



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Staff members



Helen



Beth R



Kath



Candice



Beth P



Hilda



Louise

Trustees



James



Elizabeth



Helen



Petula



Anna

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

2023 has been a year of exciting new project developments, strengthening our work to support some of the most hidden and marginalised women in our community. In particular seeing the launch of a new In-House Counselling service for women supported through The Esther Project and the terrific expansion of our workshop delivery in collaboration with local partners.

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 **17%** increase in people trained from the previous year, training **200** professionals over 18 sessions as well as **51** 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 **217** women in total throughout the year, representing a **29%** increase from 2022.



launching the new In-House Counselling service for women supported through The Esther Project



29% increase in women supported throughout the year

“ Thank you for being the one who actually listens and is there for me ”

TEP Service User (October 2023)

Our partnership work

This is a key aspect of our service delivery, enabling us to support women who can be difficult to reach.

In 2023:

- **66%** of women supported through TEP were self-referrals as a result of our online outreach
- **10%** of women supported through TEP were referred from drug & alcohol services
- **7%** of women supported through TEP were referred from domestic violence services
- **7%** of women supported through TEP were referred by existing service users
- **5%** of women supported through TEP were referred from probation services
- **5%** of women supported through TEP were survivors of modern slavery

“ I want to thank you for all your help. Last year was one of the worst years of my life and without your help and support I would have definitely cracked-up ”

TEP Service User (January 2023)

We are thankful to Worthing and Littlehampton Probation Services, My Sister's House, Emerging Futures, Turning Tides, CGL, Stonepillow and Safe in Sussex for their confidence in Yada.

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. We 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.



“ I really appreciate meeting you because I can just talk without filtering or fear of judgement ”

TEP Service User (March 2023)



The Esther Project

Netreach (online outreach)

Netreach is targeted across coastal West Sussex and remains our largest source of referrals with this being the entry point for **66%** of women supported this year.

We contacted **248** women who were advertising as independent escorts online by phone to introduce The Esther Project (TEP) to them.

We had support conversations with **75** women.

We sent links to safety information and our TEP website via a follow up text to **121** women.

“ I’m so glad (the TEP team) were there... I wish every girl who does this sort of work had someone like (support worker). I’d have been really stuck without them ”

TEP Service User (April 2023)

1:1, Tailored Practical and Emotional Support

We supported
42
women across the year

We continued to provide support to **11** existing service users

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

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

13 women received exit support

We began support with **31** new service users

2 women were survivors of Modern Slavery, referred from Worthing Council and Emerging Futures.

We provided repeat support to **38** women and one off support to **4**

3 women were referred by existing service users

Our support includes but is not limited to:

listening, advocacy, housing, benefits, mental health, employment, education, counselling, safety planning, debt relief, immigration, volunteering, reporting crime, work experience, as well as signposting to specialist substance misuse and domestic violence services.

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.



