



**THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT LAUREN'S LINK
THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2007 AT 6.30PM**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Welcome
4. Chair's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers
7. Speaker – Steve Holme, Drug Market Mapping
8. Closing Remarks

LAUREN'S LINK EMPLOYEES

PROJECT MANAGER

Annette Rodgers

FINANCIAL CO-ORDINATOR

Jan Birtle

PROJECT WORKER

Bernadette Pietruszewska

Lauren's Link continues to support:

- Families/carers affected by someone else's drug misuse
- Families/carers of prisoners due to drug related crime
- Families/carers bereaved by drug related death (Angels project)
- Prisoners/young offenders and their families prior to release (Building Bridges project)
- Families/carers of sex workers and young people involved in child prostitution/grooming

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2006 – 2007**

CHAIR	Kathryn Radbourne - now resigned
VICE CHAIR	Sandra Weightman – became ACTING CHAIR
SECRETARY	Gill Woodward – Parent
TREASURER	Mark Tomordy – Parent
MEMBER	Ian Oliver – Parent
MEMBER	Brian Grice – Derbyshire Constabulary
MEMBER	Sheila Owen – Parent
MEMBER	Paula Kinder – now resigned
MEMBER	Colleen Pratt – now resigned
MEMBER	Yvonne Dickson – Parent
MEMBER	Peter Dickson – Parent
MEMBER	Donald McKenzie – now resigned
MEMBER	Lisa Higginbottom – Derby City Council

Chairperson's Report 2007

This is the first time I have produced a report for this particular organisation. I must add that officially I am the Vice Chair and am Acting Chair due to the resignation of Kathryn Radbourne.

I am personally very committed to Lauren's Link and the valuable service it offers. I also feel very privileged to have known Lauren and I am pleased to have been involved in the development of Lauren's Link.

Since Lauren's Link was set up we have seen a few changes but the core service which offers much needed support to families/carers is still going from strength to strength. The other services developed by Lauren's Link have been in response to an expressed need to again offer a vital service.

We have had our backs to the wall on a number of occasions due to the uncertainty around funding but Annette and her team have always remained positive and continued to deliver a quality service. The whole team is extremely resourceful and will rise to any challenges set. When I refer to the team I mean everyone involved, parents, volunteers, committee and staff.

We remain commissioned by the Derby City Community Safety Partnership to provide the support service to parents. However, we need to seek extra funding for developing additional services that will enhance the existing work we undertake. The issues around funding are not uncommon in the voluntary sector.

This year we have said farewell to a number of people, Kim left due to her contract and funding coming to an end. Kim was very dedicated to Lauren's Link and will remain in contact and support our work.

We also lost valuable support of Committee members Paula, Colleen, Kathryn and Donald. There are times when people have to make hard decisions about the commitment they can make to an organisation.

A big welcome to those who have joined us this year. It is always good to have new ideas.

This coming year we need to build on the good work we are undertaking, continue to seek alternative funding to give us more security so that we can develop services that enhance our existing provision.

Sandra Weightman
Acting Chair

On a Personal Note
Annette Rodgers, Project Manager

I say it every year but here we are again AGM time, my 5th report.

As usual funding is still a major issue with an organisation like ours. So much so it is with great sadness that myself, along with the committee had to make the decision to let a valuable member of staff go. Due to lack of funding Kim left Lauren's Link at the beginning of September.

On occasion I have felt that Lauren's Link is going backwards instead of forwards as the staff have depleted but with the feedback from the families we support assurance is given that we still provide a "top notch" quality of service.

As I've said in previous reports I pride Lauren's Link on the tight knit commitment and dedication of the small team of staff and I can safely say that on occasion we go beyond the call of duty and that is why we are still here.

We were able to secure funding for our new sub-project, Building Bridges. The Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales awarded us funding for one year to be able to develop the "gap" identified in the criminal justice system. The funding has enabled Bern to concentrate on the post created – please read Bern's report.

