



UMBRELLA LANE

SEX WORKER WELLBEING PROJECT



Annual Report 2016 - 2017



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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

Umbrella Lane continues to offer, as volunteers, support and referrals for sex workers, regardless of whether they wish to exit. This includes safer sex supplies, safety and empowerment workshops, and in partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland, a dedicated sex worker sexual health clinic, which includes sexual health and HIV screening and peer-support. We believe that running a holistic service that looks after the material, physical, emotional and sexual health needs of workers is the best way to reduce isolation and marginalisation of sex workers, remove barriers to their access to services, foster a sense of participation and capacity within the sex work community and increase positive engagement.

Goals for 2016/2017



Umbrella Lane has entered the 2016/2017 year with the goals of continuing our peer support clinic in partnership with Terrence Higgins Trust, accessing more funding to continue our various projects and expand our services in the future, and expanding our connections throughout the Sex Work community and partner organisations.

Activities & Achievements During 2016/2017

- Peer Support Clinics

Throughout the year of 2017, Umbrella Lane has managed to run a monthly clinic in partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust. This has been because of sex workers giving up their own time to facilitate the running of the clinics and be available to give advice. One of the key benefits of peer support is the greater perceived empathy and respect that peer supporters are seen to have for the individuals they support.



<i>Date</i>	<i>Total</i>
24/11/16	6
26/1/17	5
23/2/17	2
30/3/17	7
27/4/17	1
25/5/17	3
29/6/17	6
27/7/17	7
31/8/17	6
28/9/17	1
26/10/17	8

The above Numbers represent how many sex workers used the sexual health clinic in partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) across 2016/2017. Additionally, we see some of our service users at the regular THT Tuesday clinics, should they be unable to attend the group. We estimate this accounts for an additional five to ten tests per month.



- **Charity Developments**

Umbrella Lane signed up to the Sex Work Research Hub to keep up to date with academic research and funding opportunities. Umbrella Lane had the opportunity to attend the 'Beyond the Gaze' research findings, one of the biggest online studies conducted on online sex work and safety. Some of the sex workers who responded to the study were based in Scotland which will help us to identify more themes on the safety and support sex workers need.

- **Funding Applications**

Umbrella Lane is building a database of potential funders we could apply to in the future. Already we have applied to the Open Society Foundation that funds programs globally that work towards improving the health and human rights of marginalised and stigmatised groups, including sex workers.

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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