

SCOT-PEP has continued to work with the NHS Lothian Harm Reduction Team NEON and BBV workers, Scottish Executive - Expert Group on Prostitution, Scottish MSPs and the City of Edinburgh Council in developing appropriate responses to prostitution in Edinburgh and nationally.

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** - If involuntary sex work is to be eradicated, 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. 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 2004 to 31 March 2005 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 £185,673 in 2003/4 to £179,173 in 2004/5. Our grateful thanks to the following for their financial support:

	£
NHS Lothian	145,256
City of Edinburgh Council	10,000
Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership	1,000
Volunteer Action Fund	365
Mark Thomas - comedian	442
Femmigration - European Commission	2,721
TAMPEP - European Commission	5,420

EXPENDITURE

Expenses decreased from £218,952 in 2003/4 to £154,438 in 2004/5.

	£
Core Activities (including depreciation)	153,417
TAMPEP	1,021

SURPLUS/DEFICIT & RESERVES

There was a surplus for the year of £24,735. Reserves at 31 March 2004 were £58,062.

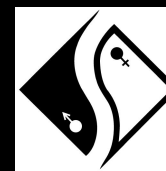
FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March 2005 there was £50,557 in bank and cash, however, £21,449 has already been committed over the next year.

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

Staff Team - 2005/6

Project Manager	Ruth Morgan Thomas
Administrator	Fiona Binning
Volunteer Coordinator	Gillian Rae
Project Worker	Lesley Finch
Project Worker	Nine Davidson



Annual General Meeting
6pm
Wednesday 2 November 2005



ANNUAL REPORT 2004 - 5



**PROMOTING
HEALTH AND DIGNITY
IN PROSTITUTION**

70 Newhaven Road
Edinburgh
EH6 5QG

Tel: 0131 622 7550
Fax: 0131 622 7551
Email: voice@scot-pep.org.uk
Website: www.scot-pep.org.uk

The world has become an even more cruel and unforgiving place for sex workers

SCOT-PEP's service provision to indoor and street based sex workers has remained at its lowest level ever, despite the increased vulnerability of street based sex workers and their experience of violence, abuse and exploitation. Current local authorities' initiatives have focussed on a law enforcement approach to street prostitution, with the growing use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against street based sex workers. However, experience from England has shown that a law enforcement strategy, including ASBOs, does not eradicate street prostitution. In pursuing ASBOs against street based sex workers Edinburgh has failed to follow the good practice guidelines issued by the Home Office in relation to the implementation of ASBOs, which state that ASBOs should only be used alongside appropriate support packages. During this period support services that would have enabled street based sex workers to explore realistic alternatives and fast track access to drug treatment services have not been resourced, leaving street based sex workers even more isolated and excluded.

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, through partnership working, in maintaining both practical and emotional support to street and indoor based sex workers, within an increasingly hostile atmosphere, and with limited resources. We thank both the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian for their financial support which enabled us to get through this difficult year.

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 a truly inclusive society.

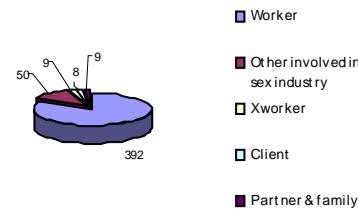
Our thanks to NHS Lothian Harm Reduction Team, Turning Point Scotland, Lothian and Borders Police, Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership, SACRO, comedian Mark Thomas and all who have supported us in the struggle to maintain a safe environment for all sex workers in Edinburgh and especially to those who have kindly shared their time, expertise and experience with us.

Who did we provide support to?

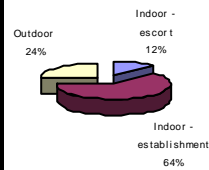
Between 1 Apr 2004 and 31 Mar 2005 SCOT-PEP worked with 469 individuals - recording 3,695 contacts

Of our 469 service users 420 were female (383 workers), 36 male (1 worker), 5 transgender (4 workers) and 8 unknown gender. Services and support were provided to an average of 99 sex workers each month.

Work Status of Service Users



Work Sector of Workers

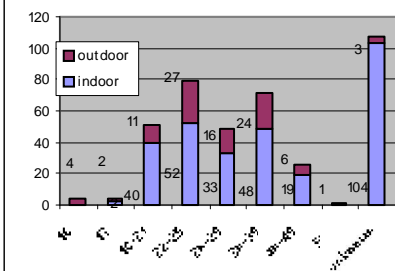


Indoor - During the year contact was maintained with sex workers in 37 establishments, with establishment outreach undertaken in 24 venues. 292 of our service users were indoor based sex workers, 51% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2004/5.

59% of them are resident in EH postcode areas, 15% are residents in other parts of Scotland, 4% are resident outside Scotland and 23% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 72 indoor based sex workers each month. **Outdoor** - 93 of our service users were street based sex workers, 47% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2004/5. 76% are resident in EH postcode areas, 3% have no fixed abode, 4% are resident in the west of Scotland, 9% are residents in other parts of Scotland, 1% are resident outside Scotland and 6% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 27 street based sex workers each month. **Mobility between sectors** - 69 sex workers reported moving between the outdoor and indoor sectors throughout the year.

Moving On - 81 (62%) of street based and 168 (53%) of indoor based sex workers in contact with SCOT-PEP in 2003 - 4 were not in contact in 2004 - 5 and therefore are thought to have moved on from the sex industry.

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	7.52 (188 sessions)
establishment outreach	6.29 (98 sessions)
nighttime services	10.02 (100 sessions)
mobile unit	5.14 (78 sessions)
street outreach	6.07 (99 sessions)

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

SCOT-PEP ran a needle exchange and specialist drug advice in partnership with NHS Lothian, Harm Reduction Team NEON and BBV workers. 3,124 sets of sterile injecting equipment were distributed with 40 returns in this period. 34 individuals accessed our needle exchange, all of whom were involved in street prostitution - 17 of whom accessed this service for the first time in 2004/5 (88% were local). These statistics reflect a 49% decrease on last year and indicate that at least 37% of street based sex workers are currently involved in injecting drug use. 79% were local, 3% were from the west coast and 18% from the rest of Scotland.

Safe Sex Supplies

SCOT-PEP distributed 97,184 condoms in 2004/5. While 13,850 condoms were distributed free, 83,334 condoms were sold at cost price. 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 38 Ugly Mug reports in 2004/5 with information being shared amongst sex workers to alert them to potentially dangerous clients - related to:

Abduction	1	Rape	4
Assault	13	Robbery	9
Attempted murder	2	Sexual Assault	1
Other	8 (including verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation)		

These statistics reflect a decrease on last year. Street based sex workers are not reporting attacks - they are however, being discussed every night in the mobile unit and during street outreach.