



Our outreach van

OUR WORK

We provide intensive & practical support to a socially isolated and vulnerable group of women involved in street prostitution.

WHY WE ARE NEEDED

Women involved in street prostitution are likely to suffer physical deprivation: homelessness, lack of food, violence; physical and sexual assaults, illness and injury, drug and alcohol abuse, isolation, ostracisation and social exclusion.

An increase in risk-taking behaviour increases their risk of harm. This risk particularly impacts on their mental and emotional health. Not forgetting that all the above is on top of whatever life experiences led to prostitution in first place!

SWWOP's remit is to support this group of women to look after themselves and to enable them to make informed choices about their lives.

HOW WE HELP

SWWOP's primary service is making contact with women involved in street prostitution and being a friendly face to offer non-judgmental and confidential support and information.



Annual Beach Day

SWWOP Ltd

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Reg Charity No. 1109759, Company Reg. No. 5413661

"I can't go anywhere else, there really is only SWWOP that understands". SWWOP Client

SWWOP's vision is for an end to the risks and discrimination associated with prostitution in Sheffield, and for all women involved to be able to make informed choices and achieve an improved quality of life. Year on year we ensure that this vision guides our decisions and direction of our work. This year has been no different and this report details some aspects of our core work over 2015/16.

However, it has been a year of changes. Four of the women we support sadly died this year. For families who are already going through bereavement and social difficulties, it is heart breaking to see how the costs of a funeral are simply out of reach. Of the women, we lost this year, we could assist the families with intensive support around the time of death and in arranging a funeral

SWWOP's work is only carried out to such a high standard and with such compassion because of the quality of our staff, and the expertise and leadership of our manager, Sali Harwood. Over the past 21 years, we have never had a member of staff leave, this has helped considerably in terms of the long terms relationship and trust that is crucial for the type of work we do. In 2015, one of our workers, AnneMarie House, left us for a change of career. Then our Tudor Trust funding finished for our Crisis Intervention worker, so reluctantly we had to say goodbye to Toni Claridge after five years with us. **We miss both AnneMarie and Toni and thank them for the years they have been with SWWOP.** Although we are currently sourcing funding for a crisis intervention post, we have

welcomed **Jillian Corbett to the team, and have been impressed how quickly she adapted to the role** as she and Shelley Powell take on extra crisis work and new challenges. Lis Storey continues to ensure that we run smoothly.



Night outreach on the streets is one of the fundamental parts of SWWOP's work, this is where the women first meet us and we build up relationships while also engaging in harm reduction strategies such as needle exchange, condom provision and STI checks. This is only possible because of our sessional workers and dedicated volunteer team, as such we thank every member of our outreach team.

In addition Louise Kandler, who has been a trustee for 12+ years and guided us in many drug related information, left the board as she moved abroad for a new job. Again, Louise is very much missed and we wish her the best abroad. Looking to the New Year, we welcome Cathy Cassell to the trustee board.

SWWOP is only possible because of the funding we receive. We wish to thank all our funders large & small for their ongoing support.

Kim Balmer (Chair)



SWWOP would like to thank the following for their support in kind and in funding:

- Safe & Sustainable Communities Partnership
- Sheffield Primary Care Trusts
- The Tudor trust
- Sheffield City Council
- Genitourinary Medicine
- Centre for HIV & Sexual Health
- Chocolate Box
- South Yorkshire Police
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- Wicker Camp
- Diva
- Our Staff Committee and volunteers
- Adam Broadfoot,
- Women's Print



Sali Harwood, Manager

Every year brings highs and lows. This year there we have had many highlights, individual success stories and great contributions from others. Unfortunately, we have also been reminded of just how bad things can get for our clients. (4 women between April 2015-March 2016)

The year started off sadly with the death of a long standing client in April 2015. Katie did have

multiple health issues such as pancreatic disease, and a heart defect as well as her poly-drug use and involvement in street prostitution. Katie had been involved with SWWOP for many years. She was popular with the majority of our clients as she really did have a generous nature, helping others, usually at the expense of her own illness e.g. giving her prescription drugs away! She leaves two young children (who are in the care of Katie's mum).

