

SCOT-PEP has given evidence to the Scottish Executive - Expert Group on Prostitution, the Scottish Parliament - Local Government & Transport Committee and the City of Edinburgh Council - Working Group on Prostitution in 2003/4.

We advocate three essential strands of work - Prevention, Harm Reduction and Reintegration, in order to tackle the vulnerability of sex workers and the nuisance, exploitation, criminality and abuse that can be associated with the sex industry. Prevention, harm reduction and re-integration are part of a continuum - not exclusive of one another. **Prevention** - It is essential to address issues of poverty, drug use, homelessness and childhood abuse/neglect, resulting in men, women and young people entering the sex industry, if involuntary sex work is to be removed. Whilst such phenomena remain within society, individuals will become involved in prostitution as a necessity to address their needs or as a result of coercion. **Harm Reduction** - We recognise that prostitution will not be eradicated in the short term and we acknowledge the potential risks associated with it. It is therefore essential to provide practical support services that enable sex workers and society to minimise those risks. The harm reduction approach accepts, for better or worse, that prostitution is a part of our world and chooses to work towards minimising the harmful effects, rather than simply ignoring or condemning sex workers and the sex industry. It does not minimise or ignore the real and tragic harm and dangers associated with prostitution. We recognise that the realities of poverty, social isolation, past life experience and trauma, discrimination and other social inequalities affect sex worker's vulnerability and capacity for effectively implementing harm reduction and personal development strategies. In acknowledging these links our work is founded in the human and civil rights framework. Empowerment and personal development are seen as integral to harm reduction for sex workers. **Reintegration** - We advocate the need to create multiple layers of opportunities for sex workers. While we recognise that not all sex workers wish or are able to move on from the sex industry immediately, we also know that many sex workers move on from the sex industry of their own accord. We believe it is essential to recognise and work with issues, such as drug dependency, homelessness, mental health and coercion which prevent the most vulnerable sex workers being able to move on from the sex industry. A multi-agency strategy is required to provide support and services to address their needs.

Underpinning all three strands is the need to challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by sex workers. **We work to empower sex workers** - to enable them to explore their options and have real choices in their lives, we do not judge the choices they make or tell them what to do. We believe sex workers - like all of us - are the experts in their own lives.

The full financial operations for the financial year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 of the organisation are set out in statutory form in the Annual Accounts. The purpose of this report is to highlight the main issues in the financial statements.

INCOME

Income decreased from £235,234 in 2002/3 to £185,673 in 2003/4. Thanks to the following for their financial support:

NHS Lothian	143,389
Edinburgh Youth SIP	20,000
Femmigration	685
TAMPEP	2,473

EXPENDITURE

Expenses decreased from £239,791 in 2002/3 to £218,952 in 2003/4.

Core Activities (including depreciation)	193,760
Work with Young People (EYSIP)	20,000
Femmigration	1,560
TAMPEP	3,632

SURPLUS/DEFICIT & RESERVES

There was a deficit for the year of £33,279. Reserves at 31 March 2004 were £33,438.

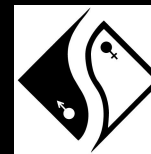
FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March 2004 there was £33,438 in bank and cash, however, £12,339 has already been committed over the next year.

The staff team will continue to try and secure funding to enable the organisation to maintain, re-establish and develop support and services in line with the needs expressed by sex workers.

Staff Team - 2004/5

Project Manager	Ruth Morgan Thomas
Volunteer Coordinator	Dagmar Alexander
Project Worker	Lesley Finch
Project Worker	Nine Davidson



ANNUAL REPORT 2003 -4

Annual General Meeting
6pm
Wednesday 6 October 2004



**PROMOTING
HEALTH AND DIGNITY
IN PROSTITUTION**

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The world remains a cruel and unforgiving place SCOT-PEP service provision to both indoor and street based sex workers had to be further reduced when funding came to an end in February 2004 for dedicated work with young people involved in prostitution.

Street based sex workers' vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation has continued to increase as a result of the on-going dispersal of street prostitution. The rising trend of violence against street based sex workers has continued with 100 Ugly Mug incidents reported this year - representing a 1,000% increase in attacks since 2001. The abuse and exploitation of young people has continued to rise with 5 under 16 year olds reported to be involved in street prostitution last year. Criminality associated with street prostitution, previously minimised in the 'non-harassment' area, has become entrenched within the street prostitution scene in Edinburgh. Drug dependency has risen from less than 50% to 95%, drug pimping and protection racketeering continue to shape the experiences of street based sex workers and the community. Current law enforcement and criminal justice measures are failing to protect both sex workers and the community.

