



Our new 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.



Our annual trip to cleethorpes

In 2017-18 we have continued to see an increasing number of women with complex difficulties and vulnerabilities approaching us for help. In response this year we have expanded our service to be open five days a week, and rather than have separate crisis and exit workers, our workers work across the two areas. This has given a more seamless support for our clients, who often oscillate between the two. In addition, this year, more women are approaching us for food, particularly those who are trying to exit prostitution but have financial difficulties due to, for example, benefit sanctions.

We thank the Primary Care Trust and Sheffield Police and Crime Commissioner for their continued funding, which enables women in street prostitution to access SWWOP and prevent escalating harm. This includes outreach 3/4 nights a week, in which we offer which sexual health screening and protection, substance use advice and a needle exchange as well as other support and signposting. In addition to the outreach street contact, this also funds our part time exit workers who provide support for women wanting to change their lifestyle and move away from street prostitution.

The major change for us this year has been being awarded a three-year grant from the Big Lottery. As we work with a client group with very complex issues, for safety reasons clients are unable to come into the premises if only one member of staff is present. This funding has allowed us to take on two full time staff, allowing us to be open to clients five days a week, and thus increase the service we are able to offer.

We are grateful to the Evans Cornish Foundation whose grant has allowed us to continue our work in New Hall prison fortnightly. This has been particularly busy this year,

with women looking to get provisions in place to help them sustain positive lifestyle changes on their release.

Our van was becoming increasingly unreliable, and in April was stolen. Two very generous donations have allowed us to continue our essential outreach work, we thank ARM Ltd for their donation of £20,000 at the very end of the last financial year which has allowed us to replace the van this year, and The Clothmakers Foundation for their grant of £6,000 which enabled us to refurbish the inside of the van, making it suitable for outreach. Further the SWWOP manager and one of the trustees raised money by getting sponsors and taking part in the Great North Swim raising an impressive £1,800.



We also thank individuals for personal donations, this year we have been generously given a total of approximately £2,000 of donations. This unrestricted money has allowed us to take a small group of women to Cleethorpes for the day, Pizza Hut for lunch & new crafts were bought for the weekly drop-ins.

The work of SWWOP is only possible because of the dedication of Sali, our manager and the SWWOP team both paid staff and volunteers. The Board of Trustees thanks each of these members of the SWWOP team and their commitment and compassion in supporting some of Sheffield's most vulnerable and stigmatised women.

Kim Balmer (Chair of Trustees)



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

- ⇒ Safe & Sustainable Communities Partnership
- ⇒ NHS Primary Care Trust
- ⇒ Sheffield City Council
- ⇒ FareShare South Yorkshire
- ⇒ Grace Food Bank, Low Edges
- ⇒ Genitourinary Medicine
- ⇒ Big Lottery Fund
- ⇒ South Yorkshire Police
- ⇒ Diva
- ⇒ Evan Cornish Foundation
- ⇒ ARM Holdings
- ⇒ Clothworkers Foundation
- ⇒ Our Staff Committee and volunteers
- ⇒ Women's Print

This year was a hard one for SWWOP beginning with the theft of our outreach van in March, so our new financial year began without a van! Although the van was found, our insurers decided it had to be scrapped as it was beyond repair.



Sali Harwood, Manager

SWWOP would like to thank The Fitzwilliam Centre for the loan of their 'Sharps Van' which helped us out enormously and for our workers who were willing and did carry out outreach for a while in their own vehicles.

In the past ARM had donated £2000 to enable us to provide support to our clients who were sentenced to short spells in prison for minor offences such as shop lifting etc. This time ARM came out and supported us massively with a donation of £20,000 for a new van which, through gift aid, gave us even more.

Next, we decided with ARM to raise our profile and take part in a van push, our old van was pushed by ARM workers along Division St down to John Lewis, we had ribbons and balloons around the van, and we carried buckets which passers-by dropped coins in. We then had a small photo shoot in Barkers Pool. A very exciting day.



