

STREETLIGHT UK

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

www.streetlight.uk.com



StreetLIGHT UK
offering fresh choices

OFFERING FRESH CHOICES

ENDING THE VIOLENCE | EXIT SUPPORT | SHIFTING THE BURDEN

EXPOSING THE HARMS | ENDING THE VIOLENCE | OFFERING FRESH CHOICES

ENDORSEMENTS



STREETLIGHT UK PATRON

The migration of people across continents continues to pose a risk for the most vulnerable people in the world today – women, children and young adults, most notably. It must remain shocking to us in Britain that we should provide so safe a base for the trafficking of human beings and their exploitation, especially for sex.

STREETLIGHT UK DOES GREAT WORK BY DISTURBING US WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODERN SLAVERY; IT ALSO PROVIDES HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE THE VICTIMS. AS A CHRISTIAN AND AS A BISHOP, I AM GLAD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH STREETLIGHT UK'S FEARLESS AND COMPASSIONATE WORK.

RT REV THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER - MARTIN WARNER



STREETLIGHT UK ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE 12 COMMUNITY PROJECTS THAT HAVE MOST IMPRESSED THE HIGH SHERIFF OF WEST SUSSEX DURING HER TERM OF OFFICE IN 2019-20

A CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION, DURING CHORAL EVENSONG AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, IS TAKING PLACE IN MARCH 2020

Streetlight UK Funders



EXPOSING THE HARMS | ENDING THE VIOLENCE | OFFERING FRESH CHOICES

FOREWORD



HELENA CROFT
DIRECTOR
STREETLIGHT UK

2019 has been a significant and exciting year of growth for Streetlight, with new members of staff and volunteers across all our teams. As a result, we have seen a 176% increase in the number of women we have been able to engage with, **directly supporting over 270 women last year.**

As well as continuing to support women through direct outreach, joint police operations and online, we have begun some new initiatives. These include a regular wellbeing course with HMP Downview, a monthly drop-in for our coastal town service users in Bognor Regis and I have been delighted to welcome our first full time student Intern "Tushaun", on a one year placement from Loughborough University.

Significantly, our new **Perpetrator: 'You Choose' Course**, was delivered to 40 men arrested for purchasing sex in a public place. Working in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council and Police, this resulted in a zero re-offending rate in 2019, with some significant changes in attitudes of the men attending.

Much of our work is done in partnership and we are extremely thankful for the support of our funders. Streetlight Board of Trustees and the whole team would like to take this opportunity, to thank them and all the local agencies we partner with. Their confidence to invest in our growing service has enabled us to achieve our goals in supporting a difficult to reach and vulnerable group of women in the community.

I would especially like to thank our whole staff and volunteer teams, who are on the front line and in the back office day in and day out. They ensure every woman who has contact with Streetlight UK, has both the professional and compassionate support they need to be free from sexual violence and exploitation in all its forms!

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PROSTITUTION-THE FACTS



Why, Who and How Women are Involved in Prostitution.

WHY?

In our research we have found there are a number of reasons. Some of these are:

- Financial hardship
- Coercion and control (Modern Slavery).
- Loss
- Poverty
- Family illness
- Leaving the care system
- Physical or sexual abuse

Modern Day Slavery/trafficking, whilst devastating, remains a small percentage of the number of women involved in the sex trade in the UK.

WHO?

105,000 individuals in the UK are believed to be involved in prostitution - the vast majority of these are women.

Women in prostitution can be from any age and any background. The average age of women advertising sex online is 24.

Across the south east women are predominately from Eastern Europe or East Asia.

The average age of white british women tends to be older at 32 - however Streetlight recently supported a woman of 65+ years, who had been involved for over 20yrs in prostitution.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & SURVIVAL SEX

Women are turning to "Survival Sex" to pay for basic essentials such as **food, rent and clothing**.

We have also seen an increase in university students selling sex to help fund their studies in universities across the region.



IN LESS THAN 4 HRS AFTER UPLOADING A PROFILE, A WOMAN CAN SEE HER FIRST CLIENT

- Most escort agencies will ask for an uploaded picture.
- Almost immediately after, the woman is contacted to arrange an 'interview'.
- If she works independently she can have a live account in **just 10 minutes**.

HOW?

Online access to prostitution has resulted in more pop-up brothels in short term let properties - with an **average rental time of 3 weeks to 3 months**. This makes it extremely difficult to establish long term support networks for women.

Woman advertise online through agencies, or as independent escorts, sell webcam sex online, or are involved in on street prostitution.

EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING LEGISLATION AND RESOURCES TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION, IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO ADDRESS ONLINE SITES .

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SUSSEX



An overview of the scale and nature of prostitution in Sussex.

AS OF JANUARY 2020 – ‘SAAFE’ a forum for ‘sex worker’ websites, listed on their top 5 sites the following number of women offering services in *Figure 1*.

	Brighton	Bognor/Littlehampton	Crawley	Gatwick	Horsham	Sussex
Adultworks	294	104	121	148	53	636
Adult Seek	53	16	52	44	12	200
Friday Ad (online)	238	39	105	100	24	464
Punterlink	59	8	357	563	152	899
Viva Street	26	5	24	4	3	64
Total	670	172	659	859	244	2,263

Figure 1: The top 5 sites listed by ‘SAAFE’. There are MANY sites not listed.

In a more extensive search, we found that the total number of women advertising online in Sussex as a whole, was 2,685, which is a 23% increase from 2018 (2,184).

Despite there being no obvious red light district, prostitution is growing online and in ‘off street’ premises across Sussex.



67 HOURS OF LIVE OPERATIONS

IN 2019 WE SUPPORTED 6 POLICE OPERATIONS IN SUSSEX.

Streetlight UK directly supported 276 individual women involved in prostitution, two of which were transgender, 162 were across Sussex/Surrey and we engaged with 1,384 women in total who have active profiles advertising and selling of sex - 91% in Sussex



IN 2019 STREETLIGHT UK DIRECTLY SUPPORTED 110 WOMEN IN SUSSEX

ONLINE OUTREACH

In 2019 Streetlight contacted 1,132 WOMEN electronically (via text and email) who were involved in prostitution in Sussex.

This led to :

- 71 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES
- 17 REQUESTED SELF-CARE KITS
- 8 WHO REQUIRED ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT.

CRAWLEY BREAKFAST CLUB

Streetlight UK offer specialist support at a weekly women’s only breakfast club, operated by Kent, Sussex and Surrey Rehabilitation Service. We receive regular disclosures and develop 1-2-1 support. We provide the women with practical and emotional support including access to self-care kits and referrals onto other agencies. In 2019 Streetlight UK engaged with 44 women.

BOGNOR REGIS DROP IN

Our Sussex team run a monthly drop-in at My Sister House, Bognor Regis, to support Streetlight UK referrals from women advertising and engaged in prostitution online across Sussex, particularly in the coastal towns of Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Chichester and Worthing.



SINCE JOINING THE STREETLIGHT TEAM IN JULY 2019, I HAVE SEEN SUCH A GROWTH IN THE SERVICE AND AN INCREASE OF WOMEN ACCESSING OUR SUPPORT. STREETLIGHT UK PROVIDES A MUCH-NEEDED SERVICE TO THE MOST VULNERABLE WOMEN, OFTEN IGNORED AND STIGMATISED BY SOCIETY AND IT’S A REAL HONOUR TO BE PART OF THIS ORGANISATION. - MAXINE, SENIOR WOMENS SUPPORT WORKER



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SURREY



An overview of the scale and nature of prostitution in Surrey.

Streetlight UK directly supported 276 individual women involved in prostitution in 2019, two of which were transgender, 52 were across Surrey and we engaged with 1,384 women in total who have active profiles across Surrey/Sussex.

HMP DOWNVIEW

In 2019, Streetlight UK pioneered a new well-being course in conjunction with staff at HMP Downview.

Including advice on sexual health, sexual boundaries, consent, laws around prostitution and healthy sexuality. The course has resulted in referrals for direct 1-2-1 support with our team. In 2020, the course is continuing to be developed further to ensure that we provide up to date information, to women.

The total number of women advertising online in Surrey as a whole, was 2,161, which is a 9% increase from 2018 (1,982).
Despite there being no obvious red light district, prostitution is growing online and in 'off street' premises across Surrey.



AS OF FEBRUARY 2019 – 'SAAFE' a forum for 'sex worker' websites, listed on their top 5 sites the following number of women offering sexual services.

	Epsom	Guildford	Surrey
Adultworks	37	114	362
Adult Seek	25	66	135
Friday Ad	44	68	203
Punterlink	102	468	894
Viva Street	7	32	309
Total	215	748	1,903

Figure 1: The top 5 sites listed by 'SAAFE'. There are MANY sites not listed.



