

## Thank you!

Thanks to all the projects that have so generously given us their time and shared their expertise over the past couple of months. We know that you are all over-stretched and under-funded, and we are incredibly grateful that you've taken time out of your busy days to contribute to this research.

Jim at Ipswich Community Safety, Ipswich  
Cheryl and Sharon at the LEA Project, Eaves, Lambeth  
Helen, Marie Laure, Roberta and Nadine at the Make a Change team, Suffolk Council, Ipswich  
Mary at Look Ahead Aldgate Hostel, Tower Hamlets  
All the staff at the Nia Project, Hackney  
All our colleagues at the POPPY Project, Eaves, Lambeth  
Pat and Rachel at St Mungo's Cedars Road hostel, Wandsworth  
All the staff at St Mungo's Palace Road hostel, Southwark  
Alan at Suffolk Constabulary, Ipswich  
Simon at Suffolk DAAT, Ipswich  
Amanda at Suffolk NHS, Ipswich

Most of all, thanks to the 83 women who have shared their stories with us so far. This research is only possible because of your generosity and openness.

## What's happening next

Over the next couple of months, we're planning to:

- \* Conduct the first phase of our research in the Southampton research site
- \* Return to Leeds to continue the first phase of the research in that site, and begin the second phase of the research re-interviewing women exiting prostitution.
- \* Finish the first phase of interviewing with women exiting from indoor prostitution and women who were trafficked into prostitution.
- \* Develop the coding framework for analysing the qualitative research data.

## Do you work with women involved in indoor prostitution?

## Are you, or have you been, involved in indoor prostitution yourself? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Research participants receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher, a journal and a pen, as a token of thanks for their time. Interviews generally take around 1.5 hours.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to participate in this research, please contact Shannon, PE:ER Administrator:

Tel: 020 7840 7110

Email: [shannon.harvey@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:shannon.harvey@eaveshousing.co.uk)

[www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith\\_Research\\_And\\_Development/PeerProject.php](http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith_Research_And_Development/PeerProject.php)

## PE:ER close up

Laura joined the PE:ER team in October as a Research Intern, working 1.5 days per week.

**I decided to intern with the PE:ER Project because....** I have always been interested in issues and crimes affecting women, particularly domestic violence, rape and prostitution. Alongside my Masters I wanted to gain some practical experience within a research team – the PE:ER project was the perfect combination.

**What I like most about working with PE:ER is...** hearing the experiences and lives of the women who have been involved in prostitution. I also enjoy being part of a research project that will be a significant contribution towards the academic work on exiting, and most importantly help inform the support and services that help women exit prostitution.

**When I finish my Masters degree I hope to...** work in social research, hopefully in an area related to my main interests. I also want to do some travelling and see some more of the world!



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## PE:ER Project Newsletter

No. 4, April 2010

The PE:ER Project (Prostitution Exiting: Engaging through Research) began in June 2009, a joint research project between Eaves and London South Bank University (LSBU) to assess the effectiveness of interventions designed to support women in England who want to leave prostitution. Since then, we've been developing a research project that is academically robust, yet still places the needs of our research participants – women involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution – at the centre of our approach.

## March and April on PE:ER

- \* The research team held two data analysis meetings, to begin developing the framework for analysing the interview data.
- \* The third Advisory Group meeting was held at LSBU, with eight of our twelve Advisory Group members present. Group members provided feedback and advice to the research team on the progress of the research and ethical considerations.
- \* A strategic meeting was held between PE:ER and our colleagues in the LEA Project, Eaves' support and advice service for women exiting from prostitution. This meeting sought to ensure good communication and referrals pathways between the two projects.
- \* The first phase of our Community Survey was closed at the beginning of March, and the second phase of the survey commenced. Phase Two involves targeting of engaged community activists through neighbourhood groups.
- \* Research Officer Helen Atkins, Link Officer Lisa Reynolds and Administrator Shannon Harvey attended two lectures from LSBU's MSc Qualitative Research course on data analysis methodology.
- \* Helen, Lisa and Shannon joined LSBU Senior Research Fellow Helen Easton, Eaves Lilith R&D manager Ruth Breslin and PE:ER Volunteer Research Assistants Linnéa Osterman and Sophie Howes on training in using NVIVO8, a qualitative data analysis software package, at LSBU.

