

Case study – the challenges we face to get sex workers off the streets

The most chaotic of the girls, SP is a 'poly drug user' – she is a known user of crack, heroin, pills and alcohol. She became homeless when she was evicted from Equinox for her antisocial behaviour. She was then evicted from the bed and breakfast which the local authority had placed her in and funded, again for her antisocial behaviour. Since she has been on the Sex Workers Action Group case management agenda, she has gone onto a methadone prescription and is no longer homeless (she is now living in a local 'house of multiple occupation' (HMO). Also she is going to be referred for a mental health check as there are concerns that she has a learning disability or possibly autism. Although she is still sex working on the streets, her circumstances are changing and support is being put in place to enable her to lead a less chaotic lifestyle which will enable her to hold down accommodation and not need to engage in sex work to pay for drugs.