



## “YOU CHOOSE” DETERRING RE-OFFENDING COURSE OVERVIEW

The “YOU CHOOSE” deterring re-offending course, has been specifically developed by Streetlight UK to educate men arrested for soliciting, or “kerb crawling” for on-street sex. The course focuses on the harms of prostitution and its impact on the women involved; on those who buy sex, who are predominantly men and on families and the wider community as a whole.

The course has been delivered in partnership with Tower Hamlets Police and Local Authority since 2018 and is now looking to expand to include other London boroughs such as Newham and Enfield. The course is offered to first time offenders who have been arrested and cautioned with a public order offence, having been caught purchasing sex in a public place, such as kerb crawling or engaging in ‘on-street’ sex.

Since the course was launched in September 2018, 81 men have attended the course in total as an alternative to attending court.

In 2019 in Tower Hamlets, 40 men attended the course and in 2020, despite COVID-19, 27 men attended the course, educating them on the consequences of their choices. We have witnessed a 95% success rate with deterring reoffending, with one course attendee commenting that he left the course ‘with a positive and insightful frame of mind with what was learnt.’

The following is a brief overview of the specialist training that Streetlight UK delivers for Police, Local Authority and other professionals and stakeholders. We approach the subject from a survivor perspective and a community safety and cohesion focus, with a vulnerable and often hard to reach group of individuals.

Our trainers come with over 20 years of experience in this field, with specialisms in sexualised trauma, sexual health, domestic abuse, mental health, self-harm, suicide awareness, coercion and control, sexual exploitation with trafficked victims and prostitution survivors.

The course is delivered over half a day, from 10am – 2pm, with up to 8 men per session. Training includes: case studies, workshop tasks and Q&A. A full needs assessment, monitoring and performance details are produced for each course participant, along with a full tutor report, all of which can be used in court should re-offending take place.

## Financial Costs:

All financial costs relating to running the course are covered by Streetlight UK, including: course materials, venue hire, tutor fees, translation fees (where needed).

Each course participant pays a fee of £200 to attend the course, which they are informed of by letter from the Police after their crime interview. The letter includes all course details, dates, times, venue and payment details.

Each participant is booked onto the next available date for the course after their crime interviews have taken place. Should they not have the available funds for the initial date offered, then a period of 10 weeks is allowed to attend the course, after which time they would be referred by the police to the courts should they fail to attend. All funds are required to be paid in advance to the course date that they are attending.

## YOU CHOOSE COURSE – Overview of Subjects included:

1. **The Victims** (predominantly women) – Analysing the men’s perspective towards those involved in the sex trade, to grant respect and dignity to the women involved, by understanding WHO they are, WHERE they come from and WHY they are involved in this industry.
2. **The Traffickers and/or Sex Buyers** (predominantly men) – Building a unique relationship with the men referred to the ‘You Choose’ course, to understand WHO they are, WHERE they come from and WHY they exploit others through the platform of the sex trade.
3. **Understand Choices and their Consequences** – Producing an in-depth review of-the men’s crime interview summary, by reflecting on their choices of what lead them to exploiting the sex trade, and analysing the consequences to this platform, such as relationship issues, emotional wellbeing and alcohol abuse.
4. **Prostitution and Trafficking in the UK** – Understanding the scale and nature of the problem generally of exploiting the sex trade. Providing a further in-depth understanding by analysing and discussing the relevant law’s surrounding the sex trade and the consequences for the perpetrators.
5. **Impact on Communities** – Preventing anti-social behaviour (ASB) related issues, by enabling the perpetrators to reflect on their actions and choices in the future. This will assist the prevention of noise issues late at night, disturbance to residents, young girls living in the being approached to engage in sexual activity, and many other forms of relevant ASB.
6. **Deterring Re-Offending** – Identifying key reasons for individual participants to apply “self-talk,” to understand the different choices they can make in future, to avoid engaging in the sex trade, hence deterring re-offending.