

Sex Markets in Teesside

1. Members of the Partnership may recall that we agreed to support research on this issue to be undertaken by Barefoot Research and Evaluation, and funded by the Northern Rock Foundation.
2. The research report was issued in February and runs to 73 pages. The Executive Summary, the table of contents and the Stockton findings (pages 29-31) are attached. The full report is available on request.
3. Much of the report is based on the distinction between 'survival sex', i.e. "exchanging sex for essential resources which range from accommodation, food, drugs and alcohol, cigarettes and money for these resources" and 'commercial prostitution'.
4. The research included 249 interviews of different types, broken down as follows:

Location	Organisation	Individuals	Total
Middlesbrough	20	64	84
Redcar & Cleveland	11	44	55
Stockton	14	37	51
Hartlepool	<u>12</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>59</u>
	57	192	249

5. The numbers of men and women involved in prostitution across Teesside are summarised as follows:

	M'bro	Stockton	R&C	H'pool	Total
WOMEN					
Survival sex	108	100	37	23	268
Commercial prostitution	<u>145</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>221</u>
sub-total	253	147	51	38	489
MEN					
Survival sex	25	4	3	3	35
Commercial prostitution	<u>74</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>107</u>
sub-total	<u>99</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>142</u>
Grand Total	352	166	63	50	631

6. Specific issues relating to Stockton include

- (a) HOUSING – the report states that “Agencies were asked about the support needs of women involved in prostitution. The biggest response was suitable housing (this was particularly expressed in Stockton where it was felt there was very little suitable hostel or other accommodation for women).”
- (b) SOCIAL CARE – the lack of engagement of Children’s Services in the Stockton project, despite the high proportion of former Looked After Children among those involved in prostitution, and the high rate of pregnancy among the most active sex workers, the vast majority of whom are addicted to heroin and/or crack.