

PE:ER Project Newsletter

No. 3, February 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.

So far in 2010

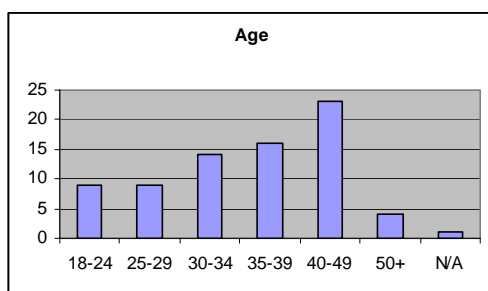
- ❖ Since the beginning of the project, we've conducted interviews with 76 women currently involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution. Forty of these interviews have been done in the past two months, representing the majority of our work over this period.
- ❖ In January 2010, we posted community surveys to nearly 3,000 addresses in Leeds, Southampton and Paddington in London, and received 147 responses.
- ❖ The PE:ER team undertook a day of training in quantitative analysis software SPSS.
- ❖ Our Link Officer Lisa and volunteer Research Assistant Linnéa, went to HMP Downview for two days of training in the Women's Awareness Staff Programme. They also attended a half-day seminar on "Ethics and Researching in the 3rd Sector".

Where we've been

Over the last couple of months, we have focused on women accessing services in London, as well as interviewing women who have self-referred to the research through our website or our posters.

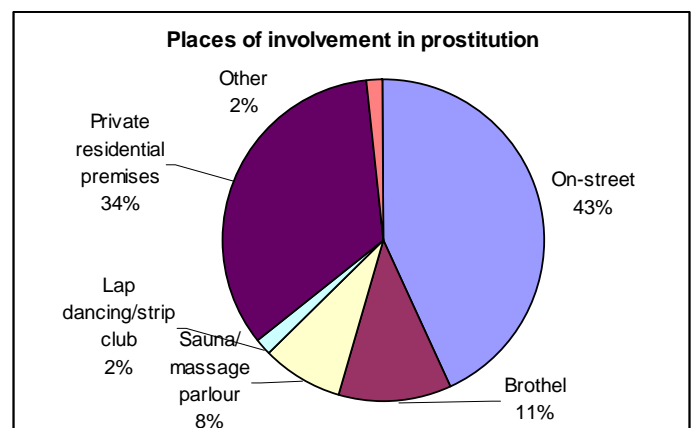
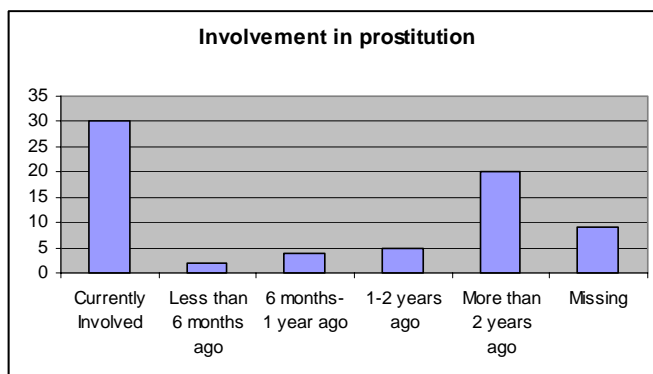
We've interviewed several women at Trust in Lambeth, a support service for women involved in street prostitution. We've conducted drop-in interview sessions at Isis Women's Service in Tower Hamlets, a service for women with substance misuse issues; Hopetown Hostel, a women's hostel in Tower Hamlets; Manor Place hostel, a women's hostel in Lambeth; and St Mungo's Palace Road and Cedars Road hostels, one a women's hostel in Southwark and the other a mixed hostel in Wandsworth. We've also interviewed women from Chamlong House, Greenwich DIP, the Nia Project and Westminster Drugs Project. Three women have self-referred to the project.

Our research sample



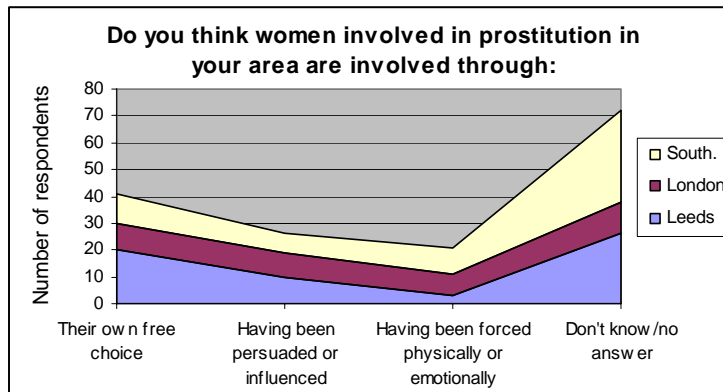
So far, we've conducted interviews with 76 women who are, or have been, involved in prostitution.

Of our sample, 51% are White British women. The second largest ethnic group is women of 'Other Black' backgrounds at 13%, followed by Black Caribbean women at 9%.



Community Survey

At the end of January, we posted out a community survey to 2,700 residential addresses in Leeds, London and Southampton. We received 56 responses in Leeds, 31 responses in London and 60 responses in Southampton. One of the questions we asked was why residents believed that women in their area were involved in prostitution. The graph below illustrates the responses we received.



Thank you!



Thanks to Timothy and Karen at Paperchase, who generously offered us a 50% discount. This discount means we can give each woman we interview a journal and pen, along with their £20 voucher. Women are encouraged to use the journal to record their feelings and experiences of the exiting process, which they may share with us when we re-interview them, if they wish.

Thanks to all the projects that have so generously given us their time and shared their expertise so far in 2010. 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.

Husna and the staff at Isis Women's Service, Compass, Tower Hamlets
Channa and all the staff at Broadway Manor Place hostel, Southwark
Our colleagues at Chamlong House, Eaves, Southwark
Pauline at the Coalition for the Removal of Pimping, Leeds
Sue and all the staff at Salvation Army Hopetown Hostel, Tower Hamlets
Sharon and Cheryl at the LEA Project, Eaves, London
All the staff at the Nia Project, Hackney
Our colleagues at the POPPY Project, Eaves, London
Pat and Rachel at St Mungo's Cedars Road hostel, Wandsworth
All the staff at St Mungo's Palace Road hostel, Southwark
Di and all the staff at Trust, Lambeth
All the staff at Westminster Drugs Project, Westminster
Amy, Helen and Lynda at Women at the Well, Camden

Most of all, thanks to the 76 women who have shared your stories with us so far. This research is only possible because of your generosity and openness.

What's happening next

Over the next month, we're planning to:

- ❖ Continue first interviews and begin re-interviewing and tracking women who are already involved with the project.
- ❖ Attend qualitative analysis training as part of the MSc in Qualitative Research at London South Bank University, and training in NVIVO8 qualitative analysis software.

Contact Us

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www.eaves4women.co.uk/Lilith_Research_And_Development/PeerProject.php

PE:ER close up

Sophie joined the PE:ER team in October as a Volunteer Research Assistant, working 1 day per week.

I joined the PE:ER Project because.... I think it's a really interesting and worthwhile piece of research that will hopefully contribute to some changes in how exiting services are funded and delivered on the ground. I'm also keen to develop my research skills and learn from the research team here at Eaves.

What I like most about working on PE:ER is... hearing the stories of women who don't often get their voices heard.

As well as volunteering with PE:ER, I... am a policy advisor at the Women's National Commission working on violence against women and equalities.

A new year's resolution I've already broken is... all of them! The no booze, no caffeine, no fun detox is already a thing of the past.