

# Sexual Exploitation

The Scale of the Problem in Dundee: with  
some brief comparisons from Forfar and  
Arbroath

February 2012



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Laurie Matthew & Keiran Watson (February 2012)

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## Introduction

Sexual exploitation and human trafficking is a problem that is largely hidden from society but, due to a variety of reasons including the increasing numbers of people suffering from drug addictions, it has become of greater interest to many people and agencies in Scotland. Its heightened visibility has increased both community and media interest and has led to greater demands for a solution to deal with the problem. Solutions that simply move the problem around or drive it underground do not really solve the problem, but often the public and politicians are demanding quick fixes such as increased police activity. This, unfortunately, does little more than move the problem around. Longer-term strategies, good planning and working partnerships between agencies, plus evidence-based prevention work in schools are surely the way to go.

The UN Convention on the Rights of a Child defines a child as under the age of 18 years. Child sexual exploitation and trafficking is even more hidden from society than exploitation involving adults, and includes both boys and girls, with some as young as 10 being at risk according to a report from Barnardo's (2011).<sup>1</sup>

A more recent report from Barnardo's<sup>2</sup> (2012) highlighted the lack of prevalence studies in Scotland, despite the growing recognition of risk to young people, with studies showing as many as 1 in 7 young people are at risk of exploitation.

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<sup>1</sup> Barnardo's (2011). Puppet on a string: The urgent need to cut children free from sexual exploitation.

<sup>2</sup> Barnardo's (2012). Cutting them free. How is the UK progressing in protecting its children from sexual exploitation?

According to a Home Office consultation in 2004 <sup>3</sup> the average age for women becoming involved in exploitation/prostitution is 12 years old.

Very little research has been carried out on the involvement of males in prostitution, trafficking or exploitation. The research that is available indicates that the average age of boys getting involved is younger than girls (Palmer, 2001)<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, due to the social stigma of perceived homosexuality and of men selling sex, the exploitation of young males is much more hidden (Donovan, 1991)<sup>5</sup> with many young men simply below the radar of child protection services. Overall, there seems to be far less interest in exploring the involvement of boys in sexual exploitation or in providing services to support and help them. This lack of interest will surely continue to cover up the extent of the problem. Lack of services will also mean that boys and young men will continue to be extremely vulnerable.

## **The Project: No-1**

Izzy's Promise and Eighteen And Under have recently formed a partnership to help address the problem of sexual exploitation and trafficking in Scotland. Both agencies are based in Dundee and have a remit to provide information and support services to young people at risk of, or involvement in, sexual exploitation. Both provide confidential, free support services and both have services that can be accessed freely by individuals on their own terms. Each agency has different but complimentary skills and experience, which will be combined to reach out to an extremely hard to reach client group and provide the best possible services. In order to share resources, ensure no duplication of work and provide services that young people would actually want to use, we recently planned a 3-year strategy with the involvement of volunteers and service users.

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<sup>3</sup> Home Office, Paying the Price. A consultation paper on prostitution

<sup>4</sup> Palmer, T. (2001) *No son of mine! Children abused through prostitution*. Barking: Barnardo's

<sup>5</sup> Donovan, K. (1991) Hidden from View. An Explanation of the Little-known World of Young Male Prostitutes in Great Britain and Europe. Home Office and West Midlands Police.

One of the key activities planned was to carry out some localised research through a consultation exercise within communities. This consultation was designed to explore the scale of the problem; gather information and opinions; network as widely as possible with agencies, individuals and communities and, most importantly, increase our visibility and make people more aware of our range of services.

According to the Scottish Government,<sup>6</sup> “where children and families are particularly vulnerable and/or have complex needs, services must work together to take a collective and co-ordinated approach”. We wholeheartedly agree that it is vital that all agencies that are involved in working with vulnerable young people and adults involved in exploitation, work together and communicate effectively with each other, and with members of the community, in order to tackle the problem of exploitation effectively. We also support the view that vulnerable people should have choices and a range of support services. No one agency can do this alone and there is no single solution to this very complex problem.

The joint project was given a separate name so that young people could be clear about its purpose. We called it **No-1** (pronounced no one), in that no one has the right to abuse or hurt anyone. We set up a separate web site to provide information and a message board forum so that young people could easily access it at their own convenience and in private. An e-mail address, drop in address and telephone number have been provided for both young people and interested people to make contact with the service. We also put a simple survey up on this web site to gather views and information from young people.

Cards and posters signposting the project have been distributed widely and are being made available to young people in many schools. 514 young people have, to date, taken part in our workshops and contributed towards development of a specific teaching programme about exploitation and trafficking. This new programme is intended to raise awareness amongst young people about the

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<sup>6</sup> National Guidance for Child protection in Scotland 2010

dangers of sexual exploitation and trafficking, and will be made widely available within participating schools. The UK government<sup>7</sup> has recognised the need to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to help them make informed choices to stay safe, and also to raise the general public's awareness of the dangers of exploitation within their communities. Making use of more specialised services that work with vulnerable groups and the gathering and sharing of information is also regarded as vital.

## Methodology

For convenience, we decided to begin our consultation in Dundee and then gradually extend it out to other towns and cities of Scotland. Prior to beginning our consultation, we contacted as many organisations as we could to invite their input, to share information about what we were doing in the field and to find out what other agencies were doing. We were very keen to work in partnership with everyone, share resources and ideas and avoid any duplication of work.

