violence devise safety plans, progress with housing applications, support with taking cases through the criminal justice system and access to various other community support services. However demand for this service was always very high which often lead to lengthy waiting lists.

Therefore, in order to be able to provide the best level of support during waiting periods The Haven established a scheme offering 2 different types of 'Drop In' session. The 'Options & Guidance' drop in session allows women to seek support from a qualified member of Haven staff.

Women are able to access emotional as well as practical support with issues such as housing rights and responsibilities; benefits, grants and loans; immigration support; children's matters such as case conferences and establishing personal safety and security.

The 'Legal Advice' drop in session provides free legal advice to address issues around personal safety, divorce, child contact, immigration, property and assets. The sessions have allowed women the opportunity to discuss legal matters with Solicitors from recognised firms across the City.

Both 'Drop In' sessions comprise 30 minute appointments and offered women a brief and concise level of support.

Since the sessions began in August 2011 a total of 78 women have received support through the scheme. One participant said 'I was looking forward to the drop in for days, this is the first time I have been able to come and talk to someone openly without being judged. I am so thankful that I came now I know what my rights are and what I must do to protect not only myself but my children without feeling guilty.'

Our thanks go to all who have supported the development of the 'Drop In' sessions including staff from DBL Talbots Solicitors for their support with providing professional legal advice to clients. Plans to continue running the sessions in the new year are currently underway.

Encouraging Engagement

The Haven Wolverhampton is passionate about supporting women and strives to empower every service user of Haven services to become involved in some way.

As a result there have been new developments put in place to help support and encourage women's engagement at The Haven including the introduction of a Senior Engagement Officer post. It is the role of the Senior Engagement Officer to actively liaise and work with current as well as former service users to ensure that all Haven activity is influenced by their views and experiences and, wherever possible, include them in the delivery of The Haven's mission and work.

The Haven has also introduced 'The Haven Way' project which supports women to become actively involved in various aspects of The Haven work by becoming support peers or mentors. Through this

project women will be able to share their knowledge and skills with other service users whilst also being given the opportunity to learn new skills through training and volunteering opportunities.

The Haven Wolverhampton Women's Resource Centre brings the above together and is a dedicated space where women can take part in various different empowering activities. The centre is at the heart of the engagement model and focuses on creating an environment where women can feel safe, deal with various issues relating to their experiences and plan for the future with hope.



Haven Honours Male Heroes

Often the first place we learn about role models is in the home. There are currently hundreds of children living in refuges throughout the UK who have been exposed to abuse from a male family member, leaving children with very negative impressions of families and relationships. That's why earlier this year The Haven launched the 'Haven Heroes' campaign as a way of promoting positive male role models and to acknowledge those in Wolverhampton which we feel children, young people and adults can look up to.

The campaign encouraged members of the public, as well as Haven staff, volunteers and service users to put forward the names of males who they believe have made a positive difference and/or act as an inspiration to the local community for a series of Haven Hero Awards.

Following a fantastic response from the public The Haven whittled down the nominations and was delighted to reveal the winners at our first ever Haven Hero Awards evening on 21st July 2011.

Winner of The Haven Hero Community Award 2011 – Jason Brimfield

This award was presented to Jason Brimfield to acknowledge the positive difference made to the lives of members of his local community. Jason is the Assistant Manager / Coach for Wyrley Junior Colts Under 10's Football Team and was nominated for this award by his friend and colleague Scott Lyons. Jason volunteers his free time to provide coaching and personal one to one support to young players and their families to deal with personal issues as well as improving their football skills.

Winner of The Haven Hero Board of Trustees Award – Colin Brown

Colin received The Haven Heroes Board of Trustees Award in recognition of his dedication and commitment to supporting the work of The Haven Wolverhampton. As co-founder of The Haven Wolverhampton in 1973 Colin was instrumental in guiding The Haven to becoming a pioneering organisation which strives towards alleviating Domestic Violence once and for all. For all that he has done Colin remains an inspiration to everyone at The Haven.

Winner of The Haven Hero Special Recognition Award – Frederick Taylor

The Haven Hero Special Recognition Award was presented to Frederick Taylor by his daughter Abigail. Abigail experienced severe domestic abuse for over 9 years during which her father stood by and supported her throughout. This award recognised the contribution of a male individual on the life of someone who has experienced abuse.

