



Basis
yorkshire

**30th
year
anniversary!**

Memory Book

1995-2025



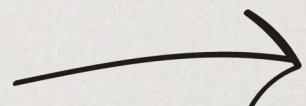
As the CEO I could not have been more privileged to lead an organisation like Basis; not only the direct impact we have made with individual women and young people we have supported but also the connections we establish with each other as staff, volunteers etc. Having been with Basis for over 10 years, it's hard to pick out 1 - 2 memories but instead they are a mixture of humility, gratitude, tears and smiles and a passion to continue challenging the societal injustice experienced by those we support.

Over the past year we have had the pleasure of reading the memories of staff over the years; while our intention was to go back as far as we could, most memories centre on the more recent 10 years. Many who commented shared that their most lasting memories were of the experiences directly with women and young people, which for obvious reasons cannot be shared in detail; nor did we seek out people who used to be supported by the charity to contribute to this public document.

If you did not have a chance to contribute or be part of our anniversary celebrations, we always welcome feedback on your memories of being connected to Basis as a staff member, volunteer, Trustee or in any other capacity.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the enclosed memories and in so many more ways over the years at Basis Yorkshire; enjoy the read!

-Moya Woolven, CEO



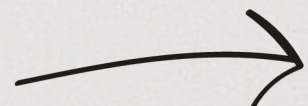
Drop in Birthday Party!!!



I was part of the Basis team for almost 10 years, joining in 2009 as a CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) worker. From day one, I felt deeply connected to the mission of supporting and empowering women and girls who often felt invisible in society. A few years into my role, I was given the opportunity to develop the 'Non-Recent CSE' pilot project, an experience that marked a real turning point for me. It led me to work with the adult team, specialising in supporting women who had experienced domestic and sexual abuse, including providing vital support in court.

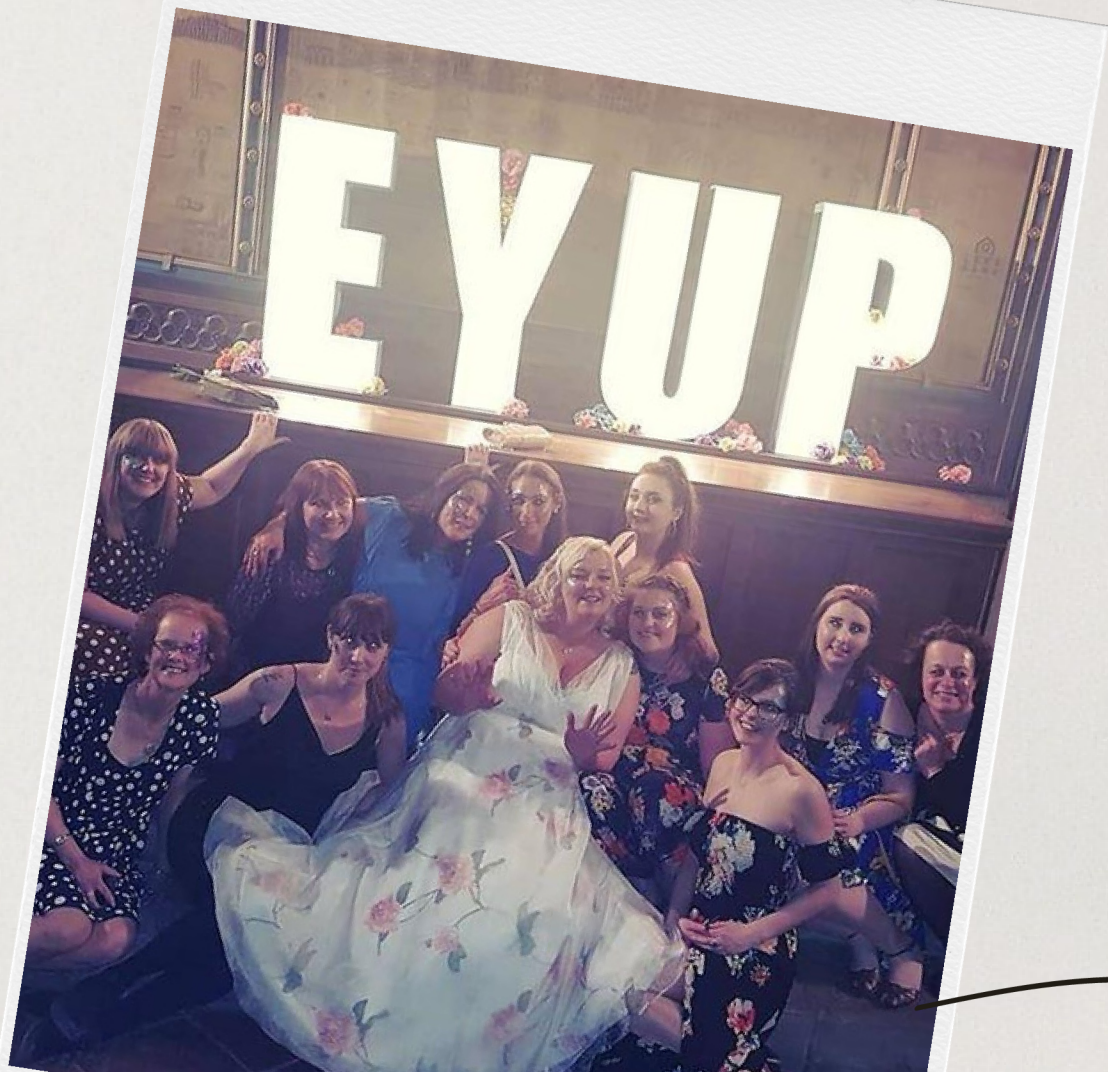
The work was both challenging and immensely rewarding. I felt honoured to walk alongside so many incredible women and girls, building trust and forging meaningful relationships. Witnessing their strength, resilience, and hope remains one of the greatest privileges of my career.