Prior to hitting the streets, we gathered together a team and provided training for all the workers and volunteer street workers so that everyone involved was gathering the information in a consistent manner. We ensured that everyone had information about personal safety and interview techniques were explained. We put everyone into pairs and mapped out the areas where we would consult. Depending on any information received, we would extend our consultation accordingly.

Openness, honesty and transparency are part of the ethos of this project in order to build trust within the community and our client group. Wearing high visibility jackets with our project name printed on it and bearing consultation forms, cards, posters and branded lighters (to give to people involved in exploitation) we went out onto the streets extensively both during the day and at night. We tried to keep to regular times so that people would get to know us, but we did

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<sup>7</sup> Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan. Department of Education 2011

make some variations based on information we were receiving from people in order to gather further information.

The consultation forms were deliberately designed as a script to allow for semi-structured interviews. In this way, we could explain the questions as we went along and did not have to worry about respondents' ability to read or write. People could also ask questions and provide 'off the record' information. In addition, more of the vulnerable people we were consulting with could be provided with information about services and given instant support if necessary.

According to Hall (1984)<sup>8</sup> participatory research leads to a better understanding of situations and people, particularly oppressed and marginalised people. It can also be transformational of structures, which create systematic inequality and injustice. This type of research fits well with the ethos of our respective organisations and reflects our intention to involve individuals and communities as fully as possible in the research we are carrying out. Communities can often solve their own problems and tend to have a greater awareness of what they need than outsiders.

On the streets we approached every person we saw (with the exception of people who had younger children with them as this would have been inappropriate), respecting those who did not wish to talk to us and we went into every business and workplace to invite participation in the research.

We considered the issue of research bias but rather than thinking of reducing bias, we shifted to thinking about "meaning construction" (Gubrium & Holstein)<sup>9</sup> as making more sense and fitting with our ethos of empowerment. We also considered the ethical issues and made sure that every person approached was made fully aware of our (and other) support services; provided with information

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<sup>8</sup> Hall, B. (1984) *Research, Commitment and Action: The Role of Participatory Research*. International Review of Education by Unesco Institute for Education, Hamburg and Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht.

<sup>9</sup> Gubrium, J., Holstein, J. (1997). *The active interview*. Qualitative Research. Theory, Method and Practice. Edited by Silverman, D. Sage publications.

about what we were doing and had the opportunity to withdraw their input if they wanted. All responses were rendered anonymous.

## **Response to the Research Consultation**

We had some very interesting responses to our consultation and requests to work in partnership, which is worth recording in more detail. The experience of carrying out the research highlighted a number of important issues, which may impact on finding workable solutions to the problems we are trying to address. The following is a breakdown of the different responses we received from people and agencies. We have changed all names of the individuals involved to preserve anonymity.

### **Community**

Every community we went into with the consultation responded favourably towards us. Most people were happy to be interviewed and were keen to share opinions and information on the subject. In particular they approved of the high visibility we had and of seeing us out on the streets working. Many commented on us going out in search of the problem rather than sitting in an office. We were welcomed into the communities and even invited into people's homes to discuss things in greater depth.

Community businesses were keen to share information with us, and not one of them refused to talk with us. Some had a lot of direct experience of seeing girls working as prostitutes and many had been approached and offered sex for money, goods or services. Shopkeepers in some areas personally knew many of the women involved in working on the streets.

Most taxi drivers and delivery drivers were happy to talk with us when they had the time. Many of them see what is happening on the streets while they are working and most were happy to share their experiences with us. Some provided us with a lot of information. We were informed that sex workers use taxis to travel around and many talk freely to the drivers about their work.

We met some very proactive individuals within communities and some of them visited us at our offices and actively worked with us. We were introduced by those individuals to others in the community that are trying to tackle the problems, and we were welcomed into the very informal networks of the local activists. Some of these individuals have a lot of local information and a keen interest in doing something positive to change the current situation.

We found that homeless agency staff have a very high knowledge and awareness of individuals that are involved in sexual exploitation. Many of the individuals involved in exploitation on the streets are addicts who are living in homeless accommodation and all are very vulnerable. The homeless agencies were very welcoming of us and happy to complete our consultations. These agencies put us directly in touch with some of individuals concerned so that we could provide them with support and information. Other than us, none of these homeless agencies knew of any support services for those involved in sexual exploitation. We were able to form partnerships with some of them to provide regular support within their premises.

A woman who was part of a residents' forum in one area spoke to us on the streets at the beginning of our consultation and we asked her to ask the forum if we could provide a presentation on the consultation to them. The woman was very friendly and seemed happy to talk with our workers. She told us when the next meeting would be and said she would bring the subject up at the meeting. A week later, just after the date of the forum meeting, we saw her again. The woman instantly said, "I'm not talking to you!" The worker thought she was joking and asked her about the meeting.

The woman behaved oddly. She informed us that the agency Vice Versa did all the work on exploitation in that area so we weren't needed. We politely let her know that Vice Versa doesn't work with males or those under the age of 13. She insisted that no one under 13 years old would be involved in exploitation!

The woman asked for a copy of our consultation and we let her know that it was an interview script and we would be happy to come and talk through it with her, but she insisted on having a copy of our questions, which we supplied. The woman also said, before she had seen it, that our consultation was not suitable for use with young people. All in all, it was a strange encounter and a complete turnaround in attitude towards us.

### **Police**

Prior to starting our consultation, we contacted as many organisations as we could so as to inform them of what we were doing. We met with an officer in at headquarters to provide information about our activities. At this time we asked for a link worker so that we might be able to quickly share any soft information or child protection concerns we came across. The officer was helpful and seemed genuinely surprised when we made further contact over a month later to say that no one had contacted us.