The old van was taken to Doncaster and we removed everything likely to help make the cost of a new van cheaper in relation to refurbishment. We went to Mercedes Van sales in Sheffield and picked out a lovely Mercedes Sprinter, all we needed now was someone to carry out the re-furb and a small grant to pay for it.

Kevin and Austin (a father and son team), came out to look at our new van, they checked what could be salvaged from the old van and gave us a very reasonable quote. We

immediately applied to the Clothworkers Charity for a small grant for the refurb and luck was still with us, we got the monies.

The van is beautiful, central heating, sun roof and seating so our clients can relax and chat to us on outreach. A satellite needle exchange, small sink and tea making facilities i.e. kettle and electric points. Kevin and Austin did us proud. We were back on the job again.

While we were still excited about the new van, our offices were broken into and lots of damage done, plus they took the petty-cash, laptop and lots of other smaller things. Sheffield City Council small grants had paid for the installation of CCTV the previous financial year, so, we actually had the culprits on film, it was extremely upsetting to see that one of the culprits was a long-standing client of ours whom we had supported since she was around 18 years old (she is now 30). Both culprits were caught, and the female was sentenced to two years in HMP Newhall, so we continued to see her once a fortnight as we support our clients in Newhall.

Cameras have now been put up at the back of the offices, and there are metal bars on the back windows as well as on our main door of entry. Fingers crossed!

As stated earlier, the year has been very eventful, lows then highs, and it was time for the next low! Jill (Exit Support) had wanted a full-time job, but due to funding restraints we couldn't offer her a full-time post. Both Jill and Shelley worked part-time jobs and it was hard work as both jobs were working with vulnerable people and insecure contracts (we are only funded on a yearly basis). So, Jill left though she did stay on as a volunteer outreach worker. We offered Shelley the post as a full-time worker, but she declined due to other commitments.

Then Shelley was offered a full-time post elsewhere and decided to take it. Shelley had worked with SWWOP for around 14 years and I had known Shelley a long time before that. There was only me and Lis left of the old crowd. We have employed Rosie on a 24-hr contract to replace Jill, and we had Ann Shut in place of Shelley. Both funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, but we have always had to apply for funding every year.

Annette Swaby, long standing (since 2003) paid outreach worker has now stepped in two days per week (Thurs/Fri) plus her usual three sessions per month outreach. Our clients all know her well and I am being inundated by clients asking if Annette can be their worker. But Annette only signed up to work with us till the end of the financial year.

Nira Hacker (Treasurer), has resigned from the MC. She has been the longest serving member. We would like to thank her for all her support overall and in her role as treasurer. Andrew Martin stepped in and picked up the reins.

Angie Heal and Simon Nolan both resigned from their role as Trustees on the Committee. Angie was also my work

supervisor for 15 years so will be missed badly. Angie was also responsible for all our work policies etc. Simon is a police officer and our liaison officer for 7yrs and 3 years on our committee. Both keep in touch often and are sorely missed.

Then the University of Sheffield asked us if we would like to take on a couple of medical students to do a specific piece of work for us. We had students before including Nicola who is still a volunteer today on outreach. We decided that would be a good idea and they had a project in mind which suited both parties. They made a video on an outreach session to let others know the realities of life on the streets for our vulnerable women involved in street prostitution. It was a really good video and they won 1st prize on their course. We also used it when it was our turn to promote our project through the St Giles Network.

Sauna Work – Katy Bain and I regularly go into the saunas every couple of months. We undertake STI screening while also checking that all the women in the saunas have their passports/I.D. cards etc and that they have mobile phones that are not diverted anywhere else. Though if any of the saunas had women in them who had been trafficked, I am sure we wouldn't be allowed in! STI screening still takes place at SWWOP. We now have a small downstairs room where screening takes place and it is also used for 1-2-1 appointments with those clients who find it difficult to climb the stairs up to our main offices.

