

# I was trying to imagine what it's like to have sex with someone you really cannot stand, someone who disgusts you so much that your skin crawls.

## I wasn't doing this because I had nothing better to do but as a way of understanding one of the realities of selling sex.

In the Annual Report last year I suggested that people who sell sex are not that different from many of us. I still believe this to be true but I also have to admit that apart from a few dodgy encounters when I was younger, I have not had to experience too many compromises in my sexual encounters. In most cases I have felt able to choose what was happening, and with whom.

Many of the young men we see at SWY do not like how they earn a living. This may have more to do with the circumstances that led up to being a sex worker, rather than the work itself. I suggest this because I have met other sex workers who do not seem unduly worried or bothered by what they do.

I have been thinking about this for a while. I am conscious that some guys either enjoy what they do or at the very least do not feel damaged by it. This is in stark contrast to the experience of many of our clients.

Last year a colleague from the Working Men Project and myself conducted a series of focus groups with different groups of male sex workers, to identify factors that may influence the experience of selling sex.

It became obvious that one major influence is the age of entry to the industry. Many of the escorts and brothel workers we spoke to had started selling sex in their twenties i.e. as men.

A large number of clients at SWY started selling at much younger ages, some as young as ten or twelve years old. In this sense older men were exploiting them, there was no chance that it might be a mutually beneficial arrangement between two adults, one paying for a service delivered by the other. They were children when they started selling...that's the crucial factor.

Adults decide to sell sex for many reasons, children may think they are making a decision, particularly as in the case of our clients it is relatively rare to see a coercer, a pimp. But many of our clients have been selling from a young age and we would question whether they have had an opportunity to make a choice about selling sex.

I wonder whether the affect of selling sex at such a young age is to lock the young person into a frozen state emotionally, making it difficult to sustain adult relationships later. Certainly one of our clients has very ambivalent feelings about his (gay) sexuality. "It's disgusting" is how he describes being gay, even though he has a partner. Many of our interventions are to promote self-esteem thereby enabling the young man to feel more in control of his life and engage in relationships at many levels, dealing with other adults in ways that are not blighted by the past.

That's why we emphasise facilitating choices in our work with young men. Other agencies do this too, which I think is very appropriate. Some of our clients will choose to exit the industry, hopefully with our help, while others will choose to continue selling sex, with our help also.

Ciarán McKinney, Director

### GIVING CHOICES BACK

Getting what we want, clinching a good deal, provides us with satisfaction but at what cost to the other person?

Does it make a difference if the transaction is over the use of a man's body or that of a boy? What does it mean when the body in question is no longer seen as a person but a commodity?

If it is the person's choice to sell sex, it is that person's privilege.

But what about when there is no choice and the purchaser knows you have no choice? I found it distressing to recall a situation in which I had no choice. It was frightening and unpleasant. It has made me ensure that I am always in a position to choose, through being equipped with the skills, the sense of self-worth and the necessary information to make particular choices.

Over the past year Streetwise Youth has taken the initiative in reflecting the fundamental changes in the field of young male sex workers. The staff team has sustained considerable changes...they continue to finely tune their methodology and skills.

SWY continues to provide a unique service, providing the opportunity to build self-esteem and trust in a safe and un-pressured space. SWY is often the first place where no word, or sign, of disdain is shown. The staff team facilitate the individual's ability to heal themselves - and from there opportunities to make choices become possible. ... to quote John Fuller: "I'm flying to nowhere. I'm just becoming myself."

Carolyn Belson, Chair

### NEW SERVICES

#### West End Space

We are starting a weekly drop-in session at Kairos, based in Old Compton Street, this will be supporting street outreach that will be done jointly with other agencies. We are able to offer advice and support on a wide range of issues and users can also access on site counselling. A nurse will also be available to offer the young men primary health care including general advice and referrals to relevant agencies. The overall objective of this service is to be more accessible to male sex workers who live and work within the west end.

#### Service@Boyz

Streetwise Youth is developing an outreach service that will run from the Boyz Newspaper offices based on Holloway Road. When guys phone or come in to place escort adverts they will be told about our service and can choose to speak to or meet with a project worker. We are able to offer information and advice on issues connected to selling sex, and guys will be invited to access services we provide in Earls Court or the West End.

#### Counselling

Counselling is now available as part of the holistic support service that SWY has on offer. Complementing our in house face to face sessions, we also offer telephone and detached counselling. Part of this service is provided by Don Knox (Young People's Counsellor - THT Lighthouse), he provides a weekly satellite service during our Wednesday drop-in session. This service has been running since May 2000, the uptake has been good and the feedback very positive.

