

THW01 Kate**RT 13/6/89** (in my office)

1. 20, ESW, doing 'A' levels at night school, working as an assistant in the medical school ARC Unit. Lives with a girlfriend in her parent's house (they have the attic to themselves). Heterosexual.
2. Punky looking, black crimped hair, red lips, denim shirt and pants. Quite shy and nervous in the interview although was frank in the discussions. Tended to cover her mouth when talking.

SEX ED: Basic biology at school, little from parents.

KNOWLEDGE AIDS: Seems to know the risks but is not doing much about it.

RELATIONSHIPS: Very bad relationship with her family. Dad used to beat her and her mother up. Left home at 16 because of this, first serious boyfriend also started hitting her. This seems to have really crushed her at the time and made her cynical about men. Says she thinks that her sexual activity around 16-18 was all about trying to get back at men. This was using men for sex, or having sex with a man and not wanting to see him again. Is very confused about all this, feeling guilty etc. Says she has calmed down a lot now and has more self confidence. Still has regular turnover of sexual relationships, rarely lasting very long, but so do all her peers. Interesting bit on how unmoralistic sex is seen in her peer group as liberating, in this group you are expected to be sexually available. She has slept with people that she didn't want to, but it was easier to than not.

SAFE SEX: Her and friend decided that if they wanted a guy to use a condom they'd lie and say that they weren't on the pill, rather than mention AIDS. This would be too embarrassing and he might feel insulted. She says she would be insulted if a man asked her to have safe sex. None of her friends practice safe sex, sounds like they should be as bisexuality and IV drug use is not unknown in her circles.

SEXUALITY: Finds it v. difficult to get and control within a relationship. We talked about this at some length.

PEER GROUP: Involved in a strong social scene revolving around going to clubs such as Banshee etc. Always drinks when she goes out, doesn't think that she could sleep with anyone without having a drink first.