

'Not an occupational hazard' Sex Work and Sexual Violence

Shelly Stoops
Specialist Independent Sexual
Violence Advisor (ISVA)
&
Detective Inspector Steve Jones
Merseyside Police



Aims of today's talk

- How we respond in partnership to crimes against sex workers in Merseyside

Who?

- UKNSWP (2008) estimates between 50,000 to 80,000 sex workers in the UK
- 28% are street sex workers so between 14,000 to 22,400 street sex workers

Levels of Violence

- Research (Campbell & Stoops, 2008) shows 73.5% of sex workers in Liverpool have experienced violence in the course of their work-high levels of sexual violence
- Street sex work far more dangerous than indoor/off street sex work (See Sanders, Church et al)

Assumptions about violence against sex workers which are UNTRUE

- Clients pay for sex because they think it gives them the right to hurt sex workers
- Those who attack sex workers do not pose a threat to other people
- It is impossible to prevent violence against sex workers
- Convictions for violence against sex workers are rare
- Serial murder of sex workers is common
- Murders of sex workers are frequently unsolved

The Bad Old Days- 'Life On Mars' -police responses to crimes against sex workers

- 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 you didn't get paid

Who attacks Sex Workers?

- non-clients:
- pseudo-clients:
- bad clients:

On the 'Beat'- Liverpool, 2005



Who are the clients in Liverpool?

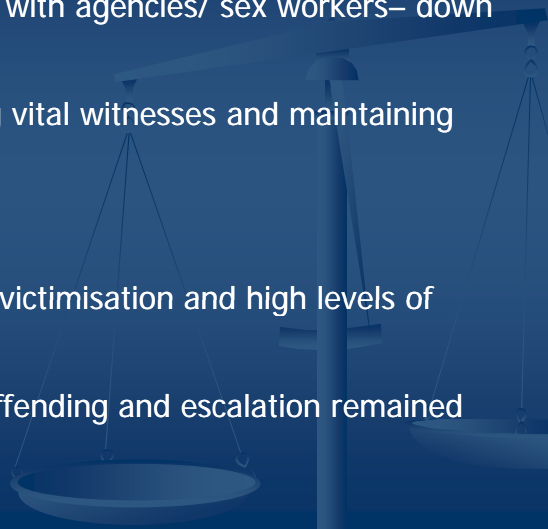
- Age profile from 16 years to 57 years
- The most prevalent age range is 30-34 years of age followed by 25-29 years of age
- Gender balance of clients- 99% female
- Predominately White British/Irish women
- 99% dependent on class A drugs and/or alcohol
- Victims of rape, sexual assault, violence at high levels, from range of perpetrators

Enforcement in Liverpool-Historical Perspective

- Previous operations to target sex workers and kerb crawlers (e.g. Operation Rose)
- Short term impact, no long term strategic solution
- No partnership work
- No support or after care for sex workers
- Limited work around safety- vulnerability to criminals, vigilantes, residents
- Individual agenda/s & targets of BCU's, officers
- focus of operations was to arrest as many sex workers, and their clients, as possible, with the aim of disrupting activity to such an extent that the problem is removed

LEARNING FROM MURDER INVESTIGATIONS (view from Merseyside Police)

- ad hoc relationships with agencies/ sex workers– down to individual officer
- difficulties contacting vital witnesses and maintaining contact
- lack of trust
- highlighted previous victimisation and high levels of unreported crime
- previous history of offending and escalation remained invisible



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



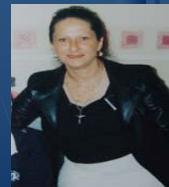
Victoria Gerard, murdered 2000- case solved



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



Just how prevalent is violence against sex workers in Liverpool?

The Liverpool Experience

Year	Clients Seen	Ugly Mug reports taken	Number of Sexual Violence reports	Number of Rapes	Sexual Violence as a % of Crimes Reported to Project
2005/6	471	43	12	8	28%
2006/7	417	83	25	18	30%
2007/8	358	65	30	20 & 1 abp	46%
2008/9	334	36	16	10	44%
2009/10	304	39	24	24	61.5%

HATE CRIME!

All crimes against sex workers to be treated and defined as Hate Crime across the force

Merseyside Police the first and currently only force in the UK to do

SO. . .

watch this space!

KEY ELEMENTS TO THE LIVERPOOL APPROACH TO VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

- Enhanced 'Ugly Mugs' scheme, dedicated pathways for tasking and investigations
- Dedicated Specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor role
- Unity Team
- Policing policy that prioritises addressing violence against sex workers and ensuring justice for sex workers who become victims-recognising vulnerability of sex workers to violent and sexual crimes-Chief Constable's address, website statements
- Proactive Police liaison with Armistead Project & sex workers:

Results of partnership?

- The conviction rate for crimes against sex workers in Merseyside for the period 1st November 2006 (when specialist service started) to date is an astonishing 83%!
- 400% increase in the proportion of people reporting giving consent to share full details with the police
- In cases involving sexual violence, 75% conviction rate!
- 'The Merseyside Model' acknowledged nationally as 'Best Practice', national and international attention
- Since Safe Place opened & Unity Team began, in all cases of sexual offences committed against sex workers, 98% clients have gone to the SARC for full forensic medical examination!
- Intelligence from UGLY MUGS has solved serious sexual offences in Cheshire and the West Midlands

So, to summarise...

- Total number of **known** victims to receive justice- 32 women
- Total number of years in prison-124 years & 10 months
- Total number of IPP sentences- 6
- Total number of sexual offenders-12
- Offenders on Sex Offenders Register for life- 10 sex offenders (1 deported, 1 will be)

Lee Vincent Kelly



- **Lee Vincent Kelly** – Rape on Crown St (6.09.10 – 'blitz' attack)
- Rape and false imprisonment (14.9.10 – Back to his flat)
- Arrest –
- Trial set Jan 2011
- Guilty Plea
- Sentence- IPP 15yrs

Carl Robert Davies



- **Carl Robert Davies** – Rape of former partner
- Rape of Sex Worker (gang rape)
- Rape in Southport-pregnant 17yr old girlfriend of friend
- Trial May 2010
- IPP 10 ½ years

Amrullah Hafizi



- Rape-august 2009
- Goes on run
- Crimewatch 'Most Wanted'
- UKBA locate in Sicily Jan 2011-returned to UK
- Trial June 2011
- Guilty, 6yrs then deportation

Sex worker murders

- 2006 highest number of sex worker murders in the UK than any year since UKNSWP recording began in 1990
- 137 murders since 1990. Merseyside has over 10% of the total victims recorded
- London highest number of murders, Glasgow 2nd highest, Merseyside 3rd highest
- 10 women murdered in Merseyside since 1988 (7 since 2000)



Like to know more?

- Contact Shelly Stoops for ISVA info/project guidance on 0151 227 1893 or 077 899 030 81
michelle.stoops@armistead.nwest.nhs.uk
- Detective Inspector Steve Jones call Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010 and ask for Unity Team
Stephen.D.Jones/B@merseyside.pnn.police.uk