WE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED 52 WOMEN ENGAGED IN PROSTITUTION IN SURREY IN 2019

43 HOURS AND ATTENDED 13 LIVE POLICE OPERATIONS IN 2019
Working in partnership with Guildford, Epsom, Redhill and Weybridge Police teams attending live operations across the county.
Streetlight UK play a significant role in helping to identify victims of Modern Day Slavery across Surrey.



"I FEEL PROUD TO BE PART OF AN INCREDIBLY STRONG TEAM, WHO POSSESS AN ARRAY OF SKILL SETS THAT HAVE ALL COME TOGETHER, TO HELP OTHER WOMEN LIVE A LIFE FREE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND DISCOVER THEIR INTRINSIC VALUE AND WORTH". - JEANA, WOMEN'S SUPPORT WORKER



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LONDON



London On-street Outreach in Enfield & Edmonton.

During 2019, Streetlight UK directly supported 276 individual women involved in prostitution, two of which were transgender, 114 were across London and we engaged with 1,384 women in total, who have active profiles advertising and selling sex.

🕒 120 HOURS OF ON STREET OUTREACH

In 2019, our volunteers have been out every 2 weeks, building relationships with women engaging in on-street prostitution in Enfield.

ON STREET OUTREACH

Our team of trained volunteers, provide regular late night outreach. We support many young Eastern European women, building trust to help them report crimes against them, and exit support.



IN 2019 WE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED 114 WOMEN ACROSS LONDON.



CASE STUDY

Our London team recently visited a brothel finding 3 Eastern European women in their twenties. The team responded to their requests for further support, gave them self-care kits and reassured them people cared. As a result, 2 women have returned to Eastern Europe and 1, with Streetlight's support, is seeking alternative employment.

Encouraging and hope-filled stories such as this, motivate us to continue to expose the harms, end the violence and offer fresh choices for women involved in prostitution.

SELF - CARE KITS

During outreach in North London, we have been able to provide self-care kits for women, help them report crimes and also offer them 1-2-1 daytime support.

Self care kits include:

- Pregnancy Tests
- Panic Alarms
- Condoms
- Toiletries
- Sexual Health Information
- Relevant support Information

IT'S SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO COME ALONGSIDE WOMEN IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. THE STREETLIGHT TEAM GENUINELY CARE ABOUT THE WOMEN WE MEET. I LOVE HOW SUPPORTIVE OUR TEAM IS AND HOW WE WORK TOGETHER TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN EACH OTHER. - KATE, LONDON VOLUNTEER



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WOMEN WE SUPPORT



The Direct Impact, Told By Women.



“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTACTING ME. I’VE BEEN IN PROSTITUTION FOR 22 YEARS AND NO ONE HAS EVER REACHED OUT BEFORE AND THAT IS LONELY”

“I WAS STRUGGLING TO PAY MY UNIVERSITY FEES SO I TURNED TO PROSTITUTION TO FUND MY STUDIES.

WITH THE HELP OF STREETLIGHT I MANAGED TO GET ACCESS TO A STUDENT LOAN AND WAS ABLE TO STOP. I AM NOW MOVING ON WITH MY LIFE”

“IN THE BEGINNING ESCORTING WAS A QUICK AND EASY WAY TO MAKE MONEY. I LIKED TO PARTY ANYWAY BUT NOW I WAS GETTING PAID FOR IT AND THE DRUGS WERE FREE. I LOVED THE ATTENTION, IT MADE ME FEEL GREAT BUT BEFORE LONG, IT ALL STARTED TO UNRAVEL. I ENDED UP ADDICTED TO DRUGS, WAS RAPED AND EVENTUALLY I HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN”

DURING A JOINT POLICE OPERATION, STREETLIGHT UK ASKED HOW LONG MISS J HAD BEEN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM? SHE REPLIED “ARE WE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM NOW?”



CASE STUDY- MISS K

Miss K entered prostitution as a way to pay off her fees before completing her Masters. She had no knowledge of other sources of income and said if there was another way, then she would want to exit prostitution.

Streetlight UK worked with Miss K on an **Exiting Support Plan** over the following weeks, which helped her to recognise how her childhood trauma was still continuing to negatively impact her life. Streetlight UK investigated **funding sources** for Miss K, who went on to get enough money to cover her tuition fees, which also left some money to live on. Later, Miss K contacted Streetlight UK, deciding to exit with immediate effect. Miss K was offered **post exiting support** and was assisted in seeking out **therapy specific to her needs**. As part of her post exit support plan, **Miss K continues to have regular contact with Streetlight UK.**

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THE YOU CHOOSE COURSE



Streetlight UK's Perpetrator Course

'This is hard, a sense of reality. I didn't know until now - of what the women go through'. Course attendee 2019

Since January 2019, 40 men have attended the You Choose Course, with a ZERO re-offending rate.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL AND POLICE, STREETLIGHT UK PROVIDE A DETERRING RE-OFFENDING COURSE FOR PERPETRATORS.