Reverend Karen Cribb (St Mary's Church Bramall Lane) officiated her funeral service. It feels like we are contacting Karen more and more as our clients succumb to ill health usually; drug and / or alcohol related. Not only does Karen officiate at the service, she takes the time beforehand to visit the families offering support in matters as to how they would like the service to be held, which songs would the family like to hear, which readings. Karen manages to get a real understanding of who these young women were and their lives before their vulnerability to other pressures took over.

Karen takes on the role of speaking about other aspects of their lives, things most of us did not know: the positives, the

relationships with their families, favourite books etc.

Our second death this year was in September; this very young woman had only been on the streets approximately two years. Death was due to cardiac arrest alongside her drug use. What a to-do if there is no money to pay for the funeral! Thanks to Shelter and their worker Ros Clarke, we now have a greater understanding of funeral costs, what to do if there is no money to pay and we now have first-hand experience of talking to the funeral directors.

Her funeral took place at City Road, and to cut down on costs, the service was held at the grave side. Once again, Reverend Karen Cribb officiated (at no cost) and all went very well thanks to Simon (SWWOP Trustee), Cassie (a SWWOP client) Dave (friend of her family) and myself as our carrying of the coffin from the Hearse to the burial plot saved another £140 re pall bearers.

Actually, it was a very moving experience but it is very sad how many clients are now buried in City Road Crematorium. On a lighter note, we have two clients buried opposite each other and one other in the next row!

A third death in February 2016, (alcohol related) another mother leaving behind two children. We had also supported this woman for a long time, many of our women engage with us for support for a number of years, average is probably 7-8 years. The final death for this financial year was in March 2016, again a young woman leaving a very young child and death due to alcohol use.

Since 2000 we have lost 29 women. Most deaths (21) were drug and / or alcohol related. Two deaths were recorded as murder, one recorded as suicide, two from respiratory disease and three recorded as accidental. Michaela Hague's murderer is so far still at large, despite a continuing investigation.

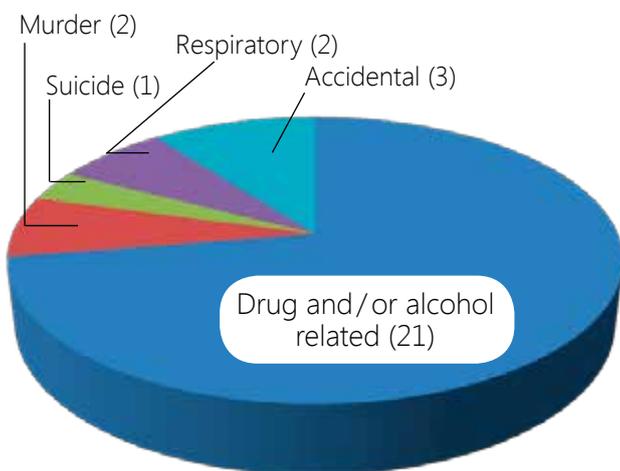
Outreach

We have had a large increase in new women (64 over the year) out on the streets. This includes a number of women we have labelled 'returners' as these are women we supported to exit prostitution years ago who have returned to prostitution due to financial pressures including benefit sanctions and the 'bedroom tax'. What these returners are naïve about is that in the years they had exited, life on the streets has become more dangerous, drugs are of a different calibre e.g. legal highs and women are all out for themselves, no-one is your friend!

There has also been a big increase in the numbers of women who have begun injecting after years of 'smoking' drugs. This is very serious as many of the women do not really have enough information regarding safer injecting so often let others inject them!

I have been regularly going into several saunas in Sheffield with G.U Medicine, not only undertaking sexual health screening but also looking for any indicators of signs of

Deaths since 2000 (29)



64

Increase in the number of new women out on the streets

trafficking. The saunas we have entered have many women 'working' there originating from Eastern Europe.

