

Brent Exiting Advocacy Service



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to end violence against women and children

What we will cover today

- Trends
- What do we mean by prostitution?
- Routes into prostitution
- Barriers to exiting prostitution
- How to make a referral



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Trends

- Women have been seen in the day- time
- Movement towards in doors
- Escalation of exploitation



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The Use of Language

- “Sex worker”
- Individual involved in prostitution

What do you understand by these terms?

Understanding Prostitution

- What is your definition of prostitution?
- What might be included in it?
- Would some of the individuals you support recognise their situation as one that might fall within this definition?

A Definition

In a research paper on the prevalence of prostitution and sex work in England and

Wales “Prostitution by the means of a definition constitutes the provision of sexual or erotic acts or sexual intimacy in exchange for payment or other benefit of need” (University of Bristol, 2019).



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Reasons a person may enter prostitution?

- Fleeing violence and abuse
- Homelessness and destitution
- Exploitation and Coercion
- Poverty, Debt and Survival
- Problematic substance use



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The Barriers that keep them there

Housing

Substance use

Physical/mental health

Finance

Coercion, violence/abuse

Age of entry

Lack of opportunity training and education

Criminalisation including immigration status

Experience of violence as children



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Practitioner confidence

- Do you ask those who you are supporting if they have been involved in prostitution?
- Would you or not?
- Why, When, How?
- What might asking this elicit – for the individual and for you ?
- What other information, skills, knowledge, follow up actions might arise from such a question?

Asking the right Questions?

- Building Trust – taking the time to know a person.
- Identifying the needs – what is the situation, what is concerning the person?
- Person focused – providing opportunity



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Examples – Building Trust

- Please tell me about yourself
- What changes do you want to make in your life?
- What are your coping mechanisms? Do you think these are good for you?
- Can you think of different coping mechanisms that maybe less harmful for you?
- What makes you feel safe?

- When do you feel afraid?
- Is there something in your life that makes you feel you do not have choice? Is this a situation or person?
- What does this mean for you?
- Are there times you feel you need to do things in order to meet a need?
- Can you tell me what this is?



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How we can support

Brent Exiting Advocacy provides non-judgemental support and advocacy to people involved in prostitution. The aim of the service is to provide support and options around exiting. However, the service will work with individuals at whatever stage they are at.

We can only work with individuals who provide their consent. Please only provide information that you have consent to share with nia.



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