

UMBRELLA LANE

SEX WORKER WELLBEING PROJECT



Annual Report 2019 - 2020



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Background

As a group of current and former sex workers and supportive allies, we began Umbrella Lane from the grassroots community level in January 2015 and registered with OSCR as an SCIO in August 2015. Umbrella Lane grew out of our shared frustration with the way existing services are delivered to sex workers from a political stance that views all prostitution as violence.

Our Mission & Governing Principles

To improve the health and well being of all sex workers in Scotland, through a community-based, innovative & holistic approach that recognises our agency & choices in starting sex work, managing work & sometimes moving on from sex work.

- To respect the self-determination of sex workers
- To respect and promote the human and health rights of sex workers
- To be inclusive to all sex workers and work from principles of equality, respect and recognition



Summary of Current Services

Currently Umbrella Lane offers weekly peer support and advice drop-ins, as well as creative and practical skills workshops biweekly. We provide a text update service for Sex Workers across Scotland informing of services, and sharing inspiration and positivity for managing in what is often an isolated profession (made this way by the legal framework in Scotland, which doesn't allow two people to work together). We are also working with The Managed Care Network at NHS Grampian to design and carry out a needs assessment with sex workers across Grampian region. This will allow Umbrella Lane to scale our services in Aberdeen, whilst informing the approach of related services to ensure accessibility and acceptability to sex workers. We provide safer sex supplies, and have a number of referral pathways in place to assist Sex Workers in accessing priority sexual and reproductive healthcare, reporting crimes anonymously, and accessing mental health care services.



Goals for 2019/2020

Our goals for this period, following previous years, were to continue to offer our peer-support drop in services, as well as maintaining a permanent office space in which to have a community space for these services. We also aimed to widen our reach to the community through a re-working of our social media and offering a wider array of services. We aimed to extend our services to sex workers in Aberdeen and surrounding areas, alongside our work on a needs assesment with NHS Grampian.



Activities & Achievements During 2019/2020



Secured a temporary office space for Umbrella Lane following our departure from the office at 82 Mitchell Street.

Negotiated a contract with Pret A Manger to provide food for weekly drop-in services

Hosted a vigil and community healing event to mark **December 17th, International Day To End Violence Against Sex Workers**

Rebuilt Umbrella Lane website and began a monthly blog

Increased social media presence, both in quantity of posts and accounts on new platforms

Secured funding from a number of different sources

Brought two paid staff on board in Community Outreach and Communications and Partnership roles

Established a lived experience Advisory Group

Ran both practical and creative skills workshops led by sex workers and allies

Started a text update service for sex workers across Scotland

Secured a location for Umbrella Lane drop-in services in Aberdeen

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, moved the majority of our services online, continuing to offer weekly drop-ins and peer support through online venues, as well as our phone line

Financial Reporting

Umbrella Lane had no income or expenditure for the reporting period.



**UMBRELLA
LANE**

Thank you for reading

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to join our community and hear more about our work. You can also follow
our updates at Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

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