

Background History

- ◆ Bristol Drugs Project was created in response to the rise in transmission of blood born viruses amongst I.V. drug users.
- ◆ The project has been operating for 17 years.
- ◆ Currently 3726 clients are registered for needle exchange.

Detached Work – Female Sex Workers.

- ◆ This post has been operating for 14 years
- ◆ The post was created to meet the needs of female drug users who sell sex on the street to fund their use
- ◆ 344 women are registered with this service

Facts – Sex on the streets.

- ◆ A majority of street level sex workers will be homeless or in unsuitable housing
- ◆ Most sex workers will be supporting their own drug use and that of a significant other
- ◆ The majority of sex workers will be raped, robbed, intimidated and assaulted on a regular basis
- ◆ Few cases are ever reported to the police

Majority Profile:

Street sex-workers in Bristol.

- ◆ Age: 18-26
- ◆ Ethnic Origin: UK White
- ◆ Will be drug dependant/ Will be poly drug users
- ◆ Will be - Partnered
- ◆ First sexual experience 10-14 years
- ◆ Will have spent time in care
- ◆ Will have experienced physical, emotional, sexual abuse during their childhood

Punter Profile

- ◆ Majority of Punters will be married
- ◆ Will have children
- ◆ Punters do not consider BBVS
- ◆ Often enjoy the fear element
- ◆ The minority will be extremely violent

Detached Work with Women Sex Workers January – June 2003 - BDP

- ◆ Contacts were made with 213 individual women
- ◆ 136 women through street work
- ◆ 17 women used the Thursday evening drop-in on a regular basis
- ◆ 64 women were contacted through massage parlours (3 months operation)
- ◆ 17 of these women were engaged in structured counselling
- ◆ For street work, 4% of contacts made were by Black women or women of mixed parentage, and 2% by other groups. For parlour contacts, 25% of women were from Black or minority ethnic communities and 15% were White Europeans.
- ◆ For those women where drug use was known, 69% were using Heroin and crack cocaine. 65% were using Crack cocaine and other drugs.
- ◆ Women seen during this period were living in 28 different districts across the City, with a minority out of town.

Detached Work with Women Sex Workers July – December 2003

- ◆ The majority of all contacts comes from Street detached work and Drop in services at BDP
- ◆ Contacts were made with 358 individual women
- ◆ 244 women through street work
- ◆ 84 women used the Thursday evening drop-in compared to 17 during the previous period; this is a very significant increase in activity
- ◆ 106 women were contacted through massage parlours
- ◆ 8 through work in hostels
- ◆ 75 Women were referred on to treatment or other services
- ◆ For street work, 4% of contacts made were by Black women or women of mixed parentage, and 2% by other European groups. For parlour contacts, 25% of women were from Black or minority ethnic communities and 15% were White Europeans
- ◆ For those women where drug use was known, 77% were using Heroin and 89% using Crack cocaine
- ◆ Women seen during this period were living in 24 different districts across the City, with a minority out of town. 25% of those seen through street work had no fixed address

Off The Streets – Methadone Clinic

- ◆ During this period 54 women were contacted through detached work
- ◆ 52 were using heroin and crack cocaine; 10% were from Black and minority ethnic groups
- ◆ 35 women were engaged in treatment (including 8 new to treatment this quarter) of these:
- ◆ 7 women were discharged from treatment
- ◆ 1 woman referred to GP for treatment

- ◆ 6 women in treatment less than 3 months
- ◆ 4 women retained in treatment at 3 months
- ◆ 5 women retained in treatment at 6 months and reporting reduction in drug use and the number of sex work occasions per week.
- ◆ 12 women retained in treatment for more than 6 months and reporting reduction in drug use and the number of sex work occasions per week.