



Annual Report

Mar 2007

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Poems From A Working Women

*I used to work all night
I used to work all day
And I practically gave my body away*

*I used to hate myself for the life I led
As all day long men were in my bed.*

*But now that's all changed
And I've grown up a lot and never again
Will I pretend to be something I'm am not.*

LK

External vision

A world that better understands prostitution and where involvement in prostitution is not due to exploitation or coercion,

Internal vision

A well funded and resourced organisation, with a high profile and significant influence at local, national and international level.

Mission

POW is a charity that promotes health and dignity in prostitution, we do this by providing a range of direct services, campaigning to ensure statutory services are accessible to the prostitute community and developing understanding of prostitution in the wider community.

We work with anyone involved in, or affected by prostitution and even those at risk of becoming involved. Our services are free, tailored to individual's specific needs and delivered by those with direct experience or specialist skills.

The services POW delivers in Nottingham include drop-ins and outreach, practical and emotional support, counselling, specialised medical and drug services, benefit/debt advice, contraceptives and self development courses. Our education and campaigning work is carried out nationally and includes training, conferences and consultancy.

POW is here to represent the interests of the client, not to further the careers of individuals or the reputation of organisations.

Aim

To ensure appropriate services are accessible to the prostitute community.

1. Overview

Prostitute Outreach Workers (POW) was launched in 1990 when local women from the prostitute community volunteered to train as researchers to assess health and intervention needs of prostitute women in a disadvantaged area of the city of Nottingham. The World Health Organisation and Nottingham Health Authority funded this research.

Gaps in the provision of services were revealed and as a result, sources of advice and support for working prostitutes were created. The survey data they generated was used to design an outreach and referral service and was initially based at Project Directors house until funding was secured for premises. This project truly reflects lay representation, mediates across organisations in the statutory and voluntary sectors and crosses professional and lay boundaries. It has evolved into a robust independent charity

(no 1064273) shaping the nature of health and welfare provisions for socially excluded people.

In 1993 POW successfully secured short term funding for both premises and staff costs and as a result not only sustained existing services but also sought to respond to client needs for the development of future services.

On the 20th March 2001 POW was invited to hold a Civic Reception at the Council House in Nottingham to acknowledge its achievements and to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary.

After 10 years of being tenants at Forest Mills, a visual makeover took place; summer of 2003 the premises were refurbished and additional space was acquired resulting in a "nice, new, fresh & calming environment", client quote. POW then held an Open Day on the 3rd October 2003 to launch its new look along with the uncle bob leaflets. A total of 200 professionals and clients attended.

During March 2007 the Forest Mills building was burgled and ransacked, this led to POWs move to temporary accommodation at the Waverley Health Centre, where due to the lack of space operations had to be down scaled whilst we searched for alternative more appropriate premises.

The number of volunteers changes in response to fluctuating service provisions. POW manages to make approx 2000 client contacts per year; outreach sessions initiate a large number of these contacts whilst the drop-in service provides another door into POW. These contacts are a result from the continuity of outreach work, networks and links within the community and with other agencies and institutions.

The Task force's increased activity has fragmented and disbursed the areas where the clients work; i.e. the streets. More ASBO's have been issued, which in turn has resulted in more clients in prison. Consequently POW has increased its prison correspondence and visits.

POW visits Residential Homes for Children and gives sexual health information talks. Individual support is provided and group sessions prove to be extremely positive for the young people and are vital in providing prevention strategies for young people who were at risk from prostitution and drug misuse.

There has been continued emphasis on prevention work, with visits to children's residential units. The work being two fold; intensive one to one work with young people involved or on the peripheral of prostitution and also support to help key workers recognise when a child is being exploited.

POW concentrated on ensuring adequate provisions were available to those clients who have been trafficked into prostitution. Links have already been established with the Poppy project in London, which deal solely with migrant and trafficked women.

POW has a core group which interlink into the decision making of POW.

2. Current Service Provision & Delivery

To provide a free, comprehensive, confidential, full-time drop-in and an outreach service to those affected by prostitution.

Outreach usually occurs mornings, occasional afternoons and one to two late evenings per week in and around the areas where the clients work i.e. streets, saunas, flats and individual homes.

A drop-in service is available Monday to Friday, whereby clients can receive & staff provide:

ADVICE regarding :

- sexual and general health
- drug use
- exiting from prostitution
- family planning
- referrals to other agencies
- personal safety whilst working as a prostitute
- lifestyle changes
- social support
- provision of services by other agencies

INFORMATION is delivered by word of mouth and through leaflets developed by POW and clients. The following written information is available:

- What is POW?
- Sex & Health (booklet)
- You and Drug (booklet)
- Possibilities (education and training booklet)
- Language cards
- Monthly newsletter with Dodgy Punter Information
- Via other service providers, both statutory and voluntary who may share an interest in the clients we work with (for example: Probation Services, Drug Agencies, Social Services, and Health Services).

CONDOMS & APPROPRIATE LUBRICANTS are distributed free of charge by project workers during outreach and the drop-in sessions at POW.

POW aims to respond to client's immediate needs and then provides ongoing support to enable clients to consider, if appropriate lifestyle choices. One to one sessions are provided and clients are encouraged to utilise this service.