Winner of The Haven Hero Children's Award – Colleagues at RAF Cosford

The Haven Heroes Children's Award was voted for and chosen by the children of The Haven Wolverhampton. Amongst a few nominations of Superman, Batman and Captain Jack Sparrow the children and young people at The Haven voted to give this award to soldiers and army service personnel stating that these men 'make us feel safe' and 'protect us from bad people'. We were honoured that colleagues from No 1 Radio School were able to accept this award on behalf of the children.

The Haven believes that in acknowledging and recognising the contribution of positive male role models in Wolverhampton the children and young people of the City will look up to our award winners and be inspired to become our next generation of Haven Heroes.

For more information, photos and videos from the awards please visit

<http://www.havenrefuge.org.uk/NewsEvents/HavenHeroes2011Results.html>



Haven Hero Community Award Winner Jason Brimfield is presented with his award by Emma Reynolds, MP



Haven Hero Board of Trustees Award Winner Colin Brown with his wife Ann at the Awards Ceremony

Let's hear it for the Boys!

The Haven hosts Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes for the second year running

Sunday mornings in Wolverhampton's West Park are usually a quiet and peaceful affair. The occasional dog walker, runner in training and family's eating picnics by the lake are not an unusual sight.

However on a sunny Sunday morning in October the staggered 'clip clop, clip clop' of stiletto heels filled the air as men from across the City joined together to take a stand against Domestic Violence.

The Haven Wolverhampton's second annual 'Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes' event took place on 16th October helping to raise funds to support women and children affected by Domestic Violence and mark National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Over 100 supporters gathered in West Park to take part in the event which featured a 'How to walk in high heels' tutorial, 'Zumba in Heels' warm up and of course, the one mile walk around the park itself. The event included performances from award winning dance troop WDC, as well as waxing, manicure and pedicure stations for all our participants, courtesy of Escape Beauty Wolverhampton.

Prizes were also awarded on the day for the 'Best Dressed' and the participant with the 'Loveliest Legs'.

Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes 2011 proved to be a great success. We hope that through fun and light hearted events such as this we can encourage supporters, both male

and female, to take a stand and talk about an issue that is often so hard to talk about – Domestic Violence. The event has raised over £600 so far with sponsorship money still to be collected.

Our thanks go to all who took part in and supported the event. Special thanks go to FBC Manby Bowdler Solicitors for sponsoring the event and to 107.7 Wolf Radio for attending and acting as host on the day.

For more Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes pictures and videos visit our facebook page – **TheHavenWton**



Haven on the airwaves

The Haven is delighted to be working in partnership with Wolverhampton Community Radio (WCR) to produce a weekly radio show made by women for women in Wolverhampton. The show will form part of the stations 'In the City' programme and will be broadcast live every Friday lunchtime from 1pm to 2pm on 101.8 FM.

The programme will be produced with the support of 10 female volunteers from across the voluntary, business and private sector in Wolverhampton. The show aims to celebrate, motivate and entertain women through the discussion of women's issues both locally and nationally, interviews with inspirational women, features on events, activities and trends affecting women in the City as well as answering questions from listeners and providing advice and guidance on a range of subjects. The show will also feature music from established as well as unsigned female artists.

The show also aims to give women the opportunity to have their voices heard, to have their thoughts, experiences and opinions listened to on a larger platform and offer women the chance to gain new skills by becoming involved as a volunteer presenter or reporter for the show.

To ensure that we produce a show that women from across the City will be proud of we need your input and contribution. Please send us details, suggestions and ideas for future shows or perhaps you would like to come on the show as a guest.

Please get in touch on publicity@havenrefuge.org.uk or call Grace on 01902 572173



Thank you to all our Supporters

Our ongoing thanks and gratitude are extended to all funders, trusts, businesses, community groups and individuals who have supported The Haven with fundraising activities over the past six months.

Beaverbrooks Telford

The Haven would like to thank staff at Beaverbrooks Jewellers in Telford who raised a total of £605.00 to support women and children affected by Domestic Violence.

Carvers Marathon



As well as being chosen as one of the charitable beneficiaries of the 2011 Carver Wolverhampton Marathon a number of individuals also took part in the various running and cycle events raising sponsorship for The Haven. Our thanks and congratulations go to all who took part in the 2011 Carver Wolverhampton Marathon helping to raise funds to support the women and children of The Haven.

People's Postcode Trust



The Haven is delighted to have received funding from the People's Postcode Trust to transform the outside of one of our refuge areas for single women to a 'Serenity Garden'. The Haven was

successful in securing just over £8000.00 to develop a space where women can work to rebuild their lives by accessing a respite area in which they can find peace and healing.

