

Restore Safeguarding - End Sex Falsification

WDI UK

22 June 2024

Newcastle upon Tyne

TINA'S HAVEN

Dr Sue Robson

Founder of Tina's Haven

Creating & protecting safe female-only spaces for women in trauma-based addiction



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31.3.1985-
26.7.2020

Tina

Graphic by Vinnie

About Tina's Haven

A transferable model of holistic and emancipatory praxis to bring about self-empowerment and solidarity among birthmothers severed from their children by trauma-based addiction.

Removing barriers to social and political freedom and rights by influencing changes in social attitudes, institutional practices and policy, and the law .

Four practice disciplines

‘The 12-Steps’ to addiction recovery.

The Arts and nature-based practice.

‘Own My Life’ (OML) - a 12-week course to help women who have been subjected to abuse to regain ownership of their lives.

Trauma-responsive practice (found to conflict with feminist praxis)





Context for the Tina's Haven project



Female fatalities in the NE

Marginalised and vulnerable females are times as likely to die early than in England and Wales as a whole.

The average age at death of marginalised and vulnerable females falling by ten years, from 47 to 37.

Drug related deaths consistently the highest of any English region for ten consecutive years - mortality rates decreasing for males and increasing for females.

The highest level of children in care (113 per 10K children), 1.6 times the national average of 71; with half of NE local authorities in the highest 10%.

Women who experience child removal are up to five times more likely to die by suicide.



Female homelessness and deaths

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“Transactional” sex is one of the many reasons women rough sleepers are missed by the authorities.

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ONS reports a notable rise in female deaths in 2017 (19% of all deaths).

Between the ages of 35 to 39, women account for almost 29% of deaths (2022).

ONS stopped collecting homelessness death stats in 2021 amid public outcry that may result in reinstatement.

Dying Homeless Project

Publish FOI data and research highlighting homeless deaths across the UK.

In 2021, in 2021 there was a 32% increase and in 2020, and a staggering 80% increase from 2019.

In 2021, almost 30% were female (ONS 13%), and in 2022, 27%.

Given the Government's "Everyone In" scheme, it is apparent the increase in deaths occurred while homeless people were in temporary accommodation (TA).

However, the category of "sex" is conflated with "gender"; and there is no interrogation of these trends, nor any disaggregation of sex by other protected characteristics in any of the data.





Households
in Temporary
Accommodation

REPORT

APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation

Call for evidence findings: summary, analysis of theme and call to action

Report written by Alex Procter,
Sam Pratt & Ischia Wise-Martin

January 2023

Women in mixed-sex TA (Just Life 2023)

Women often enter mixed-sex TA, fleeing violence and are placed with men who have a history of violence etc. – and “unsafe and volatile environment” Lack of basic safety, the danger of violent or sexual assault being particularly acute for women.

Yet in the APPG call for evidence, other than one quote from a woman who left to be safer on the streets; safeguarding women in mixed-sex TA is only mentioned once and then in relation them being with children.

A whole section conjectures about trans people being under-supported in homelessness services, and the problem of trans identity being grouped with sexuality in the data.

Data is meaningless unless the variances can be interrogated.

Sex-based differences in addiction & treatment

Female's routes into addiction more likely to have a central relational component.

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Male dominated treatment centres with limited capacity to meet the holistic needs of females.

Daunting and intimidating environments for women particularly those who have been subjected to VAWG.

Women in addiction being subject to disproportionate levels of VAWG renders them highly vulnerable in mixed settings.

Females are known to be targeted by "predatory men" and abusers in mixed-sex recovery settings and are at risk of exploitation.

"In addiction services we are conditioned to think about men; yet generally women come in having been harmed and men come in having done harm."

VAWG, trauma, addiction & child-severance.

Collective biography of childhood and teenage trauma and abuse, leading journeys into addiction; state intervention into their adult lives upon becoming pregnant and having children; and then state collusion with VAWG that the women have been subjected to throughout their lives.

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The Single Sex Equality Duty (SSE)

Equality Act 2010, Part 7: Separate and single services. Separate services for the sexes: paragraph 26: 729. This paragraph contains exceptions to the general prohibition of sex discrimination which allow the provision of separate services for men and women.