Support is offered in two ways:

Practical support in matters relating to homelessness, issues around safe working practices, exiting from prostitution, health appointments, court appearances, welfare rights, referral to various services, safe accommodation, domestic violence, routes into education and training, legal matters and, when necessary crisis intervention.

Emotional support; concerning domestic violence, the effects of a partner's drug misuse and its effect on the individual woman and/or other family members, health worries, hospital/drug rehabilitation visits

COUNSELLING; A regular formal counselling session for clients and staff. This service is provided by a qualified, experienced counsellor and has proved to be a valuable addition to the support offered to POW's clients.

WELFARE, BENEFITS & DEBT ADVISOR offering specialised advice to our clients.

REFERRALS to other agencies are made only after the client has given their agreement. POW staff assesses individual needs very carefully and ensures that any services recommended are appropriate to the individual concerned. POW also receives client referrals from clients themselves and other agencies on a regular basis. These agencies include:

- Department of Genitourinary Medicine (GUM)
- Probation Services
- Anti-Vice
- Voluntary Agencies
- Social Services
- Homelessness and Housing Agencies
- Residential Care Home for Children
- Colleges and Training Providers

CHAPERONE SERVICE - If requested to do so, POW staff will accompany clients to appointments.

ADVOCACY - POW strongly believes that, in general, prostitutes' rights and needs are not being fully met or considered within the UK. Therefore contributes to the wider political debate surrounding prostitution.

Locally POW staff facilitates workshops and conduct presentations at conferences, seminars and forums to a range of agencies in Nottingham. POW responds to requests from a range of different professional's bodies, both statutory and voluntary by providing weekly in-house talks on issues around prostitution and drug-misuse. This is a means of attempting to de-stigmatise prostitution and raise public awareness around the issues surrounding prostitution.

PEN PAL SERVICE - POW operates a Pen Pal service for clients in prison, drug rehabilitation units, hospital and to those who have exited prostitution. This continues to prove to be an extremely beneficial service to people who are feeling vulnerable and/or depressed about their personal situation. The service also enables the project to maintain contact with clients and assist in their rehabilitation.

POW offers assistance with letter writing and completing forms which clients have difficulty with. In addition POW may provide supporting letters, as well as encouraging individuals to use our telephone to access important services, which they would otherwise not be able to do. This ultimately empowers them to increase their personal responsibilities, make positive choices for themselves, which may enhance their self-esteem and confidence.

Donated clothes and household items are available to clients via our clothes bank.

WEEKLY SATELLITE SERVICES:

- Nottingham Drug & Alcohol Team; a specialist service providing a comprehensive package of substance misuse treatment including prescribed substitute medication via an in-house satellite GP and nurse clinic in addition to advice and support.
- Compass; providing drug harm reduction advice, acupuncture & needle exchange.
- GU Medicine; clients receive sexual health advice, screening & testing for: CHLAMYDIA, GONORRHOEA, SYPHILLIS, HEP B, HIV & PREGNANCY TESTING and are treated accordingly. Safer sex and safer sex practices are promoted and clients are actively encouraged to have the Hep B vaccination.
- Contraception service provided at POW by CASH provides advice and support to clients regarding their contraception and sexual health. Advice is given on all forms of contraception from the use of condoms to discussions on coil fits and implants, this can take place.
- Personal Development Programme, block sessions covering self belief, confidence, self esteem, developing skills & goal setting.

and POW staff organise:

- home visits
- secure unit visits
- prison visits
- rehabilitation visits

3. Successes to Date

POW was involved in the establishment of a multi-agency steering group in Nottingham in 1996. The steering group included Health, Education and Voluntary sector services, which enabled services to be streamlined. The work of this forum has led to a change in national guidelines to decriminalise young prostitutes and investigate and prosecute involved adults. POW received a Social Care Award from the Department of Health for their involvement in the Forum.

POW developed an Outreach Forum in 1999, which was essentially to ensure that various outreach services within Nottingham City were not duplicated, and thus wasting public resources. This forum was re-established in 2005 to co-ordinate services more effectively.

POW has given presentations at International and National Conferences in Durban, South Africa and York, England. POW continues to give presentations locally and receive excellent feedback.

POW has been a key agency in the Resource and Strategy pack produced by Social Services. POW acts as a key agency for referral, and intends to continue to provide realistic support for young people involved in prostitution through current mechanisms and through continued co-ordination of outreach.

POW received a Financial Impact Award from GlaxoSmithKline. The award is designed to recognise and promote the work of small voluntary organisations with a proven track record in the challenging and demanding area of community health.

POW developed a partnership with NCH Action for Children to provide counselling and therapeutic support for younger clients.

POW had created a comprehensive contact database. Development of the database has improved monitoring of referrals and outcomes for clients and makes it easier to evaluate the project. Since the database has been revised, POW is now able to record basic client details as well as contact information. The contact sheet has also been condensed so it is less time consuming for the client and worker. There are approx 1500 clients registered on the database system.

During 2003 and 2004 POW conducted a cross-sectional evaluation study in partnership with the University of Nottingham and funded by the New Deal for Communities Scheme, with the aim being to evaluate POW services by assessing the health needs of POW clients, and describing perceptions, experiences and use of POW services by clients of the organisation.