Crisis Intervention

We no longer have funding for a dedicated crisis support worker, so the crisis work is now undertaken by all of us, on a first come basis and by whichever one of us is free at that time. It isn't ideal but the work has to be done and is an important aspect in building and gaining clients' trust, especially with new clients – not to mention helping them to assisting them all sorts of issues from court appearances to homelessness. After this first initial crisis contact, women feel able to pop in to the office just for a cuppa or a food parcel, gradually enabling them to attend drop-ins and other outings with us.

Art Therapy

We were lucky enough to be funded to recruit an Art Therapist (Caroline Ashworth) for ten clients who can receive up to ten one hour sessions each.

Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses visual art as its primary mode of communication; it aims to effect change and growth on a personal level for the individual. Art therapy is not an instant cure but is often used to relieve difficult or painful feelings and help to increase general wellbeing. Often our clients find it very difficult to talk directly about feelings so communicating through another medium can make it easier. Feedback from our clients attending was very positive.

HIV Tests

National HIV testing week began at the end of November and Sexual Health Sheffield had funding to deliver HIV testing directly in the community with instant results as a pilot scheme. The project offered members of vulnerable communities an instant saliva test.

Ann Shutt from Sexual Health, attended our weekly drop-in beginning of December and after leading a short pre-test discussion, carried out individual tests and delivered the results in a private room at SWWOP (maintaining client confidentiality). Upstairs in another room, I was providing Sexual Health screenings. A very healthy day indeed!

Changes at SWWOP

AnneMarie House has left us to take up counselling full time. AnnMarie was a long standing member of SWWOP coming to work with us not long after the EXIT Support Package was developed and has been instrumental in helping a number of women turn their lives around. We wish her well for the future.

Toni Claridge (Crisis Intervention Worker), was made redundant in December due to the end of Tudor Trust funding. We were very lucky to receive funding from Tudor Trust twice, firstly for three years and then again for another two years. We wish Toni well in her future work.

Katie Bain has had to give up her sessional work with us due to health problems. Her illness has coincided with Katie taking on an MA in Psycho-Sexual Therapy. Luckily she has been able to negotiate a later course finish date. We wish her well and Katie knows she is welcome back at any time.

We also lost Steph (volunteer), our champion tweeter, who took off for bright lights and better career prospects in working with very vulnerable client groups. Steph now has a full time job in London working with homeless people.

New Recruits

Welcome to Jillian, Jo, Sarah and Natasha

Jillian Corbett had volunteered with us before taking time out to travel around Australia. Jill has a long experience of working in the field of housing with particular interest in accommodation-based services for offenders in Sheffield. Jill is now been employed as an EXIT worker (20 hrs per week), alongside her other job working with Asiana as a Trafficking Outreach Worker. Jill came to us on a temporary contract but is now a seasoned worker with SWWOP and has a 12-month contract as we all have. The added bonus of recruiting Jill is that many of our clients are already known to her due to her work in supported housing. In her spare time Jill competes as a fully qualified Thai Boxer.

Jo Keane is an experienced social worker living in Sheffield and working in Derbyshire. Jo actually wondered if she would be too old to join SWWOP! I explained our admin worker is 70 and I am nearer 60 than 50 now! Jo has joined us as a volunteer outreach worker and undertakes at least two evening sessions per month with our outreach team on the van. Her Social Work colleagues donated a large flask for the provision of soups in the winter months.

Sarah Walker volunteered for around four years with Turning Point Project before joining us. Sarah has run a 'Better Together Group' with our clients aided by our Exit workers. It is a small group which takes place on a weekly basis for approximately two hours. Three clients have attended regularly. Sarah has also volunteered on the van and helped with food parcels.

Natasha Guthrie, a solicitor at Irwin Mitchel's, joined us as an outreach volunteer in December. Tash also attends Wicker Camp Gym in her spare time.

Funding & Donations

The core costs have again been funded by the Children's and Young Peoples Commissioning Unit for the next for 12 months.

Once again we have been able to secure 12 months funding from the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership- We haven't received any increases but more importantly we have not had any cuts!