### QUOTES

"I feel as though SWY is a group to help young men with all different types of problems, also when you come here you have a warm welcome from the staff. With help on housing, counselling or help with job seeking. You can also have a hot meal, shower or do some laundry. SWY has helped me since I started coming to the group" Tony

"I find SWY a very safe and happy place to come to. So come and see for yourself. It must be helpful because I've been coming here for 11 years!" Ben

"I've found the service extremely good also helpful and nice staff. I can't find much that would need improving!" Client

“ Without SWY I would have been unable to cope. Therefore it is very important that the services SWY offer continue in order to help the future of young people.” Client

### Client Rep.

Michael is the Client Rep. at Streetwise Youth. "I'm here once a week on a Monday from 4-6pm and also come in monthly for the Client meetings. So, if you have any worries, need to talk or you just want to have your say about services at Streetwise Youth, then I'm your man, I'm here to help you!"

Michael, Client Rep

### Patrons

Anthony Scrivner QC  
Chris Smith MP  
Frank Field MP  
Jimmy Sommerville  
Judge Stephen Tumim  
Lady Williams of Elvel  
Most Revd. Richard Holloway  
Professor Anthony Pinching  
Rabbi Julia Neuberger  
Revd. John Robson  
The Right Revd. Richard Harries

### Management Committee

Dianne Aimable-Lina (until March 2000)  
Carolyn Belson (Chair since Sept 2000)  
Colin Bent (Acting Chair until Sept 2000)  
Alan Howarth  
Mark Platt (until Nov 2000)  
Douglas Wilson (Treasurer)

### New Members from May 2000

Mike Bell  
Liz Collins  
Tom Stevenson

### Staff:

Heidi Barker – Project Worker  
Jo Clarke – Administrator  
Andrew Edun La'Bray- Project Worker (until October 1999)  
Patrick Halpin – Project Worker  
Comfort Ibronke Odunuga - Housekeeper  
Ciarán McKinney – Director  
Gavin Marsh – Team Leader (until December 2000)  
Fiona Mount – Project Worker (until August 2000)  
Phil Waterson – Fundraiser  
Linda Woodhouse – Project Worker

### Locum Workers:

Paul Boyce  
Joshua Bradley  
Marco Cortez  
David Moriarty  
Carl Planas  
Gary Smith

### We would like to thank the following organisations

for financial support received in 1999/2000:  
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust  
Bridge House Estates Trust  
Camden & Islington Health Authority  
Carlton Television Trust  
City of Westminster  
Community Fund  
Department of Health  
Ealing, Hammersmith & Hounslow Health Authority  
Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust  
Gatsby Foundation  
John Ellerman Foundation  
Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Health Authority  
Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham Health Authority  
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
Saint Edward Brotherhood  
Smiths Charity

In addition Streetwise Youth gratefully acknowledges the generosity of individual donors, volunteers and advisors. We thank you for your dedicated and continued support.

### SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2000

#### Abridged Financial Statement

The following abridged financial information constitutes non-statutory accounts in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice No 2 (SORP 2), Accounting by Charities issued by the Charity Commissioners in October 1995, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The financial information for the year ended 31 March 2000 on which the auditors, Chantrey Vellacott DFK gave an unqualified audit opinion.

Copies of the full statutory accounts have been filed with the Charities Commission and Companies House and may be obtained on request from the Company Secretary.

Incoming Resources	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2000 £	Total Funds 1999 £
Grants receivable from government and other public bodies	186,010		186,010	220,071
Donations, Legacies and other similar incoming sources	80,564	67,191	147,755	152,325
Investment Income	2,124		2,124	2,874
Sundry income	180		180	1,696
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>268,878</b>	<b>67,191</b>	<b>336,069</b>	<b>376,966</b>
<b>Resources Used</b>				
Direct Charitable Expenditure	187,384	67,191	254,575	220,746
Fundraising & Publicity	36,197		36,197	33,148
Management and Administration	54,903		54,903	62,770
<b>Total resources used</b>	<b>287,484</b>	<b>67,191</b>	<b>354,675</b>	<b>316,664</b>
Net Income	(9,606)		(9,606)	60,302
Fund Balance Brought Forward	82,005		82,005	21,703
Transfer from/(to) capital expenditure reserve				
<b>Fund Balances carried forward</b>	<b>72,399</b>		<b>72,399</b>	<b>82,005</b>
<b>Represented by</b>				
Tangible Fixed Assets			4,795	2,496
Accrued Income			48,473	
Pre-payments			568	382
Cash at bank and in hand			29,893	118,847
Creditors due within one year			(11,330)	(39,720)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<b>72,399</b>	<b>82,005</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
<b>General Fund</b>			<b>68,437</b>	<b>78,043</b>
<b>Designated Fund</b>			<b>3,962</b>	<b>3,962</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			<b>72,399</b>	<b>82,005</b>