Another sub project of Lauren's Link which rarely gets a mention is Angels. The Angels project supports families bereaved by drug related death and sadly there have been quite a few this year. I trained as a Family Liaison Officer with the police a few years ago which has become invaluable when working with newly bereaved families. Having personal experience of being a bereaved parent I still find it incredible that there is still stigma attached to someone who has died and families still carry the shame. The Angels project meets bi-monthly but let me tell you it is not all doom and gloom loved ones are remembered with great love, affection and humour. The meeting gives people an opportunity to talk frankly about their experiences surrounding the death and afterwards without fear of upsetting or shocking anyone.

We continue to promote the work of Lauren's Link with talks, presentations, press and media coverage and I appeared on the TV in a couple of programmes last year which has had excellent feedback.

We also have a very strong social committee with regular social events being organised which the service users really look forward to as it gives them valuable "time out" of their otherwise stressful lives. The lunch club has really taken off and always well attended.

We still pride ourselves on partnership working and have met many new agencies this year enabling us to build strong links which is important when we are all working towards the same aim.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the work of Lauren's Link and I am sure next year will be full of new and exciting opportunities.

Thank you to the dedication and support by the members of the Board of Trustees past and present. Special thanks to Sandra for stepping in as Acting Chair.

God Bless you Lauren x

Building Bridges

Due to the increase in families and the drug user requiring support through the criminal justice a gap and need was identified. An application for funding was submitted to the Lloyds TSB Foundation of England and Wales. In December 2006, after two rigorous interviews, we were successful in securing funding for one year to progress and develop the Building Bridges project.

The funding enabled a salaried post to be filled and more direct and intense work was done with families and drug users/clients (either using or in recovery) which resulted in reduction of risks of further offending.

The work has been challenging, to say the least, and at times very frustrating. However, it remains encouraging to see the progress that has been made in particular with some of the younger people with the transition they have made into adulthood.

My hope is that the Building Bridges project will continue to be seen as a valuable tool and continue to be funded.

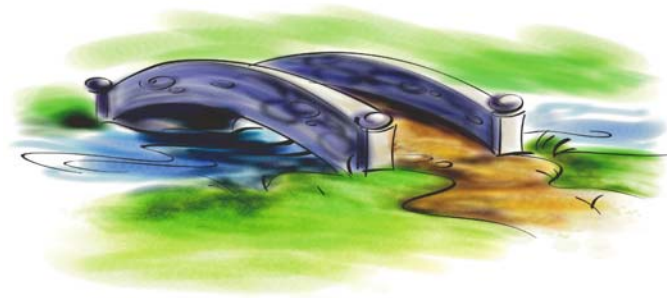
I would like to thank all the families and clients involved in the project, other supporting agencies and Annette, Jan and Kim for all their ongoing support.

Bern
Project Worker

*Lauren's
Link*

BUILDING BRIDGES

FOUNDATIONS FOR FAMILIES



The aim of the project is to work closely with individuals involved in the Criminal Justice System within Derby City.

The project focuses on the following key points:

- To reduce the risk of re-offending.
- To support the re-integration into communities following a prison sentence.
- Encourage contact with families.
- Provide a mediation service, if required.
- Signpost and liaise with other relevant agencies.

2 Wilson Street Derby DE1 1PG

Tel: 01332 362744/362638

Charity Number 1103175

Financial Co-ordinator

I am now in my 5th Year of working for Lauren's Link and I have probably found this year to be one of the most challenging of all. It is always difficult to secure funding for organisations such as ourselves; this year cut backs were made that resulted in Kim's position being made part time and on a 6-month contract, unfortunately Kim's contract together with the funding ended in August.

Lauren's Link still have a high number of clients coming through the door each week, and are all seen on a one-to-one basis. I have at the busiest times helped the team with client contacts, which is vastly different from my role as Financial Co-ordinator. This work can be extremely rewarding, especially when clients report back to us on how the help and information we have provided on behalf of Lauren's Link has helped them with their particular situation.