Applying The Single Sex Exemption (SSE)

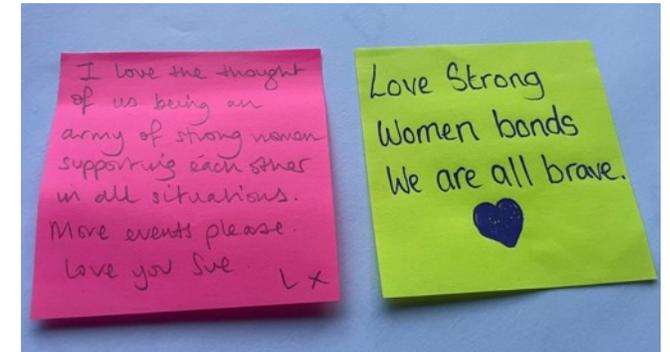
Female-only spaces are elemental to Tina's Haven, and it is a given that the SSE applies to the model on the basis that "the limited provision is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim".

A mixed approach would not be an effective way of addressing the lived and subjective experiences of birthmothers.

Tina's Haven relies upon marginalised and traumatised women being able to share their subjective experiences of VAWG and feelings of powerlessness.

This would be unsafe in a mixed-sex environment, and potentially harmful.

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WRC Statement on women-only services and sex-based rights

Tensions surrounding the SSE

“Issues of women-only spaces, sex-based rights and the sex/gender question, have polarised the feminist and LGBT movements.”

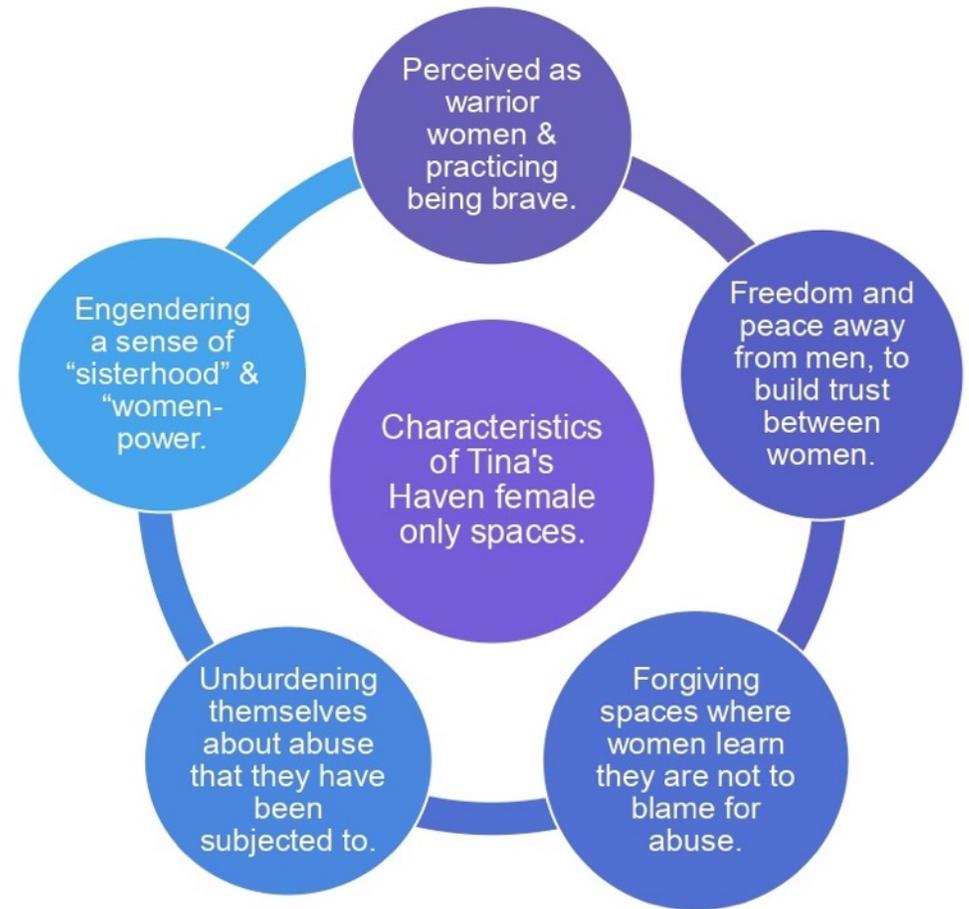
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Historical and hard-fought for legislation around sex-based rights (e.g. abortion and rape within marriage) is under threat

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Agencies claiming to be “feminist and trans-inclusive” may consider there is never valid a case to apply the SSE – is this legal?

