



Platform 51 : 2012 Update

The past 12 months have been momentous for Platform 51, we launched our new name and we achieved many considerable successes. We have delivered vital support for up to 10,000 girls and women. We have run a high profile campaign about mental health issues, generating front page coverage both nationally and locally, as well as influencing the views of service providers and others. In addition, we have expanded our vital work with women at risk of offending and launched a national volunteering programme specialising in health and wellbeing.

However, the Trustees have also known for some time that another important priority is to secure the long term financial stability of our organisation, in order to achieve the best we can for girls and women. Platform 51 has operated for several years with substantial financial deficits, and this is simply not sustainable. In 2010/11 our operational deficit was nearly £2 million. If this were to continue then within a decade the charity would be forced to close altogether.

In order to cut this deficit, it is crucial that we make cost savings in all areas, and this includes staffing. Therefore Platform 51 is undertaking a restructuring consultation which will last about eight weeks. All staff that are affected have been informed.

We intend to have this consultation process completed by the end of February and will then issue a further statement on the outcome.

We obviously regret having to take these steps, but we are confident that it is the only way in which we will be able to fully meet the needs of girls and women in the long-term, which, in light of the recession, is more important now than ever before.

Helen Wollaston
Chair of Trustees