A community activist brought her local police liaison officer to visit our premises and we were able to share a great deal of helpful information with each other. We also were able to make some plans for further joint working. This officer responded very quickly to partnership work and was keen to get us further involved in one of the communities. After this meeting, police officers began to stop and speak with us on the streets. They let us know that they had been told about us and were aware of what we were doing.

We found police to be supportive and helpful on the whole. Those we consulted on the streets were happy to share their experiences with us but we were aware that while standing with police officers, those involved in prostitution or exploitation, would actively avoid us, particularly younger people.

### **Church & Faith Groups**

We visited and phoned round churches to inform them of our activities and see if they wished to take part. We were unable to make contact with the churches

though we left many messages. In the end, we only managed to speak with one church leader who was not interested in taking part or meeting up with us.

In contrast, Rock Street Chaplains were very keen to work with us. We met them while working on the streets and have had several meetings with them to share what we were doing, ensure there was no duplication and to look at ways of working together. They took our cards to distribute and introduced us to other faith groups. They were keen to share information about vulnerable people involved in prostitution that they encountered, as prior to meeting with us they knew of no support agencies to refer these people onto.

We met with someone from the Gate and were given information about a variety of projects and activities they are involved with, including some of their future plans.

We met with Faith In Communities to let them know about our project and activities and to learn about the many activities and projects which they are involved in and aware of. This was very positive and informative.

### **Vice Versa**

We were very keen to meet with Vice Versa, which is a project run by an agency called WRASAC and funded by Dundee City Council. The Police informed us that Vice Versa provide outreach services for women involved in exploitation. Since we were working in the same field, we were keen to talk with them, share information and work with them.

We called Vice Versa and received a call back from Jill who asked a lot of questions. After answering all the questions we asked for an informal meeting with them to find out what they do, share information and look at working together. We were told this request would have to go before the committee. We heard no more from them though we called several times over a period of time. We even called to ensure we had the correct e-mail address.

Nearly 3 months later, we have not had a response.

### **Women's Aid**

We called repeatedly to let them know what we were doing and to see if they wanted to work with us or take part in the consultation. We received no response to any of the messages we left.

### **Community Wardens**

This was the most interesting response of all and worthy of further detail. Early in December we first encountered 2 community wardens on the streets of Dundee. They happily agreed to take part in the consultation but as they were talking to us, they received a phone call during which they were told to stop taking part. We destroyed the information they had already provided and they told us to contact their supervisor to get approval. An hour and a half later, we were talking with their supervisor to explain what we were doing. The supervisor was friendly and thought there would be no problem at all but needed to confirm with his Manager. We were told they kept their own statistics and it should be possible to share those with us. We left a copy of the consultation with him so they could look over it. We were told to drop by anytime.

Five days later we had not heard back from them, so we took him up on his offer to drop by. Things had changed however, and we were stopped at the door and asked to come back 2 hours later. The friendliness was gone. On returning 2 hours later as requested, a different warden told us that they would not participate in the research due to the Data Protection Act. We asked what part of the consultation was anything to do with Data Protection and offered to change any part of it. He let us know that he did not know which parts were affected and said we should speak to Meg from Vice Versa. We inquired why we should speak with another agency about a request to speak with wardens and were told to contact his line manager Chloe.

He provided us with an e-mail contact for Chloe, and advised us that she was the

line manager of wardens. We sent several e-mail to Chloe who sent the same reply to each query, saying we should contact Meg, the co-ordinator of the violence against women partnership in Dundee. Chloe did not answer any questions at all and was blunt to the point of rudeness. "The Community Safety Wardens will not be responding to your questionnaire." The stock reply to all requests was "As previously stated all requests relating to this issue go through Meg.". To date we have received no statistics from the community wardens.

We contacted Meg by e-mail and were told she would be busy until mid January. We were given another person to contact. That person was too busy to meet us until the end of January. We contacted Meg again but after several e-mails plus long delays in replying (on her part) we are still trying to find out if she is the person who can give us approval to talk with wardens and provide a copy of their statistics.

(In the hope of someday working in partnership, we have made anonymous the people involved. We do however have a complete record of all correspondence, which we are happy to share with interested parties upon request.)

## **Results**

Prior to carrying out the in depth interviewing, we put together a list of possible questions (see Appendix 1) and piloted these with several organisations, with service users and with members of the community. This allowed us to test the validity, suitability and interpretation of the questions and gave us an opportunity to make some minor adjustments so as to get more accurate information from respondents.

We approached as many people as we could and invited them to take part in this research. Over the period of the research, we approached just over 20,000 individuals on the streets to invite their participation. Of those approached, 5% of the general public, 50% of taxi drivers, 50% of sex workers and 100% of businesses and police officers agreed to participate. No community wardens,

Vice Versa staff or Women's Aid workers took part, though they were repeatedly invited.

A total of 1180 people took part in the recorded interviews. We have not included in this number those who spoke with us but had no knowledge at all of the issues. This was around 5% of those who stopped to speak with us.

All respondents were encouraged to be anonymous and we asked for no personal information about anyone who took part. Any personal information that was provided has been rendered anonymous within this report. All respondents were informed about our project and the research was fully explained. People were invited to say as much or as little as they wished. A few people chose to go online and complete the online survey in their own time to allow for further anonymity.