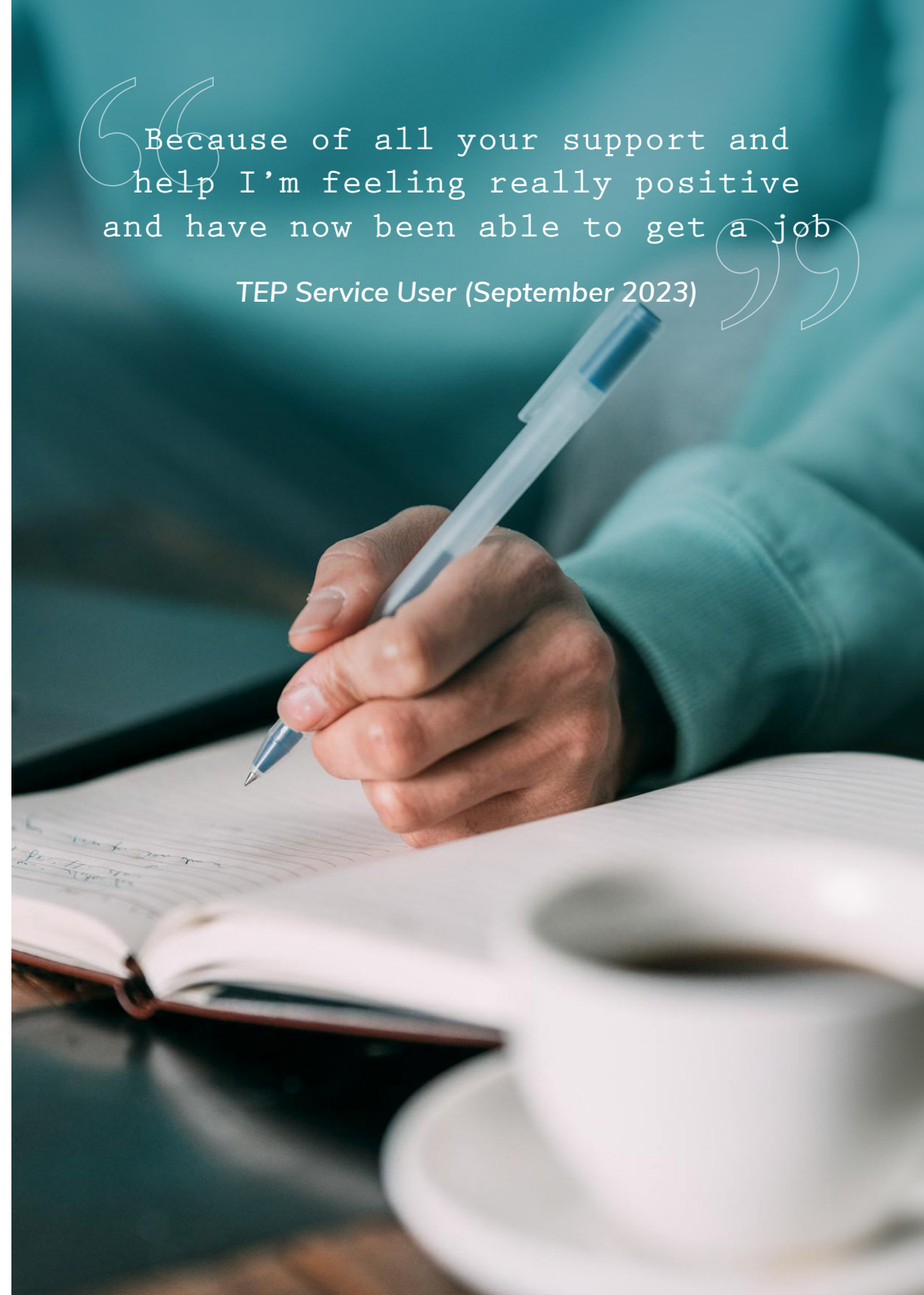
“ Thank you for everything that you and the YADA team has done for me to achieve a better future. One word to describe, ‘gratitude’ - today and always ”

TEP Service User (May 2023)

IMPACT

Of the 42 women that we supported on a 1:1 basis we supported:

- 24 with listening support/reducing isolation
- 2 to stay clean from drugs/alcohol/access rehabilitation
- 2 with safe affordable accommodation
- 4 with property maintenance/furniture provision
- 1 to be reunited with her daughter, from care
- 7 into employment
- 1 with a business start-up
- 3 into college/university
- 5 with attendance at professional appointments/police reporting/court cases
- 2 with accessing debt relief
- 4 with managing/accessing benefits
- 1 with basic admin skills
- 4 with professional in-house counselling
- 4 with accessing mental health services



“Because of all your support and help I’m feeling really positive and have now been able to get a job”

TEP Service User (September 2023)



“ With Christmas so close, I’m really struggling. Thank you for bringing me a Christmas hamper and food voucher, I really appreciate it ”

TEP Service User (December 2023)

Practical Support

- We distributed **69** free well-being packs containing tailored safety information, safety alarms, personal items, sexual health items, toiletries and signposting information
- We distributed **31** mini-wellbeing packs
- We made **18** referrals to local Food Banks
- We provided **19** emergency food parcels and 13 Christmas food hampers
- We delivered **27** emergency toiletry packs
- We distributed **22 £25** supermarket vouchers
- We provided furniture for one women

In-House counselling

In June 2023 we launched a new In-house counselling service.

We provided a minimum of **12** free counselling sessions delivered by a local BACP registered counsellor, with considerable experience of working in the field of sexual violence, who has undertaken both Yada’s external and in-house training and has a clear understanding of the barriers and complexities faced by women in the sex industry.

Our experience, backed up by research, demonstrates that women engaged in the sex industry want “non-judgemental healthcare provision, mental health support and access to talking therapies”. It is also important for them to be “accepted” and that “counsellors have an understanding of sex work”. (Smith et al., 2021)

We provided **60** counselling sessions to **4** women helping them to **build resilience and recover** from the impact of abuse, stigma and violence.



