

## Thank you!

Firstly, a big thank you to Sophie Howes, who finished in the role of Research Assistant in mid-June. Sophie managed to compress her full time hours at the Women's National Commission into 4 days so that she could volunteer with us 1 day/week. We've really appreciated Sophie's efficiency and informed and thoughtful contributions to the project and are sad to see her go, but wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Thanks to all the projects that have so generously given us their time and shared their expertise over the first year of the project. We have accessed research participants through 20 different support services and have conducted interviews with professionals working in 25 different support services. We know that you are all over-stretched and under-resourced, and we appreciate that you've taken the time to collaborate on this research.

Most of all, thanks to the 90 women who have shared their stories with us so far. This research is only possible because of your generosity and openness.

## What's happening next

Over the next couple of months, we're planning to:

- \* Complete first round interviews, with interviews at Genesis in Leeds, at 3D Project/Catch 22 and Beyond the Streets in Southampton, at Eaves' POPPY Project, Camden & Islington Mental Health Trust, and with women we have contacted directly.
- \* Conduct analysis of first round interview data.
- \* Continue the tracking process, and begin re-interviewing women who were interviewed in the early stages of the project. This will include return visits to Leeds, Sheffield and Doncaster.
- \* Hold our fourth Advisory Group meeting on 14th July 2010 in Leeds.
- \* Begin work on academic journal articles on aspects of the exiting process.

## Are you, or have you been, involved in indoor prostitution? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Research participants receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher, a journal and a pen, as a token of thanks for their time. Interviews generally take around 1.5 hours.

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

Tel: 020 7840 7110

Email: [shannon.harvey@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:shannon.harvey@eaveshousing.co.uk)

[www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith\\_Research\\_And\\_Development/PeerProject.php](http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith_Research_And_Development/PeerProject.php)

## PE:ER close up

Fifteen-year-old secondary school student Beth joined Eaves for two weeks at the end of June for work experience. She's helped the PE:ER team put together this newsletter and prepare for our next Advisory Group meeting in early July.

**I chose to do my work experience with Eaves because...** It's something new and I probably won't do anything like this again. My brother Matt, who works with OBJECT, told me about the work Eaves does and it caught my eye. It also shows me what office life is like working in London.

**What I'm enjoying most about this experience is...** the different people I'm meeting and learning more about the women's sector. Also seeing a new part of London I haven't seen before.

**An interesting thing I've learnt while I've been at Eaves is...** the different organisations involved with Eaves and how important Eaves is to women around London. I've also experienced the passion women have for equality of men and women.

**When I finish school I hope to...** firstly, travel around the world and see it in all its glory. Then do a degree in something and then find work somewhere. Maybe one day I will work in the women's sector.



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## PE:ER Project Newsletter

No. 5, June 2010

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.

## May and June on PE:ER

Over the last couple of months, we've...

- \* Continued first round interviews with women exiting from indoor prostitution and with women accessing Eaves' POPPY project. We have completed most other first round interviews, and will be completing this phase of the project in July 2010.
- \* Employed two full-time transcribers for three weeks, to clear our backlog of interview transcription in order to begin data analysis. This has allowed us to almost complete transcription of our first round interviews. Linnéa Osterman and Mary Hancock had been volunteering part-time with us, so they already had a good understanding of the project and were both fast and accurate. It was also nice for us to be able to offer them some paid work.
- \* Started working closely with our LSBU colleagues on analysing the data from our first round of interviews. Senior Research Associate Helen Easton now spends every Friday at Eaves offices near the Oval, and together we have begun developing a coding framework for the data.
- \* Begun the "tracking" phase of the research process, with Link Officer Lisa Reynolds phoning research participants to see what has happened in their lives since the first interview, and arrange a time for a second interview.
- \* Submitted our End of Year 1 report to the Big Lottery Fund, who have provided the financial resources for this project.
- \* Been advised by Central London Research Ethics Committee 2 of a favourable ethical opinion of the research, subject to the provisional of additional documents, which will allow us to access research participants through the NHS. This will enable us to broaden the research sample to include those women who have more formal contact with mental health services.
- \* Said goodbye to one of our Volunteer Research Assistants, Sophie Howes, and recruited two new Volunteer Research Assistants. Mary Cobbett will begin in June and Holly White will begin in July.

## Women's voices

Link Officer Lisa Reynolds has been re-contacting many of our research participants over the past couple of months. A further discussion of this process is on page 3 of this newsletter, but included below is some of the positive feedback she's had from women participating in the PE:ER Project, over the phone, via text message and in person.

