



CSE Aware bulletin

Issue 1: Housing

Welcome to our very first CSE Aware bulletin! This issue is dedicated to housing, one of the top concerns highlighted to us by the women we have worked with.

With a shortage of affordable housing, increasing living costs and the displacement of women and children into the UK due to conflict, it is very timely to talk about how housing can become a pathway into selling or exchanging sex.

In this bulletin you will find our insights into the main housing issues for women selling or exchanging sex in Scotland an interview with SAY Women around homelessness and exploitation, details of our first event, practice resources, interesting reads and more. We hope these help you to continue developing your practice.

The CSE Aware Resource Worker

“I want my own house, to have my daughter back and really just to know myself and to be settled in my life.”

— Joanne, *Inside Outside*



Insights

Housing – More than a roof over a head



Housing and homelessness services have a key role in supporting women involved in selling or exchanging sex, as do the workers in other services who come across women who directly or indirectly disclose housing issues. So what are the key housing issues for women involved in selling or exchanging sex?

In this blog you will find out a summary of issues we have identified through our work with women and services in Scotland.

[Read more](#)

A WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

SAY Women – Housing, young women and trauma

We interviewed Pam Hunter and Zoe Taylor, Chief Executive and Services Manager of SAY Women, about their model of support for young women who have become homeless due to sexual violence. We also discuss the realities of exploitation and grooming and delve into what it means to be 'trauma-informed' in practice.

[Read more](#)

A worker's perspective



with SAY Women

FROM THE NETWORK

How can workers in Scotland better support women who sell or exchange sex?

The Encompass Network held an event showcasing the resources available to improve responses to women who sell or exchange sexual activity in Scotland. In this blog, we share the

reflections of the workers attending on how to improve responses to women.

[Read more](#)



Practice resources

- [CLiCK bitesize – housing](#)
A training resource exploring the housing needs of women involved in the 'sex industry'. Includes PowerPoint slides and training notes.
- [CLiCK Cast Episode 5: Housing](#)
Created by CLiCK, a service that supported women in Scotland's sex industry, this podcast episode discusses how the pandemic impacted the housing needs of women. [Download show notes.](#)
- [Briefing – A New Deal for Tenants](#)
Briefing by the Women's Support Project outlining the key issues for women who sell or exchange sex in the rented sector.
- [Consultation response– A New Deal for Tenants](#)
The Women's Support Project response to the Scottish Government's consultation on supporting women selling or exchanging sex in the rented sector.

OTHER RESOURCES

- [A Review of the literature on sex workers and social exclusion](#)
- [Domestic abuse: a good practice guide for social landlords](#)
- [Sex for rent in Scotland – Shelter Scotland briefing](#)
- [Universal Credit and “survival sex”](#)
- [The housing needs and experiences of homeless women involved in street sex work in Stoke-on-Trent](#)

CSE Aware update

Our website is up and running and there's more to come...

Last month we launched the [CSE Aware website](#), a place where workers can find resources, information, research, the voices of women with lived experience and more to inform their practice.

We have big plans for the website and one of our main ideas is to make it easy to explore the different topics affecting women who sell or exchange sex,

such as housing, problematic substance use, abuse and violence, immigration. But we are not there yet...

Our website is a work in progress and our Resource Worker is working behind the scenes to unveil the next phase after May. In the meantime, **we would love to hear your feedback**: is there anything you would like to see in our website? Would you be interested in sharing your own ideas and practice? **Please get in touch**, we really want workers to help us shape this website.

"There needs to be proper concrete support for women. They need secure accommodation, maybe supported living at the start. If they need to, get them on a script. Help them make it to appointments and things like that. Different services need to come to the women, certainly at the start. Have lots of stuff happening through the day to keep women occupied, to get them involved. There needs to be staff around during the day and at night 'cos I also know that it's sometimes at night time, the drugs get into your head and you just need somebody there and then.

Most of all you need people who are genuinely interested in helping these women.

— Sarah Jane, *Inside Outside*



Events and training

CSE AWARE EVENT

Housing and women who sell or exchange sex



Housing and women who sell or exchange sex

26 May 2022
11:30am - 1pm

A free event for front-line workers and services



Our first CSE Aware event will explore the housing needs of women involved in selling or exchanging sex, highlighting good practice in local strategic approaches and using case studies to point out the challenges and opportunities workers can have when considering how to respond to women's housing needs in practice.