As part of the transformation plants will be selected based on their soothing fragrances, garden ornaments and hanging baskets constructed and the addition of a vegetable patch will help women to gain new skills through the exploration of the possibility of selling these freshly grown items in the local community.

The Evan Cornish Foundation



The Haven is grateful to the Trustees of The Evan Cornish Foundation who have kindly donated £7000 to support the development of an ICT Suite and classes at the new Women's Resource Centre. Women will be able to access the internet, develop CV's, job search and gain valuable ICT and functional skills.

The Midcounties Co-operative

The Midcounties Co-operative



Store Managers from community retailer The Midcounties Co-operative raised an impressive £2,000 to buy lawn turf, plants and play equipment to transform the garden area of one of The Haven's family refuges. As well as purchasing the equipment a dedicated team of 22 Midcounties volunteers also gave up their time to carry out the refurbishment.

One of the volunteers said "It is the first time we have carried out a challenge at a refuge and it was so rewarding. It was hard work laying 400 square metres of turf and building steps to the lawn, but there was great camaraderie too. We had told them (The Haven) we would be laying a lawn, but the swing, slide, trampoline and other equipment was a big surprise for them."

As well as transforming the garden area volunteers from Midcounties also supported the development of The Haven Charity Shop. A team of six volunteers from The Midcounties Property group spent three days renovating the rundown unit in Salop Street turning it into a bright and attractive space where The Haven will sell second hand clothes, toys and other goods to raise money. With the support of Midcounties The Haven saved a whopping £6000 in refurbishment fees. We are incredibly grateful for their support, generosity and hard work.



Joseph Joseph Ltd



Our thanks go to all at Joseph Joseph Ltd for their generous donation of kitchenware items to The Haven Wolverhampton. Joseph Joseph Ltd is an internationally recognised firm that produces both stylish and technically innovative homeware products. These donated items will be issued to the women currently living in The Haven refuges, many of whom have left their homes with few possessions, in order help them prepare for their move back to independent living.

Zumba Party

The Haven held its first ever Zumba Party on 24th September at The Mander Shopping Centre. The party was lead by local Zumba pro's Jackie Powis, Janette Nicholls and Rachel Scott who put participants through their paces all in the name of charity. We were even delighted to be joined by a number of male participants who took to the dancefloor in heels in preparation for The Haven's Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes event.

Thank you to all who participated and raised sponsorship for The Haven Women's Emergency Fund – Supporting women and children affected by Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse.

How can you help The Haven?

Become a Haven Volunteer

We are currently looking to recruit volunteers for our new Charity shops



We are looking for committed and reliable volunteers to help staff two shop units and act as representatives to The Haven helping to

contribute hugely to how the public perceive us and the work we do.

We are looking to recruit both Senior Charity Shop Volunteers and Charity Shop Volunteers.

Senior Charity Shop Volunteers will help to guide and supervise Charity Shop Volunteers as well as offer support to Haven staff on other related duties. We are looking for individuals who have experience in retail or

customer care, experience in cash handling and ability to process, sort and price donations. Volunteers must also possess the ability to motivate team members and the ability to work independently.

Charity Shop Volunteers are also being recruited. As a Haven Charity Shop Volunteer you will assist and serve customers and work as part of a team to take delivery of, process, clean, sort and price donations. You will also help with designing shop window and other displays.

Volunteering at a Haven charity shop will allow you to meet lots of different people, learn new skills and become a valued member of the team. If you can spare a morning or afternoon a week then we would love to hear from you. We are also looking for good quality second hand items to sell in the shop.

Please contact Andrea Cifuentes Poseck on 01902 5721269 or vc@havenrefuge.org.uk for more information and to register your interest.

Become a Corporate Partner

The Haven Wolverhampton is keen to work with local businesses to explore new ways of generating financial support for women and children affected by abuse as well as help employers improve their stance on Domestic Violence.

Not only can organisations benefit from being seen as an employer which contributes to the well being of staff, but studies also show that consumers are more likely to buy products or use services which at the same time help a charity.

In adopting The Haven as your Charity of the Year you will receive support from a dedicated fundraising team to develop a mutually beneficial partnership which promises to motivate employees, boost staff morale and generate positive publicity for your business.

