



PE:ER Project Newsletter

No. 2, December 2009



Festive Edition

The PE:ER Project (Prostitution Exiting: Engaging through Research) began in June 2009, a joint research project between Eaves and London South Bank University (LSBU) to assess the effectiveness of interventions designed to support women in England who want to leave prostitution. Since then, we've been developing a research project that is academically robust, yet still places the needs of our research participants – women involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution – at the centre of our approach.

We've been busy in November & December

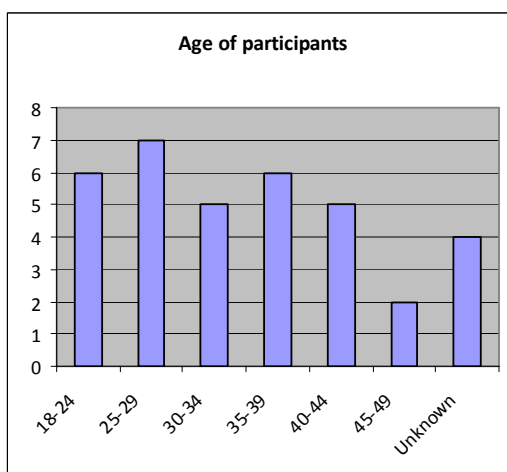
- ❖ To date, we've conducted 35 interviews with women involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution.
- ❖ We've ensured all women who have participated in the research have been fully supported, working closely with Eaves' LEA Project which provides direct support for women exiting prostitution.
- ❖ Eaves' Scarlet Centre hosted our seasonal card-making drop-in session for women interested in participating in the research and/or accessing Eaves' exiting prostitution service, the LEA Project.
- ❖ Our second Advisory Group meeting was held in late November and was attended by nine of the 12 Advisory Group members. In the meeting, we covered a range of issues including ethical methods of accessing significant numbers of research participants and how to implement peer mentoring with women exiting prostitution.
- ❖ The whole team read Shadd Maruna's *Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild their Lives*, which we then discussed in relation to our own research at our bi-monthly research seminar at LSBU.

Where we've been

Over the past couple of months we've been focusing on recruiting research participants in London. We have been visiting hostels and refuges, sexual health services, drugs services and specific projects for women exiting prostitution. So far, we've worked directly in nine London boroughs – Brent, Camden, Greenwich, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Westminster – and we've made links with many others.

Our research sample

So far, we've conducted interviews with 35 women who are, or have been, involved in prostitution.



Seasonal card-making drop-in session

In mid-December we held a card-making drop-in session for women exiting prostitution. During the session, women had the opportunity to find out more about the research, and do an individual interview if they wished. Five women attended the card-making and of these, one completed an interview and another two booked interviews for early January.



Thank you!

Thanks to all the projects that have so generously given us their time and shared their expertise over the past couple of months. We know that you are all over-stretched and under-funded, and we are grateful that you've taken time out of your busy days to contribute to this research:

Geraldine at Bradbury House, Marylebone Project,
Westminster

Our colleagues at Chamlong House, Eaves, Southwark

Maggie at Evolve, Blenheim CDP, Southwark

Husna at Isis Women's Service, Compass, Tower Hamlets

Sue at the Salvation Army's Hoptown Hostel, Tower Hamlets

Sharon at the LEA Project, Eaves, London

Our colleagues at the POPPY Project, Eaves, London

Amy, Helen and Lynda at Women at the Well, Camden

Most of all, thanks to the 35 women who have shared your stories with us so far. This research is only possible because of your generosity and openness.

Do you work with women involved in prostitution? Are you, or have you been, involved in prostitution yourself? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Research participants receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher, a journal and a pen.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to participate in this research, please contact Shannon Harvey:

Tel: 020 7840 7110

Email: shannon.harvey@eaveshousing.co.uk

www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith_Research_And_Development/PeerProject.php



Wishing you all a very happy festive break and best wishes for the New Year

PE:ER close up

Lisa is PE:ER's Link Officer. She has been working closely with Eaves' LEA Project, a direct support service for women exiting prostitution. Recently, Lisa did a night outreach session with the LEA Project in Plumstead, Greenwich.

We chose Plumstead because...

we had been approached by the police team, who had heard about our research and were interested to see if we could help women in Plumstead who are involved in street prostitution.

On outreach, we aim to... build trust with women in street prostitution, find out if they want to participate in the research, establish their immediate needs, and provide support and advocacy to enable them to engage with services in their local area.

Outreach for PE:ER is different from outreach I've done in other jobs because...

I used to be a Team Leader in a team that case-managed around 40 women with complex needs, coordinating outreach sessions and joint operations with the police. Now that I'm on a research project, my focus has less of a formal support element. I make sure that I go on outreach with a support worker from the LEA Project, so that if the women aren't ready to engage with the research we can still offer advice and support in other areas.

What I like about doing outreach is...

it provides a much needed link into mainstream support services and increases women's confidence by learning what's on offer. Sometimes it's just an opportunity to let a woman know help is around and to plant a seed for future steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

What I don't like about doing outreach is...

the cold. I always make sure I have my ear muffs!