

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## A note from our CEO, Deidre



*We have been working hard at POW to continue to meet the needs of our community, with staff going above and beyond to make this happen. I remain proud of their tenacity and determination to make a real difference to those we support. We are only a small team but the teams achievements continue to amaze me. It's been a busy time at POW with the building having a much needed make over, thank you to our caretaker and maintenance volunteer, Paul.*

*We were fortunate this quarter to receive funding from People's Postcode Trust which will help to support our core services. Thank you as always to our supporters and funders, we couldn't do what we do without you.*



Thanks to an amazing donation from a member of the community we have a new oven to cook for our service users

## Our impact in 2021 so far...

296

service users supported:

36 in Crisis; 50 Migrant clients; 66 off-street workers; 57 Progression clients and 19 Students

290

contacts during our evening outreach sessions, supporting 69 people

15,228

condoms distributed - supporting sexual health for the community

## Prevention and Safety

The POW team have worked together to:

- Help 27 people move house
- Help 16 people to gain housing
- Stopped 22 people becoming homeless
- Supported 21 people to report crimes
- Engaged 26 people into recovery
- Supported 6 people to see a counsellor
- Got 26 people the COVID vaccination

# Services - Police Liaison - Students

## Service Update

*We have continued to run a full service here at POW with the addition of a new appointment clinic where we can do intensive casework with people who need some more one to one time.*

*Our twice weekly drop in clinics continues to tend to people's basic life needs, including clothing, hot food and drinks, harm minimisation and more. The team have been going out three evenings per week to do outreach in our van, seeing street sex workers and ensuring their safety while they work. We have a number of new volunteers helping support our service and have been delighted to employ one into a paid part-time post. With the addition of Emily in her Project Support role we now have increased capacity in the team after many months of working flat out to support so many people who access POW.*

*Notts Recovery Network have returned to the building once per week so that people can more readily access drug recovery treatment. We have seen an increase in people attending these appointments now that they are held on site.*

## An update from Sam, our Police Liaison Officer



*"The past few months have thankfully been quiet in terms of supporting our service users through the criminal justice system as victims. There are still a couple of ongoing investigations, but actions are being taken and those involved supported in every way we can. I'm continuing to work closely with Nottinghamshire Police's Prostitution Taskforce in supporting our service users, with much of my work being referred in through them and their interaction with the workers. Due to being quieter on the criminal justice side of things has meant that I've been able to carry out meaningful general case work, and have supported a number of individuals with benefit claims, into drug support, housing, further support services, etc.*

*Over these months I have also been working on our LGBTQ+ project closely with The Health Shop in the city centre. This has involved reaching out online to those who identify as LGBTQ+ and are in the sex industry, as well as those who take part in 'cruising'. We have been supplying easy to access harm reduction as well as being a link to start PrEP treatment and have sexual health testing. I'm now looking for a male volunteer to take on the LGBTQ+ outreach volunteer role and work with me to continue providing this support."*

*If you are a male member of the LGBTQ+ community and would like to volunteer with us 2-3 hours per week to help with LGBTQ+ outreach please contact [sam@pow-advice.co.uk](mailto:sam@pow-advice.co.uk)*

## Students

*For the students over the last few months we've completed two campus outreach sessions at NTU advising students on safe sexual health and opening up the conversation around student sex work where we gave out between 90-100 sets of our new student sex work posters, advice leaflets and condoms.*

*We also did an online sexual health training session for students and worked with Student Sex Worker project Manchester and North East Sex Work Forum to deliver online training to 30 NTU staff on student sex work.*

# MWAH Project

*Our Migrant Worker Advice & Help Project is coming to the end of its current funding cycle and as such we have been reflecting on the last 5 years of innovative work with migrant sex workers. POW is one of the very few projects within the UK who works with migrant sex workers, and we are unique in having a worker who is from a migrant background to carry out this work.*

*As we look at the strengths and difficulties of running the project over the last 5 years we want to share our learning locally and nationally around engaging with this hidden community. To this end we are working on writing up some of our experiences to be shared as a paper later in the year.*

*In addition, Diana our MWAH Project Co-ordinator, has been working for the last year on a piece of research into the experiences of migrant sex workers. She is currently in the process of writing up this work and all the women who took part in this research are keen for their voices to be heard at a national level. We are blessed to have a new volunteer, Nour, who has come from Israel on a year's PhD research placement in collaboration with Leicester University. Nour is assisting Diana with this research and will be helping us to share more of our organisational learning as time goes on.*

*We are in the process of completing our yearly evaluation with an external consultant, below is some of the feedback from people who work with MWAH:*

## MWAH FEEDBACK



"I did better than ever , I felt that someone cares for me as a human being too, not only because I am a sex worker and I fit the criteria"

"POW taught me how to keep myself safe, I had moral support via weekly chats with Diana, she sent me stuff to watch and to listen, it changed my hopes for better, it made me aware of dangers in the sex working world, "

"Without POW I would have been lost, maybe ill or in prison"

"I now have a quiet life and I exited sex work. Diana taught me not feel different than any other human being"