If you would like to find out more about working with The Haven as a corporate partner please contact Palvinder Dulai on 01902 572123 or pd@havenrefuge.org.uk

Haven Appeals



Cycle 2 End the Cycle Campaign

The Haven is pleased to launch 'Cycle 2 End the Cycle' - a brand new campaign which will see 6 brave women cycle over 270 miles in just 4 days from London to Paris in order to raise money to support women and children affected by Domestic Violence.

Kath Rees, Chief Executive of The Haven Wolverhampton, will take on the challenge with 5 other volunteers next July.

Kath Rees said "we will be cycling a gruelling 270 miles to raise money for The Haven's Counselling service. This service offers a vital lifeline to women and children helping them to come to terms with emotional issues and break free from abuse."

The Haven is currently looking for individuals, businesses and community groups to support the 'Cycle 2 End the Cycle' campaign and help make a life changing contribution to women and children affected by abuse.

This could be through

- a donation of Gifts in Kind to support fundraising raffles / auctions;
- Sports equipment to use throughout the Challenge;
- Financial donations to feature your name and logo on our website, publicity, Challenge clothing and equipment.

Our thanks go to Louise Carrier, for designing our cycle campaign logo, Wolverhampton Bike Shed, Fred Williams Cycle and www.saveonlaptops.co.uk for their generous offer of support throughout the campaign.

If you would like more information on how to support the campaign please call Kaye Bartlett on 01902 572173 or write to gdo@havenrefuge.org.uk

Women's Emergency Fund Appeal



The Haven Women's Emergency Fund has been set up to provide women affected by Domestic Violence and financial abuse with access to small grants.

Many women affected by financial abuse find themselves in a situation where they have very little to no control over their own finances. Some women have access to their funds restricted, some are not given any financial support by their partners and others are forced to take out credit cards and loans thus building up large amounts of debt.

"My husband refused to pay any rent or contribute to bills, he even refused to give me any money for our kids. I had no money for food and the bailiffs had started knocking the door."

The Women's Emergency Fund, in conjunction with The Haven Financial Inclusion Project, assists women accessing Haven services with financial support to purchase essential items and help alleviate debt. Funds are distributed directly to clients via small grants from the Women's Emergency Fund.

For The Haven to be able to continue to provide financial support to women and children affected by Domestic Violence we need your help to ensure that the emergency fund is topped up at all times.

By making a donation to the Women's Emergency Fund you will be supporting The Haven to provide quality services to women and children who have been affected by Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse.

If you would like to make a financial contribution please call 01902 572145 or write to fo2@havenrefuge.org.uk

HOW TO CONTACT US...

24 hr Helpline (Referrals Only): 01902 713001

Office Number: 01902 572140

Fax Number: 01902 572144

Post: The Haven Wolverhampton, PO Box 105, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHavenWton

Twitter: www.twitter.com/TheHavenWton

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/2260528

Email: info@havenrefuge.org.uk

Website: www.havenrefuge.org.uk



The Haven Wolverhampton is a registered charity – number 1065427. Company Ltd by Guarantee (Registered in England) 03159029

Haven presents at WAVE Conference



On 11th October 2011 representatives from The Haven Wolverhampton attended the 13th annual WAVE conference which was held in Rome, Italy and attended by over 400 delegates from 38 countries.

WAVE, which stands for Women Against Violence Europe, is an established network of European women's non-governmental organisations that work in the field of combatting violence against women. Each year delegates from the network gather in a member country to exchange expertise through the hosting of a conference.

Haven representatives attended the 3 day conference and presented information on The Haven Financial Inclusion Project and service standards in order to raise awareness and share best practice on how to support victims of Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse as part of the conference workshops. A copy of the presentation can be downloaded from www.havenrefuge.org.uk

Several issues were on the Conference agenda including discussion of the Council of Europe recommendations about the minimum refuges spaces and support services for victims of Domestic Violence. In the UK nearly one third of Local Authorities do not have Domestic Violence Support Services (Map of Gaps by End Violence Against Women).

Recommendations were put forward to increase the influence on governments to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women.

At this moment in time the UK government have not agreed to sign the convention. UK delegates at the conference lobbied to host the next WAVE conference in the UK which was agreed by the WAVE committee. Therefore the 2012 WAVE conference will be held in London in October 2012 to address and raise awareness of violence against women. The conference will aim to make certain that this issue remains a priority for government and ensure that cuts to the voluntary sector do not undermine the support needs of women and children affected by abuse.