Modelling feminist pra



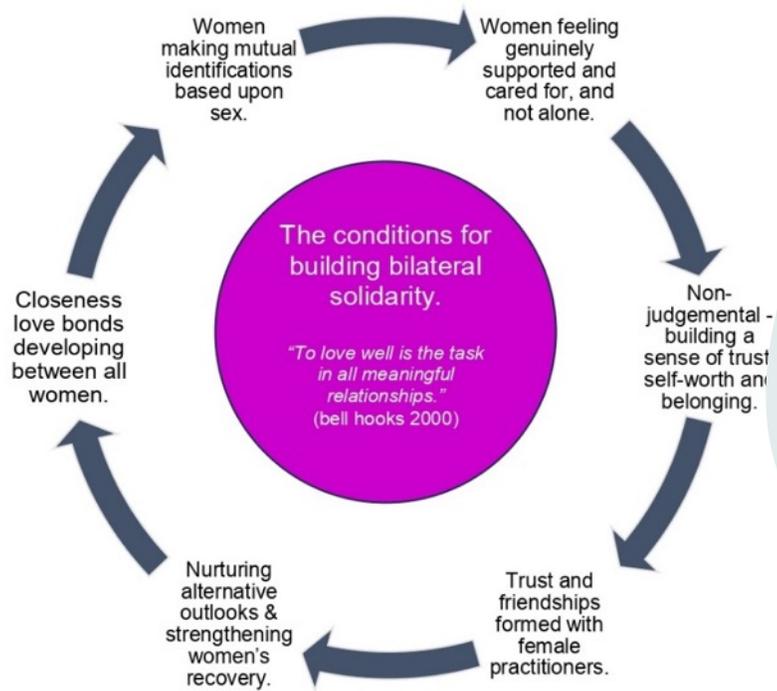
Feminist consciousness-raising

Exploratory conversation and small group work for heightening subjective awareness are central components.

Female-only space is central because it enables women to overcome an unequal gendered dynamic in which women are defined as 'other' in relation to men.

Then flows self-empowerment, solidarity building; identifying political priorities; and pursuing them through collective community action.





Female solidarity building

“Naïve-consciousness” - self-blame and passive and unquestioning acceptance of discrimination.

“Critical consciousness” - self-awareness and beginning to understand everyday experiences with reference systems and structures of discrimination and oppression.

Moving from a state of ‘critical consciousness’ to ‘naïve consciousness’ does not happen spontaneously, it requires a ‘critical incident’ to disrupt it.

Central to the concept of a ‘critical incident’ is the requirement to overcome class-based conceptions of detached professionalism.

This is the basis for achieving mutual identification and understanding; and establishing trust and solidarity.

“to enter the struggle, we have to ourselves become subjects.” (bell hooks)



In Love & Anger

“Every woman has a well-stocked arsenal of anger, potentially useful against those oppressions, personal and institutional, which brought that anger into being. Focused with precision it can become a powerful source of energy serving progressive change.” (Lorde 1981)

“We will find identification with each other; we are all connected by our sex, and we have all got emotional baggage. We are all at Tina’s Haven for a reason. We are all meant to be here because we can all bond together, to share our strength, our experiences, and our hopes”