### **Where we surveyed**

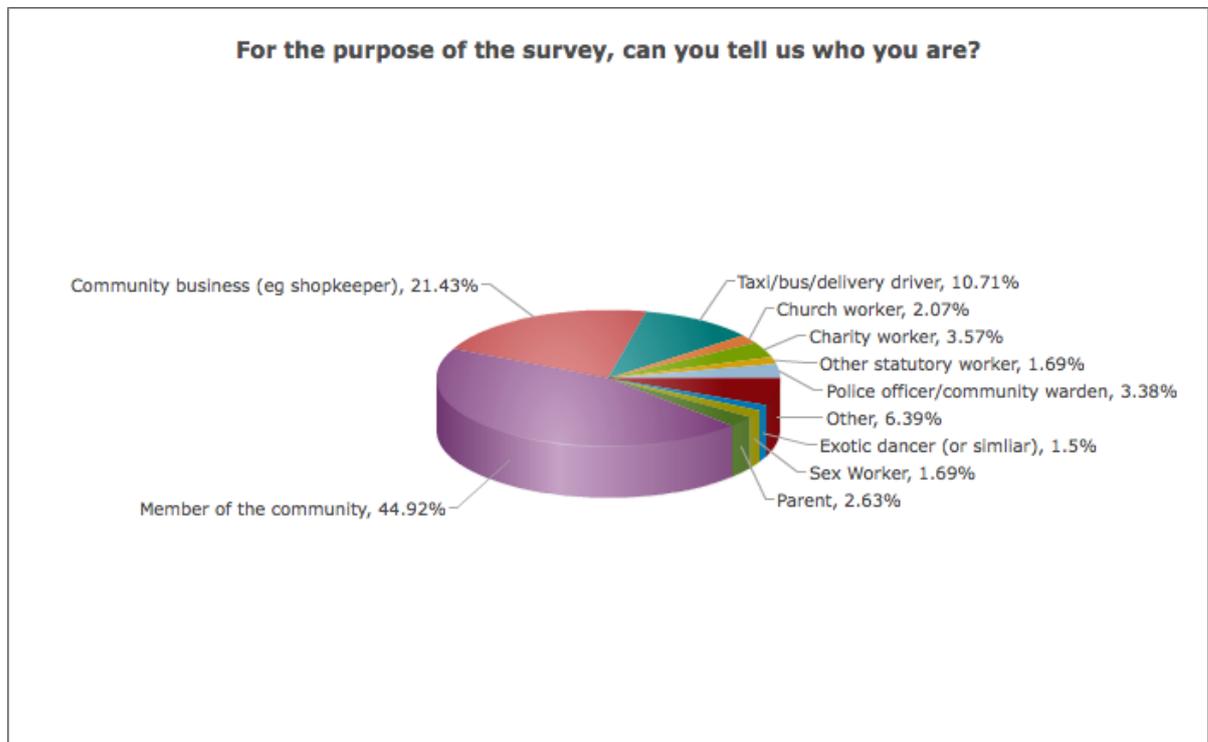
Most of the research was carried out in Dundee around a well-known area, as this was the area we were advised had a visible and ongoing problem of exploitation on the streets. However, in Dundee, we were directed to other areas by the responses and information provided during the research. In these other areas we carried out interviews in Lochee, Douglas, Fintry, Hilltown and in the City Centre.

In Arbroath and Forfar, we carried out 80 interviews to give us an idea of the situation in smaller towns. We have not included the graphs and details of these interviews in this report as we intend to produce a fuller report on the views from smaller towns in the future. We have however used some of the data collected in Arbroath and Forfar as an interesting comparison.

### **Who we surveyed**

In our first question, we invited people to define themselves. We offered several categories for people to choose from, plus an opportunity for people to add their

own category or expand on their answers. The following chart is a breakdown of those that took part.



As this chart shows, most responses were from members of the community and community businesses. The other 6.39% of people defined as young people, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered), and homeless.

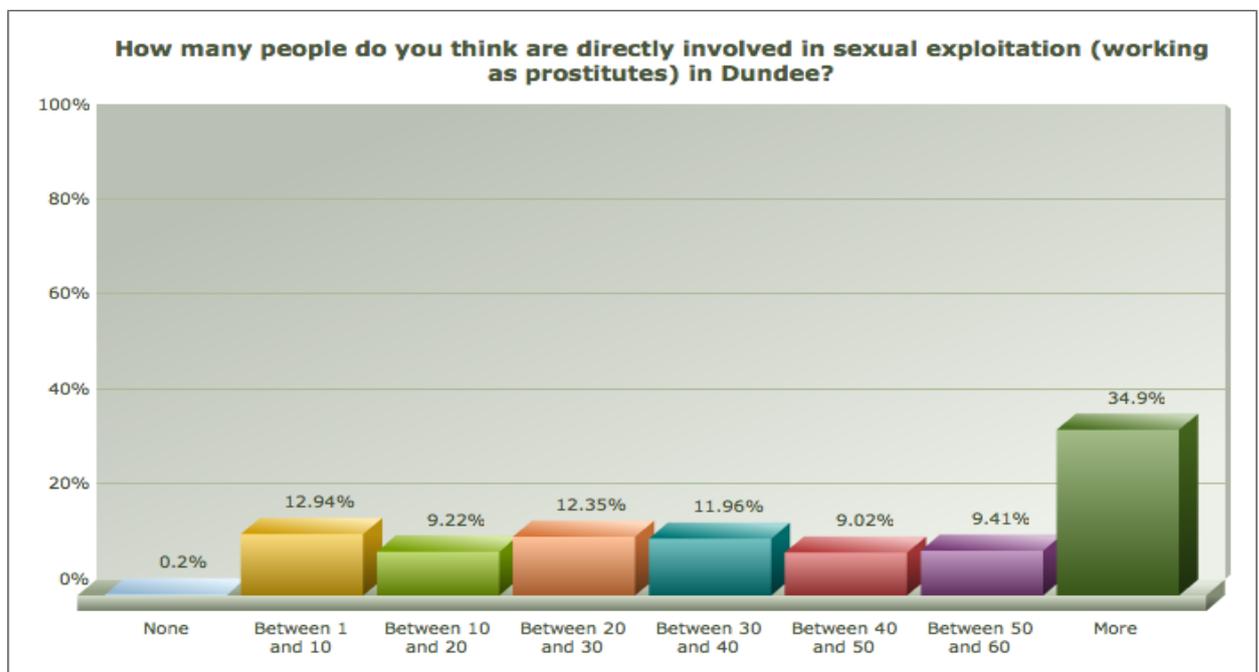
Though on the graph it names community wardens and police as respondents, in fact it was only the police who responded.