For more information on WAVE visit www.wave-network.org

DAPHNE – Second Transitional Meeting



In September, The Haven Wolverhampton's Daphne project partners from across Europe

visited Wolverhampton for the second time to participate in a 3-day training event. The purpose of the training was to prepare for the next stage of the project – data collection. This will involve conducting interviews with women users of counselling services, and counsellors themselves, to uncover the biggest challenges facing these services and also the perceptions towards them.

The project partners discussed the logistics and sensitivities required for when interviewing women survivors of Domestic Violence and our research

partners from Germany, Portugal and Wolverhampton equipped them with the tools needed to manage and conduct interviews effectively.

The partners also received a taster module of the 'Advanced certificate in Domestic Violence counselling', from the course which is planned to launch at the University of Wolverhampton in 2012, delivered by Soledad Poseck of The Haven Wolverhampton's 'Beyond Surviving' Counselling Service.

For more information on The Haven's Daphne project please visit

www.havenrefuge.org.uk/NewsEvents/Daphne%20Project

Haven welcomes Commonwealth Fellows from Nigeria

In 2010 The Haven Wolverhampton hosted two Commonwealth Fellowship placements from the Women and Child Watch Initiative (WOCWI), Nigeria in order to share knowledge and experience of supporting victims of Domestic Violence.

This year we were delighted to host three new placements from Nigeria - Mrs. Oluwatoyin Opawoyer; Nursing Officer, Ms. Edetan Olanike Folashade; Scientist and Mr Benjamin Okeowo; Journalist.

During their time at The Haven the fellows have received Domestic Violence Awareness Training, learnt about The Haven's different services and activities and also met with other external support providers in order to gain an insight into how Domestic Violence services are delivered in the UK.

Whilst in the UK one of our visitors, Benjamin Okeowo, was keen to use his knowledge and experience of

being a journalist to raise awareness of the need for fair access to Education in Nigeria. Below are extracts from an article Benjamin wrote during his stay:

"The potential advantages of an educated mind - male or female, is un-quantifiable. An educated person, male or female, is a potent tool towards forging alliances in a world torn apart by strife; or in re-arranging behaviours weighed down by ignorance and culture.

Incidentally, whilst in the UK my time was spent in search of this same knowledge - a Commonwealth Professional Fellowship tenable at The

Haven Wolverhampton sponsored by the Association of Commonwealth Universities aimed at a providing a frontier of global co-operation in combating Gender Discrimination, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. As I see the scurry of hurrying feet on the side-walks – men and women, a stream vehicles being driven by men and women, and people exchanging pleasantries – men and women, I saw how much happier the world would be if there was education for all, male and female."

WOCWI became a formal partner of The Haven Wolverhampton on 24th September 2011.

Haven supports second British-Uzbek Women's Forum



Business and Cultural Forum – 'Development of Social Entrepreneurship: Experience and Strategies'.

The event was a follow up to the first British Uzbek Women's Forum – Pearl of the East – which took place in London in October 2009. The second British-Uzbek Forum took place in Samarkand and Tashkent, Uzbekistan and was organised by The Haven's long standing International partner -The Socio Economic Development Centre SABR. The event was supported by the Fund Forum Uzbekistan, The Social Initiatives Support Fund, British Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbek Embassy in London, The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, The Women's Council and UDNP Uzbekistan, The British Council Tashkent Office and The Haven Wolverhampton.

The major objective of the forum was to help strengthen co-operations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Kingdom in the field of civil sector development, business, education and culture and encourage support for women's enterprise. As part of the

event presentations of successful case studies in business, education, science and civil society institutions took place. Kath Rees and Elvira Wilson from The Haven Wolverhampton

presented at The Women's Forum drawing on the experience of working with international partner SABR to provide support, encouragement and the opportunity for an independent life in a safe environment for women and children in Uzbekistan.

Delegates from across the UK and Uzbekistan attended the event which also featured an exhibition of photographs of Uzbek women by Frédérique Beaupertuis-Bressand. The Forum took place during the famous Art Week "Style.Uz" which enabled participants to enjoy a showcase of traditional and modern Uzbek art, culture and crafts. The Haven Wolverhampton also met and made links with many women who have been beneficiaries of SABR's microfinance and social programmes.

Recommendations from the forum will help develop women's entrepreneurship in the UK and Uzbekistan which will also feed in to the next Forum event which is scheduled to take place in London in 2013



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