

THW50 Rebecca**RT 13/6/89** (in my office)

1. Aged 19, ESW. Doing 'A' levels at [NAME OF COLLEGE], dropped out first time round as she was having a breakdown (rooted in brother's death and parents divorce). Wants to go to Uni, or Poly, doesn't know what she wants to do there. Lives at home in Denton with her mum. Heterosexual.
2. Seemed to find it v. difficult to express herself. Told me immediately about her depression and the bad time that she has had with psychiatrists. Obviously very intelligent. Covered her mouth and face a lot when talking so might be difficult to transcribe. Obviously wanted to talk, thanked me after, said she really appreciated being able to talk to someone about these things. Nevertheless, it wasn't an easy interview. I think there was a lot more that she wanted to say but couldn't get out. Tall, short dark well cut hair, wearing shorts and top, fashionably dressed.

SEX ED: Basic biology at school. Life Skills course fell to pieces. Little from her Mum, although her Mum was willing. Most of her info is from her mates.

AIDS: Well informed. Knew it was easier to pass from man to woman than vice versa. Understood the HIV/AIDS distinction and latency.

SAFE SEX: She uses condoms for contraception anyway. Her discussion about her experience of using them and the reactions of partners. She is not on the pill, which seems to surprise some young men, because she doesn't feel happy with the side effects. Says boys will accept using condoms if the girl puts it on for them! Says if she was on the pill not sure if she would be able to ask a partner to use a condom.

RELATIONSHIPS: Estranged from parents. 'Something' happened between her and her father, could have been abuse, not sure, but seems to have really done her head in. Relationship with her Mum is a problem because there are a lot of things they haven't resolved about this. Sees the freedom to have sexual relationships as part of a feminist identity. Decided when younger that she wanted to be a liberated woman and that sex was a root to this – acting like men. Hasn't worked out so well in practice.

SEXUALITY: Hasn't had the confidence to develop her own sexuality but wants to. We discussed the problems involved in telling a partner what you like sexually. Hasn't been able to do this, but really wants to. Says in future she is not going to have sex so quickly in a relationship and think more about what she is doing and why.

PEER GROUP: Seems to be a quite 'right on' group of young people, mostly m/c, interested in sexuality and committed on a certain level to feminism. Have trouble with it all in practice.