### **Opinions as to the numbers involved in exploitation.**

We asked participants to tell us how many people were directly involved in exploitation and followed this up by asking them how they knew how many were involved. 492 people told us they had direct experience of seeing people working on the streets in exploitation. Some people knew people who were working as prostitutes. Some had been approached with offers of sex for money, some had experience of seeing them through their work and some lived in the areas affected and had a high awareness of the numbers involved.

Interestingly, an analysis of the data showed that most of those who estimated the numbers involved to be greater than 60, were also the people who lived or worked in areas used by street workers or who worked with drug users or homeless people.

Those who suggested the lower numbers mostly came from the interviews conducted in Dundee City Centre, Arbroath and Forfar. Most of these said that it was an educated guess they were making. Of those interviewed in Forfar and Arbroath 35% and 32% respectively, believe there are no people working in exploitation their town. It would seem though that the vast majority of people, at least in Dundee, do recognise that a lot of people are involved in the sale of sex.



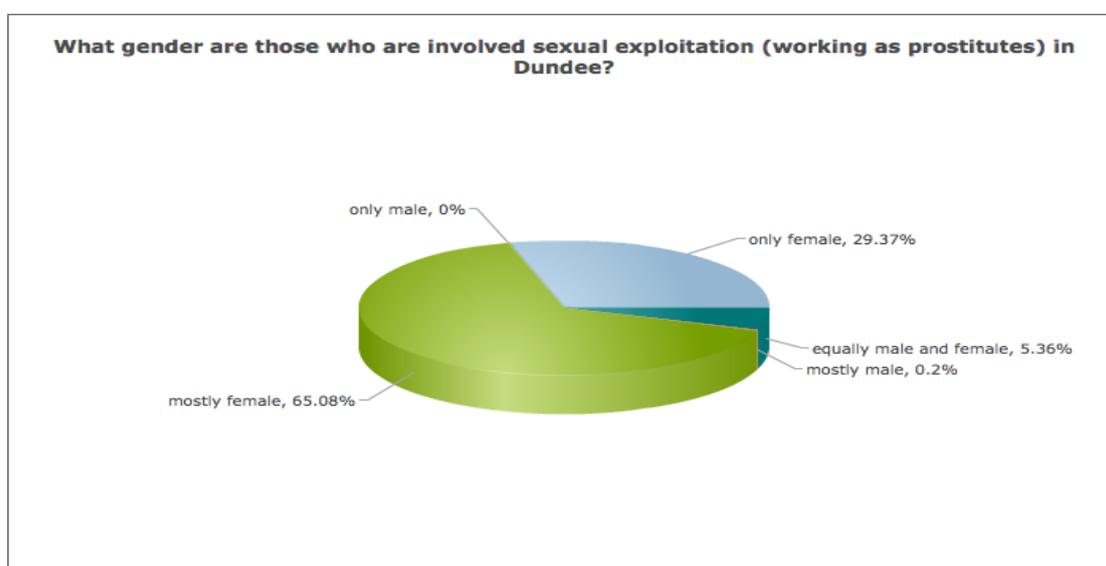
## Gender

We asked the respondents their views as to the gender of those involved and the following chart shows the results. 65% of respondents believed that it is mostly women involved in exploitation. Further analyses of the data shows that those who think it is only women who are involved (29%) are those who mostly also guessed at the numbers involved rather than knowing through direct experience.

Of those interviewed in Forfar and Arbroath, 60% and 50% respectively believe it is only women involved.

Of those who appear to be in a position of having a higher awareness, e.g. police, those working with the homeless and drug addicts and people living in areas affected by the problem; the majority said it was mostly women but males were involved also. Some respondents shared personal knowledge of males they know to be involved and the same information was supplied from different sources

Interestingly, 95% of those who identified as LGBT respondents said it was equally males and females involved.



