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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**£442,000 to leading women's charity for exiting prostitution work**

Leading women's charity Eaves is excited to announce that it will receive £442,000 from the Big Lottery Fund to carry out a country-wide assessment of current exiting practices and create a model of best practice – the first time such a huge undertaking has ever been funded.

Researchers will work closely with women who have already left prostitution, and other organisations working with prostituted women, to create a solution that goes beyond harm prevention and focuses on offering women the support they need to exit prostitution.

“The vast majority of women working in prostitution will want to exit at some point, and our experience tells us that to do this, they need a range of very specific services and support,” says Eaves chief executive Denise Marshall.

“This exciting new project will examine existing strategies and talk to women who have already exited, to define exactly which models are most effective in keeping women out of prostitution once they have chosen to leave.

“The Big Lottery has funded other work which tackles the harm of prostitution in the past, but this is the first time anyone has funded such an in-depth investigation into how to help women get out – and stay out.”

The Big Lottery funding will enable the creation of four new posts at Eaves – a lead researcher, a research officer, an exiting prostitution support worker and an assistant. The project will run for two years in total and will begin in April 2009.

**Methodology and collaboration**

Information will be collated through an international literature review, extensive interviews with 150 service users and by tracking 50 women who have accessed services due to a desire to exit prostitution.

To do this Eaves will collaborate with researchers at London South Bank University, including Professor Roger Matthews, with whom it has worked effectively in the past, and who have considerable experience of conducting research on different aspects of prostitution.

## Monitoring

Eaves plans to appoint an independent advisory board of academics and other professionals, who will monitor the work closely – as will the Big Lottery Fund. An ethics committee will also approve the research methodology prior to commencement.

–ENDS–

## Notes to editors

Eaves has 30 years experience of working with vulnerable women, many of whom have been prostituted or trafficked, and chief executive Denise Marshall was awarded an OBE in 2007 as recognition of the organisation's work.

Eaves provides support and accommodation to women who are homeless as a result of trafficking or domestic violence. It also specialises in counter-trafficking and exiting prostitution work and works to combat all aspects of violence against women through research and development.

The Big Lottery Fund distributes half of all National Lottery good cause funding across the UK. The Fund aims to enable others to make real improvements to the lives of disadvantaged people and the wellbeing of communities, through fair and open funding of people, projects and programmes.

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