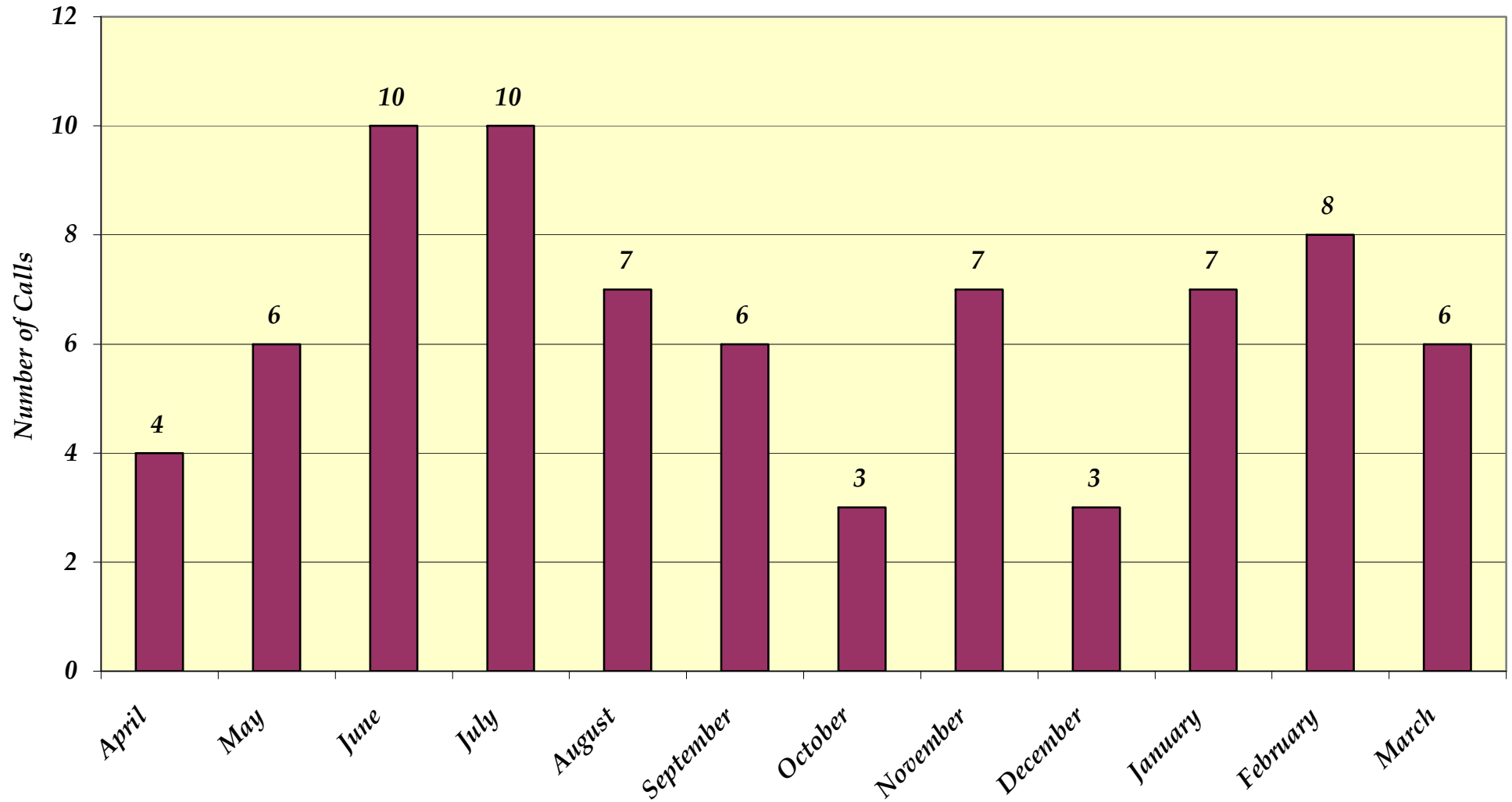
I am proud to be a part of the Lauren's Link team. We all work together with some really lovely families, and I have got to know some of them a lot better over this past year.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped support the running of Lauren's Link over the past year, from the main financial contributors, to the fundraisers and all those individuals who have donated throughout the year to keep this charity working, enabling us to provide a valuable service to the community.

