TWO SAINTS
REBUILDING LIVES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Kaleidoscope

Supporting women who sell sex on street

Kaleidoscope Outreach service delivery

- The service is commissioned and funded by PHE and focuses on supporting women who sell sex on street to gain better opportunities with multiple disadvantages; health, substance use, crime, safeguarding and homelessness.
- The service currently has one part time outreach worker who works Monday to Thursday.
- Monday & Tuesday the service delivers outreach daytime support hours, offering support to women to access partner support agencies, basic needs, welfare checks, and assessments & referrals.
- Wednesday & Thursday the service conduct evening outreach in the area that the women are known to sell sex on street. Providing condoms, needle exchange and basic needs. Allowing for rapport building to establish professional relationships with the women to further offer support and identify needs and risk assessments.

Rapport, Trust & Trauma

- All most all women who are supported by the service present with multiple disadvantage; substance use, homelessness, poor physical & mental health, abuse & exploitation and learning disabilities.
- In addition to this most women we support have had extensive adverse childhood experiences and a history of trauma. This has often led to the women having low self-worth, mistrust of support services and this can lead to self-neglect behaviours that make it difficult to build rapports and engage them in support.
- Building a rapport with these women is key and can often take a long time due to the nature of their chaotic lifestyles and past traumas.

On Street Sex Working Stigma & Risks

- There are multiple risks posed to those who sell sex on street some more obvious than others; all forms of abuse, serious harm, death, exploitation and trafficking.
- All of these risks are posed by a multitude of people; people who pay for sex on street, other women selling on street, partners of the women and people who target on street sex workers.
- The women who sell sex on street often tell us they are used to these risks, and they are to be expected due to the nature of their lifestyle. They often accept the abuse, exploitation and serious harm given to them and are desensitized to the risks, sometimes not recognising the severity of their experiences. This can make supporting women with crime against them and safeguarding concerns difficult to support positive interventions.
- Financial exploitation is often not recognised, particularly with women who have relationships and street sex work to fund the addiction of their and partner and them.
- The relationships the women have with their peers, acquaintances and partners are often exploitative and abusive however on most occasions they do not recognise this.

Lifestyle, Stability & Recovery

- The women's lifestyles are often very chaotic, and this makes it difficult to engage with appointments, accessing support services and using accommodation. Kaleidoscope work with the women to try and reduce the barriers to accessing support, partner agencies and to use & maintain accommodation. The service works in collaboration with partner agencies and often bridges the gap to accessing support until women are more stable and built a rapport with the other agencies, however the support can continue for as long as it's needed.
- Stability for the women who sell sex on street can look quite different to others who experience multiple disadvantage. Using and maintaining their accommodation, maintaining substitute prescribing, attending appointments, taking medication, eating regular meals, changing their clothes and regular washing are indicators of stability. However, there are a small number of women who sell sex on street that are not experiencing all multiple disadvantages and some of the women have better life skills and less support needs. The threshold for what stability looks like for these women should be low to reduce the fear of failure and rejection. Additionally achieving and maintaining stability can take longer for the women to achieve and a never give up approach needs to be adapted to maintain positive relationships with services and build the women's confidence to achieve their goals.
- Since the start of the pilot service in November 2020 the service has supported 56 women who sell sex on street in Southampton. The number of women selling sex on street changes due to multiple factors; prison, moving out of area, refuge, hospital admission, accommodation, arrest warrants and periods of stability. However, it has been observed by the service that returning to selling sex on street is a regular occurrence for the majority of the women we support, and recovery appears to be more difficult to achieve and maintain.

Supporting women who sell sex on street

- The service offers low threshold support to the women and follow a never give up attitude. Allowing for open ended support with no judgement.
- Kaleidoscope works in Collaboration with partner agencies to support the women in need, these services include; Amber, Police, Solent Sexual Health, CGL, Homeless Healthcare, Street Homeless Prevention Team, Society of St James, Adult Social Care & UHS.
- We work closely with Solent Sexual Health and offers a self-testing pathway to reduce the barrier to sexual health. If the testing has a positive result, we support the woman to access the appointments for treatment and further testing.
- We work closely with the Op Hem Liaison Officer to support our women when they experience crime towards them. Where a crime has been committed, we will offer support to the women to report this.
- The Street Homeless Prevention Team accept referrals direct from our service for emergency accommodation where available and we send referrals to the HRS panel for longer term accommodation options.
- We host a monthly ladies' nights at the Two Saints Day Centre to provide a female only environment to allow the women some respite from their lifestyle. At these nights they can access homeless healthcare, sexual health, smear testing, contraception, CGL & substitute prescribing, needle exchange, food & drink, clothing donations, beauty products and showers.
- CGL join us once a week on outreach allowing for rapport building with the women and reduce the barrier to accessing substance use services.
- The service often makes safeguarding referrals and attend MARMS & safeguarding meetings for the women.
- Kaleidoscope offer support to accommodation providers to support the women to use and maintain accommodation.