2002-4 saw the introduction of vital long awaited services for the prostitute community at POW. Satellite GUM sessions were introduced November 02, whereby clients could receive sexual health advice, screening, testing and treatment. From 2006 POW initiated GU outreach to access girls working in Saunas and Flats. This has continued to be a success and gone from strength to strength.

March 04; Nottingham Alcohol & Drug Team (NADT) expanded its satellite service to include a comprehensive package of treatment of prescribed substitute medication to those clients who were identified as not accessing or engaging with existing services for drug treatment. Due to POW's success in engaging clients, increased demand, excellent retention rate of 47% compared to a national average of 12-18%, there are plans for a second weekly clinic.

The Contraception service also provided at POW by CASH proves invaluable mainly in the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.

POW has been a key agency in the Resource and Strategy pack produced by Social Services. POW acts as a key agency for referral, and intends to continue to provide realistic support for young people involved in prostitution, through current mechanisms and through continued co-ordination of outreach.

POW received a Financial Impact Award from GlaxoSmithkline. The award is designed to recognise and promote the work of small voluntary organisations with a proven track record in the challenging and demanding area of community health. The judges considered that POW was an outstanding organisation, which has focused on, preventative healthcare and has helped to build bridges between the prostitute community and local statutory services and voluntary services.

POW developed a partnership with NCH Action for Children to provide counselling and therapeutic support for younger clients. Support/counselling rooms were provided so this could be conducted in a more appropriate environment at POW.

POW developed a hardship fund for disadvantaged clients as it was recognised that many clients needed a little financial support to help make positive life style changes. POW uses money, which is donated by Churches, to help with bus fares to see a solicitor or to go to the GU Medicine clinic or purchase essential items needed by clients in exceptional circumstances.

POW has created a comprehensive contact database. Development of the database has improved monitoring of referrals and outcomes for clients and makes it easier to evaluate the project. We are currently in the process of developing the database even further taking it to yet another level.

During 2003 and 2004 POW conducted a cross-sectional evaluation study in partnership with the University of Nottingham and funded by the New Deal for Communities Scheme, with the aim being to evaluate POW services by assessing the health needs of POW clients, and describing perceptions, experiences and use of POW services by clients of the organisation.

POW is part of an Adult prostitution multi-agency steering group which hosted a visit from Government Minister; Caroline Flint, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Home Office. She came to Nottingham on 7th September 04 to discuss the Home Office consultation paper "paying the price" and to focus particularly on what Nottingham would welcome from the review. POW participated in the round table discussion on Prostitution at the Nottingham Council House and then the steering group including the minister came to POW to talk to staff, volunteers and clients.

4. EVAULATION OCT 2002

Brief Conclusions

The women in this study had a variety of health and social needs, many of which they found were tackled by POW. Peer outreach education on correct condom use and the risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, is still necessary. Drug use is clearly a major problem for many and appears to be one of increasing magnitude for this group. Early entry into the sex industry and drug use may be associated for a significant minority of POW's clients and this combination presents a major challenge for POW in the coming years.

The women testified to the transformative nature of the support provided by this unique organisation, not just for themselves but for their friends and families.

It could be argued that POW has now become an essential part of the fabric of social support for women in a particularly vulnerable social situation in an inner city neighbourhood.

The data would support increased investment to enhance the services POW offers. The prevailing culture of evaluation and accountability would readily underpin further prospective assessment of POW's benefits if increased resources were to be secured.

Any future enlargement of POW would, however, have to be weighed against the proven effectiveness and sustainability of the existing organisation.

See website for further information.

Client's Comments.

Sunshine

I have been using POW for the past 11 years and have found it helpful. I have done a few short courses i.e. Personal development, anger management course and have found them helpful in everyday life.

The team at POW are very supportive and easy to approach with most problems. There is always someone to talk to. The environment has a relaxed feeling and there is always a cup of tea and something to eat if required.

I am currently using the counselling service. I find this helpful as I have a lot of issues. Jane is helping me work through these and I see her one hour a week.

Thanks to all the team for their support throughout the years I've used this service.

I'm Lindsey and I'm going to write about my life and the people who helped and cared for me through some really hard times.

Well I moved up to Nottingham about nine months ago, I was working the beat and one of the girls told me to go to POW to clean myself up and get some clean clothes, so I did and that's where I met Sue.

Sue was this big inspiration to me she was this amazing woman who had been where I was going a good twenty years ago previous and she tried her best to help me along with the others but I just wasn't ready yet, but at least I always knew they was there for me .

But I still tried to go and see them almost every day for condoms and some one to talk to and stuff and when I left there I went straight out to work. So that's how my life worked for me at the time I got up went out to earn a quick £20 for gear, had it then went to POW, sat with them for a bit as I had started to trust them, and when I left I went straight out for more gear and stone.

In that time I had been attacked twice, but I still had to work as it happened one day I was lucky and I got picked up by the police they sent me to prison for breach of a DTTO, it was the first time I'd been to prison so I really was scare and I was withdrawing.

As it turned out I went to prison for 5 weeks the day I got out at court they gave me 4 months to sort myself out. So I was just as stuffed, they kicked me out at court knowing that I had no money, no where to live, no methadone, no clothes etc. So you guessed it I went straight back to the life I knew (street life), and so far the next two and a half months that was my life and then one Tuesday night I got attacked pretty bad, something really bad happened to me that night, my life really did flash before my eyes and to tell you the truth there wasn't much to see.