### **Ages of those involved in sexual exploitation**

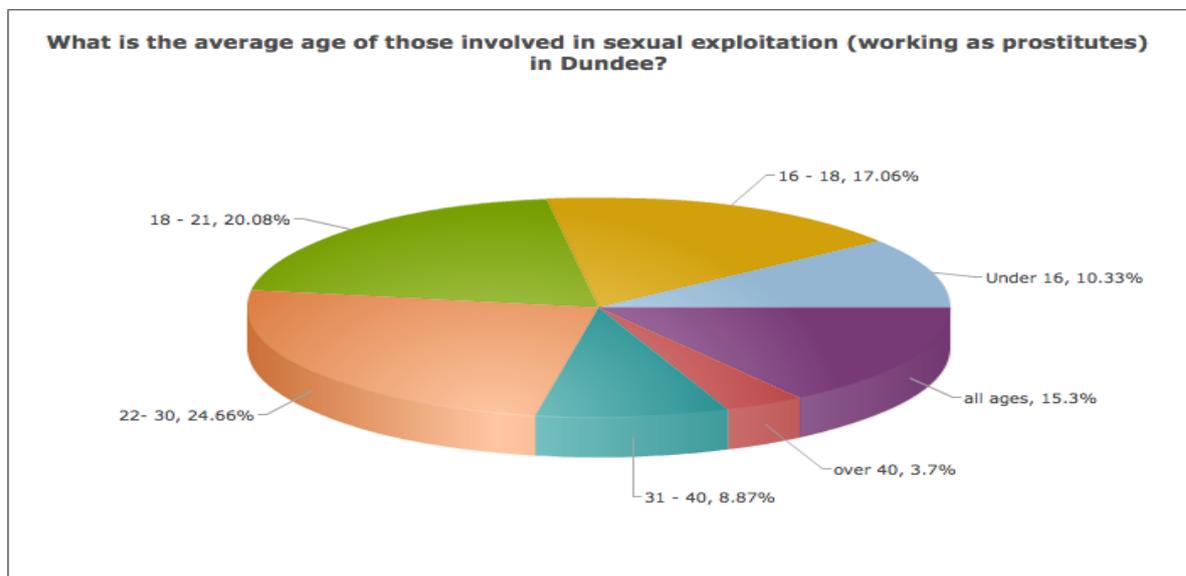
Respondents were invited to share their views and knowledge of the ages of those involved in sexual exploitation. As the chart below shows, just over half of these interviewed believe that those involved are over 18 years old.

However, just under half of those interviewed think differently with 15% saying that all ages are involved; 17% saying between 16 and 18 and a very worrying 10% saying that under 16's are involved in exploitation. Given that Home Office

figures<sup>10</sup> suggest that the average age of women getting involved in sexual exploitation is just 12 years old, this is perhaps not surprising. This also reflects the invisibility of children who are involved in exploitation.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child define a child as under 18 years old, so it is also of concern that so many people believe people under 18 to be involved in exploitation. Many respondents gave us examples of people they had seen working on the streets, or told of people who had approached them offering sex for sale.

Further analysis of the data shows that those who are more knowledgeable about the issues of exploitation were more likely to believe that children were involved in sexual exploitation than those who were less knowledgeable about the subject. Of those interviewed in Forfar and Arbroath, no one thought under 16's or 16-18 year old were involved at all. Most of the respondents in these towns believe the main age group to be 22-30.



<sup>10</sup> Home Office, Paying the Price. A consultation paper on prostitution

## Do people from Dundee go, or are taken, elsewhere to work in exploitation?

Most respondents believe that some trafficking is taking place and we were given some examples including from a parent, “...it happened to my daughter.” From a young person, “...and my pals went to Glasgow with guys for it.” From a worker, “because we hear from prostitutes that say they have clients outwith Dundee who will travel here and take them back...” From several members of the community in Stobswell, “...you see them then they disappear for a while, then they return..” There was a fair bit of evidence within the results to support the view that some organised trafficking is taking place.

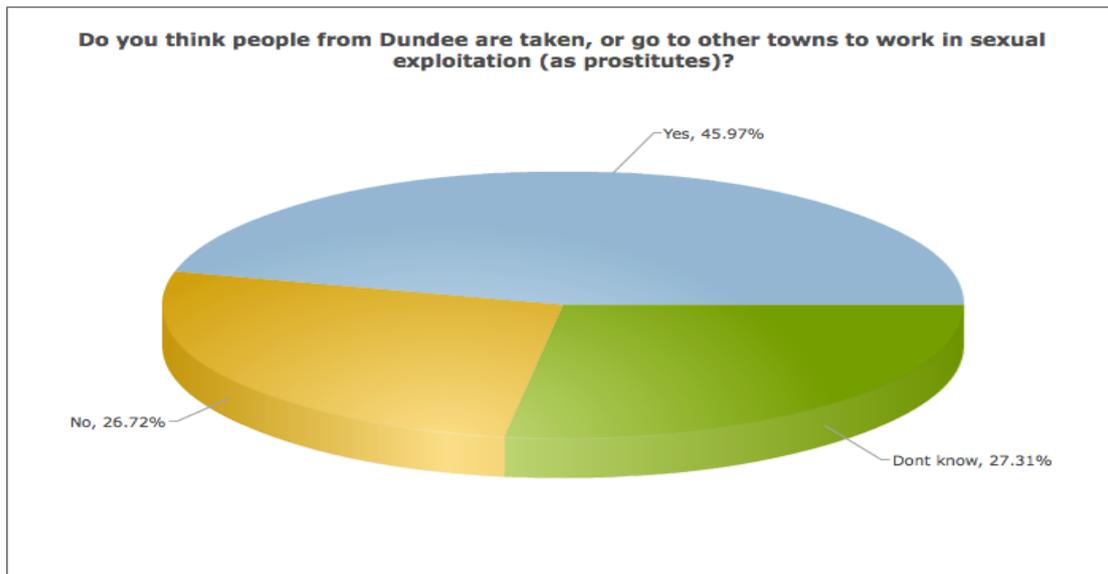
Some respondents thought that those who are drug users would not be as likely to travel and some thought that people might deliberately travel to avoid detection. Again there was a distinction between those who were more knowledgeable and many of them provided further information and details.