Other highs throughout the year

Great North Swim – Dr Cathy Lee (Trustee) joined our board in November 2016, Cathy persuaded me to join her and a friend who were taking part in the Great North Swim, Cathy was to swim a



mile and I decided I couldn't possibly do more than a half mile. Training was very hard work, open water swimming in winter at **Hatfield Outdoor** Activity Centre, Doncaster, cold even with wetsuits on but we persevered and swam our required distance in Lake Windemere in June raising a total of £1800 for SWWOP. I was very proud to finish my swim in open water and would like to thank all for your support and sponsorship.

We received £3000 from Evans Cornish to carry on providing support and visiting our clients who often find themselves receiving short prison sentences for shop-lifting and other minor crimes

We also received £210 from 'thepartyforthepeople' ticket promoters, this was organised by someone who wanted to volunteer with us, but after the first night on outreach she found the work to upsetting, so instead she raised money

for us by nominating our charity to her work.

Sheffield University Ladies Day, this group rang me up and said they were holding a sports day and would like to donate to our charity. Of course, please do, I replied and they did raising £700.

Kelham Island Women's Institute (KIWI). We were their charity this year and they raised £420 for us throughout the year.

The GirlGangs – charity donated a lot of personal hygiene items for our clients.

Our Xmas meal was held at St Stephens Church, Choc Box cooked and all the food etc was paid for by a donation from The Shoe-Box Appeal in conjunction with the Sheffield College. A good afternoon enjoyed by all with lots of bingo and even more prizes. Thanks to all who donated clothes etc.

Shoebox Appeal also provided loads of goodies for our clients including items for pets.

The donations this year have outstripped previous years especially the clothes.

Outreach Service – With new staff in place we are now able to offer a more flexible outreach service and later office opening hours. This has also included early morning outreach sessions. We are being led by our clients at this time and this is what they've asked for.

SWWOP would like to thank all our volunteers for their input in the service.

Training Undertaken

Needle Exchange – all workers and volunteers attended the Needle Exchange training, as we have a satellite needle exchange on the van. It was very thorough and we learnt a lot that we could pass onto our clients.

New Psychoactive Substances – training about New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) was next. This is the new name for what was previously called 'Legal Highs'. We often ask our clients for information about their use of needles and they like to share their knowledge, we then know, if clients do inject, that they are injecting correctly!

Unconscious Bias – the training was delivered by Carol Jones and covered social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. We all hold **unconscious** beliefs about various social and identity groups, and these **biases** stem from one's tendency to organise social worlds by categorising.

Social media has really caught up with SWWOP, we tweet about everything interesting that has happened to us, our clients and we always tweet 'Thank-you' for everything and for everyone supporting our project.

Here's to another year.

Sali Harwood -Manager

Rosie

After graduating university, I began work with St-Anne's community services within their outreach mental health team. Initially, this wasn't something I saw myself doing long term, nor something I ever planned on doing throughout my studies. Straight away I fell in love with supporting people, the sense of reward when something you implement becomes a success became an addiction. It was my mission to help everyone and anyone who is experiencing an injustice or less fortunate than me. As the year went on it became apparent my 'dream' was naïve. Lack of government funding and the stretch of the NHS mental health services made the job difficult to enjoy. I made the decision to be more practical. Gain experience through qualifications that were on offer, whilst supporting the clients to the best of my ability. Little was I to know that 3 months later the service would be closed permanently due to lack of funding.

I took some time out. Travelled to Australia to be with my partner. I knew I had to find another job, but nothing was giving me the excitement and drive to apply. One morning I came across a job advert on VAS. It grabbed my attention immediately...this was what I WANTED to do. I was aware that my young age and lack of direct experience may put me at a disadvantage in the application process of this specific job but I in fact learnt I had a lot of transferable skills that would make me an ideal candidate. I submitted my application form and proceeded to contact Sali daily (much to her despair) to try and arrange an interview as I was in Australia at the time.

Fast forward two weeks and it was my first day as a Crisis and Exit Support Worker for SWWOP. 17th October 2017.