Any way when I woke up in the morning I really wanted to sort myself out and ok by god was I scared. So I went to a few probation appointments and got a methadone script but for the next 2 weeks I still did not get it quite right until I got my head straight. I went to see Sue at POW and she put me on to Michelle and this woman showed me that I have still got plenty of life to live and told me that if I could believe in myself again then I could do anything and that what I'm trying to do.

For the last 4 weeks I have stuck to my methadone script, I haven't worked the streets, I'm going to probation for all my appointments, and four days a week I'm doing keep fit, with a volunteer at POW.

Last but not least we are trying to get me into a rehabilitation things are really looking up for me at long last and it's all thanks to a bit of motivation and a lot of help from people who really do care.

So a big thank you to everybody at POW and here's to the next chapter in my life.

To all the crazy wonderful staff at 'POW'

Just a little card to let you all know that just knowing your there and more importantly that you do actually 'care' means so much to me and I'm sure all the other girls you help- so thanks for just being there and I hope with your support and my own self belief I soon can become drug free and the person I know I can be so once again Thanks-
Your so, so special and need to be told so - so take care love K x

Just thought I would drop you a line to let you know I'm still happy and clean. I've been working for over a year now in customer services which is ok and it pays the bills. I'm currently working towards working in the drug misuse field and have completed an access course which covers all areas of substance misuse. It's really good and I enjoy it so much, it just comes naturally as I've been there myself

I could not have imagined in my wildest dreams where I am today. I never forget the people who helped me and supported me through my most desperate times.

I owe POW a huge thank you, just for being there and treating your clients like human beings and sharing compassion. You can't buy that and it really means a lot when you can't find it in yourself to care or like yourself. You guys are brilliant and your work is invaluable

, you really make a difference I hope your all alright and not working too hard all my love to you all

I am fairly new to Nottingham, and don't know that many people her yet, so when somebody recommended POW to me, I wasn't too sure where they meant. However, I asked around, and now I have been using the services available here, I'm really glad that I did.

I find the atmosphere at OW to be really homely and relaxed. The staffs are friendly and approachable, and will try their best to help out with any problems I might have. I suppose I may use POW quite a lot at the moment with being homeless, but once I have somewhere to live I know I will still nip in here hopefully quite often.

I hope this organisation will keep running for some years to come, because I for one would miss it badly if it wasn't here any more. Keep up the good work!

I have been using POW for 9 years and have found it a great help to me, it is a safe place where I can have a talk get a cup of tea and something to eat, even use the gym and have a shower. I have just enrolled in an anger management course which is helping me, also the G.U lady Kim is great, there are no horrid examinations and it is very quick.

I have also had acupuncture quiet a few times which I really love, it is so relaxing and it is all in the comfort of POW. I have had loads o 1-2-1 sessions with Sue, Michelle, Helen, Danites, and Carmel they have all been a great help to me not forgetting Sonia and Andrea. I have been very lucky to get home visits and have been picked up and dropped off sometimes which is a great help to me as I have a hell of a lot of issues getting out of the flat. I just want to say a big thank you for all the help I have had off everyone at POW they are a very special team and I hope they never close down cause I knot know what I would do without them Many thanks

I have used POW for 2 years; I have used the prescribing service. I have been able to get a flat, I am doing very well with my drug use and value the support I get from POW, this is the best support I have ever had and hop it will be here to help other people as well as me. Many Thanks

POW has helped me a lot, they are like family. I know if I have any problems 'at all' I can turn to them and they don't treat us like it is just a job they really are concerned.

The have helped me with a pregnancy I had to terminate, housing issues, health issues, family issues. I would not have come off the drugs as well as I have without them. If they wasn't here, us girls would be in a right mess, especially me.

Thanks POW!

I have been a client of POWs for 17yrs, I have been on the streets since I was 11yrs old, and I am now 28yrs. POW has always helped me with my drug use and social support, if I need to go somewhere in the day I come to POW. When I am on the beat also I feel safer. POW you have helped me over the years with personal issues regarding my family. I don't know what I would have done without you.

Thank you POW

I have been using POW for about 11years, I saw a lot of Changes, saw a lot of different people working here over the years, it is a friendly place to go, always can get a cup of tean and a chat. They always help me when I need it, I've been on a lot of courses here, and they were good, they helped me to make a lot of lifestyle changes, I would hate if POW was to ever close down. Keep up the good work.

Hi ya everyone

My name is M. F a friend to everybody and yes everyone knows me well, especially the people who work at POW. Now PWO to me is a home from home, and have always treated me like I'm somebody, the staff at POW have time for anyone young or old they give respect to everybody no mater who they are or where their from.

They are genuine people and will help you with any problem you have at any time. Without POW I myself would have no one else to turn to. The staffs at POW are my family.

My name is Sally and I've been comig to POW for 5 yrs, everyone knows me. POW used to be my second hoe when I was on the streets, the only person who I worked with was Sue, I've got a problem with authority but she showed me the way.

I've found POW very helpful and I think the centre is brilliant, even better now the gym has been installed, its nice to know there's a place that safe for us girls to turn too.

I've been coming to POW for about 1years and I think that every one in POW are helpful, they help with your housing and your benefits. Ive been coming for acupuncture and I ting that the drop in centre is a well good environment.