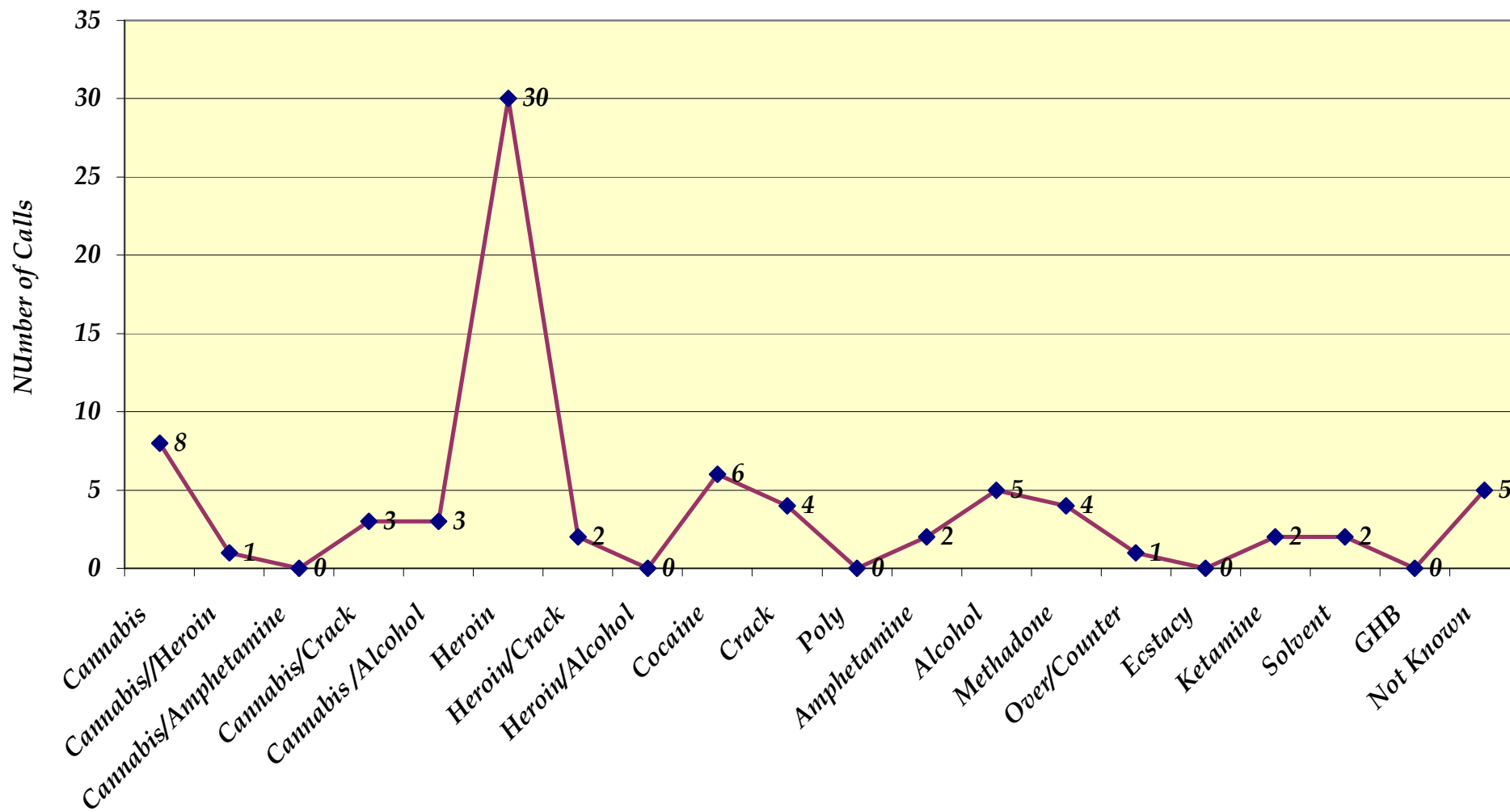
I look forward to another successful year ahead.