Results from the interviews in Forfar and Arbroath (in these towns we asked about their own town and not Dundee) were similar to those from Dundee with the main difference being that respondents named Dundee as one of the cities where those involved in exploitation might go or be taken. In Dundee, people mentioned Glasgow and Aberdeen mainly.

According to Anti Slavery International <sup>11</sup> “If a woman is trafficked into prostitution, she may know she is going to work in the sex industry, but not that she is going to be deprived of her liberty or her earnings. This is trafficking.” A sex worker described instances where this had happened to her and other women.

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<sup>11</sup> Protocol for Identification and Assistance to Trafficked Persons and Training Kit. (2005) Anti-Slavery International, Thomas Clarkson House, The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London.



### Where is street exploitation taking place?

Not surprisingly, due the high media attention, a well-known area in Dundee was mentioned a lot and several other areas were also seen as hot spots. We were given a huge amount of more specific information when we asked this question but, as we intend to use this information to plan our street work effectively, it would not be appropriate to share such information in this report. We were given information about different areas and parts of town which are used by males and females, with males tending to be much more discrete about their activities.

Of some concern we were told by a number of people that younger people are often picked up from around the Social Work residential units.

### Where is other exploitation/prostitution taking place in Dundee?

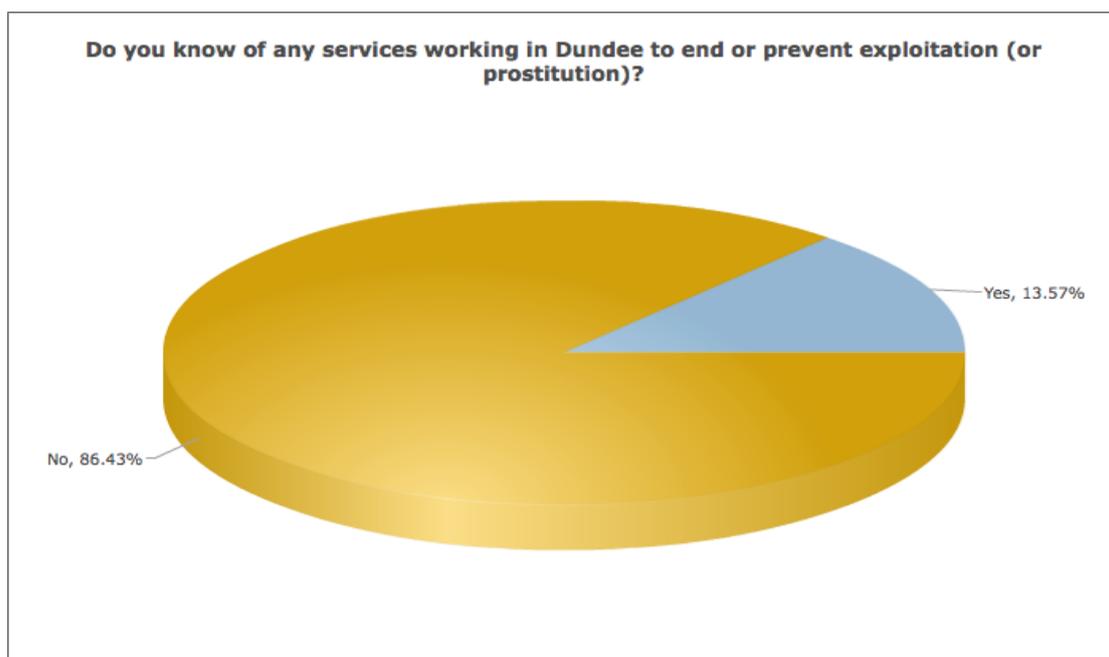
There was not as much knowledge of this, which is hardly surprising as it is less visible. We were told about adverts in magazines, in newspapers and on the Internet. Most people thought there were brothels and flats used and some

people told us about women who would get a call and are told where to go, which suggests some organisation is involved. We were provided with exact addresses and while we cannot verify the accuracy of this information, more than one person independently gave us common addresses. Some people spoke about escort agencies and other agencies that took a fee from those selling sex. We were told about male agencies too.

We were told by quite a few people of sex workers going into bars and clubs to try and pick up clients. We heard this about both male and female sex workers.

### Knowledge of services in Dundee to end or prevent exploitation

We asked respondents if they know of any services working to end or prevent exploitation through any means. We also asked if they could name any of them. Not surprisingly those respondents from Forfar and Arbroath knew of none at all. Those interviewed in Dundee had little knowledge of any services, although 13.6 % of respondents said they did have knowledge of such services.



Of those who said they had knowledge of services, the following are the services people specifically named.

- 29 people mentioned the police;
- 24 people mentioned No-1 (no one);
- 15 people mentioned Vice Versa;
- 6 people mentioned church groups;
- 3 people mentioned women's groups;
- 2 people mentioned drugs agencies;
- 2 people mentioned the Corner;
- 2 people mentioned the Web;
- 1 person mentioned Action for Kids;
- 1 person mentioned the Shore;
- 1 person mentioned Victim Support.

Most of the people who mentioned the police were very positive but some said that the problem of exploitation just moved around to different areas after crackdowns. As everyone is aware of the Police as an agency, it was surprising that more people did not name them. Perhaps they are just taken for granted?

Several women who are involved in street exploitation told us that they use the location of Vice Versa as a convenient excuse. They work specifically on a Wednesday in the area around Kemback Street so that they can say, if asked by police, that they are on their way to, or coming from, this service. Those who knew about this service were the police, several street workers and community activists.