I've been coming to POW for a few years now, and always felt confident in speaking to the staff I have know confidence speaking to any other agencies, POW has really been there over the years with every little problem, they helped me, I think the staff are very helpful and supportive, and should carry on doing their job.

Thanks

Hi I'm -----

I've been coming here at POW since day 1, without this place and the work it does, us workers would be lost! I support POW totally.

I have been coming to POW about 2 years it has done wonders for my drug mis-use I don't know where I would be without the service.

I've been coming to POW for about 10yrs since a lot of change people keep coming and going. The project gets better. I love coming to POW for a chat and like coming to see Michelle the benefits lady, and like talk tow Carmel and Danites. I would hate POW to close down because I would have no where to go, keep up the good work.

POW as always has been there for me and always support when I have been proper low and down. I've got a lot of time for all 'staff' here and hope they think the same way about me. My accommodation has been sorted and now I can look to the future and get a job, all the best to POW.

Listed below are contact figures and statistics of the issues dealt with, type of workers, places referred to, number of outreach sessions and contacts made during drop in:

BREAKDOWN OF CLIENT CONTACT NUMBERS FROM Apr 2006 TO Mar 2007

Yearly Report - April 2006 - Mar 2007

1.0 Introduction

The figures required for Schedule B of the Service Level Agreement between Nottingham City Primary Care Trust, Nottingham Social Services & POW 2006/07 are detailed below:

2.0 Number of Contacts made

Drop in	1054		
Street Contacts	591	Letter Writing; prison, re-hab etc	41
Home Visits	94	secure unit	1
Workers Home	8	Other outreach i.e. homeless hotels	
Phone	119	Prison	20
Children's home	1	Flat	38
London Rd	6	Hostel	3
Sauna	17		

Total Contact No. 1997 New Contacts: 59

*Please note a new performa has been introduced for "quick phone" contacts, monitoring calls only and not detailed information.

**Clients unwilling to disclose personal information will and has skewed data slightly.

Phone Duration (professionals):

< 5 mins	274	6-15mins	189	16-30 mins	30	30-1hr	5
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3.0 Profiles

Gender	Male	253	Female	1744
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Type of work

Street	1088	Phone	7	Exited	488
Establishment	22	Escort	6		

Ethnicity

White	1626	Black Caribbean	163	Black African	1
Eastern European	6	Mixed Decent	157	Other	11

Age

11-16 yrs	3	17-18 yrs	16	19-21 yrs	92
22-25yrs	149	26-35 yrs	1046	36-40 yrs	136
41-55yrs	185	55+ yrs	19		

Housing

Rented Accom	1120	With family & friends	374	Homeless	64
Hostel	127	Prison	143	Home Owner	149

Rehab 3 Secure Unit 10

Drug & Alcohol Misuse

None	430	Alcohol	110	Speed	41
Cannabis	128	Crack	1025	Cocaine	16
Ecstasy (MDMA)	0	Heroin	895	Prescribed Drugs	490
Methadone	188	Other Drugs	10		

Employment

Unemployed	1766	Employed	49	Student	1	Retired	94
Other			50				

4.0 Advice Given

Drugs	539	General Health	298	Sexual Health	470
Legal	14	Housing	163	Education	6
Domestic Violence	15	Social Support	709	Benefits/debt/housing	137
Exiting	3	Probation	15	Basic Counselling	16
POW services	44	Mental Health	10	Contraception	1

In-house services; sessions provided

Counselling	118	Nottingham Alcohol & Drug Prescribing	51
Contraception	27	Nottingham Alcohol & Drug Service	38
Compass	21	Relaxation & Meditation	7
GUM	37	Personal Development	12
Anxiety Sessions	10	Card Making	2
Basic Skills	4	Late Night Sessions	14
Anger Management	6		

In-house services; clients accessed

John Storer	235	1-2-1	47
Counselling	73	Compass - acupuncture	8
POW drop in	102	GUM - chaperone	105
Contraception	4	Beauty	28
Benefits	82	GP	1

Facilities used

Food	169	Clothes Bank	88	Shower	5	Phone	197
Gym	11	Cigarettes	36	Hardship Fund	13		

Items Given

Leaflets	32	Newsletter	38	Safety Alarms	209
Postal Orders	11	Condoms	247357	Lubricants	1252

5.0 Number of Referrals Received (broken down by source)

Self-referral		1610	Friend	9	Family	5
POW staff	2		Compass Youth	1	Midwife	2
John Storer	5					

6.0	Health & Safety whilst working						
	Condom use; sometimes	2	yes	1241	no	3	n/a 732
7.0	No of home visits & outreach sessions;						304
	No. of Sauna/Flat sessions:						65
	No of Prison Visits						3
	No of outreach sessions to childrens homes:						14
	No of 121 sessions with young people:						17
12.0	Talks & Seminars delivered to community & professionals;						55
13.0	CONCLUSION						

The above is the information available to POW based on completed contact sheets returned by staff and volunteer workers and covers the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007

6. Staff, Management, Volunteer, Sessional workers

Wow, what a year of challenge and change it has been for POW. And as I sit and write this the organisation faces yet another huge challenge as we urgently look for new premises following the recent traumatic burglary.

