Services for Sex Workers in London: an audit
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Background

- Health of Sex Workers became a priority in the 1980s
- Outreach services protect sex workers (1)
- Increased STI checks for Sex Workers in touch with services (2)

Aim

To identify the changes in services for sex workers in London over the past 23 years

- What are the current services available for sex workers?
- How does this compare to 1997 and 2007 data?
- What are the opinions of service providers? - e.g. service delivery, financing, location, etc.
Method 1

Definition of Sex Worker Service

- Any service that had dedicated health and social care provisions for anyone working in the sex industry.

1995 and 2007 Data

- 2 historic datasets; 1995 handbook and 2007 UKNSWP Directory
Method 2

❖ Data Collection
  ❖ UKNSWP Website
  ❖ Google search
  ❖ Support And Advice For Escorts (SAAFE) forum
  ❖ Word of mouth

❖ Comparison
  ❖ SWIT comprehensive services
  ❖ Expert advice from Key Informants

❖ Geographical Distribution
  ❖ R Studio
  ❖ Nasa Data website
Results - the audit 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Graph showing the number of services providing each service criterion by year]
Results - the audit 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comprehensive service requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Safe space (drop-in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Clinical Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Drug services (needle exchange and/or drug treatment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Mental Health support (counselling)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Comprehensive service requirements summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total No. Services</th>
<th>Comprehensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results - the key informants

- **5 Key Informants** -
  - (Ex)Service providers: managers and clinical
  - Researcher
  - 80+ years of experience in the field

- **Key Themes identified**
  - **Funding**
    - Austerity
    - Service model and Commissioning
  - **Policing**
    - Increased
    - Damage of service provider and sex worker relationship
Results - the geographical distribution

1995

Collection bias?
Summary

- Services for sex workers in London has reduced since its peak in the noughties
- Less comprehensive, increased focus on clinical services and specialist advice
- Funding is a key issue
- Policing has affected access to services
- Geographical inequality in service provision
Limitations

- 1995 and 2007 data difficult to verify
  - Definition
  - Method of data collection
- Current changes in service provision
  - E.g. Safe Exit
- Opinion of sex workers was not included
Future Work

- Opinion and experiences of service users
- How these changes have affected service users and their care?
- What effects will this have on health and wellbeing in the sex work community?

Acknowledgements: Professor Helen Ward, Professor Sophie Day, Imperial College London Public Health Department, Cardiff University

Thank you for listening
Any Questions?
Extra bits:

SWIT

Service Provided
- Drop-in
- Clinical Services
- Needle exchange
- Drug treatment
- Counselling
- Specialist Advice
- Email and Web Support*
- Outreach*

* Only data from 2007 & 2018

Figure 5 Graph of the percentage of services that provide each criteria of service at each time-point