I was nervous but excited. I was incredibly lucky that Sali allowed me to find my own feet and tackle adjusting into the role at my own pace. It is safe to say this didn't take long. I instantly found my skills, abilities and knowledge were coming to use daily. On my second week I successfully supported a vulnerable client from sleeping rough to having her own flat that evening and instantly the buzz was back. A sudden realisation that, I am more than capable of helping these women.



SWWOP is a fantastic charity and supports women with a diverse range of issues. I have learnt so much in my six months of working here that I will carry with me throughout my career. Two of the most important being; remaining calm in crisis situations and the ability to support these women with completely non-judgmental approach. I have worked with women who are homeless, women with severe debilitating mental health illnesses, women who have drug addictions, pregnant women, women who don't want to be involved in sex work anymore and women who do. Every day is different and that's what makes it such an enjoyable job.

I am grateful for Sali, and the management committee not only for their belief in me but the ongoing support I receive. Being happy at work allows frontline staff to work to the best of our ability and come to work with a smile on our faces!!!

Rosie peers



Clients put on benefit Sanctions



Number of STI screenings



Number of visits we made to HMP Newhall

Lottery Recruitment: Crisis and Exit Support Work

Ciara

I've been working for SWWOP for six months and have to say, what an amazing service!

Before this, my experience has been working for a drug and alcohol service for two years and working with young homeless clients. I thoroughly enjoyed this work and the experience it gave me, however working for SWWOP has given me an entirely different perspective and is already changing the way I help people, for the better. Going from a caseload of 60 clients to 3-4 clients has given me greater flexibility and much more room to help the vulnerable women we work with. I can take them to necessary appointments, hospital or just have a coffee and chat about what's going in their lives without worrying about what time it is.

The main difference between this work and the work I have done previously, is the lack of pressure on service users. We are not expecting unrealistic actions from these women. We understand and accept that they are leading incredibly difficult lives and do what we can to help without forcing change where it's not yet wanted. There's also a more informal way of working with clients – drop ins, exercise classes, popping to the local café with women (side note, La Perla do amazing cakes). It's enjoyable, teaches women new skills, and I feel I can get to know people a lot more when doing activities with them. For example, boxercise has taught me that I don't want to get on the bad side of some of these women.

It has at times been difficult. I'm used to knowing everything, so that's been a change!

Already there have been triumphs and low points. These women feel very intensely and it's difficult not to get swept away with that. Thankfully, the team here is amazing! I can always turn to someone for practical help as we're all so knowledgeable in different fields, someone is bound to know the answer to any question I have. I get a lot of emotional help from the team too. We're all in this together.



This is also a philosophy I've seen shared in the other Sheffield services as well, who are happy working closely with SWWOP to give these vulnerable women the best chance possible. I've been on some eye-opening training provided by other services, such as benefits, and drugs training and I feel this has greatly increased my knowledge.

Speaking of development, I've been given the role of domestic abuse rep and look forward to liaising with all involved services and making a difference, however small or big, to the lives of women in abusive situations. It's an immense responsibility and as such, I will show these women the respect they deserve.

All in all, these past few months have been an experience, I'm really looking forward to the rest of my time here!

Ciara Perera

P/T Outreach and Crisis Intervention



I have worked as an outreach worker for 15 years on our outreach van. The intervention with the women involved in street prostitution is brief. They access our van, we provide sandwiches, hot and cold drinks plus any paraphernalia they may need including condoms/needle exchange, and we book in appointments for clients to see a worker during office

hours. Whilst working on the van we often see women come and go from the 'beat'. Some would be absent for years and there was always a sense of sadness when you would see them return many years later.

However, since I started my office hours during the day, I have experienced 'another side to my role'. The hard work that goes into supporting these women to change

their lifestyles from various organisations is more evident. Having said that, working/supporting the women through the day, I have found that the women behave differently, they don't come in all angry and ready to argue (though a few do!), there is no competition in the office so often you see the more vulnerable side to the women, the real vulnerabilities and routinely they are more open to making small but viable positive changes to their lives. Small steps but steps all the same!

