



# CSE Aware bulletin

Issue 7:

## MONEY AND POVERTY



Dear reader,

Welcome to our CSE Aware bulletin. This time we explore a crucial need for women involved in selling or exchanging sex: money.

In this issue, our insights article looks at how poverty can be the reason women decide to start selling sex but also something that continues to be a worry throughout women's involvement. For our practitioner interview, we hear from the Scottish Women's Budget Group and how women's poverty relates to selling or exchanging sex. We have also included guests blogs from two innovative projects: Financially Included and My Body Back.

We hope this issue brings food for thought on the complexities of money, how money and selling sex are interrelated, the dynamics of money in the 'sex industry' and women's experiences.

Until next time,

*The CSE Aware Information and Resources Officer*

“I didn’t go out looking [to sell sex], I said no at first. It wasn’t until about three weeks later that I said ‘OK, yeah,’ because I thought I need to, because I need money [...] It was during the eight weeks that I was waiting to get the Universal Credit. I couldn’t wait eight weeks for money. I just couldn’t. It definitely wasn’t a decision I took lightly.”

– Julie, woman interviewed  
for a BBC news report



## MONEY AND POVERTY INSIGHTS

**Money and selling sex – a complex relationship**



Poverty and lack of choices are some of the key reasons why women may decide to start selling sex, with the money gained often used to cover their most basic needs such as food, housing and childcare. Yet, many women have described how the amount of money made through selling sex can be irregular and unstable

In this article, we delve into the specific financial pressures that women experience before becoming involved as well as during their involvement.

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**A WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE**

# Interview with Heather Williams from the Scottish Women's Budget Group

“

... becoming involved [in selling sex] can actually be about having the opportunity to earn more money, to earn it in a potentially shorter time, and to do so in hours that suit other responsibilities. Selling sex is often portrayed as something that's quite lucrative, and on the face of it, it can look like it's something you can make a lot of money out of in the short term, but there can be huge implications for women's lives in the longer term.

*Heather, Lead Trainer at Scottish Women's Budget Group*



**A worker's perspective**

In this interview, Heather Williams discusses why money and poverty are issues that were there for women before the current crises, how financial hardship can be one of the main drivers into selling and exchanging sex and the practical things that frontline workers can do when supporting women involved or considering becoming involved in selling or exchanging sex.

[Keep reading](#)

**MONEY AND POVERTY RESOURCES**



## Money practice points

On this page you will find some steps you can take to respond sensitively to the financial and money needs of women involved in selling or exchanging sex.

[Read more](#)

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## Research, reports and other information

[CLiCK Cast Episode 2: Money](#)

[Encompass Cost of Living briefing](#)

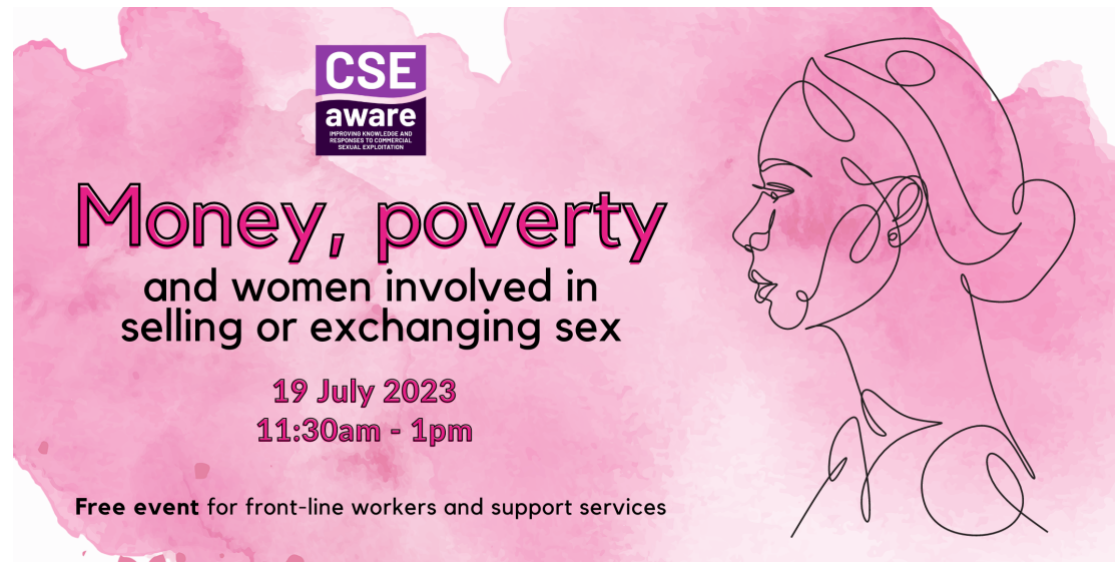
[Universal Credit and “survival sex” - House of Commons report](#)

