

Sexual Health and Precarity

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How do we define sex workers?

- Broad spectrum
- Diverse population
- Career sex workers
- Ad Hoc sex work
- Self definition
- Exchanging sex for food, bed, drugs, Alcohol etc
- Unknown – Do not define themselves - Groomed

Current themes within the sex industry

- Saturated market
- Huge competition
- Increased services offered
- Transience
- Reduced peer networks
- Migrant sex workers
- Increased legislation
- Internet
- Grooming – Exploitation

Impact

- Working within different aspects of the industry
- Reduced income, longer hours, less favourable working environments
- Potentially Increased sexual health risks
- Potentially increased emotional impact
- Consistent care and follow up more challenging for specialist health and support services
- Isolation and lack of peers
- Migrants unaware of services, more suspicious, more hidden, language, lack of status, easier target for robbery and violence, different expectations from us
- Sex work driven underground and safety compromised
- Pressure to conform - Grooming

Impact

- Street women work alone in hidden/isolated and places
- This renders them invisible and more vulnerable

Sexual practice

Influenced by:

- The market
- Venue
- Women's/men's position and freedom of choices
- Client's/ Punters requests
- Internet
- Pornography (Young people)

Interface between sex work and homeless population

- Labels and stereotypes
- Misconceptions about homeless people and sex
- Survival sex- define?
- Sex in transit
- Sexuality
- Male/ female divide

Increased vulnerabilities for this group- discuss

Sex in exchange for....

Invisibility/ visibility

Mobility

Priorities

Violence and sexual assault

Shame

Where do I belong?

Going to a sexual health clinic

Risk factors

Who they work for and with

Alcohol

Premises and House rules

Drugs

Status in UK

Violence

Transience

Mental Health

Peers

Relationships

Economic pressures including family and debts

