



# NHS open road

Information for service providers

Our aim is to identify the hidden population of men currently involved in prostitution and to ensure that they receive appropriate help and support, both from NHS Open Road and from other services.

To achieve this we will:

- Identify the men involved in prostitution through effective processes and partnership working.
- Assess the needs of men currently involved in prostitution.
- Address the needs of men involved in prostitution by appropriate service delivery across a range of partners.
- Work alongside mainstream agencies to provide appropriate services which address the clients' needs.
- Contribute towards establishing an evidence base to inform future policy and services.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of NHS Open Road and its approach.



Reasons why individuals get involved in prostitution are varied and personal. It's often felt that this is the easiest way to get money quickly or perhaps a partner or another person has coerced the individual into prostitution.

Some individuals may feel it's something they were getting into with their eyes open but it now makes them feel uncomfortable.

Even if the individual is not thinking about exiting prostitution, we'd still like to offer support and advice to those involved to best maintain their health and safety.

We understand that it can be difficult for individuals to exit prostitution, even when they are desperate to do so. Although the individual's circumstances may make them feel that they're unable to plan for either their immediate future or for the longer term, NHS Open Road can support them to consider what options are available.

NHS Open Road will work in partnership with statutory and voluntary sector agencies to support individuals to consider and plan for their future.

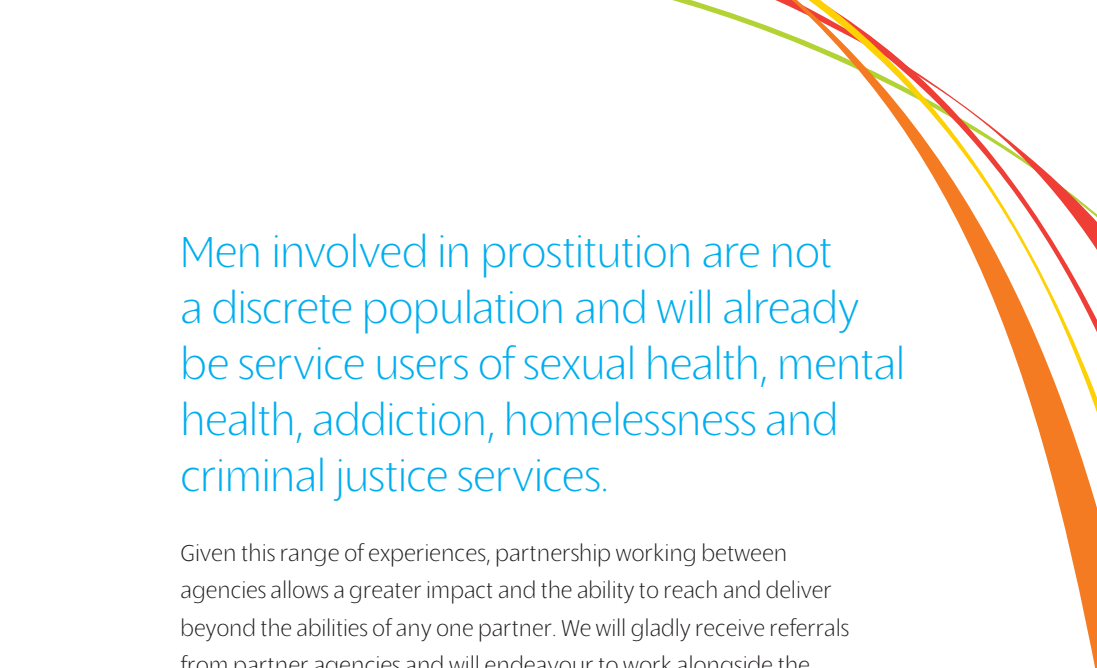


NHS Open Road defines men involved in prostitution as males who exchange sexual acts for some form of payment such as: money, drinks, drugs, consumer goods or a bed or roof over their head for a night. This may take place in a variety of settings including: brothels, private accommodation or on the street.

We recognise that a significant number of men involved in prostitution do so as a means of survival behaviour rather than sexual behaviour and we validate the right of men involved in prostitution to be free from exploitation and abuse, and to be included in shaping the services which aim to support them.

Our understanding of prostitution as a potentially harmful means of survival informs our approach to working with individuals. Therefore, while it is not a condition of the service that men must exit prostitution, it is part of our duty of care to raise exiting as a valid option.





## Men involved in prostitution are not a discrete population and will already be service users of sexual health, mental health, addiction, homelessness and criminal justice services.

Given this range of experiences, partnership working between agencies allows a greater impact and the ability to reach and deliver beyond the abilities of any one partner. We will gladly receive referrals from partner agencies and will endeavour to work alongside the referring agency to support the individual in a shared-care approach.

### Who to refer:

- Any client who has been, is vulnerable to becoming, or is currently involved in prostitution, as defined previously.
- Any client who lives in, or has involvement in prostitution within, the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde area.
- Any client who you feel may benefit from discussing their options with regards to their involvement in prostitution.

### When to refer:

- Most beneficial when the client is willing to engage with this service.
- When the client is prepared to reflect on their involvement in prostitution.

### How to refer:

- Referral should be made using the NHS Open Road referral form which can be downloaded at: [www.nhsopenroad.org](http://www.nhsopenroad.org) or mailed to you on request. Included will be details of how best to return the referral form to us.



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