One of my proudest achievements was developing and delivering CSE training, both locally and nationally. Sharing knowledge and raising awareness about such complex issues was a responsibility I took very seriously, and one I was passionate about. Representing Basis in the media was another unforgettable part of my journey. Over the years, I was invited to speak on behalf of the organisation in newspapers, on the radio, and even on BBC News television. It was nerve-racking, yet incredibly exciting, to have the chance to advocate for the women and girls whose voices deserved to be heard.

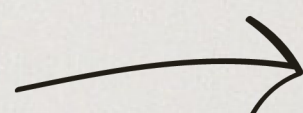


My time at Basis helped shape me, both professionally and personally. I grew not only in skills and knowledge, but also as a woman. I have many treasured memories, and perhaps most importantly, I gained lifelong friends. I'm immensely proud that even though I left seven years ago, I remain close to a wonderful group of women I met there. Many of us have moved on to new roles, while a couple remain part of the Basis team. Our bond, built on shared values, laughter, and mutual support, is as strong as ever. I remain deeply passionate about supporting victims and survivors of sexual and domestic abuse, and I carry my experiences from Basis with me every day.

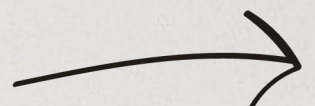
Happy 30th Birthday, Basis! Here's to the next 30 years (and beyond). Keep changing lives. xx
Taylor Harrison (formerly Taylor Austin Little)



Basis at Leeds Pride

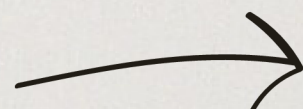


I first became aware of Basis (Genesis as it was then known) when I was a student Nurse in Leeds. I had a placement at the Sexual Health Clinic and they informed me of this fantastic service that was available for sex working women. I arranged a visit to Genesis and was immediately inspired, and really struck by the extent of support being offered to sex working women, by a small but hugely dedicated team of staff and volunteers. I was always keen to pursue my Basis journey and kept abreast of their development. When I started working at the University as a nurse lecturer, I approached Basis and offered to be a volunteer - I was up for doing any of the many roles that volunteers can get involved in. I was really pleased to be interviewed not only by a member of staff but one of the women with lived experience. Having applied to be a volunteer, I accepted a paid role as a part time outreach worker. This was a new role created to support the delivery of vital outreach services in Holbeck, when it was the Managed Approach.