This year we have said goodbye to some old friends, not least Mo MacDonald who is a founder member of POW and who has now moved on to the statutory sector to follow a new career path. Cheers Mo, we thank you for your hard work, inspiration and support over the years and wish you all the best for the future. We have also welcomed new staff to POW whose presence is already being felt. Michelle Robinson 's specialism is welfare rights and this has been a very useful and fruitful addition to staff knowledge.

We continue to be supported by a band of wonderful volunteers, without whom POW would struggle to provide the unique, peer led service it does to the prostitute community.

We have also seen new people join our Management Committee this year. We welcome Nathan Voce, whose background is in working with vulnerable children, and Phil O'brien, who manages a city project for homeless youngsters. POW is fortunate to have a knowledgeable and committed Management Committee, which provides advice, guidance and support to POW.

Sue, Sonia and Andrea have faced some daunting tasks this year and as always have risen admirably to the challenge. Despite some setbacks they have continued to provide outreach services and a warm and welcoming base for people to access a host of services, including in house satellite services provided by the GUM clinic, and the John Storer Clinic. These have enabled clients to access help around their health needs and drug and alcohol use. We have also seen the addition of a contraceptive prescribing service on the premises which has been widely welcomed by clients. It is important for many POW users that these services are available under one roof and within a friendly and non judgmental atmosphere.

So I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and energy to POW this past year, Sue and her staff, volunteers, outside agencies and Management Committee members. Some of you were around on our Away Day during the summer when we took time out to reflect on the past year and to plan for the future development of POW. We look forward now to seeing those plans come to fruition.

We must move on in every sense - the most urgent need is for new premises of course, but POW is a dynamic and changing organisation which must continue to meet the diverse needs of the people for whom it provides a service. We will continue to prioritise our service users' needs and remain determined to be true to our core aim - to provide accessible services to the prostitute community.

Glynis Storer Chair POW

Hi everyone

Yet again it has been a very busy and challenging year in POW, some good, some bad, but lessons have been learned along the way. A few things I'm really proud of is being involved in the core group of clients which paints a true picture of what works and what does not, especially if the client wants to exit from prostitution. It is important to highlight and understand some of the barriers which prevent this from happening, thus preventing a yo yo pattern for the clients concerned.

Also feeding information through to the Manager's Group has proved useful as it is a "doers" group rather than providing a lip service. With such groups set up this should hopefully provide more practical realistic pictures of situations and circumstances, instead of incorrect and misinterpreted statistics. There are many theories that do not work in practice, so POW will endeavour to work towards changing this, another challenging year I see!.

There have been some very constructive networking; working closely with many different organisations. POW has assisted operations to help trafficked women which involved working with the poppy project and Vice.

We are currently experiencing the end of an era at Forest Mills in Radford which means the beginning of another, this is all very exiting. Along side the Respect for Nottingham initiative these are huge developments. Watch this space.

Sue Johnson, Project Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Treasurers Report

POW's work continues to be actively supported and recognised by our primary funders the Nottingham Primary care Trust, The New Deal for Communities Fund and Nottingham Social

Services. We are also grateful for the continuing support of Nottingham Probation Service and The Nottingham Drug Action Team.

Our relationship with each of our funders has been first class and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their professionalism, commitment and assistance through the year. It has enabled us to focus on our clients and their needs with real confidence

There were many smaller donors over the year each of whom recognised the value and importance of POW as a real vector for development in the Community; to all of those we are sincerely grateful.

The longer term nature of our core funding has eased our concerns of previous years but even now we are continuously striving to develop new funding streams I have no doubt that due to POWs record of consistent achievement we will be able to secure additional funding to enable further development of our services.

I am once again indebted to our accountants, Mazars Neville Russell for their audit and advice. Our audited accounts are available to anyone who would wish to view them by contacting us directly for a copy.

Chris Hughes, Treasurer

Most weeks still bring a new learning experience especially in regards to the difficulties and challenges our clients face on an ongoing basis. Prostitution has no social status; individuals enter into prostitution for all kinds of reasons and come from varied backgrounds. I have learnt that everyone is individual, all with a life story to tell.

Nothing can quite prepare you for the harsh realities of prostitution and the worked of drugs, in particular issues that we have to respond to and deal with at POW. The horrific murders in Ipswich are a constant reminder of the dangerous environments the girls work in, particularly in street prostitution and the need to protect and support them wherever possible.

Over the years POW has supported many individuals in exiting from prostitution, but our primary focus is to ensure they are working as safely as possible, which includes promoting good sexual health. POW still gives ongoing support to those exited, as individuals' problems do not just disappear overnight because an exiting box has been ticked.

Most of my career has involved working for big blue chip companies in the UK and abroad largely being based in the profit related business world. But working in the voluntary sector has made me realise how much more gratifying 'work' can be when you are helping people to improve their lives and to be safe. I find that I can easily transfer the skills I acquired in the corporate world to community based projects. It is most satisfying knowing that the work I do contributes to supporting vulnerable adults and young people.

I continue to value and enjoy the working environment at POW; we have worked hard to create an environment and atmosphere that feels safe, understanding and supportive. Our

small multi-skilled team is very unique and special. My role is particularly fulfilling, yet extremely diverse. I have been renowned for bringing POW into the so called '21st century' introducing many new systems and working practices which contribute to the efficient running of the organisation.