Coast to Coast walk

Adam Brodhead (Enhanced Housing Services SCC) undertook the Alfred Wainwright's coast to coast route from St Bees on the West Coast to Robin Hood's Bay on the East Coast (192 miles). The challenge was over 12 days, starting in St Bees on the 21st June 2015 and finishing in Robin Hood's Bay on the 2nd July 2015. Adam collected over £500 for our project.

DIVA

Diva in partnership with SWWOP have created a beautiful new website for us. We have finally moved into this century with a bang, having complete control over the website in relation to updating, adding new pages and lots of other things 'techies' take for granted. The look of it is modern, fresh, professional but friendly! Please take a look. A big thank you DIVA.

Other highlights

Thai Boxing

Four of our Exit clients have attended Thai boxing at the 'Wicker Camp' for around 8 weeks now. Trix March-Mullaney (trainer and owner) charged us a reduced rate for the sessions (which was covered by a donation). These sessions quickly gave the women a large boost of self-esteem and confidence. This small group began meeting up at the office and then making their own way to the gym for an hour's session after which they came back to the office and had lunch together.

After the initial eight weeks, Trix decided she would like to get involved with SWWOP but had very little time to give due to the gym and child commitments. Instead, Trix provided the Thai Boxing sessions for free! Thank you, Wicker Camp, for your generosity.

SWFC

Exits clients were taken on a tour of the Sheffield Wednesday Stadium, thanks to Marcus and Steve. The tour included the stadium, dressing rooms (empty ☹️) and we were lucky enough to see the new Wednesday strip before the players had seen it. A totally new experience for our clients.

The High Sheriff of Sheffield, John Holt, and his wife came to visit our project. John had already been out with our police partnership liaison person, PC John Taylor, around the areas where the women tend to be. We discussed the

role of Engagement and Support Orders (ESO's) and how difficult we were finding it to actually collect monies owing to SWWOP for undertaking this work for the courts. (The order was introduced as an alternative to fines re 'soliciting'). We are very much hoping the Sheriff can help us to resolve this. Both visitors congratulated us on the work we do and understood the difficulties our clients face.

Our Christmas night out was held at the Thali Café Sheffield; we were able to book the premises all for ourselves as we were a group of twenty or more people. The food was wonderful and it was a great way to say thank-you to all our paid workers, volunteers and management committee. Without our committee and volunteers SWWOP could not do the amount of work we manage so this was a way to say thank you.

Training

All paid workers undertook a training course "TRUTH: Training for Raising Awareness and Understanding about the Trafficking of Humans in Europe" The training was designed to train professionals such as social workers and others responsible for social care to recognize the signs, evidence and incidents of human trafficking. The ultimate goal of the training is to improve skills and knowledge to prevent trafficking and to provide better treatment of victims. An excellent course!

And still to come...

Changes for the coming year include new premises as our current landlord (Mark) has put Coroners Court up for sale. We are currently in talks which, if they come to fruition, will be very exciting.

Cooking and baking days – some of our workshops



2015 has been a very eventful year, with Tempers, Tears, Tantrums and plenty of Turning points, as we continue to work with this extremely vulnerable, chaotic and challenging group of women with passion and dedication.

This year has brought many changes to SWWOP, first of all SWWOP's corporate image has had a brand new makeover. The new Logo looks fresh and very modernistic on our business cards, which now come in either turquoise blue ink or a vivid pink giving swwop a blast of well needed colour.

The Exit Team are currently supporting 17 exiting women on a weekly basis. Enabling and empowering women to keep making positive changes in their lives and maintaining stability throughout. Due to the end of funding for our Crisis Worker, Toni, in December, we have found that our work load has increased tremendously. This is due to the fact that women still face crisis but now we don't have a dedicated worker so we are having to fit in crisis work as best we can along-side our exit work.

This has been extremely challenging not only juggling the roles but also being readily available to deal with the client's crisis at that most crucial point. On average we have contact with four women on a daily basis at some point of crisis, housing issues being the highest concern. Since the housing pathway came in last year this has had an immense impact on our client group, making it even more difficult to access accommodation, to end a tenancy or to re-locate. This has increased the numbers of homeless women through evictions and clients wanting to re-locate but are bound by the two year housing rule.