## Where we've been

Following our Advisory Group meeting in March, we agreed as a team that our research should be restricted to seven sites across England: London, Doncaster, Ipswich, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield and Southampton. By the end of March, we completed our first-round interviewing of women involved in on-street prostitution with interviews in London at St Mungo's Cedars Road and Palace Road hostels and the Nia Project.

Helen Atkins and Lisa Reynolds spent two days in Ipswich at the end of March to conduct the first round of interviews at that research site. They conducted interviews with four women exiting from prostitution, five interviews with practitioners working with women involved in prostitution and attended the meeting of a neighbourhood residents' group.

At the beginning of April we held a drop-in information session about the research for women supported by the POPPY Project. Ten women came to the session, and an interview was conducted with one woman on the day. PE:ER are continuing to work closely with our POPPY Project colleagues to include a representative sample of trafficked women in the research.

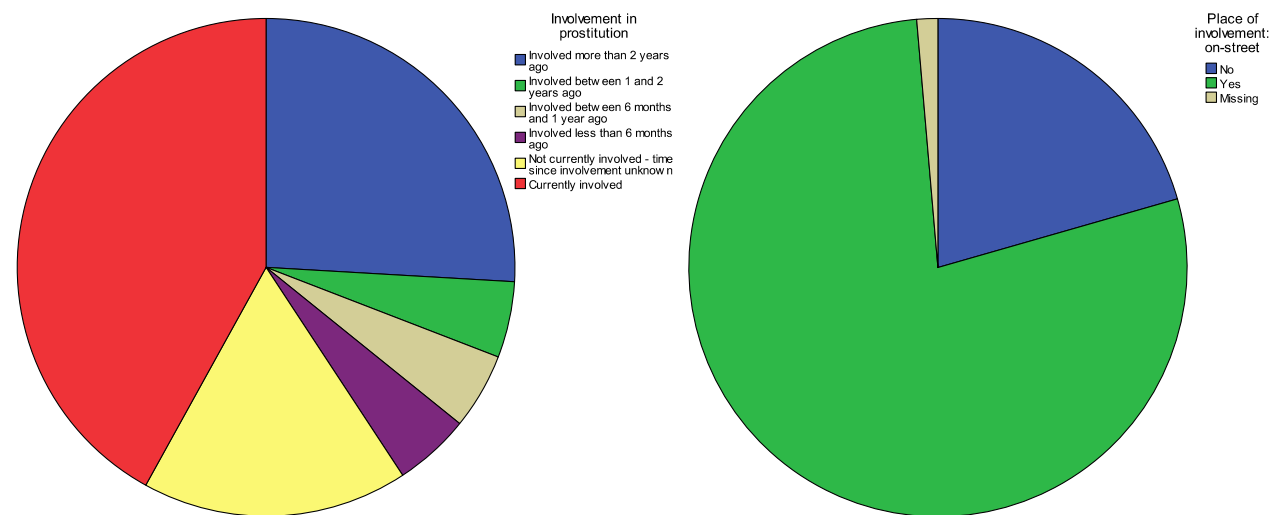
PE:ER are now focusing on increasing our sample of women exiting from indoor prostitution, through cold-calling and emailing of women advertising as independent escorts. We have had an encouraging response so far, and began interviewing these women in the last two weeks of April.

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## Our research sample

So far, we've conducted interviews with 83 women who are, or have been, involved in prostitution.



## Women's voices

From the interviews that have been conducted some themes around exiting are beginning to emerge. The interview extract below highlights one woman's experience of no longer wanting to be involved and facing several barriers to leaving, but nevertheless having positive aspirations for the future.

This woman was trafficked from Eastern Europe to Spain, and then the UK, for commercial sexual exploitation. At the time of this interview, she had escaped her traffickers but was still involved in prostitution. She was not supported by Eaves' POPPY Project.

**Interviewer:** How do you see your involvement in prostitution? I know that you want to leave and do something else, could you tell me a bit about how you feel on a day to day basis?