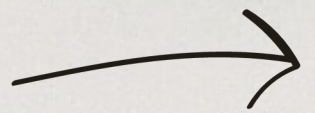


I carried out this role for a number of years, expanding my knowledge and understanding, but also my appreciation of the breadth of Basis' remit and the vital work they did. Due to competing work demands, I stepped down from my role as paid outreach worker but continued to volunteer, and was involved during the pandemic with delivering food parcels to the women, evidence again of the flexibility and fundamental support role that Basis offers. I continued volunteering with them until last year. In addition to volunteering, my passion for health inequalities combined with the work I was seeing in action inspired me to complete my PhD, and I worked with street sex workers on the Basis caseload to explore their interactions with healthcare services and the impact of health inequalities. Subsequently I have been involved in a further research collaboration with colleagues at Huddersfield University, on an ICB funded project looks at reducing barriers faced by street sex workers - with a focus on safety, physical and mental health and wellbeing and service delivery in the West Yorkshire region. This project is ongoing and has been a fantastic way for me to continue my Basis journey. I owe so much to the staff and volunteers, and to the women with lived experience, who have shaped my career but also my understanding of the issues faced by sex working women and how we can work together to reduce these.

Dr. Fiona Meth



Basis socials



I started working for Basis in the summer of 2016, I had just moved to Leeds and was ready to start a new chapter, new city and new job!

I believe that the people that I met during my year of working there changed my life. The women I met, some of whom I now call my close friends, were welcoming and warm, which helped me settle in straight away. I was the historic CSE support worker, after Taylor had run the pilot the previous year.

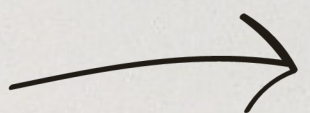
I loved working with the women I supported, I still think of them and wonder what they are doing now. They taught me many lessons.

Nine years on, we have been through so much as individuals and as a group, losing dearest Emily this year. There have been weddings, births and we celebrated Emily's life together.

I am grateful to have been part of this charity and family in 2016/2017 and will always look fondly at my time there.

Joanne Hall

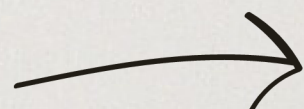


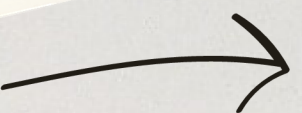


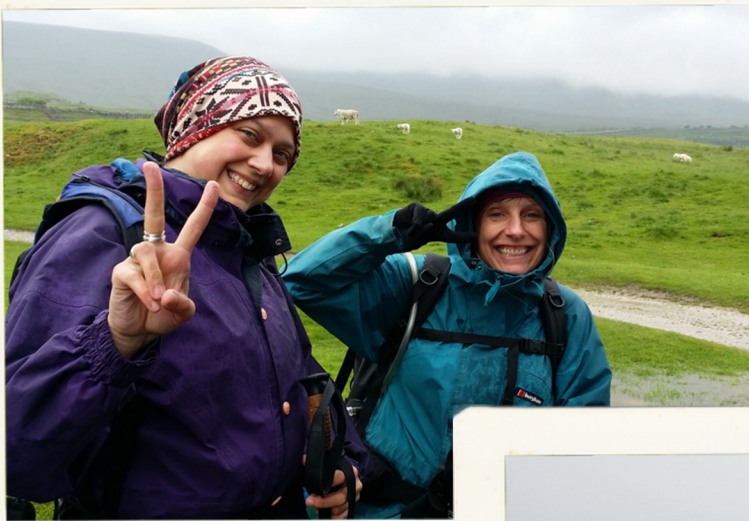
One of the best teams I've worked in! Started in the small stuffy office at the top of Oxford Chambers with a true grass roots & family feel to the organisation. It always remained super service user centered, I loved that nothing (& I mean nothing!) ever shocked anyone & colleagues' approach remained non-judgemental throughout, which was how we had the level of trust that we did with our clients. I learnt so much about strength & resilience from our women, & had many funny but equally as many difficult encounters. Some amazing memories made, skills and lessons learnt & so many imprints left on my heart from colleagues & clients alike!

Photos attached are of the dream team on a staff night out (May 2018) & in London at the Sexual Freedom Awards (2017) when our very own Emily Turner (far right) was nominated for an award. She was almost 9 months pregnant at the time but still insisted on getting the train down (this was Em down to a T!)...we brushed up on our midwifery skills just in case haha! Emily went on to a well deserved win at the Sexual Freedom Awards in 2024.

