

'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

Abianda

Abianda is a social enterprise that works with young women affected by gangs. We offer one-to-one, group work and employment opportunities to gang-affected young women. We also offer training and support to professionals, so they can work more confidently and effectively with gang-affected young women (GAYW).



We set up Abianda to address the gap in services for gang-affected young women and to change the way services are delivered to them, so we can more effectively respond to their needs. We do this through our unique model of practice – we address the barriers that stop young women seeking help and work alongside them to design & deliver our services.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **Abianda** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

Addressing the gap in services for GAYW

- **The Star Project:** a one-to-one service for high risk GAYW aged 16-24. We have now secured the full-time delivery of the service in Islington, which is now co-located with the integrated gangs service on the borough which is a multi-disciplinary team of statutory, non-statutory, specialist VCS and local authority services.

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- **Train-the-trainer:** training for GAYW to become professional trainers. Our young trainers have developed their own seminar that they have delivered to professionals across London. Organisations recognise the benefit and value of having first hand testimony from those people who have been affected by the issues that the professionals are trying to address.
- **Yo Mumma's House:** In partnership with London Village Network (LVN), we are supporting young women to become their own boss. Participants of LVN's 'Be Your Own Boss' programme will learn about business planning, finances, branding and marketing, networking and all other aspects of starting a business. They will be introduced to inspirational women who have founded their own businesses. The aim is to develop a co-owned social enterprise that provides employment for young women in a way that works for them as young mums and/or with limited resources and access to opportunity, and also supports us to pursue our aims of working with gang-affected young women.

Beneficiaries of services and measures of support

The main beneficiaries of these activities have been:

- gang-affected young women In Islington
- professionals who may work with young women (including police; social workers; youth workers; health sector professionals etc)

During last year, the number of people accessing these services were:

- 20 x gang affected young women in Islington
- 500 x professionals trained in London and nationally
- 20 x young people and 7 professionals through bespoke projects

Changing lives – social outcomes of activities

Gang affected young women tell us that working with Abianda has changed their lives and they can safely talk to us about risks they feel they cannot discuss with other services. Outcomes for young women include increased knowledge of the risks they face in the context of gangs; of healthy and un-healthy relationships; of sexual violence, CSE and other VAWG issues; and identifying skills and strategies to keep themselves safe.

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