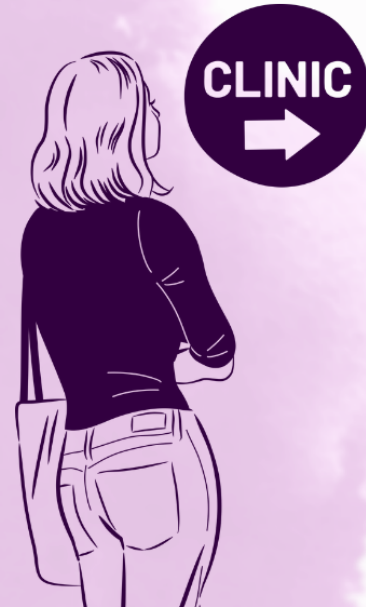




CSE Aware bulletin

Issue 7: **SEXUAL HEALTH**



Dear reader,

This month we explore a topic that historically has carried huge stigma for women involved in selling or exchanging sex – sexual health. When thinking of sexual health, what often comes to mind are STIs, reproductive organs and contraception. But sexual health is so much more than that.

In this issue we look beyond the purely clinical lens and consider women's sexual wellbeing.

This month's worker's perspective also features an interview with housing workers who reflect on the importance of creating safe spaces for women to open up about their sexual health concerns. Alongside this, you will find reports, research and other interesting reads to increase your understanding of this topic.

We hope you find this bulletin thought-provoking and a new way to consider women's sexual health and wellbeing needs.

Until next time,

The CSE Aware Information and Resources Officer

“It did happen twice in the past yes [condom accidents]... I got very concerned ... And I came straight to the clinic to have the test... if you plan to have sex with somebody without condom, without protection, you do that because you want to... but when you don't plan [that] and it happens, oh my god, that's so scary! ... It's so much risky. Imagine if you get something really serious from many of these men? So, your money won't buy your health.”

– Luciana, woman involved in selling sex, from *Confronting the Harm* report



SEXUAL HEALTH INSIGHTS

Selling sex and women's sexual health – risks, challenges and reducing harm



Women involved in selling or exchanging sex use complex strategies to protect their health and keep safe when seeing clients – and sexual health is one of their key concerns. Yet, their involvement comes with unique risks and challenges which can hinder women's ability to manage their sexual health and impact their overall wellbeing.

In this article we explore women's strategies to keep healthy and the ways in which these are often overridden, and we reflect on why all types of services must play a part in supporting women's sexual health and wellbeing.

Keep reading

A WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

Interview with Simon Community Scotland: opening up conversations about sexual health



...as support workers, we are supporting individuals with their physical health, their mental health, addiction, housing... if something is going on with their sexual health, it's just as important, because everything is connected. It's a circle where one issue can impact the others.

Harriet, Support Worker at Simon Community Scotland



A worker's perspective

This month, we chat with Harriet and Olivia, two support workers at Simon Community Scotland who have worked with women in homelessness for several years. Some of the women they support have directly or indirectly disclosed involvement in selling or exchanging sex.

Sexual health is a topic that regularly comes up as part of the overall wellbeing of the women in their service. Here, we discuss how, as housing staff, they have created a space where women feel safe and confident to talk about their sexual health and why it is so vital that all types of services supporting women open up these conversations too.

Keep reading

SEXUAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Sexual health practice points

We have identified some steps you can take when responding to the sexual health and wellbeing needs of women selling or exchanging sex. [Read more](#)

Resources for women

- [HIV self-test](#)
- [Medication to prevent HIV \(PrEP and PEP\)](#)
- [Information about PrEP for people who sell or exchange sex](#)
- [NHS abortion services in Scotland](#)
- [The different types of contraception](#)

Research, reports and other information

- [CLiCK Cast Episode 6: Sexual Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [CLiCK sexual health podcast show notes](#)
- [Encompass focus on... sexual health and CSE](#)
- [Confronting the harm: the impacts of prostitution on women's health](#)
- [Understanding the sexual health and blood borne virus risk behaviours of defined 'at risk' groups](#)