The on-going stigmatisation, scapegoating and marginalisation of sex workers in Edinburgh requires society, and SCOT-PEP in particular, to maintain its essential purpose of delivering practical and emotional support to one of the most vulnerable and socially excluded communities in Scotland – **sex workers**.

Throughout this difficult and volatile period our talented and dynamic staff and volunteer team have continued to adapt to a challenging working environment. We have succeeded in maintaining both practical and emotional support to street and indoor based sex workers, at times within a hostile atmosphere, and with limited resources. We remain committed to the unequivocal belief in the value, worth and potential of all human beings, including sex workers, and their equality of status and right to equitable treatment within an inclusive society.

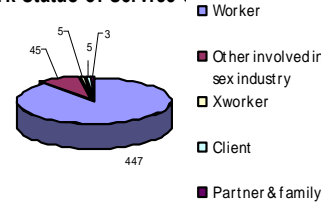
Our thanks to all who have supported us in the struggle to maintain a safe environment for all sex workers in Edinburgh and especially to those who have shared their time and experience with us.

Who did we provide support to?

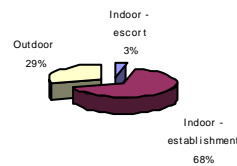
Between 1 Apr 2003 and 31 Mar 2004 SCOT-PEP worked with 506 individuals - recording 4,628 contacts

Of our 506 service users 467 were female (440 workers), 32 male (3 workers) and 5 transgender (4 workers) and 2 unknown gender.

Work Status of Service Users



Work Sector of Workers

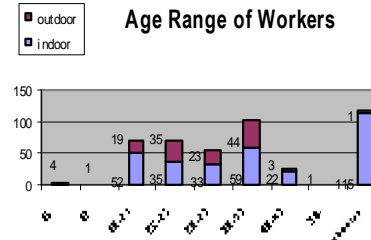


Indoor - During the year contact was maintained with workers in 41 establishments and establishment outreach undertaken in 28 venues. 317 of our service users were indoor based sex workers, 40% of whom were

in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2003/4. 54% of them are resident in EH postcode areas, 14% are residents of other parts of Scotland, 2% are resident outside Scotland and 30% declined to give postcode details. **Outdoor** - 130 of our service users were street based sex workers, 40% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2003/4. The number of local women involved has remained constant. 78% are resident in EH postcode areas, 2% have no fixed abode, 5% are resident in the west of Scotland, 10% are residents of other parts of Scotland, 2% are resident outside Scotland and 3% declined to give postcode details. **Mobility between sectors** - 62 sex workers reported moving between the outdoor and indoor sectors throughout the year.

Age - the age of sex workers accessing support and services within SCOT-PEP ranged from 16 to 56. All the sex workers under 18 years old were involved in street prostitution.

Age Range of Workers



How did we provide support?

Support was provided through daytime office based, establishment and internet outreach services and nighttime mobile unit and street outreach services

The average number of individuals accessing office support (including internet outreach), establishment outreach, nighttime mobile unit and street outreach sessions were:

office support	6.90 (192 sessions)
establishment outreach	5.07 (134 sessions)
nighttime services	13.59 (150 sessions)
mobile unit	7.49 (118 sessions)
street outreach	8.37 (138 sessions)

Sessions down to 2 nights and 2 days a week as of Mar 04.

As a result of the on-going dispersal of street prostitution across North Leith, it remains problematic to establish and maintain contact with street based sex workers, particularly vulnerable young people entering street prostitution. Street outreach services are prioritised within nighttime services to facilitate early intervention and support that enables street based sex workers to protect themselves.

Drug Harm Reduction

10,774 sets of sterile injecting equipment were distributed with 1,221 returns in this period. 69 individuals accessed our needle exchange, all of whom were involved in street prostitution - 39 of whom accessed this service for the first time in 2003/4 (80% were local). These statistics reflect a 44% increase on last year and indicate that at least 53% of street based sex workers are currently involved in injecting drug use. 75% were local, 10% were from the west coast and 15% from the rest of Scotland.

Safe Sex Supplies

SCOT-PEP distributed 96,427 condoms in 2003/4. 74,269 condoms were sold at cost price while 22,158 condoms were distributed free. The condom budget provided by NHS Lothian is not adequate to enable us to provide free condoms all the time for all sex workers.

Ugly Mug Scheme

SCOT-PEP received 100 Ugly Mug reports in 2003/4 with information being shared amongst sex workers to alert them to potentially dangerous clients - related to:

Abduction	5	Rape	6
Assault	21	Robbery	6
Attempted murder	1	Sexual Assault	6
Other	55 (including verbal abuse, harassment, intimidation and non-payment)		

These statistics reflect a 300% increase on last year.