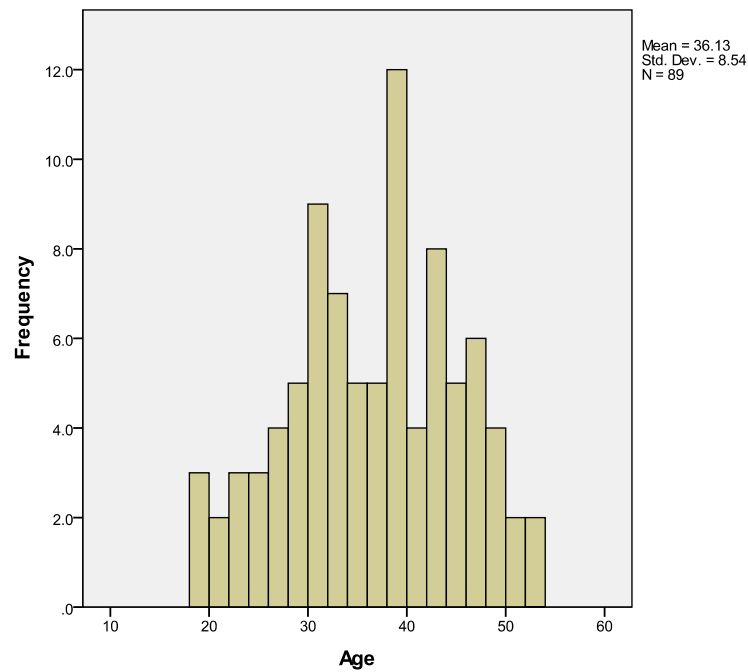
- \* "Tnk u soooo much. Since talkin 2 u guys my life has been sooooo diffrent. Am in a better place nw. Am goin 2 dat place 2morrow jst 2 hangout. Tnks alot ur help means soooooo much 2 me."
- \* "Speaking to you today has got me thinking about the future and how much I wanna get off (and stay off) the street... You've really motivated me - thanks."
- \* "Just to say thank you for making it so easy 4 me ystdy. Yr kindness shone."
- \* "[The interview] has surprised me really... I've been able to tell you everything, truthfully and openly, which has made me feel a hell of a lot better."

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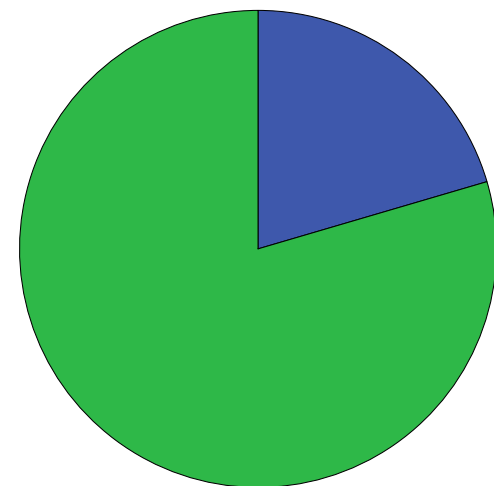
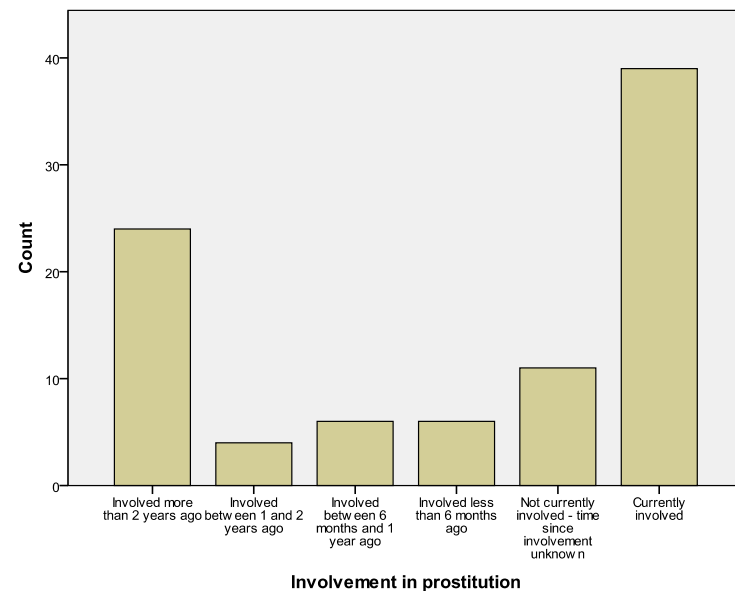
## Our research sample

So far, we've conducted interviews with 90 women who are, or have been, involved in prostitution.



