Hate Crime, Harm Reduction & Social Inclusion: Addressing Violence Against Sex Workers in Merseyside

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Aims of this presentation

- Brief overview of street sex work in Liverpool
- Explore myths related to sexual violence and sex work
- Look at prevalence of violence against sex workers in Liverpool
- What can we do to encourage reporting?
- Has it worked? Outcomes of ‘Merseyside Model’
Elements of Armistead street

- Harm reduction model
- Assertive outreach model
- Referral
- Fast track into treatment /detox
- Crisis intervention
- One to one support

- Community events/activities
- Sex worker clinic (Brownlow, Gum, Abacus)
- ISVA (Independent sexual violence advisor)
- Drop-In
- Counselling
On the ‘Beat’- Liverpool, 2005
Who are the clients in Liverpool?

- Age profile from 16 years to 57 years
- The most prevalent age range is 30-34 years of age followed by 25-29 years of age
- Gender balance of clients- 331 female, 3 male
- Predominately White British women
- 98% dependent on class A drugs and/or alcohol
- Victims of rape, sexual assault, violence at high levels, from range of perpetrators
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Clients Seen</th>
<th>Ugly Mug reports taken</th>
<th>Number of Sexual Violence reports</th>
<th>Number of Rapes</th>
<th>Sexual Violence as a % of Crimes Reported to Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20 &amp; 1 assault by penetration</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Merseyside Police</td>
<td>Project data-sex worker rapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005/2006</td>
<td>97 rapes</td>
<td>8 rapes = 8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>111 rapes</td>
<td>18 rapes = 16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>91 rapes</td>
<td>21 rapes = 22%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>86 rapes</td>
<td>10 rapes = 12%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Assumptions about violence against sex workers which are UNTRUE

- Prostitutes can’t be raped
- Not a reliable witness, won’t see it through
- No harm done, he didn’t hurt her now did he?
- Not as serious as a ‘regular rape’ is it?
- She shouldn’t have been out there in the first place
- You mean she didn't get paid
Learning from ‘Best Practice’
What Works? Police/CPS

- Believe the person reporting
- Culture of respect and trust
- Dedicated police liaison officers and CID officers tasked with investigation
- Establish partnerships and pathways with projects—we can help!
- Policing policy that prioritises safety of sex workers over enforcement
- Get onboard with your local ‘UGLY MUGS’, ‘DODGY PUNTER’ schemes
- HATE CRIME MODEL
Learning from ‘Best Practice’
What Works? Projects

- Culture of respect and trust with police
- ‘UGLY MUGS’ system, effective pathways into police
- Engage CPS, especially rape co-ordinator
- Train police, especially 1st responders, SOLO’s, CID and Area Inspectors
- Pathways with SARC’s, train crisis workers, ISVA’s and IDVA’s
- Sell it to the clients!
Victim Centred Methods

- Early evidence taken by project? (in conjunction with ‘UGLY MUG’-good evidence)
- Only 1\textsuperscript{st} account at incident
- ABE – video interview client, at a neutral venue if possible (use mobile video interview equipment)
- Apply early for special measures
- Work with court to ensure minimal ‘hanging about’
- Straight on to give evidence if possible
- If scripted, liaise to collect before court
- Provide accommodation if homeless, night before and day of appearance
Lost Lives

Linda Donaldson, murdered 1988 - case unsolved

Julie Finley, murdered 1994 - case unsolved

Sharon Lynch, murdered 1997 - was solved but conviction was then found to be unsafe so now unsolved

Suzanne Kelly, murdered 2000 - case unsolved

Victoria Gerard, murdered 2000 - case solved

Hanane Parry, murdered 2003 along with Pauline Stephen - case solved

Pauline Stephen, murdered 2003 with Hanane Parry - case solved

Chantelle Taylor, murdered 2004, case solved

Anne-Marie Foy, murdered 2005 - case unsolved
Results of partnership?

- The conviction rate for crimes against sex workers in Merseyside for the period 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2005 to 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2009 is an astonishing 90%!

- The detection rates for rapes upon sex workers for the period 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2008 to 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2009 is an equally astonishing 40%!

- Since the SARC and RSU opened, in 98% of all sexual offences committed against sex workers, clients have gone to the SARC for full forensic medical examination!
The Results?
2005-2010

- Tyler - Robbery - 5 years
- Chubb - Rape x 2 - IPP 12 years
- Kiara - Rape & false imprisonment 8 years
- Kinsella - Section 47 & robbery - 18mth community order
- Lau - Section 47 - 18mth community order under Insanity Act
- Mr K - possession of an offensive weapon - £80 fine
- Wilcox - Section 47 - 2 years
- Kelly - Section 18 (DA) - 16mths
- Molyneux - Rape x 2 - IPP (4 years)
- Mr C - Theft by finding Police Caution
- Mr A - Historical child abuse (17 years)
- Byrne - IPP, 3 ½ years
Liverpool charity boss from Wirral Matthew Byrne jailed indefinitely for sadistic sex attack on prostitutes

- Admitted four “sadistic” sex attacks on prostitutes (initially charged relating to 6 women)
- He would tie up and gag the helpless women before strangling and repeatedly beating them with a cane while he satisfied himself sexually.
- In one attack he whipped the woman up to 40 times until her blood sprayed 6ft up his bedroom walls. He then used a plastic bag to suffocate the vice worker until she saw black spots in front of her eyes and believed she was going to die
- Also in possession of 9,000 indecent images of children
- Made 2 x level 3, 2 x level 4 images
- Committed a lewd act/outraging public decency

(Liverpool Echo 22/4/10)
The Results?

2010 Cases Pending

- Mr X  Rape
- Mr D  Rape x 4  Trial set June
- Mr P  Rape  Trial set June
- Mr K  Rape
- Mr R  Indecent exposure x 5
- Mr S  Rape
- Several other cases under investigation