Helina, Genesis/Basis employee from May 2014 to September 2022



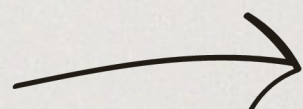




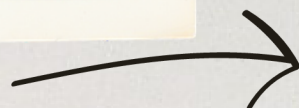
Yorkshire Three Peaks Fundraiser in June 2014



Yorkshire Three Peaks Fundraiser in August 2016

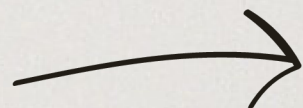


Outreach

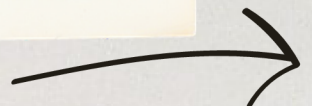


Being a trustee for Basis for 15 years (2004-2019) I saw the organisation go from strength to strength but always retaining its core values. Around the late 2000s commissioning changes resulted in the decommissioning of sex work support provision for this to be placed within criminal justice-based 'existing' interventions; Basis didn't bid for those contracts even though it would have been well placed - it kept fundraising for support that sex workers needed and managed to continue the open and flexible support; not easy but the right choice. I remember also CEO Rosie Campbell bringing forward the plan and raising funds for the Business Development Manager role. This was a really innovative enterprising model and just look at everything Amber has done since! As a researcher, I have seen how Basis is always at the forefront of its field - committed to ensuring voices of sex workers and sexually exploited young people are informing and improving policy and practice. Often working in contested spaces, Basis brings challenge/systems change for those who need this most, whilst also always providing that support for the communities they serve - for me this combination of bravery, advocacy and care is what makes it such a special organisation
💜 thanks for everything you do Basis!

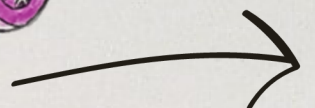
Kate Brown

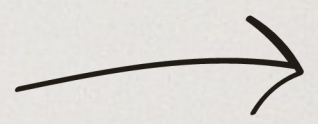
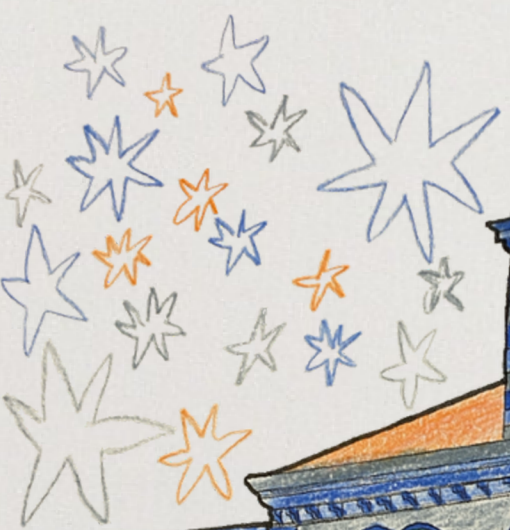