HMP Newhall – Since January 2016, I have taken over the role in contacting and supporting women in custody. This has involved working closely with housing providers St Giles and the Together Women Project (TWP) team based inside HMP Newhall as well as TWP, Shelter, solicitors and other established support providers based in Sheffield and Rotherham. SWWOP not only receive referrals from women who are already known to us but as word has gone round the prison that we support women who are/or have been involved in street prostitution, referrals from women not known by us have increased. In total SWWOP have received 15 referrals and have offered support to 17 individual women in 2015/2016. This has included support through

their time on remand, pre-sentencing, during their custodial sentence and upon release.

The Support we provide usually focusses on housing and other benefit related issues, this is their attempt at having a fresh start after custody and secure housing is an important element of them 'staying clean and making other positive changes', along with this we provide stamps and envelopes helping the women stay in contact with loved ones etc. We are looking forward to building closer working relationships with the Key Changes who will be taking over the prison work form TWP.

This summer has we have had an increase of women attending our weekly Drop-ins on average 8 attendances. The women are always keen to attend our cooking workshop, baking cakes always goes down a treat. We are always looking for new exciting crafts and activities for the women to take part in. The clothes room is a major part of SWWOP, and is one reason why numbers of women dropping in has increased alongside the availability of good food parcels.

Not forgetting our annual Seaside Trip to Cleethorpes, this is their chance to get away from the stresses and strains of life. The change of scenery makes such a difference like taking a new breath of fresh air. We finished our day full of Fish and Chips and a slow walk along the beach before catching the train back to reality.

This Christmas we decided to treat the women to a buffet meal at Cosmos, there was a variety of interesting foods for the women to choose, we were definitely spoilt for choice. We finished the special day with hot chocolate and a Festive film.

For my personal development, this year I have attended key-worker briefings in relation to housing and benefits changes, self-harm and mental health and undertook a European funded course on human trafficking awareness that I found extremely interesting.

In April 16 comes with good news, exciting changes and new premises. Here hoping it's as eventful, and more than this year.

Shelley Powell

Our annual beach day





Pamper day



Clothes swap

Volunteer Report



I have been volunteering with SWWOP now for around eighteen months. SWWOP was the first charity I had ever done voluntary work with, especially of this nature. I was always interested in getting involved within the community and working with women but didn't know how to approach this type of work without much experience.

I found that SWWOP was extremely welcoming and informative when I first approached them. It was obvious that the people running the charity were highly knowledgeable and passionate about the work they did. This made me feel quite nervous initially but everyone who I worked with were so friendly and happy to teach me all that they knew. I have found that they are more than happy to share their knowledge and are an extremely caring and patient group of women.

I currently go on the out-reach van a couple of nights a month with another worker. Amongst many other things we help to provide food, needle exchange, condoms, advice on housing, addiction treatment and where to find the office if they need anything in the daytime. We also help the women if they want to report an attack or if there are "dodgy punters" operating in the areas, we

can provide women with descriptions of these people to prevent attacks.

In my time at SWWOP I have learned many invaluable skills for dealing with women in a variety of situations; I have watched the workers and how they advise and comfort the women. SWWOP is a lifeline for women who feel that they have nobody else to go to. The stories and situations I have come across whilst volunteering with SWWOP are often unimaginable. We are there to provide a sympathetic ear, but also to give these women pragmatic and non-judgemental advice.

My time with SWWOP has/is such a unique and rewarding experience, I feel that the work we do is wholly necessary and provides many of these women with alleviation from the stressful lives they are experiencing.

So many women rely on the same faces they see at SWWOP, we are trusted and from what I feel, we are respected. The women will happily approach us and speak to us about any issues they are having. It is a massive credit to the charity when you know that very wary and untrusting women decide that you are the person they want to confide in.

I hope to continue my work with SWWOP for as long as they will have me and to help keep providing these women with the service that they so badly need.

