

LJH18 9.6.89**Lucinda**

17,7; Indian; lives with ma,pa and younger bro and sis; Ma - FT [TEXTILES ROLE]; Pa [TRANSPORT ROLE]. JH18 works 15 hours in supermarket, Sat and 2 evenings; sikh; heterosexual; no boyfriend now but has had a couple.

This young woman had arrived with another earlier, wanting to be interviewed together, SFS persuaded them separately, and said a bit about what we would talk about. So she came back later (to be interviewed by JH) but saying that she could not stay long, had lots to do, had to get away. In fact she stayed about 45 minutes, but I may have been slightly affected by the thought that she wanted to run away and rushed some of the interview a bit. She did seem to speak openly, but I feel there were things hidden behind what she was saying which I did not get to.

Very attractive Indian young woman, westernised (too much so perhaps in her view) wearing jeans and T shirt, hair long but drawn back. Most important relationship is with a best and very close friend, but very soon mentioned that she had had an abortion. Apparently she has told no-one, but this friend, not parents (who would go mad, would go mad if they knew she smoked and drank) not school. She felt she had to deal with it herself. She told the boy some time afterwards and he felt he should have been involved, but in her view it was not a relationship which warranted that, it was up to her to decide what to do. They got 'carried away' although it was a 'mutual decision', and she would not do anything she did not want to do. But she did not particularly want to continue a relationship with him. She said they did not use contraception the first time but did subsequently. She had a subsequent relationship, but I don't think it included sex. He was going away ([EUROPEAN COUNTRY] I think, he travels around 'he's that type') so she did not want to get too involved. She said that she was told that she might not be able to have children, the abortion had gone wrong, and that bothered her. She said she had been looking at little children and babies and wondering what would happen to her. She wants to have a relationship, but not right now, too much on her plate, and can't face it, but if it happens it happens. She 'takes things as they come'. She seems to have handled all this herself, with only her friend, whom she trusts, to talk to about it. After we had talked about the abortion for a while, she said could we change the subject. We went on to AIDS.

She has a very bad relationship with her parents in her view and would like to leave home as soon as possible, but mentioned a couple of times worrying about what would happen to her younger sibs. The parents come down hard on her, will not let her go out, they would be worse with the others if she left home. I think she is ambivalent here, bcs I think on the face it, apart from the westernised bit, probably does a lot of what they say, or at least looks as if she does from their perspective, whilst secretly doing other things. She does smoke dope (she was a

bit worried about telling me this, said is it ok to tell me, I said entirely confidential), but would not touch anything stronger. Some of her friends do.

She did not do too well in her GCSE she thinks (she got several) and is just finishing CPVE of which she thinks highly, and going on to college to do a BTEC.

She wants to work in travel and tourism, but her greatest wish is to be an air hostess. For the travel, thinks the pay is not too good.

She felt that she was confident in sexual relationships, that she could decide what would happen.

There was something about being suspected of stealing at [NAME OF SHOP], the supermarket where she works. She and a friend were thought to have taken about £450 worth of luncheon vouchers. "What's the point, they are all signed".

She felt let down by the store, who have now dropped the accusation about her friend, so she assumes that applies to her too. She is trying for a job in [DEPARTMENT STORE] instead, will leave [NAME OF SHOP]. (I'm not too sure what was actually going on here, what really happened.)

She feels that bad things have happened to her, the abortion, a friend died in a car crash, and I think one through drugs, but she feels fairly optimistic about the future.

[She also, like LJH19, talked about 'getting off' on the partner with whom she had not had sex. In a sort of 'doesn't everybody?' way.]