**Interviewee:** I feel so tired and exhausted, I mean doing things again and again, again to put smiling face when somebody comes through the door, again [inaudible] everything normal, again feeling that you can give a customer, again just providing a service to the customer, you know. Again drinking, again sleeping with him, you know? I just want to have my life as clean as possible, you know, and I really want to work either for, for something like undercover police force for taking all the girls from the flat who have been [inaudible].

**Interviewer:** I think that's a great ambition, I really do. I think that's a great job, sounds really interesting.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, to be undercover where police see the girls there and [inaudible], you know? I would like to [inaudible] you know. I would like to catch the main people, you know, and I think I'm really capable of doing that, with a little help, maybe my dream might come true?

**Interviewer:** Yeah, I hope so, I definitely hope so.

**Interviewee:** But I don't know how to do that. I can't just go to police and say [inaudible] [both laugh]. This is what I want to do, you want to give me job?

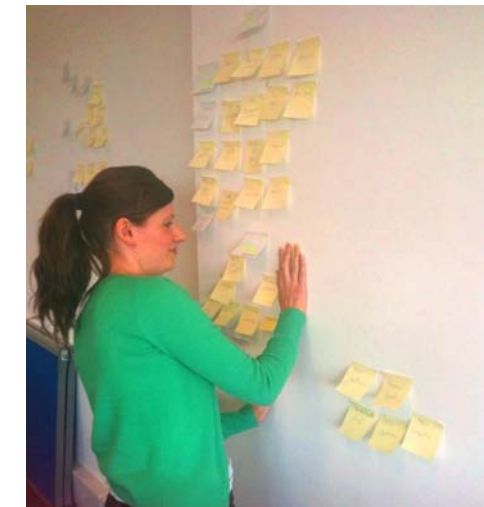
**Interviewer:** Maybe if you start with the small things, you know, and build your confidence up and who knows, you might be able to learn new skills or go to college or university or do whatever it is that you plan to do with your life. The sky's the limit, you can do whatever you want to do if you've got the motivation.

## Analysing the data

In two meetings in April, we began developing a coding framework for analysing the large amount of qualitative data we've collected so far. As a team, we wrote all the different themes that are coming out in interviews on post-it notes and then grouped these into larger categories. This is what our brainstorming looked like.



Helen gathers together themes/codes around emotions and the exiting process.



Lisa gathers together themes/codes around the practical supports needed for exiting.

## Law and policy

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 the Policing and Crime Act (2009) came into force. Two Sections of the Act are particularly relevant to women seeking to exit from prostitution.

### Section 14

Section 14 shifts criminal liability onto those who buy sexual services.

It is now an offence to pay for sexual services from someone who has been forced, coerced or deceived into prostitution by a third party. Section 14 is a strict liability offence, meaning the person paying for the services is criminally liable, whether or not they are aware of any third party exploitation.

### Section 17

Section 17 introduces a new 'Engagement and Support Order' which is now available to the courts as an alternative penalty to a fine for people convicted of loitering or soliciting.

The order is intended to address the problem of fining women involved in prostitution, who then need to engage in prostitution in order to pay the fine. Women involved in prostitution who receive the new order will be required to attend three meetings with a named supervisor, who will "help the individual address the reasons for their involvement in prostitution with the aim of helping them find a route out of prostitution."

## Workshop: Prostitution, exit strategies and best practice in support women

9-10 June or 14-15 July

Eaves is running a series of workshops for borough-level statutory agencies and voluntary service providers who focus on prostitution. The aim is to equip attendees with the knowledge required to assist individuals who want to leave prostitution through facilitating access to appropriate services. Workshops will be run over a day and a half and attendees are expected to attend both days.

### Day 1- awareness-raising

Prostitution: facts and figures  
UK and global context  
Services and prevention

### Day 2 - best practice

Local context  
Legislation  
Case studies with guest speakers  
Taking action on exiting - how to improve your borough's response

Cost: £90 (statutory agencies) / £60 (voluntary agencies)

For more information, go to: <http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Documents/Workshops/ExitingPTTWorkshopsFlyerSummerDates.pdf>