

Hiding and Frightened

People involved in prostitution

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Definitions and the Law

- Prostitution is most commonly defined as the exchange of sexual services for some form of payment usually money or drugs.
- It can be on the street or off street
- Prostitution is not illegal. However soliciting, loitering, advertising, and kerb crawling are criminal offences. Also those that exploit men and women through brothel keeping and those that abuse children through prostitution are committing a criminal offence.
- To be called a “common prostitute” and to be charged with the above you must have received a least 2 formally recorded “ street cautions”

The law

- A child is a boy or girl under the age of 18. The age of consent may affect whether any sexual activity is lawful, but irrespective of this the guidance applies to any child under the age of 18 (section 105 Children's Act 1989)
- Girls and boys under the age of 16 cannot by law consent to sexual activity. Boys under 18 cannot consent to homosexual activity. Anyone engaging in sexual activity (whether for money or not) with a girl or boy under 16 (whether male or female) and a man engaging in sexual activity with a boy under 18 is committing an offence.

What do you want to get out of this



Roles and responsibilities

- Its important to work out what our individual role and responsibility is.
- Why we are being involved
- What help can we be to that individual.
- Being aware.

What and Why do we need to find out more?

- Drug use – what drug? Injecting?
- Nutrition
- Safety (Violence, BBVs testing and vaccination, Pregnancy, Working Environment)
- Psychological health
- STIs
- General health and drug related issues, wound care
- Contraception
- Housing
- Being concerned and interested in the person
- Begin to help her/him become aware of risks

Common characteristics

- On the Margins of society. Very difficult to reach
- Fear, shame, powerless, feelings of guilt
- Stigmatised
- Not getting services
- Not much known about as hiding and hidden
- Addicted to drugs
- Chaotic life style
- Coerced into it at a young age
- Violence and exploitation
- Children and young people under 18
- Debt
- Some say its their occupation of choice

Issues

- Trapped.
- To fund their own and often their partner/pimps problematic drug habit.
- Those involved rarely benefit apart from ensuring their drug supply.
- Profits go to the drug dealers. For some it can be very lucrative, but for 80-95% of those involved in street prostitution to feed a drug habit, reality is very different.
- Sexual health.
- People trafficking.

Further issues

- The term “use” a prostitute is revealing
- Grooming
- It acknowledges that prostitution is a victim-centred and market crime, affecting individuals and communities.

Human Rights

- "To promote the health, safety, civil and human rights of sex workers, including their rights to live free from violence, intimidation, coercion or exploitation, to engage in the work as safely as possible, and to receive high quality health and other services in conditions of trust and confidentiality, without discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, culture or religion"
- The UKNSWP recognizes and supports, the rights of individual sex workers to self-determination. This includes the right to remain in sex work or to leave sex work."

“Grooming”

The hierarchies in pimping organisations may start with specially trained young men, often in their teens and some still at school, frequenting places such as shopping malls or arcades where teenagers will be unaccompanied by their parents. They hang around specific areas the young girls frequent, chatting them up before taking them outside for some usually, initially minor, sexual activities, such as kissing, intimate touching above and beneath clothes. They then suggest meeting again in town. The girls think they have a new boyfriend. Eventually the girls are introduced to the next rung up in the hierarchy, an older man. They are lured into an exciting life style with a ‘boy friend’ who has a car, and gives them cigarettes, drinks, mobile phones and offers them lifts. It is only later when they are told that they owe the men money for the lifts, etc., that they begin to realise that there is a darker side to this ‘friendship’. At some stage they are introduced to drugs, and later could be gang raped.

The different stages of grooming are performed by different people playing complementary roles to gain control of the girls. Each stage in the process is managed by a distinct level in the organisation. The first stage is that of the *befriended girl* - this stage is done by young men and boys of almost the same age as her (early teens), and what goes on may be hard to distinguish from ordinary teenage socialising. It could happen in and around schools, in town centres and in shopping malls, wherever young people get together. The appearance of ordinary friendship hides what is going on. The second stage is that of the *dazzled girl*. The befriended girl is passed on, up the hierarchy, to young men a few years older, who give them a taste of flashy excitement: fast cars, mobiles, a special relation with an attractive man, the simulation of love. In this stage the girl's alienation from home and family is achieved subtly or crudely. And then thirdly, there is the move from the dazzled girl to the *trapped girl*, where there is demand for payback for all the favours shown. The girl is required to have sex with other men, as a return for what she has been given in this wonderful life. At this stage brutal coercion and fear take

victims

The individuals that are trapped

AND

The communities that they work in

Statistics 1.

- **SO MUCH IS HIDDEN**
- In most towns and cities
- Most is female but there is a significant sex market involving males
- As many as 80,000 people involved in prostitution (1999 Europap-UK survey)
- 5000 young people may be involved
- 85% report physical abuse. 45% report familial sexual abuse
- Many report poor school attendance and 70% spent time in care

Statistics 2.

