



The 'YOU CHOOSE' Course

What This Training Will Cover:

- What is the 'YOU CHOOSE' course?
- Who attends and how successful is it?
- What does the 'YOU CHOOSE' course consist of?

What is the 'YOU CHOOSE' course?

- A course specifically developed by Streetlight UK to educate men arrested for soliciting (“kerb crawling”) for on-street sex.
- It focuses on the harms of prostitution and its impact on the women involved; on those who buy sex (predominantly men), on families and on the wider community as a whole.

What is the 'YOU CHOOSE' course?

- The course is delivered over half a day, 10am-2pm, with up to 8 men.
- It is delivered by 2-3 Streetlight UK staff and volunteers, and additionally can include volunteers or interns taking notes on the participant's engagement, which are given to police at the end of the course.
- It has been taking place in Tower Hamlets but we are currently in discussion with Enfield and Newham police about running courses there.

Who attends the 'YOU CHOOSE course?

- When a man is arrested by LBTH police for soliciting (or outraging public decency following soliciting), it is at the discretion of police to charge him, or offer him the option to attend the 'YOU CHOOSE' course.
- The man must attend within 12 weeks of his offence, and pay £200 (which goes to Streetlight UK) to attend.

Who attends the 'YOU CHOOSE course?

- Since the course was launched in 2018, **81** men have attended the course as an alternative to attending court.
- In 2019, **40** men attended the course
- In 2020, **27** men attended the course (the venue was closed for several months in 2020 due to lockdowns).
- We have witnessed a **95% success rate with deterring reoffending** (though it could be as high as 100% - we say 95% because we cannot be sure perpetrators have not reoffended but just not been caught).

What does the
'YOU CHOOSE'
course consist of?

1) The Victims

Understanding WHO the women are
WHERE they come from
WHY they are in this industry

LIFE IN PROSTITUTION



What does the
'YOU CHOOSE'
course consist of?

2) The Traffickers and/or Sex Buyers

Understanding WHO the men are
WHERE they came from
WHY they choose to purchase sex

What does the 'YOU CHOOSE' course consist of?

3) Understand choices and the consequences

Go through, in depth, each participant's crime summary & police interview

What was it that led them to make that decision?

How could they make a different decision in future?

The consequences that reoffending will have on their families, friends, employment, finances, reputation, and their own sexual health and sexual health of any current or future partners.

ON PROSTITUTION CLIENTS

What does the 'YOU CHOOSE' course consist of?

3) Understand choices and the consequences

An example of an interview summary provided by the police for a participant:

- Subject picked up female in his van and was followed by officers for approx. 10 minutes before parking up and both getting into rear of van for sex. The road they parked in is residential and they could be heard in the rear of the van engaged in what sounded like a sex act.
- In interview subject stated that he drove to the area deliberately to solicit a female for sex, subject knows that there are sex workers in this area. Subject stopped and picked the female up and agreed to pay her £15 for sex, he parked on Hunton Street where they got into the rear of the van for sex. Subject stated that he did not know the female prior to picking her up.

What does the
'YOU CHOOSE'
course consist of?

4) Prostitution and trafficking in the UK

Understanding the scale and nature of the problem of
trafficking in the UK

Discussing the relevant laws around trafficking and
consequences for perpetrators if they purchase sex
from a woman who has been trafficked

What does the
'YOU CHOOSE'
course consist of?

5) Impact on communities

Preventing anti-social behaviour issues

Enable perpetrators to reflect on the issues on-street prostitution causes for communities; noise, young girls being approached in the street asked to engage in sexual activity; used condoms on streets and in gardens.

What does the
'YOU CHOOSE'
course consist of?

6) Deterring re-offending

Identifying key reasons behind perpetrator's choices
Enabling them to avoid reoffending by looking at the path that led to those choices, and what they could do to reduce the chance of making the same decisions again.

What kind of response do we get from participants?

Responses

- 1) Positive: most men are positive about the 'YOU CHOOSE' course. "I would like to thank you and your colleagues for not being judgmental and laying into us...I left your rehab with a positive and insightful frame of mind from what I learnt." – Participant on course in December 2020
- 2) Indifferent: Some participants are not hugely engaged in the course and it doesn't appear to have made a meaningful impression upon them.
- 3) Negative/aggressive: Occasionally we will be on the receiving end of rude or aggressive behaviour from participants. If they continue this behaviour they are asked to leave the course and will not be given a chance to return, thus increasing likelihood of court appearance.

How can volunteers help?

Monitoring engagement of participants

We submit forms to the police which show how well the participants have engaged in the course (see 'Tutor Feedback Forms').

These need to be relatively brief notes and must remain objective – otherwise they won't be admissible in court.

ANY QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU FOR COMING!