

SCOT-PEP has continued to work with the NHS Lothian Harm Reduction Team NEON and BBV workers, Scottish Executive, 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, including the promotion of safe working environments. 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, 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 and support 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 and it is essential that sex workers are involved as key stakeholders in the development on any strategy.

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 2005 to 31 March 2006 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 £179,173 in 2004/5 to £166,373 in 2005/6. Our grateful thanks to the following for their financial support: £

NHS Lothian	149,181
Femmigration - European Commission	676
TAMPEP - European Commission	2,930

EXPENDITURE

Expenses increased from £154,438 in 2004/5 to £163,019 in 2005/6. £

Core Activities (including depreciation)	160,101
TAMPEP	2,918

SURPLUS/DEFICIT & RESERVES

There was a surplus for the year of 3,354. Reserves at 31 March 2006 were £61,416.

FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 March 2006 there was £59,042 in bank and cash, however, £6,369 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 - 2006/7

Project Manager	Ruth Morgan Thomas
Administrator	Rose Lindgren
Volunteer Coordinator	Gillian Rae
Project Worker	Lesley Finch
Project Worker	Nine Davidson



Annual General Meeting
6pm
Wednesday 8 November 2006



ANNUAL REPORT 2005-6



PROMOTING
HEALTH AND DIGNITY
IN PROSTITUTION

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Scotland remains a cruel and unforgiving place

In 2005 the Scottish Executive defined street prostitution as 'violence against women', but regrettably has not come up with any real strategy to tackle the disproportionate levels of violence, harassment and abuse actually experienced by street based sex workers. While many of their aims are laudable they have failed to grasp the long term reality of street prostitution within our society and the daily experiences of street based sex workers across Scotland. They have ignored the need to campaign against violence against sex workers, focusing rather on campaigning against men purchasing sexual services. Surely they could offer sex workers, as citizens, equal protection within society.

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, 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 and give voice to one of the most vulnerable and socially excluded communities in Scotland – **sex workers**.

Throughout this difficult and disturbing year our talented and dynamic staff and volunteer team have continued to operate in an increasingly challenging working environment. We have succeeded, through dedication and partnership working, in maintaining both practical and emotional support to street and indoor based sex workers and providing a vehicle for the voice of sex workers, within an ever increasingly hostile atmosphere, and with limited resources.

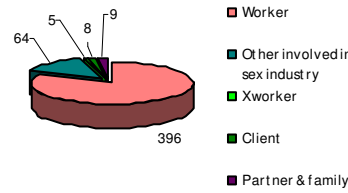
Our thanks to NHS Lothian Harm Reduction Team, Lothian and Borders Police, SACRO - Another Way, City of Edinburgh Council - Neighbourhood Support Team and all who have supported us in the struggle to maintain a safe environment for all sex workers in Edinburgh and especially to those who have kindly shared their time, expertise and experience with us.

Who did we provide support to?

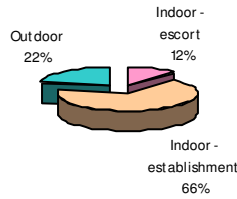
Between 1 Apr 2005 and 31 Mar 2006 SCOT-PEP worked with 483 individuals - recording 3,181 contacts

Of our 483 service users 426 were female (389 workers), 47 male (1 worker), 3 transgender (2 workers) and 7 unknown gender. Services and support were provided to an average of 89 sex workers each month.

Work Status of Service Users



Work Sector of Workers

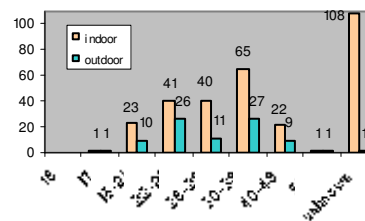


Indoor - During the year contact was maintained with sex workers in 33 establishments, with establishment outreach undertaken in 26 venues. 303 of our service users were indoor based sex workers, 50% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first

time in 2005/6. 54% of them are resident in EH postcode areas, 15% are residents in other parts of Scotland, 11% are resident outside Scotland and 25% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 60 indoor based sex workers each month. **Outdoor** - 87 of our service users were street based sex workers, 43% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2005/6. 78% are resident in EH postcode areas, 6% have no fixed abode, 5% are resident in the west of Scotland, 8% are residents in other parts of Scotland and 3% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 27 street based sex workers each month. **Mobility between sectors** - 72 sex workers reported moving between the outdoor and indoor sectors throughout the year.

Moving On - 43 (46%) of street based and 141 (48%) of indoor based sex workers in contact with SCOT-PEP in 2004-5 were not in contact in 2005-6 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	6.59 (179 sessions)
establishment outreach	6.69 (94 sessions)
nighttime services	10.42 (98 sessions)
mobile unit	5.68 (77 sessions)
street outreach	6.02 (97 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. 4,999 sets of sterile injecting equipment were distributed with 401 returns in this period. 34 individuals accessed our needle exchange, all of whom were involved in street prostitution - 14 of whom accessed this service for the first time in 2005/6 (86% were local). These statistics reflect a static position from last year and indicate that at least 39% of street based sex workers are currently involved in injecting drug use. 85% were local, 6% had no fixed abode, 3% were from the west coast and 6% from the rest of Scotland.

Safe Sex Supplies

SCOT-PEP distributed 98,993 condoms in 2005/6. While 12,993 condoms were distributed free, 86,000 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 54 Ugly Mug reports in 2005/6 with information being shared amongst sex workers to alert them to potentially dangerous clients - related to:

Abduction	3	Rape	9
Assault	10	Robbery	13
Attempted murder	0	Sexual Assault	7
Other	9 (including verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation)		

These statistics reflect a significant increase on last year. However, street based sex workers are still not reporting the majority of attacks - which we hear being discussed every night in the mobile unit and during street outreach.