



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Staff members



Helen



Anna



Beth



Kath



Caroline

Trustees



James



Christopher



Jo



Elizabeth



Helen



Petula

Special thanks go to our staff and volunteers who walk alongside the women we support to ensure that they are heard, valued, believed and supported to make positive changes in their lives.

Foreword

2022 has been a year of consolidation in our outreach work and tremendous growth in our training delivery. Raising awareness of the complex issues faced by women in the sex industry remains a priority and we have been delighted to have the opportunity to educate and equip so many frontline professionals to provide better informed responses to women coping with multiple disadvantages, stigma and judgement.

We saw a 784% increase in people trained from the previous year, training 168 professionals over 15 sessions as well as 46 Social Work students in partnership with the University of Chichester. We have seen a steady increase in the number of women we have supported on a 1:1, face to face basis and directly supported 168 women in total throughout the year including three survivors of Modern Slavery. Our service provision expanded from four to five days a week and we continued to build on previous successes to shape and develop our services to meet the needs of local women at risk.

Our partnership work is a key aspect of our service delivery, enabling us to support women who are some of the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community. We are thankful to Worthing Probation, Adur & Worthing Council Street Outreach, My Sister's House, Emerging Futures, Turning Tides, Stonepillow and Safe in Sussex for their confidence in Yada.



784%

increase in the number of people trained from the previous year



supporting women who are some of the most vulnerable in our community

“It’s so amazing to see how the women respond to you, I wish we could bottle it.”

Probation Officer (March 2022)

Netreach is targeted across coastal West Sussex and remains our largest source of referrals with this being the entry point for **67%** of women supported this year.

“It’s an amazing joy to have you in my life... on my journey”
TEP Service User (May2022)

The Esther Project

Netreach (online outreach)

- > We contacted **213** women advertising as independent escorts online, by phone, to introduce The Esther Project (TEP) to them.
- > We had support conversations with **27** women

We sent links to safety information and our TEP website via a follow up text to

95
women



Cafe Drop In

- > We hosted our Worthing based cafe drop-in on **7** occasions between January and June.
- > We regularly supported **2** women through our TEP Drop-In with listening support, safety planning, free wellbeing packs, safety alarms, and signposting to other specialist services.

1:1, Tailored Practical and Emotional Support

We supported
34
women across the year

We continued to provide support to **10** existing service users

23 women were independent escorts who made self-referrals as a result of our online outreach (*Netreach*)

8 women were referred through partner organisations (drug & alcohol, probation and homelessness services)

We began support with **24** new service users

3 women were survivors of Modern Slavery, referred from Worthing Council, Emerging Futures and the Samaritans

We provided repeat support to **27** women and one off support to **7**

7 women received support to exit the sex industry

Our comprehensive exit support included:

- Regular listening and emotional support
- **Practical support, with:** securing private affordable accommodation for two women; housing applications; finding volunteer work; CV writing, job hunting & interview prep; registering with a GP/covid vaccines; accessing counselling; reporting to the police; meeting Universal Credit commitments; access to education; debt relief application; obtaining a Biometric Residence Permit; passport application; securing social enterprise work placements; provision of clothes; provision of house contents; mobile phone/laptop provision; free emergency food/toiletry parcels; supermarket vouchers.

Our outreach supports women to achieve their goals and make sustainable changes. We support women to overcome the barriers they face to exit the sex industry, to improve women's physical and emotional wellbeing, to decrease isolation and to increase safety.



“ Thanks for all your help. I'd be so lost and so stressed without your and the team's help. ”

TEP Service User (March 2022)

“ I tried to give up on sex work many times but I always came back to it. This time I feel like I stopped for good. My life changed. I changed. I started to appreciate a more stable income. When I suffered with PTSD I received more support from you and at the time it became more like therapy. I’m very grateful for all the help I got. Thank you! ”

TEP Service User (April 2022)



“ Was great to catch up and talk everything through, I just wanted to say again how helpful it has been to have support from you and The Esther Project. I think it’s really helped me to move forward in the direction I want to go so thank you! ”

TEP Service User (September 2022)

Practical Support

- We distributed **66** free well-being packs containing tailored safety information, safety alarms, personal items, sexual health items, toiletries and signposting information.
- We made **13** referrals to local Food Banks.
- We provided **14** emergency food parcels and **5** Christmas food hampers.
- We delivered **22** free toiletry packs.
- We distributed **19** £25 supermarket vouchers.
- We provided electric top-up to **two** women.

Partner Drop-Ins

We reached **39** women through partner drop-ins.

We attended the Worthing Women's Probation Breakfast fortnightly, delivering **7** well-being workshops and hosting two craft sessions and building relationships with service users.



We reached **17** women through our group work with Probation and supported **3** on an ongoing 1:1 basis.

