

**Sex workers are not criminals.**

SCOT-PEP continues to advocate three essential strands of work 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** - We believe prevention should focus on coerced sex work and tackling the actual violence experienced by sex workers. If involuntary sex work is to be eradicated, it is essential to address issues of poverty, drug use, childhood abuse/neglect, homelessness and gender inequality. 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. Education campaigns directed at clients should focus on treating sex workers with respect rather than persuading men not to purchase sexual services.

**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 that enables sex workers and society to minimise those risks, including the promotion of safe working environments. The harm reduction approach accepts that prostitution is a part of our world - it does not minimise or ignore the real and tragic harm and dangers associated with it.

**Reintegration** - We advocate the need to address the stigma of sex work and create multiple layers of opportunities and support for sex workers to move on both within and from the sex industry. 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 sex work of their own accord. - 175 (44%) of sex workers in contact with SCOT-PEP in 2005-6 were not in contact in 2006-7.

Underpinning all three strands is the need to challenge the stigma and discrimination faced by sex workers, particularly given the disproportionate levels of violence experienced by them including violence from locals and passers-by on the street. SCOT-PEP's work is founded in a human and civil rights framework. We believe it is essential that sex workers, like other vulnerable groups, participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of prostitution policy and service provision. We remain committed to continuing to work with Lothian NHS Board, Lothian & Borders Police, the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish MSPs and the Scottish Executive in developing appropriate responses to prostitution.

SCOT-PEP works to empower sex workers – to have control over their own lives, to enable them to explore their options and have real choices. We do not judge the choices they make or tell them what to do or how to live their lives.

**Sex workers - like all of us - are the experts on their own lives.**

SCOT - PEP Finances | April 2006 - 31 March 2007

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The full financial operations for the financial year 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 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 increased from £166,373 in 2005/6 to £172,958 in 2006/7. Our grateful thanks to the following for their financial support:

	£
NHS Lothian	149,181
Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland	6,599

**EXPENDITURE**

Expenses increased from £163,019 in 2005/6 to £178,427 in 2006/7.

	£
Core Activities (including depreciation)	173,149
TAMPEP	5,278

**SURPLUS/DEFICIT & RESERVES**

There was a deficit for the year of £5,469. Reserves at 31 March 2007 were £55,947.

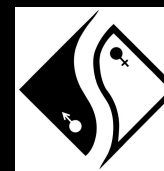
**FINANCIAL POSITION**

As at 31 March 2007 there was £58,753 in bank and cash, however, £8,231 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 - 2007/8**

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 7 November 2007**



**PROMOTING  
HEALTH AND DIGNITY  
IN PROSTITUTION**

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Company No: 140511  
Scottish Charity No: SC020657

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 - 7

**Selling sexual services is not illegal in Scotland**

In February 2007 the Scottish Parliament decided to ignore both the voices of sex workers and the Scottish Executive Expert Group on Prostitution, which had spent 18 months gathering information and evidence. A few brave MSPs chose to argue the case for sex workers' safety to be given priority - **we thank Margo MacDonald, Iain Smith, Susan Deacon, Mark Ballard and the Green Party for their compassion and understanding.** But 103 MSPs voted to criminalise clients of street based sex workers - despite the evidence from England that criminalising kerb crawling increases vulnerability and violence against sex workers. So as of 15 October 2007 sex workers will again pay a high price as Scotland's politicians ignore the need to create safer working environments and choose "to send a strong and unequivocal message to those who attempt to purchase sex on our streets that kerb crawling will no longer be tolerated in a modern Scotland" (Tom McCabe MSP). However, the evidence from England clearly shows that tackling the demand for commercial sex through criminalising clients has not eradicated or significantly reduced street prostitution in England over the last two decades. We believe it is unlikely to succeed in Scotland - while it is a fact that 5 women were murdered in Ipswich in late 2006 after 6 months of zero tolerance of street prostitution. Yet Fergus Ewing MSP argued that "there is a strong moral case for making the purchase of sex a criminal offence in itself." How many more women must die before we consider the moral case for prioritising their safety and their right to equal protection from the law and from discrimination? The parliament also chose to ignore the recommendation to repeal the current offences criminalising street based sex workers despite Iain Smith MSP's reminder during the debate that "the practice of arresting women, fining them and, effectively, forcing them back on to the streets in order to raise the money to pay the fines makes no sense. That will not be changed by this legislation." The failure of our government to tackle the actual violence experienced by sex workers and the on-going stigmatisation, scapegoating and marginalisation of sex workers and their clients 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.**