I support women to access housing, benefits, probation, drug services, courts and so on. I also, along with my work colleagues provide a once a week activity day. The women are at various stages in their life and I am able to travel along that road with them; getting to know them better which enables me to offer more support to exit prostitution if they choose.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time here at SWWOP and look forward to more challenges to overcome along the way.

Annette Swaby

Volunteer Report

I have been a volunteer on the outreach van for about a year. I heard about SWWOP through a friend who told me about the "Johnny Van" that went out to the red-light district 3 times a week to provide contraception, needle exchange and food to the women on the street. I was studying to become a qualified social worker at the time and knew immediately that I wanted to volunteer for the van.

My work background is quite varied having been a teaching assistant, a librarian and a crisis worker at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre at Hackenthorpe. I was a librarian for 4 years at HMP Holloway which I loved and cemented my desire to work with vulnerable women.

I usually work 1 shift a month on the van. The first time I went out with Sali, I had absolutely no idea what to expect. We saw about 4 women, chatted with them and made cups of coffee, we handed out condoms and needle exchange kit. Throughout, Sali gave me a potted history of SWWOP and Sheffield street prostitution, I learnt that the red-light district is known as "the beat", their clients are "punters" and that most of the women had long standing substance misuse issues.

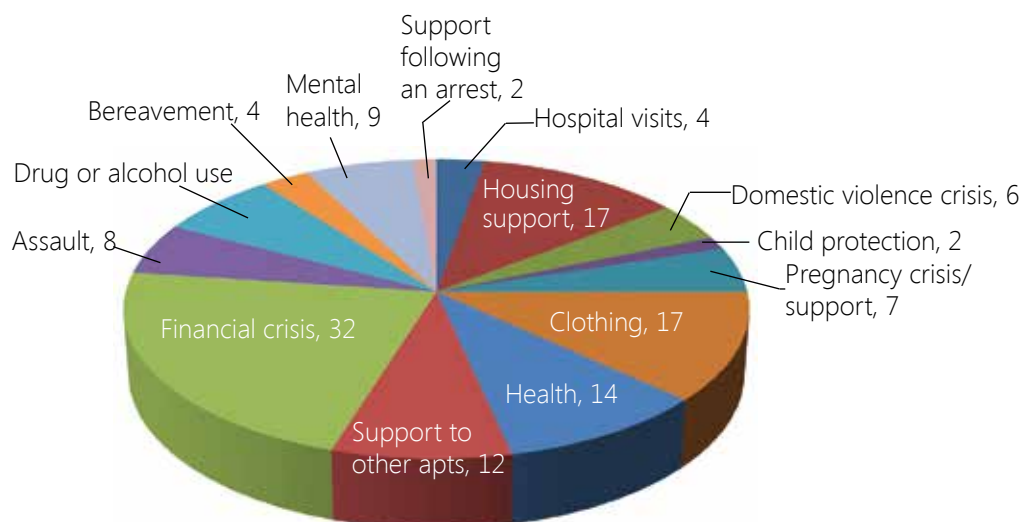
Since that first night I have volunteered alongside a number of different workers, all lovely and passionate about what SWWOP does. No van shift is alike. We have had to call the police a number of times, mostly 101 to report an incident that has happened to one of the women, as does frequently happen. We have acted as mediators when the women have been involved in arguments with each other. We have provided warm drinks and hats and gloves to women with nowhere to sleep. We provide a brief respite from the cold, the rain and the monotony of waiting for a punter. The women know the van and flag us down when they want us or wave us past if they are busy.

Some of the women SWWOP is involved with are amongst the most vulnerable in Sheffield. The outreach van might be their only contact with services and as such is integral to safeguarding their wellbeing. I feel privileged to be a small part of the SWWOP service that is such a vital provision of support for these extremely vulnerable women.

Polly Fosters

Crisis Interventions, 716, including 572 food bags.