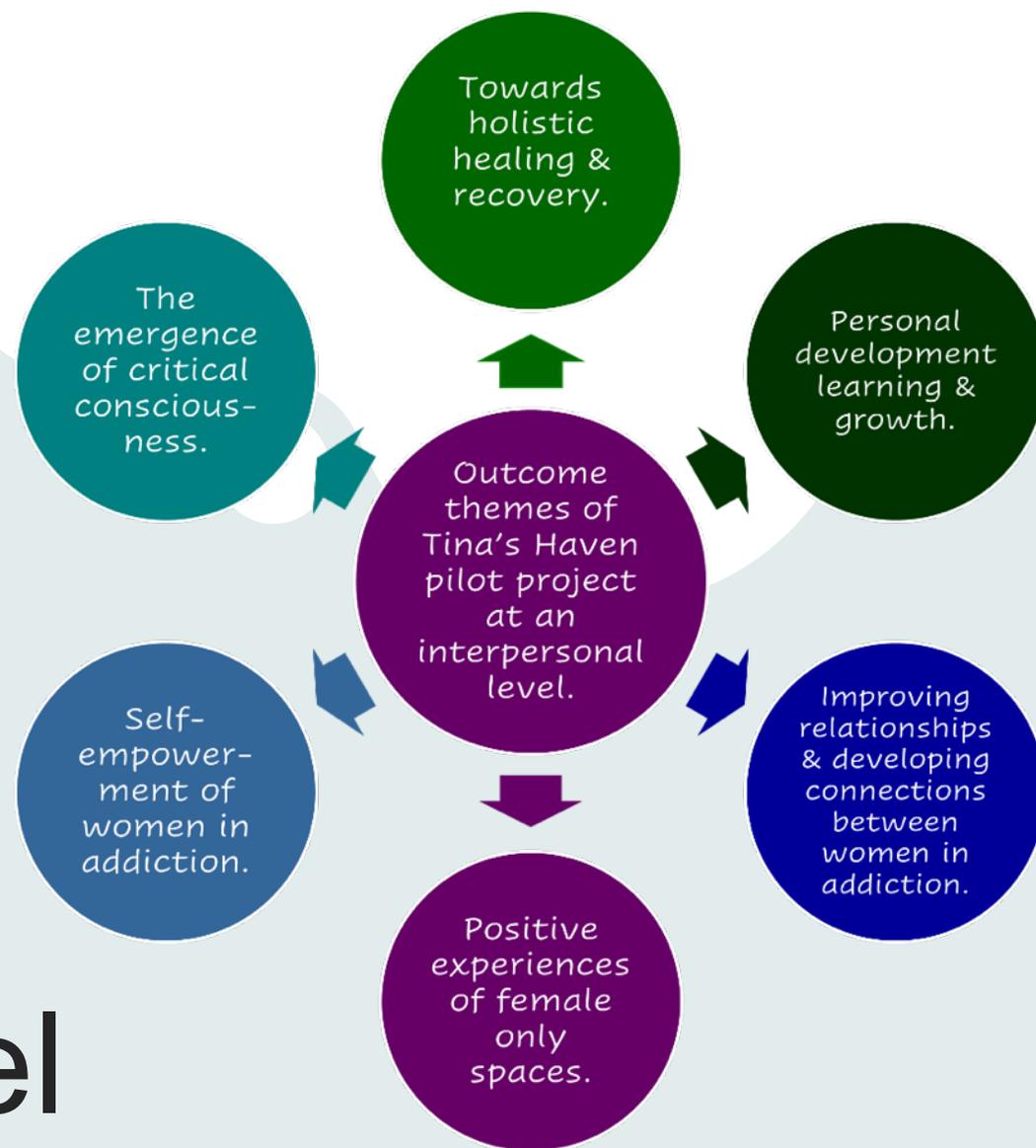
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Outcomes at an interpersonal level



