

Sex Worker Risk Assessment Conferences

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Main Aims

- To Safeguard the physical and mental health, and well-being, of individuals involved in prostitution
- Provide support to individuals to enable them to access the services they need to overcome barriers to achieving a sustained exit from prostitution.
- Take into account the needs of any local community directly effected by on-street prostitution.

• **SWRAC Meetings;**

- Held monthly.
- Sex Worker Risk Assessment Tool defines the RAG rating for the case and whether the individual is discussed in full.
- A “de-listed” list is kept as many cases will revert
- Different to MARAC – rolling agenda
- Referrals/actions/updates to be sent to GCSXSWRAC@Bournemouth.gcsx.gov.uk
- Sharing information – All agencies attending should have signed an information sharing protocol.

SWRAC Meetings;

- Actions agreed to reduce risks and encourage exit of sex work
- Co-ordinating resettlement from prison
- Links to outreach to engage women
- Encouraged to report assaults & support through the criminal justice process
- Cases will be de-listed when there is sufficient evidence from agencies that the worker has exited sex work or has moved out of the area.

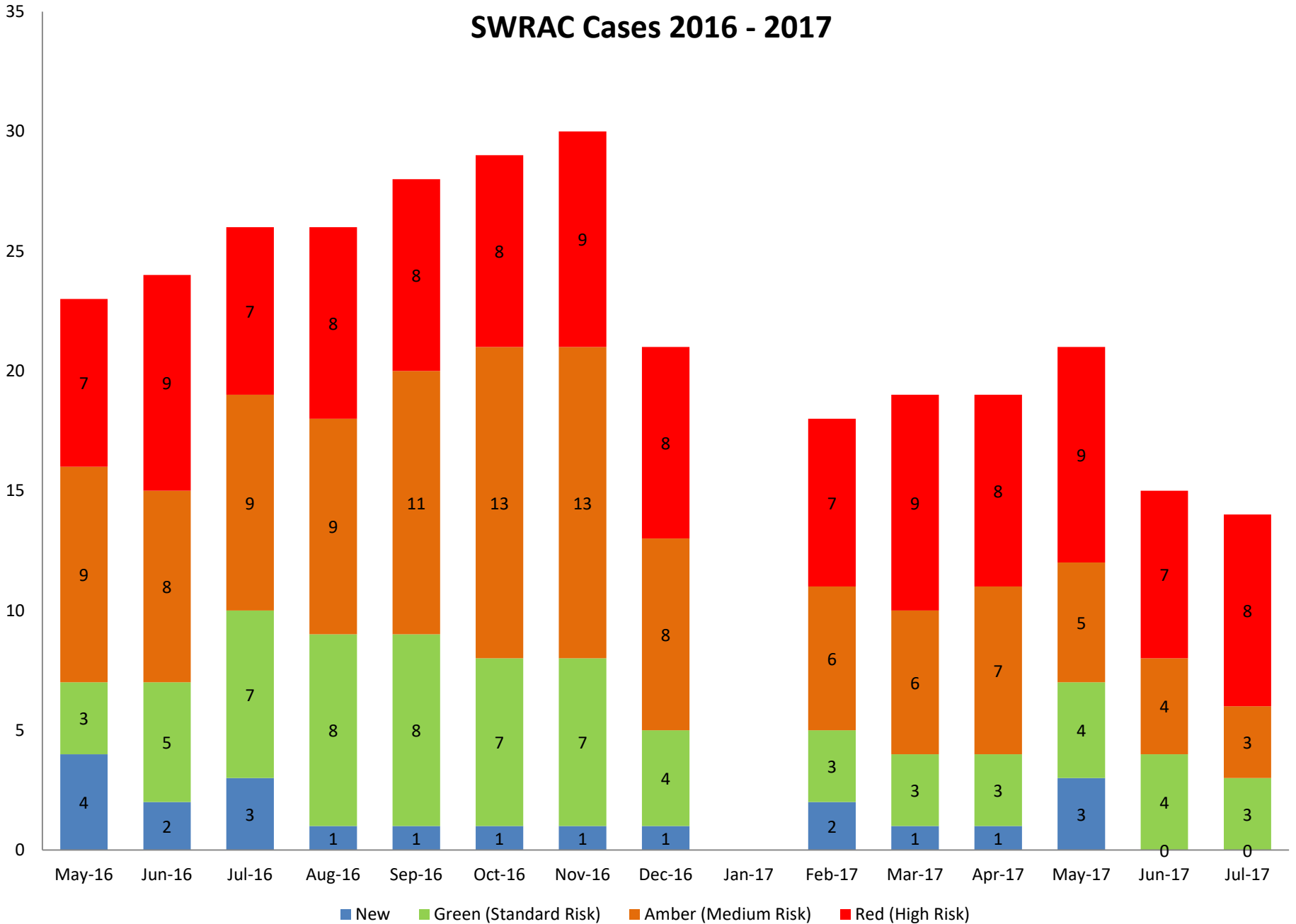
• SWRAC Meeting – Format

- Confidentiality Statement - Chair
- Police Update (Boscombe NPT)
- New referrals
- Male Cases
- Female Cases – RAG rated Red – discussed in full
- Female Cases – RAG rated Amber/green
- Any new cases observed on street
- Cases known to SWRAC in prison due to be released
- Males/punters of concern
- AOB

