



The Labyrinth Project

The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the impact of a range of issues affecting women including domestic violence, financial, employment and legal concerns. **The Labyrinth Project** aims to support women's spaces and services to help them, and the women they support, to emerge stronger from the impact of the pandemic.

Aims:

- Build a strong, well connected, and inclusive women's sector across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with shared learning and mutual support that will ensure women can access the support they need.
- Create a needs-led and service user-focused project, ensuring women have the agency necessary to effect change.

Actions:

- Local needs assessment and capacity building to strengthen networks within the women's sector.
- The Empowering Women Fund Grant Scheme to enable grassroots organisations to support women.
- A National Centre of Excellence to capture and share knowledge, resources and learning.

Outcomes:

- Women's groups, organisations and women themselves have better knowledge of, and access to available support.
- Women's groups are better connected with each other and with sources of expertise in VAWG, financial, employment and legal issues.
- Women's groups have improved capacity and resources to support women in relation to these issues.

Labyrinth Partners





The three main elements of the project are:

Local Needs Assessment and Capacity Building

Through a partnership of 14 women’s organisations, the Labyrinth Project is contributing to a strengthened women’s sector in 8 areas across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland by building capacity and forging stronger networks of support and shared learning locally and nationally. We believe this can be fostered on a local level by mapping the support currently available, building networks and increasing the influence of the women’s sector on local strategy and decision making.

Local partners will:

- Liaise with local women’s sector organisations to map the range of support for women and how support is accessed to identify good practice, strengths and gaps in provision and the capacity building requirements of local groups.
- Develop delivery plans to build the capacity of the women’s sector according to local priorities, particularly focussing on VAWG, legal, debt/finance and employment issues.
- Provide training and consultancy for local women’s sector organisations, network with local groups to build mutual support, and advocate for the women’s sector locally via representation on strategic groups and by supporting groups to work together for a stronger voice

The Empowering Women Fund

The Empowering Women Fund is the Labyrinth Project’s grants scheme, administered in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, to provide funding to support organisations that are led by and for women to build their capacity and develop innovative ways of empowering women in their local area.



Centre of Excellence

A Women’s Centre of Excellence is being developed to contribute to a stronger, better connected and more inclusive women’s sector nationally. This online repository aims to do this by sharing knowledge, resources, learning and best practice gained through the Labyrinth Project, identifying core elements of effectiveness in strengthening the sector. It is a space to share information, resources and evidence of what works and be readily accessible by women’s sector organisations, groups, and individual women.

To find out more about the Labyrinth Project

please visit
solacewomensaid.org/our-partnerships/labyrinth-project
or contact
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