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Reflections

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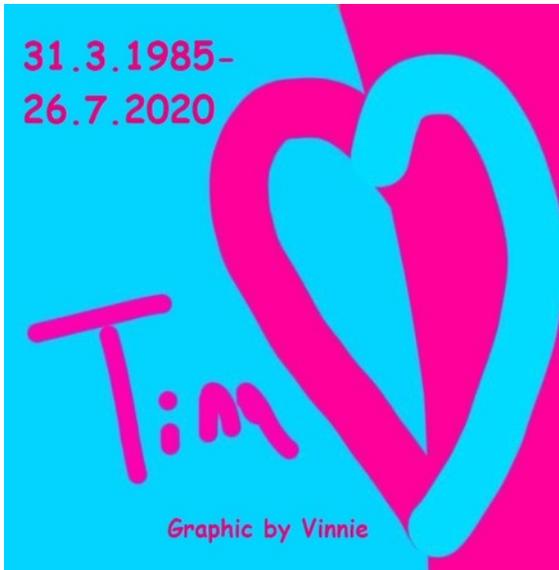
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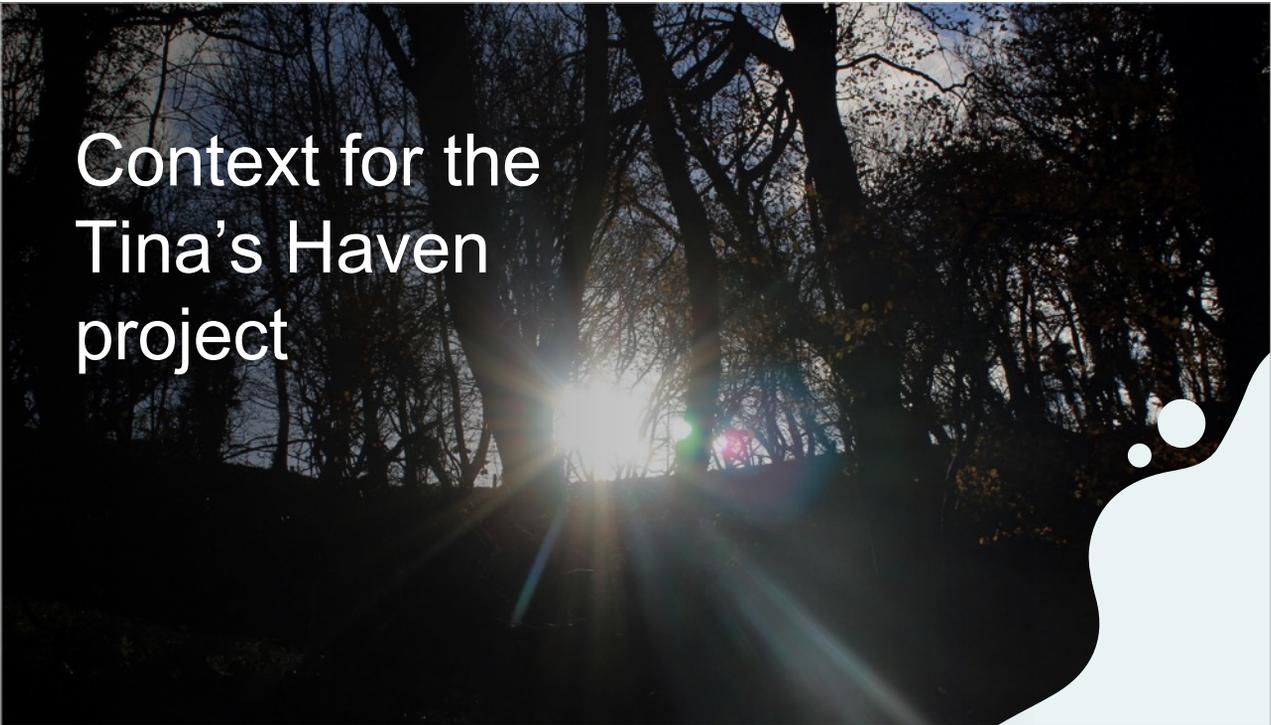
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Agenda Alliance and Changing Lives 2023 Health Equity North 2024:9



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Where does this leave Black and minoritised women, disabled women, Lesbian women, older and young women etc.?



Temporary Accommodation Information Hub - Justlife has conducted extensive research on temporary accommodation and its impact on single homeless households (individuals) who are placed there while homeless, lifting the lid on a side of homelessness that is often underreported. In this information hub, you will find a snapshot of our research, categorised by frequently asked questions / topics.

APPG for Households in Temporary Accommodation REPORT Report written by Alex Procter, Sam Pratt & Ischia Wise-Martin
January 2023