- Average age of women was 27
- Majority were single or living with partner/pimp
- Most had tried to leave prostitution but failed due to drug use and other vulnerabilities
- 95% of those involved in street based prostitution are believed to use heroin and or crack
- Many report having run away from home or periods of homelessness

childhood histories and vulnerabilities 1

- Time in care
- Disrupted schooling, truancy, exclusion
- Running away
- Low educational achievement
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Rape
- Entry into prostitution at a very young age
- Mental health issues
- Low self esteem
- Peer pressure

childhood histories and vulnerabilities 2

- Drug abuse. Alcohol abuse
- Homelessness
- Criminal histories
- Physical violence
- Sexual assault
- Coerced
- Enticed
- Desperation
- Debt

Pimps or partner/pimps

- Average age 22
- Income £500-£7000 per week
- Had custodial sentence
- Acquisitive crime
- Drug dealing
- Possession of firearms
- Problematic drug use
- Involvement with crack houses

Prostitute User

- Aged 30
- Married
- In full time employment
- No criminal convictions
- 8.9% man in London had paid for sex in the last 5 years (Johnson et al 2001) across UK is 4.3%

Problems of the sex trade in the community

- In neighbourhood – noise, harassment, litter
- Undermines economic regeneration and neighbourhood renewal
- Advertising of prostitution and soliciting and prostitutes' cards
- Spread of STIs
- Increasing use of internet as a grooming and advertising medium
- Links with drug abuse and markets
- Links with criminality
- Related violence social exclusion of those involved
- Abuse of children
- Impact on the family
- Effects of attitudes of men TO women and on gender equality

Patterns

The young persons triangle

Abused girl/abusing adult/child sex offender

The adult triangle

Prostitute/pimp/client

Questions

- Do you have a service?
- If not why not?
- Is this something that is worth setting up?

Telephone numbers

- The safe Project 0121 440 6655
- Talk to Frank 0800 776600
- Stop it now 0808 1000 900
- Shelter 0845 458 4590
- UK NSWP 0161 953 4051
- Release 08454500215

02077299904

Don't forget

- Personal safety
- Clients violent fear of kidnap, rape (NHI - No human involved!!!!)
- Poor life style, sleeping rough
- Worries of child care and loosing child
- Housing connected to child care
- Worried about getting arrested
- Lots of psychological problem depression, dual diagnosis, panic attacks, worried about what people think
- Past history of abuse
- Shamed by their work. Feel powerless, guilty
- Very few health checks
- Low use of service 50% registered with GP
- Lack of awareness of service
- Fear of being judged
- Wants – food housing safe place, female Dr or nurse
- Empower to take control have voice heard interagency working
- Personal safety training
- Safety for all to enjoy their community

Useful Reading 1

- Paying the Price. DOH July 2004
- Protection of sex workers. M.Goodyear,L.Cusick
BMJ Jan 2007 334 :52-53
- The many faces of Sex Work C.Harcourt B.Donovan
Sex Transm Inf. 2005;81;201-206
- Sex work harm reduction M.L Redart
Lancet 2005;366;2123-34
- Estimates of numbers of female sex workers in different regions of the world J.Vandepitte R.Lyerla G.Dallabetta F.Crabbe M.Alary
A.Buve
Sex Transm Inf. 2006;82;iii18-25
- Exchange, Deceit, risk and harm. Women receiving injections C.Tompkins L.Sheard N.Wright L.Jones N.Howes
Drugs Education, prevention and policy 13;No 3; June 2006 281-297

Useful Reading 2

- Self injection education for street level sex workers
L. Synn Stern chapter 12 “The Reduction of Drug related Harm” 1992
- My Name Is Angel by Rhea Coombs with Diane Taylor Virgin 2007
- Regulatory Impact Assessment - a Home Office coordinated strategy for Prostitution -
homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-paying-the-price/Paying-the-Price-RIA.pdf?view=Binary
- Research for Sex Work
 - a) www.researchforsexwork.org/editions/
 - b) www.researchforsexwork.org
- Release - Sex workers and the Law -
www.release.org.uk/store/showItems.php?category=publications

Case History

Amelia has been a patient of mine for about good 20 years. When I first knew her she was a beautiful youngster ready for the fashion industry and with high expectations. When we met about a year ago she came into the DIP service on an ASBO and needing a rapid script. She told me she was working as a street sex worker. I didn't see again for several months and I heard she was in prison.

Recently she has represented and requested help. Amelia said she was drinking what ever is on offer, usually between 10 and 20 units / day. Her heroin use was between £30 and £50 a day and her crack use was between £50 and £200 a day. She has periods of injecting and of violence towards herself. She has over dosed several times. She had had one admission to hospital for crack psychosis. She told me she now had no outstanding charges but is still working the streets. She was thin and malnourished, had awful teeth, and was scarred, scared, angry, despondent, and dirty.

Her family history is that she was brought up in a family of violence and both her parents were alcoholic. She had been married twice and has 5 children aged between 9 and 21 some with different fathers. She only has some contact with her eldest son who has just come out of prison.

What are my objectives