Our success has been built on these flexible working practices that fit the service users' needs, not those of the individual workers and organisations. Workers sometimes have to go into dangerous places that other services would not be able to access due to lack of connections, ignorance and the stigma associated with this client group - and especially as it does not fit into a normal 9 to 5 lifestyle.

Many of our service users are reluctant to engage with main stream services due to negativity, stigma, labelling, judgemental attitudes and fear of repercussions. POW workers often face barriers when liaising on behalf of service users. I have been working at POW now for over 7 years and it still ceases to amaze me people's ignorance and the negativity and stigma attached to prostitution. Often there is a long pause from professionals when I mention I work with the prostitute community.

I find it rewarding but also empowering to be part of a unique peer led project supporting a vulnerable, hard to reach group.

Sonia Dowdie, Operations Manager

My name is Carmel and I have worked for POW over 1½ years. I find the clients who come into POW very stressed, crying at times and often traumatised. The fact we can pick up the phone and will sort out their problems until it is absolutely resolved then they go away smiling.

It makes my job very rewarding and satisfying, some problems take longer but whatever we get it sorted.

From Management to Doctors to Volunteers, all are wonderful to work with. I would not change my job for the world, and best of all the girls, regarding homeless, vulnerable girls when funding safe places. I can sleep easy at night.

Carmel Gilmartin
Support/ Outreach Worker

I joined POW as a full time worker in April this year I had previously been doing one session per week at POW, providing welfare, benefits, debt and housing advice, this proved to be very popular so it was decided to extend the sessions to full time.

I can say that POW is a new challenge for me due to the unique client group it caters for, but do feel I have settled in very well and thoroughly enjoy working here.

Not only am I providing a service for the clients but I am also learning a lot from them, every client is unique, no two days are the same in POW and most of my work is around crisis intervention, especially around homelessness. I am also responsible for prison visits

and prison letters, I aim to maintain contact and support our clients while in prison. I feel this is very important it also gives me an opportunity to assist with housing applications.

Talks to other projects, students and professionals are also part of my working life. I present these talks with a passion as we constantly need to work towards breaking down the barriers and provide a better insight into prostitution and the work that POW does

Michelle Robinson,
Support & Development Worker

I joined the POW team in Nov 04 to cover maternity leave for the then Office Manager. With a business background, I previously worked at a contemporary Art gallery supervising staff and dealing with the finances. It was dramatic change in my work environment and proved to be extremely challenging as well as rewarding. I adapted and settled into my role very well. At the beginning of 2006 my role was developed further and I uptook the role of Young Persons co-ordinator. This proved to be extremely rewarding working with Young people predominantly in the Children Looked After Remit. Being able to contribute to a Young persons Life in a positive manner is invaluable. Assisting workers to work more positively with their young clients for more productive outcomes is an essential part of POWs work, contributing to the prevention work of all agencies.

Andrea Dowdie
Office Manager/Young persons Co-ordinator

I started working for POW as a volunteer support worker and Counsellor in Oct 05 since being here I have met some of the most honest beautiful people who make it a honour to work with them. In summer this year I was taken on as a paid counsellor and the volume of work has grown and grown. I see many men and women who are in the most terrible pain and trauma with what has happened or is still happening in their lives. I now have regular clients who are working their way with me through their trauma and pain very bravely, but so strongly.

Sometimes in life you feel down and sorry for yourself but coming to work with people with real problems soon make you grateful for your lot in life. The staffs at POW are so supportive and go beyond the job description every day of their lives and I am very glad of that as I am only human and often need a shoulder to cry on. So I say to everyone reading this or coming to POW well done and long may you carry on this wonderful place.#

Jayne Dalrymple
Counsellor/Support Worker

I'm one of the newest volunteers POW gave me the opportunity in July and welcomed me on board. I enjoy engaging and supporting service users either via the drop in or outreach service, for those involved or wishing to exit or a risk of becoming involved in prostitution

Helen Bell, Volunteer Worker

Hi my name is Ali

I have been coming to POW since they first opened and using their services on a number of occasions, my benefits and housing problems have been sorted out pretty quick. They also are currently helping me with personal problems, and are making great progress in the legal issues. I do believe that if I had to deal with the myself I don't think I would have known where to start, they are a great team and do their best to help you.

Keep up the great work POW
Allison Ellis, Volunteer worker,

I work for the National Probation Service as and outreach worker, I have used POWs service to refer women who need help in many areas of their lives, from fleeing domestic violence.

Roland, Probation Outreach

The Nottm Alcohol & Drug Team (N.A.D.T.) have been involved with POW since its beginnings 17years ago. The Nottingham Alcohol and Drug Team continue to provide a weekly comprehensive package of substance misuse treatment for the women who attend POW. Over the past 2 years the service has gone form strength to strength, with the number of women in treatment increasing.

The service is a shared care partnership between the Nottingham Alcohol and Drug Team (NADT) and POW. It is well supported by the Nottingham CDP and the PCT.

Over the past 2 years the proliferation of substance misuse and prostitution has continued to have an impact. Many of the client group who access POW have historically been difficult to engage and retain in treatment. However, we have successfully retained over 42% of clients in treatment for more than 6 months.