“ Counselling has changed my life and kept me going through really dark times. I have learnt so much about myself and feel positive about the future for the first time in my life ”

TEP Service User (December 2023)

Partner Drop-Ins

We reached **54** women through partner drop-ins.

We attended the Worthing Women's Probation Breakfast fortnightly, delivering workshops, hosting craft sessions and building relationships with service users.



We reached **21** women through our group work with Worthing Probation and supported **one** on an ongoing 1:1 basis.

We reached **9** women through our attendance at Littlehampton Probation Hub and received **one** referral for ongoing support.



We reached **7** women through our drop-ins and workshop delivery at Emerging Futures hostel accommodation.

We reached **3** women through our partnership with the Adur & Worthing Council Street Outreach team.



We reached **5** women through Turning Tides St Claire's Drop-in in Worthing.

We reached **5** women through our attendance and delivery of the 'Sexual Controller' session of the Safe In Sussex Freedom Programme.



We reached **4** women through our monthly drop-in and workshop delivery at Broadwater Community Hub.

“ Lovely, as always, to have you with us today.
We very much appreciate YADA's input to the project ”

Probation Officer (March 2023)



“ I realise I'm worth more than I feel and I will definitely put changes in place because of this workshop ”

Workshop Attendee -
Emerging Futures September 2023

Well-being Workshops

- We delivered our series of **6** well-being workshops on 3 occasions to **16** women at Worthing Probation, Emerging Futures Recovery Accommodation and at Broadwater Community Hub.
- Topics include: Boundaries, Change, Healthy Relationships, Kindness, Self Care and Self-Esteem.
- Feedback from **7** attendees demonstrated a **48%** increase in Self-Esteem, a **24%** increase in confidence to set boundaries and a **30%** increase in confidence to cope with change as a result of our workshops.
- **100%** of attendees would recommend our workshops to others.

“The woman who ran the session was incredibly inspiring. I learnt about the importance of trauma informed practice and language”

Social Work BA Degree Student (November 2023)



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 well-being packs.
- We delivered two seminar sessions to 30 students on the Social Work degree apprenticeship course (March) and 21 students on the BA Social Work degree (November) as part of their ethics modules.

“ Brilliant Training session. I’ve learnt about different approaches to supporting women which I will take into the workplace ”

*Social Work Direct Access Student
(March 2023)*

Police Partnership and Supporting Survivors of Modern Slavery



- We sat on the monthly Sussex Police Sex Working Forum, providing input from our experience and **helping to shape policy**.
- We played an active role in hosting the Sussex Police Building Trust & Confidence sub-group, at which service users were invited to **share their experiences**.
- We sat on the **Sussex Anti-Slavery Network**, where we both contributed to and benefited from local learning and insights. 5% of our 1:1 service users were **survivors** of Modern Slavery.
- We delivered training to **10** local Police Sergeants at the NPT Development Day in Chichester in December.

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 attended the Beyond the Gaze Forum, **benefitting from the experiences of other services** across the UK.



Yada Training Delivery

- Throughout 2023 we have **consolidated our training delivery**.
- We **delivered 11 in person training sessions to 147 frontline professionals** from Family Support Work, Littlehampton Foodbank, My Sister's House, Safe in Sussex, Broadwater Parish, Littlehampton Probation Hub, Changing Futures, Adur & Worthing Wellbeing Network and Chichester Police Sergeants.
- We **delivered 7 online training sessions to 53 frontline professionals** including staff from Turning Tides Homelessness Service, Stonewater Women's Refuge and Chichester University Wellbeing Team.
- We **delivered 2 training seminars to 51 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 **two interviews/awareness raising sessions** sharing about the realities of the sex industry locally and our work to combat sexual exploitation at St Mary's Church, Broadwater and Redeemer Church, Worthing.
- Feedback from **80** trainees rated the quality of our training at **9.28 out of 10**.
- Feedback from **80** trainees demonstrated a **63.54% increase in confidence** to support women engaging in the sex industry as a result of our training.

“ An excellent session - skilled facilitator who approached this topic with sensitivity and care ”

My Sisters House (September 2023)

OUR FUNDERS

We 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 FOUR WINDS TRUST



LOTTERY FUNDED

Redeemer.



Worthing Baptist Church



Society of the Holy Child Jesus
ACTIONS NOT WORDS



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