The mean age of women we have interviewed is 36, which other professionals have suggested is older than they would expect the mean age of women involved in prostitution to be. However, as this project targets only those women who are seeking to exit prostitution, it seems reasonable that the mean age would be higher than for the population of women involved in prostitution as a whole.

Just under half of the women we've interviewed (39) were still involved at the point of their first interview, but were thinking about exiting. Another 24 women had stopped their involvement more than 2 years ago, whilst another 16 had stopped within the past 2 years. Eleven women were not currently involved, but were unable to tell the interviewer how long it had been since their involvement.



Place of involvement: on-street  
 ■ No  
 ■ Yes

Seventy of the 90 women interviewed so far have been involved in on-street prostitution at some time. Nineteen women have been involved in prostitution in a brothel, fifteen in a sauna or massage parlour, five in a lap-dancing club, four in hotels and two in bars and clubs. A large proportion of women interviewed (58) have also been involved in prostitution in private residential premises, although this ranges from those women who advertise as private escorts and out-calls, to women who have primarily been involved on-street, but have regular clients whose homes they go to.

## "Tracking" and the action research process

Lisa Reynolds is our Link Officer, and as part of her role in ensuring the well-being of women in the project, she is "tracking" research participants. Lisa's work forms an important part of the action research component of the project. She explains this aspect of her role here:

"Since the first interviews, 40 women have been recontacted at least once, and some have been contacted five or six times. Tracking has taken shape in a variety of ways, including meeting women in Eaves Scarlet Centre to informally discuss where they are at now, or by contacting women by phone and text message to ask how they have been since the interview. I will usually ask whether they are still involved with a support service, if they are not, offer to support them to re-engage. We also discuss whether they've found the journals they received at the first interview useful and whether they have had the opportunity to use them. I also use the contact as an opportunity to tell the women about services and activities in and around their area over the summer, such as the Crisis Summer School in London, which is offering jewellery making, yoga, performing arts, t-shirt printing, Pilates, life drawing, music classes, and photography."



### Poetry

In Ipswich, Helen and Lisa were introduced to Della Wright, a poet who was previously involved in prostitution. She has agreed for one of her poems to be published here.

#### Crackhead

A rock of crack, a line of coke,  
 A couple of tabs, or some draw to smoke,  
 She's feeling good, no concept of time she's shouting out,  
 "The world is mine."

She's coming down and getting low,  
 Gotta hit the streets, get some blow,  
 Her skirt is short, she's cold to the max,  
 Her long sleeve shirt covers her tracks,  
 She stands alone on a cold wet street,  
 To stay awake she shuffles her feet,  
 She found a trick, a fat old bloke,  
 She closes her eyes and thinks of the smoke  
 Fifty quid that's all it cost enough for an eighth, her dignity lost.

She stands in a doorway and sucks on her crack joint,  
 Then she thinks to herself oh god! What's the point?  
 There must be something in life that's better,  
 As her thigh length boots get wetter and wetter  
 I'll get off Ipswich streets and find me a job  
 No more fumbling with some fat old slob.

I'll go to the social get my kids out of care  
 I'll prove to that lot I can be there!  
 Her thoughts are disrupted by a friend walking by,  
 He shouts, "Hey girl, do you wanna get high?"  
 Just one more lick before she gives up forever,  
 A wrap of crack from a pusher called Trevor,  
 The rush is enormous, the feeling divine,  
 As she shows the world just one last time.

### Law and policy

*Eaves' work experience student Beth Evans explores the new Section 17 of the Policing & Crime Act (2009).*

Section 17 involves a new "Engagement & Support Order." This order is available when people are convicted of loitering or soliciting for prostitution. The purpose of the order is to support people to leave street prostitution by helping them address issues related with street prostitution.

A person who is given an Engagement & Support Order will be required to attend three meetings, appointed by the court, where they will get support to move away from prostitution. The order is available to all courts in England and Wales.

Section 17 was designed to replace section 1 of the Street Offences Act (1959). The Street Offences Act suggested fining women involved in prostitution. People involved in prostitution and practitioners have long highlighted that this often caused women to engage in prostitution in order to pay the fine.

The new order draws on pioneering court diversion schemes run by innovative exiting prostitution projects such as Trust in Lambeth, and Safe Exit in Tower Hamlets.