Many of the clients report that the POW clinic has given them a chance to access treatment, where before they found it difficult to do so. The women are appreciative of the fact that as a service we are committed to providing them with a comprehensive treatment package that is conducive to their lifestyle. The recent highlighted media coverage from Ipswich further endorsed the need for women to be able to access drug services easily and without prejudice. We had anticipated that this incident may have generated an increase in numbers in the clinic. This was not the case. We would like to think that this is because services in Nottingham are sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of this client group and therefore, those who wish to be in treatment are already known to us.

Seeing clients turn their lives around from one of chaos and disorder is always rewarding. Recently I had the honour and pleasant of attending a residential rehabilitating to see and

ex-client who had been abstinent from drugs for over 2 years. She is now in employment and living independently.

POW is a wonderful and valuable project. The support, compassion and commitment from the workers is crucial to our work and to help retain clients in treatment. I can recount incidents that have provided me with laughter and other that highlight the immense fears and distress for some women.

I for one plan to be around to continue to work with the wonderful ladies at POW for a few more years yet

Jennifer Chambers,
Primary Care Liaison Nurse
Nottingham Alcohol and Drug Team

We have been running a specialist prescribing clinic at POW for drug using service users since Oct 2003. This has continued to develop and strengthen over the past year.

Clinics are held weekly on Thursday afternoons and are lead by myself and Jennifer Chambers a nurse specialist from The John Storer Clinic. I am a local GP with a special interest and specialist training in drug misuse management.

The clinics are well used and have enabled a range of women to access treatment and support for their drug use, who may otherwise not have done so. POW offers a unique opportunity for women to be treated for their drug use in a safe and flexible setting where they know they will be treated appropriately and in a non-judgemental way.

Thursday afternoons provide a marvellous "one-stop shop" where clients can be seen by a variety of practitioners and address several health-care needs in one go. The services offered have expanded to offer a range of health initiatives and include GU medicine, contraception advice and prescribing, acupuncture for addictions and also massage therapy.

Many of our regular clients have either never been in treatment before or have not stayed in treatment for long with other agencies. Over the past 2 years (Oct 2004- Oct 2006) we have had 31 clients in treatment and our retention rate is impressive with over 42% (13) of these, staying in treatment for more than 6 months. In fact, 10 women have been seen weekly or fortnightly for over a year, with some still being seen after 2 years. We see an average of 1-2 new clients every month, and do have the capacity to see more.

It is important that people are stabilized over an extended time period, as drug using habits are hard to break and clients often need a long time in treatment to really address the issues needed to turn their lives around. We have some very good success stories! Clients' health have improved dramatically when they are no longer injecting, many women have been able to exit prostitution, as they are no longer working to fund their drug habits.

POW is a wonderful project, staffed by committed and enthusiastic workers. It is a privilege to work here and to get to know the clients and learn more about their particular issues and struggles. It is also a lot of fun and we often have a good laugh.

I anticipate the clinic will continue to thrive over the next year with a steady increase in the numbers of clients seen and with continued benefits seen by those accessing the service.

Dr Karen Worth, GP.

I have been visiting POW now for two and half years, providing an outreach Sexual Health clinic on behalf of G.U. Medicine. I can honestly say, providing this session is probably the favourite part of my working week. The whole POW setting is very friendly and accommodating, which of course is all credit to the workers and volunteers.

Similarly, I find working with this client group very rewarding as it not only encompasses Sexual Health screening, but also counselling and providing appropriate information/advice. Obviously at times this can be challenging, however I do feel the clients value the service provided and there is a true trust relationship, which has emerged from that.

To be involved in the process of facilitating clients to make positive changes in their lives and subsequently witnessing those changes, really does make you feel as though you are making a difference.

I very much look forward to continuing to provide the service and indeed extending the sessions further, to include clients who are for various reasons unable to attend POW. Hopefully this additional outreach would serve to promote all the excellent services provided by POW thus empowering a growing client group.

Kim Mian

Health Adviser G.U. Medicine Department of GU Medicine, Nottingham City Hospital.

The Satellite Clinic at POW was set up for easy access for clients who can't attend other clinics offering contraception. Advice given on all forms of contraception from the use of condoms to discussions on coil fits and implants, can take place. Aim of clinic is to offer advice and support to clients regarding their contraception and sexual health.

Working together with the team at POW that already support the clients in many different areas, this service can be developed further to meet the needs of the clients.

Kim, Contraception Nurse

Team:

Susan Johnson - Project Director

Sonia Dowdie - Operations Manager

Carmel Gilmartin - Support Worker
Worker

Michelle Robinson - Support & Development

Andrea Dowdie - Office Manager

Jane Dalrymple - Counsellor

Helen Bell - Volunteer

Allison Ellis- Volunteer

The Management Committee:

Glynis Storer - Chairperson,

Dr Rachel Leheup -

Vice Chairperson

Christopher Huges - Treasurer
Dr Nicola James
Nathan Voce, Manager Childrens Home

Susan Johnson
Helen Catchpole

Phil O'Brien
Judy Aspin

Honary Member; Professor Pamela Gillies, Tamsin Morris

POW would like to thank the clients, the management committee, employees, volunteers and of course the funders:

Nottingham City Primary Care Trust
New Deal for Communities; Radford & Hyson Green
Nottingham City Social Services CDP

Grants received from:

National Probation Service

Nottingham City Drugs & Action Team/Crime & Drugs Partnership

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