[A Review of the Literature on Sex Workers and Social Exclusion](#)

[“It’s hard work being poor” Women’s Experiences of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in Scotland](#)

[More resources](#)

## Webinar: Money, poverty and women involved in selling or exchanging sex



**Wed 19 July 2023, 11:30am - 1pm**

Join us for a free webinar for frontline services where we will explore the financial needs of women who sell or exchange sex, including good practice examples.

[Register here](#)

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## Non-fatal strangulation training for professionals

**Thurs 15 June, 10.30am – 1pm**

Non-fatal strangulation is a known way for perpetrators of domestic abuse to control and intimidate their victim. In this free webinar, Safe Lives will discuss the law in England, its prevalence, the links to coercive control and sexual violence, and the impact on survivors.

[Register here](#)

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## Financially included training

**Ongoing**

The Financially Included team can offer training to workers who wish to expand their understanding of economic abuse, how to identify instances of abuse and support options for survivors. For more information, contact them on [financiallyincluded@gemap.co.uk](mailto:financiallyincluded@gemap.co.uk).

## ON THE BLOG



### "There is a need for women who sell or exchange sex to have a crisis fund, not just during COVID" – Encompass Network

The Encompass fund was created during COVID to offer crisis money to women selling or exchanging sex. Linda Thompson, coordinator of Encompass, tells us about the fund, how women benefited and her vision for a long term financial solution for women.

[Read more](#)



## Addressing the financial impacts of gender-based violence

In this blog, Robyn and Jitka write about their Glasgow-based project for women experiencing economic abuse and explain what frontline workers can do to address this issue.

[Read more](#)

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## A unique trauma-informed sexual health support for survivors of sexual violence

My Body Back is a sexual health service for survivors of sexual violence. Its approach has succeeded in removing barriers for survivors needing a cervical screening. In this blog, Dr Alyson Welsh tells us how this innovative project has addressed a gap for survivors.

[Read more](#)

## INTERESTING READS

[The Holbeck experiment: the city that tried to make sex work safer](#)

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[VIDEO: The Dangerous Rise of Andrew Tate](#)

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[The Mental Health Repercussions Of OnlyFans Stardom](#)



['I got a brain injury and a life sentence': the hidden legacy of male violence against women](#)

[VIDEO: CSE spotlight event during Scotland's 16 days of action](#)

[Call for evidence - Racially Minoritised Women and Violence Against Women & Girls](#)

[What is happening to the body following trauma? A brief introduction to polyvagal theory.](#)

[RESOURCE: The gender of power: free resource for classrooms](#)

## OVER TO YOU!



### **Take our survey: Facilitating disclosures of selling or exchanging sex**

We want to hear worker's views on the challenges women and staff in different sectors face when it comes to disclosures of selling or exchanging sex. You can take this short survey whether or not you have supported women selling or exchanging sex.

[Take survey](#)

“The way it was described to me it was easy, easy money... yeah. It'd be easy. And it wasn't... The more money that comes into your hand, the quicker you spend it. I went into it to get money and at one stage I had some savings but they don't last. The money doesn't last. You can make the money but once you're not new anymore, the money is harder to come by.”

– Katie, *Inside Outside*



## **CSE Aware**

an initiative of the Women's Support Project

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