The remaining interventions are shown below



Outreach support 548 visits were made to our van by:



Firstly, we would like to thank most sincerely our ongoing and very supportive core funders – Police & Crime Commissioners, Safe & Sustainable Communities partnership £47,000 and the NHS Primary Care Trust £55,800, who have both supported us for many years.

We have also been very fortunate in securing £3,000 from Evans Cornish which enabled a worker to visit our clients in Newhall prison on a fortnightly basis providing support to them.

Due to our receiving £20,000 from ARM the year before we have been able to buy a new van at the beginning of our financial year, June 2017.

We were granted yet another brilliant donation from the Cloth Workers of £6,000 which was used to equip the van with all SWWOP's requirements to carry out reliant outreach work.

Then in Aug/Sept 2017 we found out that we had been successful in our bid to the Big Lottery Fund which is for 3 years at £70,000 per year. This has enabled us to employ 2 more staff as from Dec 2017 and cover some of our much-needed core costs, which has considerably contributed to our overall stability.

We wish to thank all our generous supporters/partners who throughout this year raised over £4,000, other income totalling £8,000 was made up of Gift Aid, Insurance received from our stolen van, NIC allowance and bank interest.

Finally huge thank you to our steadfast team of Staff, Volunteers, Management Committee members and Sali the Manager who do a wonderful job keeping things running smoothly.

Andrew Martin
Treasurer

SHEFFIELD WORKING WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES PROJECT

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2018

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2018 £	Total funds 2017 £
Incoming resources	1				
Incoming resources from charitable activities:					
Grants and donations	3	23,838	158,306	182,144	109,176
Gifts Aid		2,698	–	2,698	–
Activities for generating funds:		5,740	–	5,740	4,690
Total Incoming resources		32,276	158,306	190,582	113,866
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities					
Wages	6	–	100,619	100,619	83,424
Payroll service		–	375	375	346
Travel, training & conference		–	1,083	1,083	–
Premises		–	16,399	16,399	15,570
Office equipment		–	994	994	599
Volunteer expenses		142	1,301	1,443	1,199
Insurance		93	956	1,049	957
Memberships, meetings and supervision		199	216	415	447
Telephone, mobile & internet		–	1,531	1,531	1,914
Vehicle maintenance/tax/insurance, diesel		442	2,666	3,108	2,703
Equipment and IT		216	441	657	588
Printing, postage and stationery		–	558	558	857
Publicity		64	767	831	345
Outreach		–	174	174	177
Exit support		771	2,666	3,437	3,720
Health items		–	1,070	1,070	1,112
Newhall prison		–	760	760	501
Sauna work		121	–	121	114
Depreciation		5,285	–	5,285	–
New van and refurbishment		2,617	4,151	6,768	–
Other expenditure		2,076	–	2,076	1,607
Accountancy and independent examination		415	–	415	400
Total resources expended		12,442	136,727	149,169	116,580
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	4	19,834	21,579	41,413	(2,714)
Total funds brought forward		4,411	–	4,411	7,126
Total funds carried forward		24,245	21,579	45,824	4,411

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.

3 Grants and donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
The Clothworkers Foundation	–	6,000	6,000
Evan Cornish Foundation	–	3,000	3,000
Reaching Communities Big Lottery Fund	–	46,506	46,506
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	23,838	–	23,838
	23,838	158,306	182,144

4 Restricted Funds

	Opening balance at 01/04/17	Incoming resources	Outgoing expenditure	Closing balance at 31/03/18
The Clothworkers Foundation	–	6,000	(6,000)	–
Evan Cornish Foundation	–	3,000	(2,440)	560
Reaching Communities Big Lottery Fund	–	46,506	(25,487)	21,019
Safer & Sustainable Communities Partnership	–	47,000	(47,000)	–
Sheffield City Council Public Health - Children & Young People	–	55,800	(55,800)	–
	–	158,306	(102,800)	21,579

6 Staff costs and trustees remuneration

	£
Gross salaries	90,165
Employers national insurance	3,147
Pension	7,307
	100,619

An equivalent of four full-time employees were employed during the year.

No remuneration was paid to any trustees during the period.