[More resources](#)

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Webinar: Sexual health and women involved in selling or exchanging sex



Sexual health and women involved in selling or exchanging sex

26 April 2023
11:30am - 1pm

A free event for front-line workers and support services



Wed 26 April 2023, 11:30am - 1pm

Sexual health, wellbeing, and relationships are key issues for women who sell or exchange sex. Very often, a focus is put on physical health issues such as risks with sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses, but women's needs are much more complex.

This free webinar will offer services and organisations an opportunity to explore the sexual health and wellbeing needs of women involved in selling or exchanging sex.

[Register here](#)

Conference: A Misogyny Law for Scotland: What are Women's Views?

12 May 2023, 11:00am

The Scottish Women's Convention are organising an event where women can share their views and experiences of misogynistic behaviours. This will inform a response to the Scottish Government consultation on a new law that will criminalise misogyny.

[More information](#)

CSE Aware bespoke training

Ongoing

We offer training tailored to the needs of your organisation or team. Sessions can be online or in person and can include basic awareness of commercial sexual exploitation, its links to abuse and violence, routine enquiry, trauma-informed responses and more.

[More information](#)

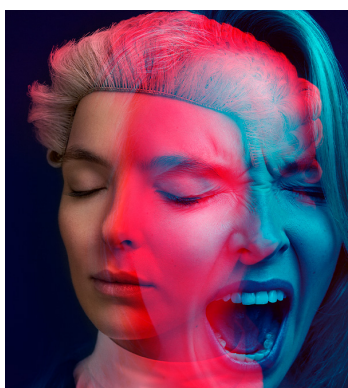
ON THE BLOG



Locked at the Lock: the forgotten history of the women of Lock Hospital

In 19th century Glasgow, hundreds of women were incarcerated in the Lock Hospital to 'prevent' the spread of sexually transmitted infections. In this blog we trace back some of this history and remember the lives of the women of the Lock.

[Read more](#)



THEATRE REVIEW: Prima Facie

Our colleague Claire shares her impressions of the highly anticipated theatre play 'Prima Facie.' A story featuring actress Jodie Comer (*Killing Eve*) and dealing with the complexities of sexual violence and justice.

[Read more](#)

Pilot announced to improve sexual health service responses to women who sell sex

The Women's Support Project has linked with Public Health Scotland for an exciting new pilot focusing on improving how sexual health service respond to women involved in selling or exchanging sex.

[Read more](#)

Scottish Government launches principles to inform a framework to address prostitution in Scotland

Having launched the principles that will underpin a framework to address prostitution in Scotland, in this blog the Scottish Government write about their vision for these principles.

[Read more](#)

INTERESTING READS

[VIDEO: A woman shares her experience of being trafficked by GirlsDoPorn](#)

[The charity helping women move out of prostitution into work](#)

[For teenage girls, escaping harassment, revenge porn and deepfake porn is impossible](#)

[REPORT: Prevalence of involvement in the sex industry amongst Domestic Homicide Reviews in England](#)

[Ukrainian refugees increasingly targeted for sexual exploitation, research finds](#)

["Hateful ideology of toxic masculinity spread around the world by social media influencers must be taken more seriously" – Talat Yaqoob](#)

[REPORT: Women with learning disabilities experience of gender-based violence in Scotland](#)

“I think how [selling sex] has changed me is - I'd say that sexually ... I begrudge giving sex free. If someone's paying then I'll do it but if they're not paying then I don't want it. It's like when you over-do something it becomes a chore. It's like if you work in a bar all day and you don't want to then go and sit in a bar after your shift. It's kind of the same thing. So for most of my life it's been really difficult to hold down any kind of relationships with anyone.”

– Cassie, *Inside Outside*



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