

WOMEN AND MEN INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION

Women

The currently preferred term for women involved in selling sex is “woman involved in prostitution”, although it is very important to take the linguistic lead from the client with whatever term she is most comfortable. Women involved in prostitution may present asking for a “check-up” following a split condom with a client, or a partner/client who has an STI, or with symptoms and it may become evident during history taking that a woman is seeing many male partners. Many of those women may have significant social problems.

History

A thorough history (including drug use) should be taken if at all possible, in a supportive manner, with due regard for the woman’s own concerns and perceptions of any recent risk events. Ask about douching.

An opportunity may be taken to explore the woman’s own personal strategies for health & personal risk minimisation: offer help with a selection of condoms, lubricants and access to other supportive agencies. Offer regular sexual health checks.

Investigations

- Offer a full sexual health screen, and ensure cervical smears are up to date.
- Remember throat and rectal cultures if relevant from the history.
- Women are often concerned about HIV infection.
- Discuss Hepatitis C testing if there is a history of injecting drug use.
- Offer Hepatitis A & B vaccination.
- Discuss contraception, especially L.A.R.C as this aids compliance and ensures pregnancy is a positive choice.

Management

- As indicated by clinical diagnoses
- Involve Sexual Health Adviser wherever possible

Agency	Services Provided	Contact Details
SCASS	Counselling for women who were / are involved in prostitution	(0141-211)/(3-) 6720/1
Routes Out of Prostitution	If the woman identifies that she wishes to give up prostitution (exiting strategies)	Ground Floor 73 John St Glasgow (0141 287 5768)
Base 75 Hub - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 9.30am – 4.30pm	Base 75 offers social support and clinical care to women working in prostitution.	75 Robertson St G1. 0141 204 3712.
Open Road Project	Men involved in prostitution.	West Glasgow CHCP 84 Bell Street, Glasgow (0141 552 4789)

Men

Men involved in prostitution are one of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable groups of men in Scotland. The health outcomes for this group of men are poor, with depression, suicidal ideation, attempted suicide, addiction, and sexual ill health including risk of exposure to HIV and other STI's frequently reported.

Such men tend to be very reluctant to disclose their practices for fear of a judgmental response. A caring, supportive approach is necessary before information will be disclosed. Do not assume that all such men identify as gay or bisexual, or that they only exchange sexual acts for payment with other men.

History

As with women involved in prostitution, a thorough history including drug use should be taken if at all possible. Many of the men involved in prostitution will present with a drug and/or alcohol addiction and with mental health concerns, particularly if they are involved in street-based prostitution.

Again, this is an opportune time to explore the man's personal strategies to minimise the potentially negative health consequences of their involvement in prostitution and their strategies for maintaining their personal safety. There are still risks to the client's personal safety if they are involved in "escorting" and are unfamiliar with the premises where they are called to.

Offer help with a selection of condoms, lubricants and access to other supportive agencies. Offer regular sexual health checks. Remember to ask male clients if they have ever been paid to perform sexual acts, rather than only asking if they themselves ever pay to have sex.

Investigations

- Offer a full sexual health screen.
- Remember throat and rectal cultures if relevant from the history.
- Men involved in prostitution are often concerned about HIV infection.
- Discuss Hepatitis C testing if there is a history of injecting drug use.
- Offer Hepatitis A & B vaccination.
- Discuss the use of condoms and lubricants.

Management

- As indicated by clinical diagnoses
- Involve Sexual Health Adviser wherever possible

Agency	Services Provided	Contact Details
Open Road Project (NHS GG&C)	Support services for men involved in prostitution, including help to exit.	(0141) 552 4789 c/o 84 Bell Street
THRIVE (NHS GG&C)	Counselling for men who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.	(0141) 211 8133 Sandyford

Please note that Sandyford and Open Road Project operate a fast-track service for men involved in prostitution to be prioritised as Health Advisor/Lead Nurse clients. Clients may present with a Sandyford/Open Road fast-track card, which will potentially identify the client as a man involved in prostitution.

Partners

Often clients will present at services with a partner. This may require careful management. Men and women involved in prostitution might have a sexual relationship with the person who controls their involvement. Conversely, the presenting client's partner may be similarly vulnerable through their own involvement in prostitution. In these circumstances, it can be difficult for one person to exit prostitution while their partner is still involved. Routes Out Of Prostitution and the Open Road Project are appropriate referral points.