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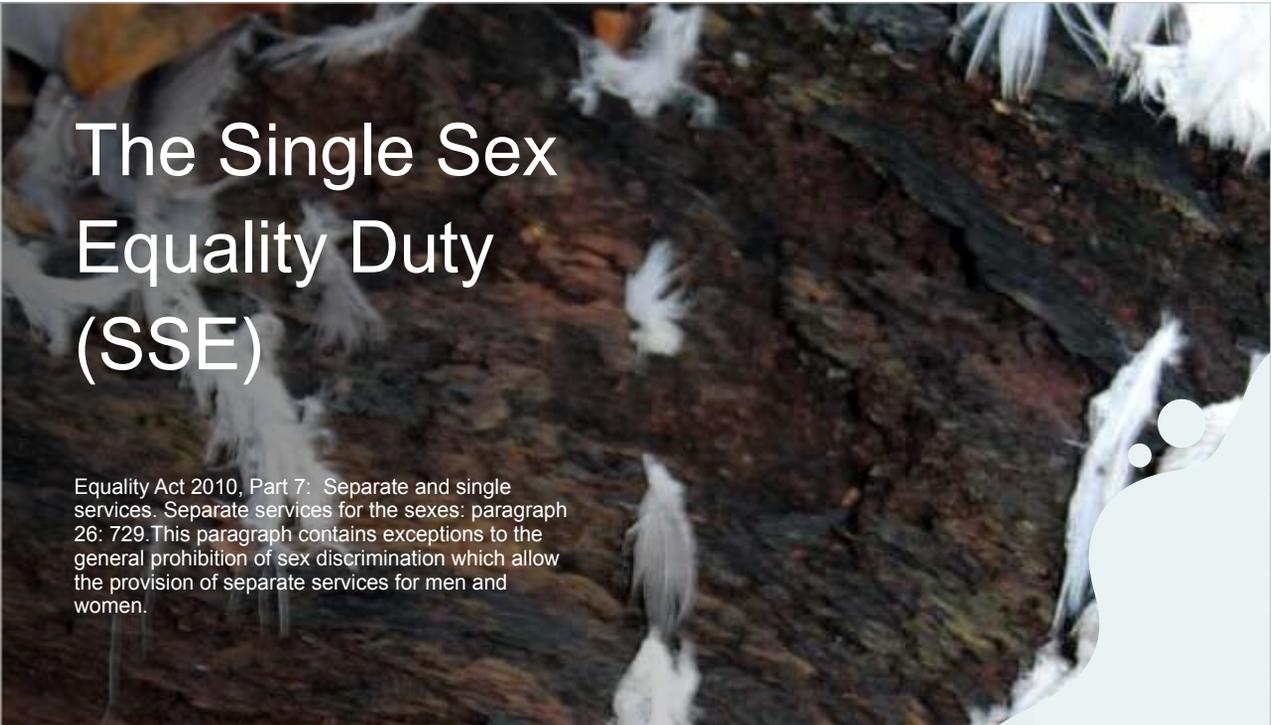
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SSE, paragraph 27 of Schedule 3 of the Equality Act



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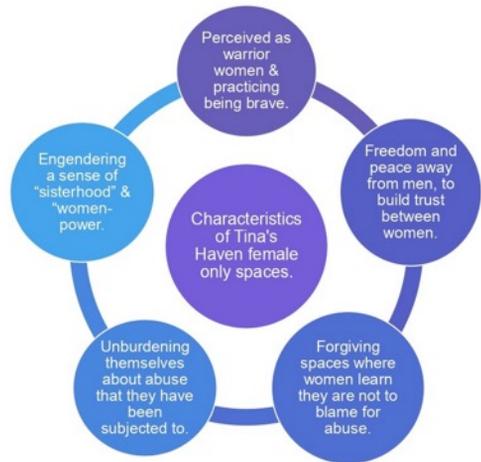
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Routes to power & influence for UK women’s organisations Natasha Adams, Jim Coe, Katie Finnegan-Clarke & Sonia Long, November 2022

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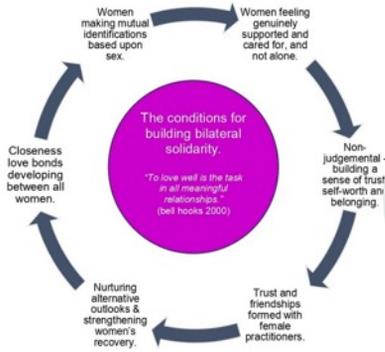
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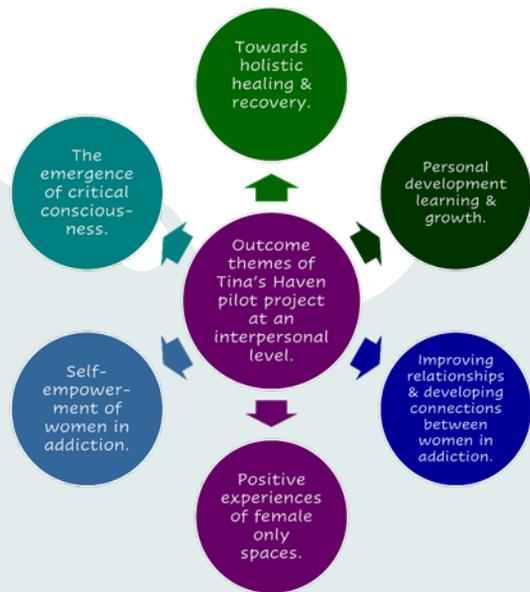
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