Participants:

- Dorset Police – SOLO's & NPT
- Drug & Alcohol Statutory Services Team
- Dorset Working Women's Project
- Drugs & Alcohol Services
- Rough Sleeper Team
- Housing Providers
- Community Safety & ASB Team

SWRAC Cases 2016 - 2017



SWARC Cases to date:

- 76 referrals since Jan 2014 (74 women & 2 men)
- Currently estimate that 14 women are regularly working on-street
- Only 2 women still working from original referrals
- 6 women in prison

- **Routes into prostitution/typical life experiences;**

- Entrenched substance misuse – heroin/crack
- Physical health issues
- Mental health issues often the result of trauma
- Regularly physically and/or sexually assaulted
- Disproportionate number of street sex workers are ex-“Looked After Children”
- Large number of adults involved in street prostitution were sexually exploited as children or teenagers
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Mistrust of professionals – engagement needs to build trust

Barriers to exiting

- Impact of trauma & mental health
- Substance Abuse
- Housing – Supported Accommodation in Bmth
- Criminal convictions
- Health issues
- Employment/education

What does success look like?

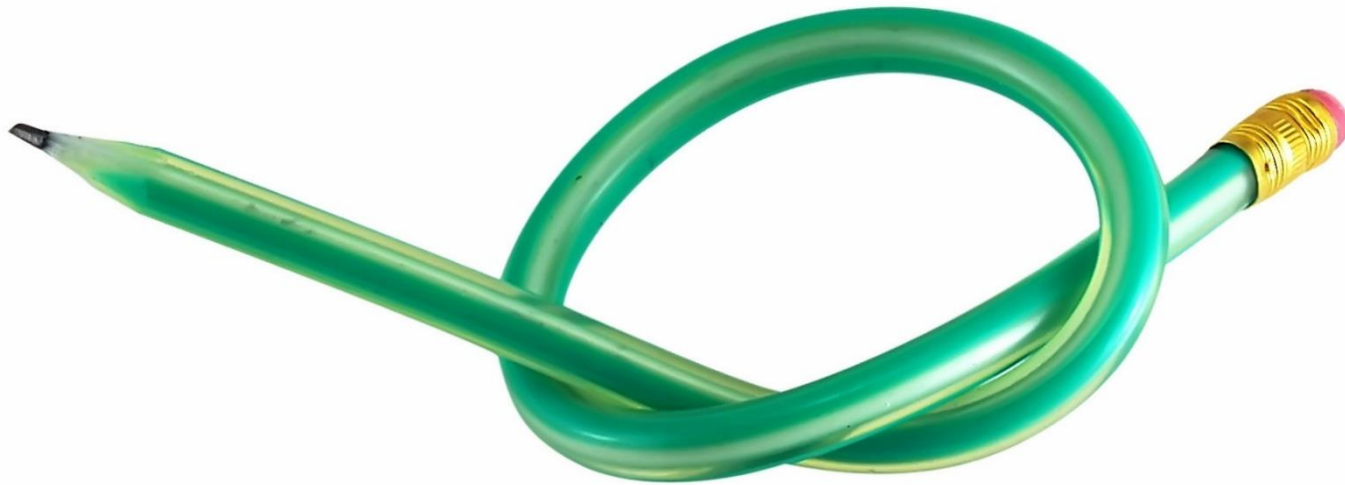
- Exiting sex work
- Completing drug treatment
- Stable accommodation
- Family/community reintegration

Smaller steps:

- Engaging with services
- Ending rough sleeping – supported accommodation
- Ending abusive relationships
- Reporting crimes to Police



Exiting is not a
linear path



Chaotic clients need flexible
services

The most important message

The one thing you can do more than any other is to demonstrate that you believe the person can change. Promoting self-belief is crucial. You will help them believe they can change if you demonstrate that belief yourself.

At times this will be tough – some clients seem set on a course that will destroy their lives or the lives of others. However, people do change.

Even people who seem to have abandoned all hope of a different life can turn themselves around.

If we do not demonstrate a belief in the possibility of change then we will reinforce a sense of hopelessness in clients.²²

Thank you for listening