For every person who said they knew of the services of No-1, we verified that they had heard of us prior to the consultation. Most had seen the newspaper article or posters. We were actively approached in the streets by people who had heard of us and wanted to know more about the services. Several people offered to volunteer on the project and the press has contacted us several times.

Those who named church groups were very positive about their activities though most were involved with the church groups.

Many people, who named the other agencies such as drug agencies and victim support, were taking a guess at the services that might help.

### **Connection between sexual exploitation, pole dancing, pornography and stripping?**

The vast majority of people consulted thought that the only connections between these elements of the sex industry were money, drugs and organisation. Some thought that people might be more likely to move between the different types of activity if involved in one or the other.

“I would imagine there is a higher likelihood of becoming involved in one of these if already involved in another but I'm not sure there is always a connection necessarily.”

### **Discussion**

This consultation exercise was highly successful in highlighting our new services, gathering information, contacting the street workers involved in exploitation and forming network and partnerships. It also alerted us to a major communication problem between agencies in Dundee.

It was interesting and heartening that so many people were keen to become involved in this research. Some agencies, workers and individuals were very eager to save time and resources by sharing openly what they were doing and planning. It was the same with the sharing of information. Although many of the agencies we spoke with had different remits and very different ideologies, most could see the importance of everyone finding a common ground in order to avoid competition or duplication of work. Most people were encouraging of everyone working together to try to find workable solutions to what is becoming a growing problem.

The only people we could not engage with, at all, were the community safety wardens, churches, women's aid and WRASAC's Vice Versa project. This was a huge surprise to us as we had assumed that, as agencies working in the same area and on a common problem, they would see the value of open communication and partnership work.

Many individuals talked about the vulnerability of those who worked on the streets and were concerned for their welfare. This was particularly the case when people spoke about younger people and more vulnerable people. Some people raised the issue of children's involvement in sexual exploitation and given that over 10% of respondents believe that children under the age of 16 are involved, and research evidence indicates a high probability of this, we need to consider prevention work a high priority.

It has become clear that young males are also involved in sexual exploitation but, as so few agencies are even looking in that direction, it remains hidden. Little or no work is taking place to provide services for this vulnerable group and, without pressure groups lobbying for action it looks likely to remain a hidden and forgotten issue.

We found some very active people in communities who were determined to find ways of improving their communities and making them safer for everyone. Some of these people have had to work very hard for several years to be heard. In every case we were welcomed and were able to plan ways of working together effectively.

During our street work, we spent a lot of time observing what was going on and began to build up more of a picture. We found that demand for sex is far higher than the supply, with women getting out of one car and, within minutes, getting into another. We saw the same cars cruising looking for women and we also found some evidence of pimps working with the women. We also found that some were not going away in cars but were having sex in the streets. Many of the

women avoided us but after seeing us on the streets for a few weeks, around half of those we approached were happy to talk with us.

## Recommendations

1. All agencies should work in partnership. While agencies may have different ideologies and different ways of working, if we are working towards a common goal, we should talk. No one agency alone can solve this problem and in times of limited resources it makes sense not to duplicate work and to become more cost effective. Additionally, as our results show, there are huge child protection concerns in Dundee with a public belief that children are at risk of, or involved in, sexual exploitation. This is further reason for agencies and individuals to be communicating and sharing information with each other.
2. There needs to be more research into the involvement of males, particularly young males in sexual exploitation so that more is known about this problem.
3. There needs to be support services for young males who are at risk of or involved in sexual exploitation.
4. There is a need to provide direct on the street, services to engage with the hard to reach young people and vulnerable adults who are most at risk of sexual exploitation.
5. Further regular consultations need to be carried out in order to stay up to date and informed about sexual exploitation as the problem shifts and changes.
5. Evidence-based awareness and prevention work is needed in schools to ensure young people are aware of the risks of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

## Appendixes

### Appendix 1: Survey on Exploitation/Prostitution

Questions asked during the interview. It was made clear that people would only answer the questions they wished to answer.

1. Can you tell us who you are? For example; police officer, community warden, other statutory workers, charity worker, member of a faith community, taxi/bus/delivery driver, shopkeeper, member of the community, parent, sex worker, exotic dancer, other.
2. Do you want to say anything else?
3. How many people do you think are involved in sexual exploitation or prostitution locally? None, 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50,50-60, or more.
4. How do you know the answer to question 3?
5. What gender are those involved in exploitation/prostitution? Only female, only male, mostly female, mostly male, equality male and female.
6. Can you say more about your answer to question 5?
7. What age are the people involved in exploitation/prostitution? Under 16, 16-18,18-21,22-30,31-40, over 40, all ages.
8. Where do you think most of the people involved in exploitation/prostitution come from?
9. Do you think people are taken, or go to other towns to work in sexual exploitation/prostitution?
10. If you said yes to question 9, can you say more?
11. Where are those who are working on the streets mostly working and at what times?
12. How do you know?
13. What do you know about those involved in exploitation/prostitution locally who are not working on the streets?
14. Do you know of any service working to end or prevent prostitution/exploitation?
15. Can you name some of the agencies, which work to end/prevent exploitation/prostitution?
16. What do you think is the connection, if any, between prostitution, pornography, pole dancing, stripping, etc.

## Finally

### Thanks

Thanks to the many people in the communities who shared information and views with us, particularly those who went the extra mile. These are the real people who really do want to do something about exploitation. It's not just a job to them!

Thanks to those many workers, businesses and agencies who supported and worked with us.

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