We reached **8** women through our drop-ins and workshop delivery at Emerging Futures recovery accommodation.



We reached **4** women through our partnership with the Adur & Worthing Council Street Outreach team.

We reached **3** women through our workshop delivery at the Women's Drop-in collaboration with Turning Tides and Safe in Sussex, in Littlehampton.



We reached **3** women through Turning Tides St Clare's Drop-in in Worthing.

We reached **3** women through the Stonepillow Hub Drop-in in Bognor.



We reached **1** woman through our monthly drop-in at My Sister's House Women's Centre in Bognor.

“ Having you here regularly means a woman can approach you when she's ready without feeling like she has to tell Probation everything that's going on. ”

Probation Services Women's breakfast lead (September 2022)



“ I have started putting boundaries in my life, and things are starting to change. ”

TEP Workshop attendee (March 2022)

Well-being Workshops

- > We delivered a series of **6 well-being workshops** at Worthing Women's Probation Breakfast to **17** women at risk of exploitation on the subjects of self-care, self-esteem, boundaries, cultivating healthy relationships, promoting kindness and embracing positive change.
- > We delivered **3 individual well-being workshops** at: the Women's drop in collaboration, in Littlehampton, with Turning Tides and Safe in Sussex; Emerging Futures recovery accommodation and the Worthing Women's Probation breakfast.



“The lady who came to speak
to us was excellent.
Very informative and confident.”

Social Work BA Degree Student (November 2022)



Education Partnership Chichester University

- We have maintained our strong working relationship with staff at the University of Chichester.
- We attended the University Sexual Health and Guidance week, where we engaged with students and distributed 100 mini sexual health packs.
- We delivered two seminar sessions to 26 students on the Social Work degree apprenticeship course (March) and 20 students on the BA Social Work degree (November) as part of their ethics modules.
- We attended the Chichester campus drop-in, in partnership with the Universities well-being team.

“TEP delivered information very well, and invited discussions and exploration and reflection”

*Social Work Degree Apprenticeship
Student (March 2022)*

Sussex Police Partnership



- We have a seat on the monthly Sussex Police Sex Working Forum, providing input from our experience and **helping to shape policy**.
- We play an active role in hosting the Sussex Police Building Trust & Confidence sub-group, at which service users were supported to **share their experiences**.
- We spent **6.5 hours** supporting local Police operations and welfare visits as part of Operation Aidant (targeting modern slavery).
- We **supported six women** through Police operations, providing support and advocacy as well as free well-being packs.
- We were **invited to present** at the Sussex Anti-Slavery Network in February - sharing experience of mapping online indicators of sexual exploitation and have since joined the Network.

Network

- We **maintained a seat** on both the Arun & Chichester and West Sussex Violence Against Women and Girls Forums and regularly attended network meetings.
- We sat on the Pan Sussex Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership Group.
- We attend the Beyond the Gaze Forum, **benefitting from the experiences of other services** across the UK.



Yada Training Delivery

- Throughout 2022 we have **greatly expanded our training delivery**.
- We **delivered 8 in person training sessions, to 99 frontline professionals** from: Chichester University Wellbeing Team; GBMET Student Support Team; Emerging Futures staff; My Sister's House staff team; Adur & Worthing Council Communities and Wellbeing Team; Bognor & Chichester Police; Chichester District Social Prescribers and WORTH Domestic Violence service.
- We **launched online training** via Eventbrite this year and delivered 7 online training sessions to 69 frontline professionals including staff from: Sussex Probation Women's Rehabilitation Team; YMCA; Sussex Police; Women's Aid; WSCC Safeguarding Adults Hub; Survivors Network and The Nelson Trust Women's Community Service.
- We **delivered 2 training seminars to 46 Social Work Students** at the University of Chichester.
- **Our training aims to:**
 - **raise awareness** about the complex issues faced by women in the sex industry
 - **help equip** staff to better support women at risk
 - **combat issues** with stigma and judgement
- **Our training includes:** an overview of TEP, reasons why people might sell/exchange sex, the spectrum of choice, risks, signs, stigma, communication, safety and support.
- We also delivered **three awareness raising sessions** sharing about the realities of the sex industry locally and our work to combat sexual exploitation, at St Matthews Church, Tarring, Redeemer Church, Worthing and West Worthing Baptist Church.

“ Thank you so much for coming and doing the training with the team, everyone said that it was not only delivered to a high standard but also how essential it was.. ”

Emerging Futures (March 2022)

OUR FUNDERS

The team and trustees would also like to thank all our funders for partnering with us and supporting us in our vision to see a world with no place for sexual exploitation, where women can live a life free from abuse, stigma and violence.



The
Henry Smith
Charity



LOTTERY FUNDED



Design and layout by Pepperfish.co.uk
Pepperfish offer a creative service to businesses,
charities and churches around the world

