

Tackling the Street's Complex Problems

Complex issues – such as street prostitution - require comprehensive responses.

And that is what is occurring in Edmonton with a program called COARSE – Creating Options Aimed At Reducing Sexual Exploitation. COARSE is designed to help people leave the sex trade and rebuild their lives. The primary component is a unique court diversion program that removes or reduces criminal sanctions for offenses related to prostitution.



The Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton (PAAFE) coordinates this collaboration between three levels of government, community organizations, police and sex trade survivors.

At the heart of COARSE is a commitment to provide individuals with the integrated and coordinated services (e.g. housing, addictions recovery, income support and counselling) they require to implement the personalized plan they create themselves with the guidance of the Diversion Coordinator.

COARSE partners also strive to change unintentionally unhelpful systemic barriers in justice and human services systems that make exiting the sex trade more difficult than it has to be.

It's a tall order, but COARSE is making a difference. Since 2002, 101 people have participated in the COARSE court diversion program. COARSE partners, in a variety of small but important ways, have helped create a more effective, sophisticated response to one of society's most complex challenges.

 [More... on COARSE](#)

Related Links:

- [PAAFE website](#)
- [Deadly Streets – CBC Edmonton online feature](#)