Jan Birtle
Financial Co-ordinator

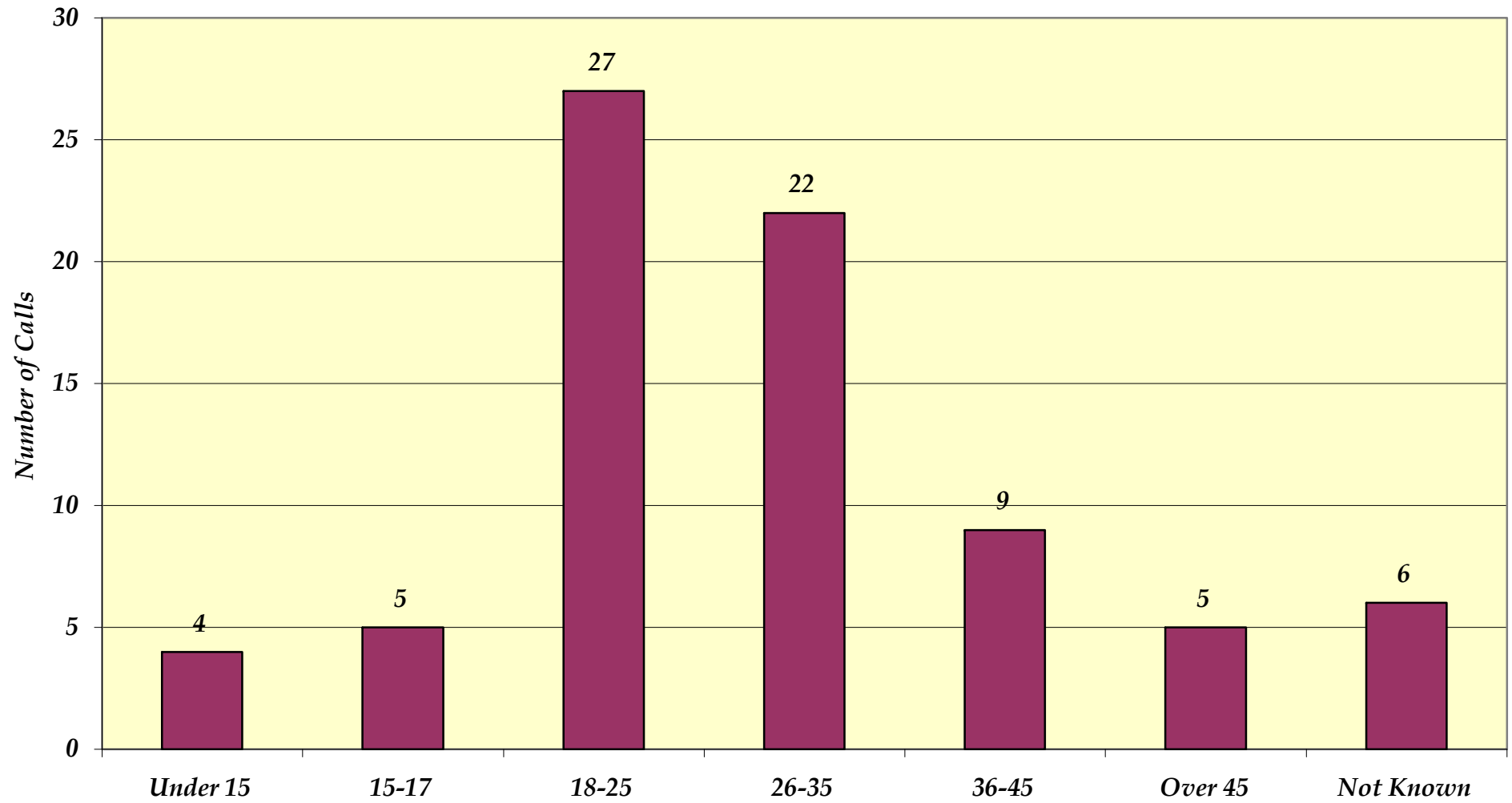
NEW REFERRALS CALL MONITORING APRIL 06 - MARCH 07



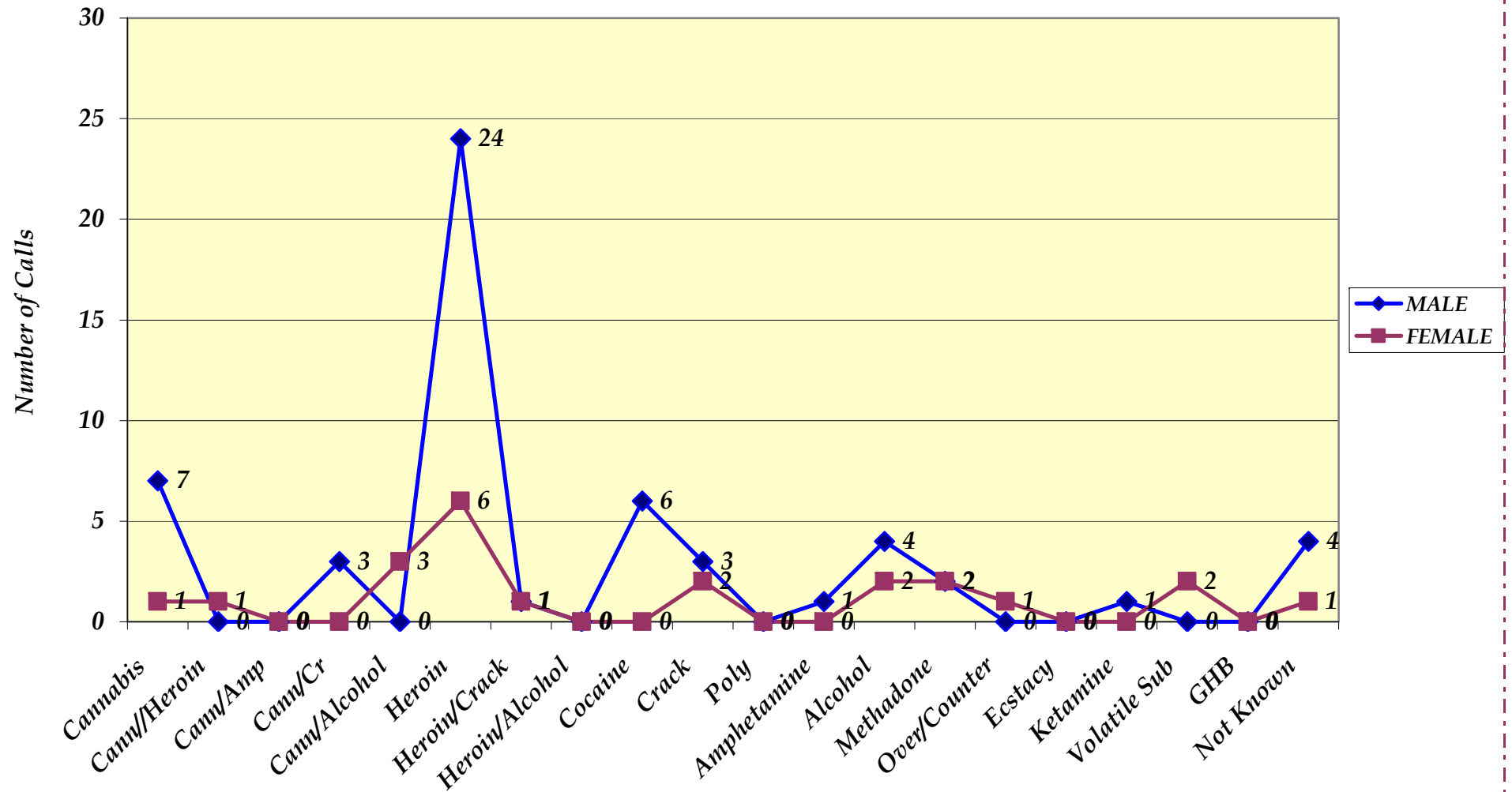
DRUG USED APRIL 06 - MARCH 07



AGE OF USER APRIL 06 - MARCH 07



GENDER OF USER AND DRUG APRIL 06 - MARCH 07



Lauren's Link

Statement of Financial Activity

For year ended March 31st
2007

2006 £		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Fund £	2007 £
	Charitable Income			
93572	Grants	0	101038	101038
2227	Donations & other income	8024	0	8024
2627	Other income	2766	0	2766
328	Interest	672	0	672
98755		11462	101038	112500
	Charitable Expenditure			
81144	Salary and associated costs	9182	73573	82755
5248	Expenses and training costs	178	1262	1440
2605	Stationery, telephone and printing	0	1747	1747
2463	Advertisements	75	1658	1733
	Supervision			
440	Costs	0	720	720
13518	Rent & rates	0	11925	11925
2006	Insurance	0	1664	1664
707	Fees	135	525	660
2587	Equipment, fixtures and fittings	0	324	324
3323	Sundry	0	134	134
130	Cost of Managing & Administering Charity	0	150	150
114170		9570	93682	103252
-15415	Net Movement of Funds	1893	7356	9248
21210	Fund balance at start of period	5794	0	5794
0	Transfer between funds	5580	-5580	0
5794	Fund balance at end of period	13267	1776	15043

Lauren's Link

Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2007

2006		2007
£		£
	Current Assets	
	Bank	
5754	Balance	36264
40	Cash	41
	Total	
5794	assets	36306
	less	
	liabilities	
0	Creditors	21263
		<small>note 5</small>
<u>5794</u>	Net Assets	<u>15043</u>
	Represented by	
	Funds	
0	Restricted Funds	1776
	Unrestricted	
5794	Funds	13267
<u>5794</u>		<u>15043</u>

Chair

Date

Treasurer

Date

Lauren's Link

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1

The accounts have been prepared using the concessions allowable under SORP 2005 for smaller charities, not subject to an audit (Appendix 5.3).

Note 2

Grants received were as follows

	£
Drugs & Alcohol Action Team/ Derby PCT	93950
Lloyds TSB	<u>7088</u>
	<u>101038</u>

Note 3

Donations

	£
Derbyshire Constabulary (Derby Division)	1500
Rotary Club	1000
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	2000
Severn Trent	524
Miscellaneous	<u>2848</u>
	<u>7872</u>

Note 4

Sundry Income

	£
Fee income	1535
Fundraising	203
Refunds	<u>1028</u>
	<u>2766</u>

Note 5**Creditors**

	£
Lloyds TSB Foundation (grant received in advance)	<u>21263</u>

Note 6

Balances on restricted funds were as follows

	Bal b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Drugs & Alcohol Action Team	0	93950	88485	-5465	0
Lloyds TSB Foundation	0	7088	5197	0	1891