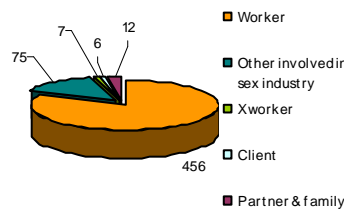
Our thanks to NHS Lothian Harm Reduction Team, EWRASAC, Working Links, Lothian and Borders Police, SACRO - Another Way, City of Edinburgh Council - Neighbourhood Support Team and all who have supported us in the struggle to maintain a safe environment for all sex workers in Edinburgh and especially to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

Who did we provide support to?

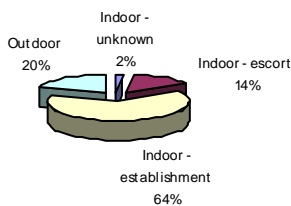
Between 1 Apr 2006 and 31 Mar 2007 SCOT-PEP worked with 557 individuals - recording 3,977 contacts

Of our 557 service users 497 were female (449 workers), 51 male (2 workers), 2 transgender (1 worker) and 7 unknown gender. Services and support were provided to an average of 122 sex workers each month.

**Work Status of Service Users**



**Work Sector of Workers**

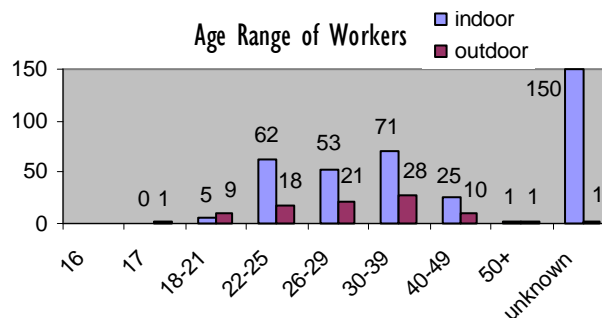


**Indoor** - During the year contact was maintained with sex workers in 37 establishments, with establishment outreach undertaken in 22 venues. 367 of our service users were indoor based sex workers, 55% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first

time in 2006/7. 52% of them are resident in EH postcode areas, 14% are residents in other parts of Scotland, 7% are resident outside Scotland and 26% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 92 indoor based sex workers each month. **Outdoor** - 89 of our service users were street based sex workers, 36% of whom were in contact with SCOT-PEP for the first time in 2006/7. 78% are resident in EH postcode areas, 9% have no fixed abode, 4% are resident in the west of Scotland, 3% are residents in other parts of Scotland, 2% are resident outside Scotland and 3% declined to give postcode details. Services and support were provided to an average of 30 street based sex workers each month.

**Mobility between sectors** - 98 sex workers reported moving between the outdoor and indoor sectors.

**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	10.43 (189 sessions)
establishment outreach	6.41 (86 sessions)
nighttime services	10.94 (97 sessions)
mobile unit	6.39 (75 sessions)
street outreach	6.13 (95 sessions)

As a result of the on-going dispersal of street prostitution, it remains problematic to establish and maintain contact with street based sex workers. Street outreach services are prioritised 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 workers. 8,708 sets of sterile injecting equipment were distributed with 215 returns in this period. 34 individuals accessed our needle exchange, all of whom were involved in street prostitution - 13 of whom accessed this service for the first time in 2006/7 (92% were local). These statistics reflect a static position from last year and indicate that at least 38% of street based sex workers are currently involved in injecting drug use. 28 were local, 2 had no fixed abode, 2 were from FK postcodes and 1 was from a G postcode.

**Safe Sex Supplies** - SCOT-PEP distributed 91,063 condoms in 2006/7. While 77,891 condoms were sold at cost price, 13,172 condoms were distributed free. The 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 81 Ugly Mug reports in 2006/7 with information being shared amongst sex workers to alert them to potentially dangerous clients - related to:

Abduction	0	Rape	7
Assault	36	Robbery	4
Attempted murder	1	Sexual Assault	6
Other	27 (including verbal abuse, harassment and intimidation)		

These statistics reflect a 50% 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.

**Moving On** - 29 (33%) of street based and 142 (47%) of indoor based sex workers in contact with SCOT-PEP in 2005-6 were not in contact in 2006-7 and are believed to have moved on from sex work.