Outreach

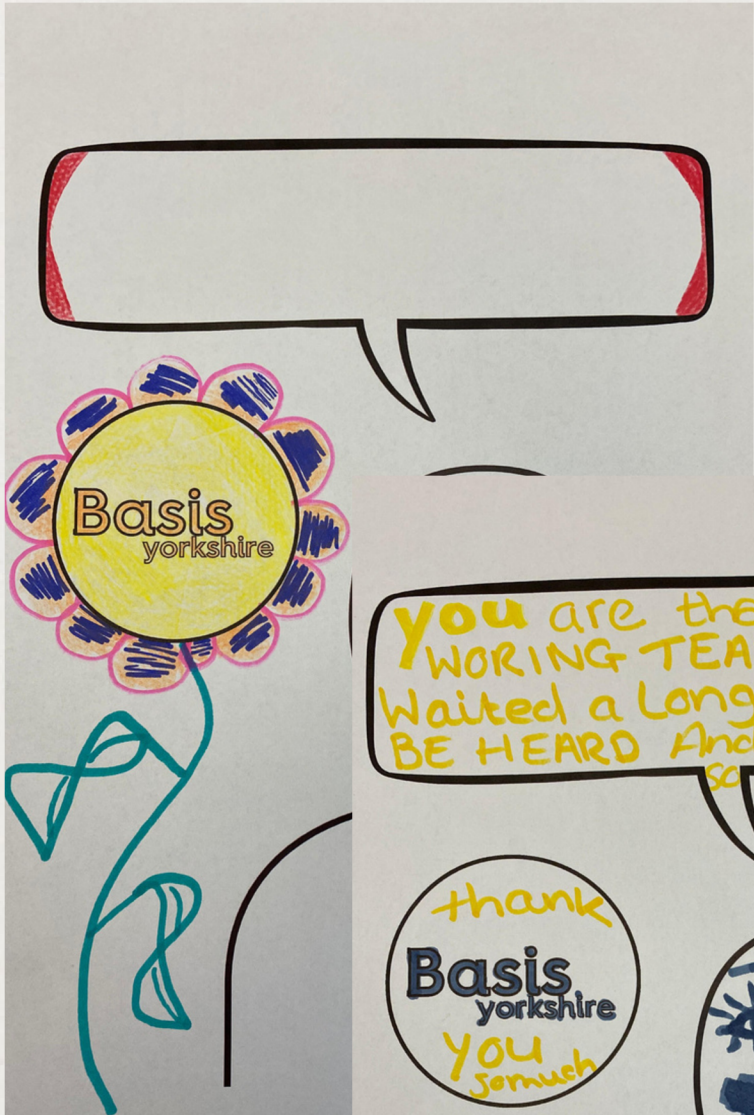


Art by people
we support



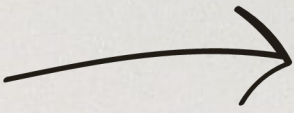
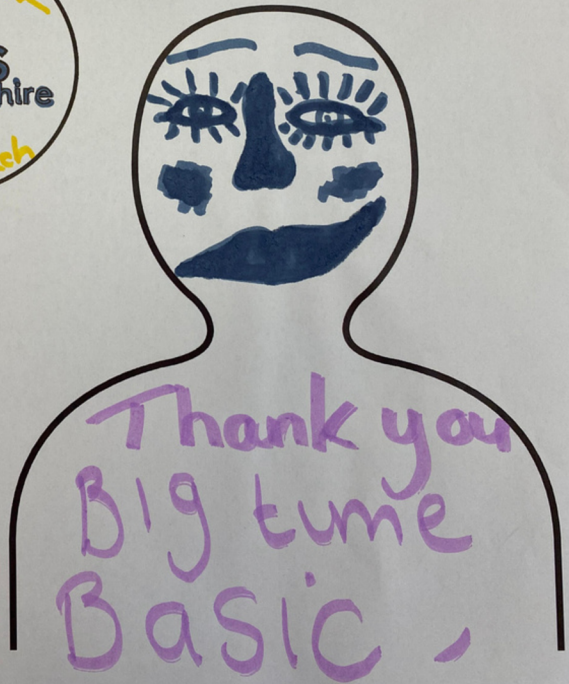






you are the best,
WORKING TEAM. I have
waited a long time to
BE HEARD And now I have

thank
Basis
yorkshire
you
so much





The memory book came about as part of our 30th Anniversary celebrations; a time to reflect on how Basis has developed over the years. While our work has changed the lives of so many young people and women, it's clear from the content of this memory book that they have also changed the lives of so many staff, sharing their expertise and knowledge with us. Sometimes this is done very explicitly, but more often than not it's through a few words as part of a conversation, or an interaction that stays with us and informs the practice of Basis and other organisations.

My own memories go back to starting under Rosie Campbell at Oxford Place, when I knew very little about working with adults who sex work and only a bit more about children who experienced CSE, but her passion, enthusiasm and knowledge meant I learnt a lot in a short space of time about all areas of our work. The past 10 years have included serious challenges to the organisation, some wonderful moments of recognition, frustration and impatience with wanting to do more as well as moments of sadness experienced by those who are in the service, staff and volunteers. My wish for the organisation would be to continue to hold true to its values and ethos including listening to those whose lives are impacted most by the work we do.

Thank you to everyone who shared their memories.

-Amber Wilson, Deputy CEO



Basis

yorkshire

