

STUDENT SEX

WORK

The local authority commissioners identified a gap in the provisions of sexual health promotions and HIV prevention, which led to the strategic framework for sexual health improvement in England to identify sex workers at risk of poor sexual health (Department of Health, 2013). The CSW outreach project was introduced, justifying why the development and implementation of an essential ISHS package was planned and framed within LSHS. The team comprises of Kay and myself who are Senior Healthcare assistants and we were tasked with the challenge of delivering the service within Leicester City.

Our target groups were street workers, those who work in saunas, escorts and those who work from their own premises and this is where student sex work is most prevalent. So what do we mean when we hear the term 'student sex work' are we thinking about young people who go out on the street and proposition men for sex, is that how they are perceived by their peers, the general public and professionals ? This is one of the misconceptions that we are going to talk to you about today.

The course of sex work has seen a notable shift in recent years, from being viewed as a highly stigmatised and criminalised act, to becoming a more acceptable and slightly less taboo subject in modern society. With this shift, came a rise in online sex work. Online sex work now forms the largest sector of the sex industry in the UK. Among these users, The Student Sex Work Project (2015) highlighted that rising costs of University fees and associated living expenses are seeing increasing numbers of students entering the sex industry. Student sex workers come from different backgrounds, have different lived experiences, and engage in the sex industry in different ways. However, it is important to acknowledge that a large proportion of student sex workers are from marginalised backgrounds.

Sex work engagement can take place through :

Digital frameworks i.e twitter,facebook, digital apps

- 1. Twitter, you can follow the work accounts of sex workers in specific areas, popular with OLSWs.**
- 2. Online App's such as onlyfans, which is a platform where people pay for explicit sexual content via a monthly payment**
- 3. Some students have moved into online environments such as web-camming, especially during covid, which can be very isolating and puts them at high risk of exploitation**
- 4. Disclosures of sex working often happens in university settings where sexual violence is being reported. This in turn can then put their business in jeopardy, their livelihood and more importantly their safety. There are major concerns amongst students about being 'outed' and disciplined by universities and professional bodies leading to termination of their studies, having major effects on career, debt, privacy and mental health**

The Risks include :

Harassment

Stalking

Discrimination

Being 'outed'

Revenge Porn

Eviction

Information kept on record

Cyberbullying

Dare not seek help if in trouble

Naivety about the dangers

Work is being done to ensure support is available to educate young people who partake in sex work around risk and keeping themselves safe and there is an ongoing campaign which is advocating that individual's information is kept confidential and to prevent the loss of their place at university.

Advice and support can be found :

<https://leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/>

<https://nationaluglymugs.org>

<https://le.ac.uk>

(the student sex worker policy is available here)



▶ Any Questions

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