The course is for first time offenders, arrested for kerb crawling and engaging in 'on-street' sex.



THE YOU CHOOSE COURSE

A course for up to 10 men and is delivered monthly by our trained team of professionals.

The 'You Choose' course educates sex buyers about what it's really like to be involved in prostitution for women and dispel the myths associated with it.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Streetlight UK are working to extend the course to other London Boroughs where on-street prostitution is taking place.

This course enables us to educate men, to help deter them from reoffending - thus tackling a primary root cause of prostitution - **men's demand for sex.**

IT HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING TO BE PART OF THE YOU CHOOSE COURSE AND SEE THE IMPACT IT HAS ON THE MEN ATTENDING. THE MEN ARE AFFECTED TO VARYING DEGREES, BUT IT IS GOOD TO SEE EVEN SMALL SHIFTS IN THEIR VIEWS AND PERCEPTIONS OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY. - SUE, LONDON TEAM LEADER



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PARTNERSHIPS



Streetlight UK Partnership Approach

Sexual violence and exploitation of women is a complex and global issue. Partnering alongside Local Authorities, Police, voluntary services and other NGO's, is an extremely effective way in supporting the multiple needs of women in prostitution.

JOINT POLICE OPERATIONS, FORUMS, TRAINING DAYS, COURSES, SIGNPOSTING AND AWARENESS EVENTS.



Streetlight UK support a significant and marginalised group of women . We do this through a wide but specific partnership with professional across London and the south east.

SUSSEX/SURREY	LONDON
SOME OF OUR SERVICE PARTNERS	
<p>SURVIVORS NETWORK VAWAG FORUM LIFE CENTRE RAPE CRISIS MY SISTERS HOUSE SATURN CENTRE SUSSEX POLICE GATWICK HMP DOWNVIEW HMP SEND KENT,SUSSEX, SURREY REHABILITATION</p>	<p>ENFIELD POLICE TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL & POLICE SWAG FORUM HMP BRONZEFIELD SPIRES SALVATION ARMY HUSK COFFEE ENFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION.</p>

- EXAMPLES INCLUDE:**
- 'Hotel Watch' scheme partnering with Sussex Police and 30 hotels surrounding Gatwick Airport.
 - A well-being course for women in partnership with HMP Downview and the Domestic Abuse Safety Advisor.
 - Delivering training to Police teams in how to effectively engage with women in prostitution.
 - The Streetlight UK 'You Choose' Perpetrators Course in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council and Police.
 - Monthly Drop-In's at My Sisters House, Bognor Regis.
 - Work with other NGO's and organisations such as A21, Rape Crisis, CGL Drug & Alcohol Support and Crawley & Mid Sussex Voluntary Action.

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OUR STREETLIGHT TEAM



OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of our service is a team of trained, dedicated, enthusiastic and professional staff and volunteers. Their motivation, attitude and flexibility, ensures that every woman who has contact with Streetlight UK, is met with both a professional and compassionate expertise. **We are delighted to welcome new volunteers and staff across all our teams and our very first student intern.**

DANCE ON INJUSTICE

In October 2019, Streetlight UK brought Dance on Injustice to **The Hawth Theatre**, the story of a young girl who is groomed and eventually set free.

Featured many show-stopping performances from local dance schools and **Harry and Eleiyah** from 'BBC's *The Greatest Dancer*'!

"AS A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS, WE SHARE THE SAME PASSION TO SUPPORT WOMEN INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION"
- RAQUEL, VOLUNTEER

" I'M THRILLED THAT I GET TO BE A PART OF A FANTASTIC CHARITY LIKE STREETLIGHT UK ALL YEAR."
- TUSHAUN, STUDENT INTERN

" I ALWAYS FEEL SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE IN OUR MUTUAL GOAL OF SUPPORTING WOMEN INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION."
- JULIE, VOLUNTEER



"HUGELY IMPACTING EVENT - FANTASTIC TO SEE STREETLIGHT ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE"

"ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC SHOW!"

"I WAS SITTING AND WATCHING THE DANCES AND WAS BLOWN AWAY WITH IT, HAD ME IN TEARS"



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