[Register here](#)

TRAINING

Childhood sexual abuse and the links to housing and homelessness

9 and 16 May, or 4 July

SAY Woman are offering a course (either full day or in two separate sessions) exploring the links between childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and homelessness, and looking at issues around tenancy sustainment and cyclic homelessness.

[Register here](#)

Interesting reads

Sugar babies on TikTok: experts think the trend is promoting dangerous misconceptions

A growing trend on TikTok is promoting 'sugar baby' relationships, which involve young women providing emotional or sexual favors to usually older men in exchange for money or luxuries. This article points out how this trend is exposing young women to dangerous misconceptions about what it really means to engage in this activity.

Women face growing gender housing gap as rents, house prices and wage inequality spiral

The vulnerability of women with No Recourse to Public Funds, sexual violence and exploitation

Surge in men searching for Ukrainian escorts on Irish sites

Bittersweet first year for Canada's only shelter for sex workers

'Trauma deadlines' for trafficking victims would have stopped me seeking help

Hidden homelessness: 'I couldn't prove I was estranged from my mum'

Services and campaigns

HIV self-tests now available in Scotland

HIV self-testing kits can now be ordered online. They are delivered by post in discreet packaging, with results within 15 minutes of taking the test.

[Read more](#)



Online Pimping: How to stop websites profiting from sexual exploitation

This webinar held by the campaign *A Model For Scotland* highlights through expert voices how Scotland's outdated laws currently allow pimping websites to facilitate and profit from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

[Read more](#)

New chatbot from Report Harmful Content and Revenge Porn Helpline

The Revenge Porn Helpline and Report Harmful Content have developed a new out of hours support system for their clients to get interim support: a chatbot which covers both helplines.

[Read more](#)

Creative spotlight

Artist gives a voice to survivors of human trafficking

US survivor-activist Kendall Alaimo created the performance piece *Red Seats*, which involved shipping red seats to universities across the globe to raise awareness about the importance of access to education for survivors of trafficking.

[Watch the video](#)



Upcycling architecture to fund the next generation of young creatives

Glasgow's Battlefield Rest is inviting individuals to upcycle its iconic rooftop columns and turn them into beautiful works of art for sale. All funds raised will be donated to the Articulate Cultural Trust to connect young people to opportunities in the creative industries.

[Read more](#)

“I love having my good wee hoose for me and my kids. I want to get clean, get a job – as a support worker or something wi' either drugs or with women who are involved in prostitution or sexual assault. Got money coming in, work for it. Do proper work for it. I wouldane go back to that life, the drugs and prostitution. I would never want to go there again. I couldnae even imagine doing it now.”

– Natalia, *Inside Outside*



Grab a cuppa, let's talk about...

The emotional burden of support work



Laura Jones, a PhD Student at the University of Dundee, a lecturer and independent researcher tells us about the high levels of emotional burden she found among the 27 workers she spoke to in services across Scotland supporting women who sell sex.

"Lone working, feeling isolated, and sitting apart from organisations were some of the main concerns, and reflected the high levels of burnout and high staff turnover in the sector. One worker reflected:

'If I'm not checking in on her nobody is' - this feeling of being women's sole support can lead to a sense of personal responsibility, and a reluctance to adhere to a work-life balance. This is particularly relevant in the light of the strong personal motivation that nearly all of the sector workers I spoke to felt.

For many, supervision or the opportunity to discuss some of the traumatic events disclosed to them was the first element of their work to be dropped. Workers felt they do not have the hours in the day to support the women – and would not feel comfortable taking time for supervision when they felt there were crises they should

be attending to. In this sector the level of need and risk workers are attending to means there is always someone having a worse day – and some workers ignored their own need for self-care and burnout prevention as a result. For others, they are simply the only person in their organisation doing this kind of work – and they don't feel that their other team members would understand, or they worry about traumatising them by sharing what has been disclosed.

Overall, the emotional burden for workers in this sector is high – and conversations must be ongoing about creating a collaborative, supportive and safe environment to facilitate workers doing this highly valuable work."

Tell us – How do you cope with the emotional burden of supporting service users with complex needs?

Is there anything that works for you or that you need? In our next bulletin, we want to share what workers are finding helpful - or not - when it comes to their own wellbeing. You can [send us your thoughts using this form](#) (we will only share responses with your permission and you can remain anonymous).

Over to you!

What issues related to women who sell or exchange sex would you like to know more about?

We will use your answers to curate the content of our next bulletin. All answers will remain anonymous.

[Share your thoughts](#)

Women's Support Project

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