Stevie Woodrup

Treasurers Report

This year has been a very positive one, supporting women out on the streets and tailoring the intensive exit support SWWOP provides to all clients.

A very special thanks to all our funders, the constant ones being Sheffield City Council Safer & Sustainable Partnership and the Sheffield City Council Public Health – Children & Young People.

In January 2015 we were lucky enough to receive a grant from the South Yorkshire Community Foundation – Child Exploitation Fund, to pay for the specialised ART therapy work, which was enthusiastically received, and benefited the clients attending.

Tudor Trust's funding came to an end in December 2015. Our grateful thanks for the 5 years they have so generously funded our crisis intervention worker.

To Adam Broadhead (Enhanced Housing Services SCC), WELL DONE and thank you. Adam did a sponsored bike ride on the Alfred Wainwright's coast to coast path raising over £500 for our project.

Last but not least many thanks to all the people who give donations to SWWOP, either personally or through the Just Giving website, it is very much appreciated.

Finally, grateful thanks to Sali (the Manager) and staff, the brilliant volunteers, the truly dedicated volunteer Committee members, plus all the different agencies working alongside SWWOP. Without all your constant support this very important charity, helping these vulnerable women, would not exist.

Thank you

SHEFFIELD WORKING WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2016

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2016 £	Total funds 2015 £
Incoming resources	1				
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants and donations	2	2,830	102,840	105,670	136,226
Activities for generating funds:					
Other receipts		3,630	–	3,630	4,839
Total Incoming resources		6,460	102,840	109,300	141,065
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities					
Wages	5	8,586	81,215	89,801	94,091
Payroll service		–	294	294	303
Travel, training & conference		–	298	298	504
Premises		–	18,720	18,720	18,720
Office equipment		–	536	536	759
Volunteer expenses		455	1,697	2,152	1,805
Insurance		–	830	830	819
Memberships, meetings and supervision		57	486	543	1,367
Telephone, mobile & internet		–	2,422	2,422	1,667
Vehicle maintenance/tax/insurance, diesel		1,232	1,825	3,057	3,787
Equipment and IT		625	711	1,336	631
Printing, postage and stationery		–	1,035	1,035	1,031
Publicity		–	41	41	3,190
Outreach		240	593	833	803
Exit support		1,700	2,401	4,101	2,870
Health items		2,161	–	2,162	3,184
Newhall prison		164	271	435	657
Art Therapy		–	4,333	4,333	553
ESO expenses		–	9	9	83
Other expenditure		–	120	120	142
Accountancy and independent examination		–	400	400	400
Total resources expended		15,220	118,238	133,458	137,363
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(8,760)	(15,398)	(24,158)	3,702
Total funds brought forward		15,885	15,398	31,283	27,581
Total funds carried forward	3	7,126	–	7,126	31,283

Notes to the accounts

1 Accounting Policies

(a) General

These Accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

(b) Donations and fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

(c) Resources expended

Expenditure is included on an accrual basis.

2 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
Sheffield City Council Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	–	47,000	47,000
Sheffield City Council Public Health - Children & Young People	–	55,842	55,842
Donations and gifts	2,830	–	2,830
	2,830	102,840	105,670

3 Restricted Funds

	Opening balance at 01/04/15	Incoming resources	Outgoing expenditure	Closing balance at 31/03/16
Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	–	47,000	(47,000)	–
Sheffield City Council Public Health - Children & Young People	–	55,842	(55,842)	–
South Yorkshire Community Foundation	4,430	–	(4,430)	–
Tudor Trust	10,968	–	(10,968)	–
	15,398	102,840	(118,238)	–

4 Accruals

These are expenses that have been incurred but have not been billed or paid for during the accounting period. They are in respect of:

	£
Independent Examination	400
5 Staff costs and trustees remuneration	£
Gross salaries	88,095
Employers national insurance	3,402
Pension	6,304
	89,801

An equivalent of four full-time employees were employed during the year. No remuneration was paid to any trustees during the period.