

## **Paper for Deliberation**

### **Study into the extent and characteristics of the sex market and sexual exploitation in Teesside**

#### **1 Purpose of Paper**

Members of the Safer Stockton Partnership are asked to deliberate whether they support a proposed study into the extent and characteristics of the sex market and sexual exploitation in Teesside. The study will encompass both adults and young people and is likely to take place mid-2011.

#### **2 Introduction and Background**

In 2007 the Northern Rock Foundation launched a new grants programme, Safety and Justice for Victims of Abuse. Following this, Barefoot Research & Evaluation have conducted studies into sexual exploitation within County Durham & Darlington and Northumberland and Tyne & Wear. The Foundation has offered to fund Barefoot Research & Evaluation to conduct a similar study across Teesside. The four Tees Community Safety Partnerships are being approached to support the research.

#### **3 Definition of Sex Work**

A very broad definition of sex work will be used for the study; adult sex work incorporates any sexual act that is exchanged for currency, ie, drugs, money, alcohol, status, goods, accommodation, etc.

There will be three main categories for the study:

- sex worker describes what is generally understood to be a prostitute
- sexual exchanges are those exchanges by an individual for specific resources
- the sexual exploitation of young people is someone under 18 either operating as a sex worker or who is involved in sexual exchanges.

#### **4 Methodology**

It is proposed that a qualitative knowledge mapping approach is used whereby a consistent line of questioning takes place with a wide range of professionals in relation to their knowledge of sex work and their particular client group.

#### **5 Governance**

Appropriate governance approval will be sought via relevant authorities. A participation information sheet and consent and confidentiality forms will be integral to the process.

## **6 Summary**

The Safer Stockton Partnership is asked to identify:

- 1) Any queries/concerns regarding the proposed research
- 2) Whether consultation/approval is required elsewhere regarding the proposed research
- 3) Whether the Partnership supports the proposed research

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