TOTAL	<u>0</u>	<u>101038</u>	<u>93682</u>	<u>-5465</u>	<u>1891</u>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAUREN'S LINK WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT WITH FUNDING AND DONATED MONIES.

Community Safety Partnership Drug Strategy Team – Mike Murray, Dawn Littlewood

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales – Gary Beharrell, Board of Trustees

Derbyshire Constabulary (Derby Division)

Severn Trent - Sheila Owen

I.T.L – Miss C Maycock

Ashbourne Neighbourhood Watch – C W Pratley

Forester St Spiritualist Church – Liz and Dawn

Parent (Anonymous)

The Rotary Daybreak Club – Andrew Lanning

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAUREN'S LINK WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR ALL THEIR TIME AND SUPPORT.

Derbyshire Constabulary – Steve Holme, Brian Grice, Mark Preston

Derby Coroners Court – Peter Ashworth and Team

Progress to Work – Lesley Asher

D.C.A.S – Mark Newey, Accountant

Derby City Properties – Julie Collett

Just 30 Ltd – Andy Gaucher, Website

P B Associates – I.T Support

Young Persons Addaction – Lynn Brunt

Forester St Spiritualist Church – Liz Goddard and Team

To all families who access Lauren's Link and their support with donated monies and fund raising.

Thank you.