

LJH22 19.6.89

17,2; lives with ma and sis; Ma – [LOCAL COMMUNITY ROLE]; Pa – [DEATH CARE INDUSTRY]. LJH22 works 5 hours a week in [ENTERTAINMENT STORE] (Sunday); ESW, no religion, doing A level in Eng Lit and Art; 8 GCSEs, O and A level Art (she is taking another Art A level). Hetero, one sexual experience when 14, which she later regretted; now having a sexual relationship with a 17 year old boy she met at school.

Very attractive, blond short hair, big blue eyes etc. Had a brace on her teeth. Our conversations started up around relationships as usual, and this took us a long way. She talked at length about her current relationship, which sounds rather pleasant and successful. She does not know re it lasting bcs they are both young, and he may go off to university, her to art school. She has had a series of other boyfriends, mainly public school types, she thought they were shallow, and that the relationships meant nothing, (met them through her friend LJH19, who lives in the school these boys attend) they just wanted a good looking girl hanging on their arm, did not want to know who or what she really was. Did not sleep with any of them. She felt that her friend LJH19 at suffered at some of their hands (these boys) who treated her badly, but LJH22 took her in hand, and the two of them developed a more self protective style, whilst still going out with these types of boys.

She did sleep with a boy 2 years older when she was on holiday when 14. At the time she thought it was great that this older boy wanted her, but did not think much of the sex. It was a one-off, no protection. All of that she regretted later. The sex with the current boyfriend is good, and very varied depending on each of their moods, and each of them decides. Sex for her may not include penetration, again, depending on what either or both of them want. They used to use condoms but one burst so she went to Brook Advisory (with his support and encouragement) (a) to get morning after pill; (b) the pill. She thought he behaved particularly admirably then, was concerned about her concern, and encouraged her to make sure by getting the morning after pill. She is not worried about AIDS herself, in a monogamous relationship with someone whose sexual history she knows and whom she trusts. Feels young people do not know enough of the facts and the risks involved re AIDS. She smokes, does not drink much, and smokes dope, like all her friends. Neither her nor her friends try or would try the hard drugs.

We spent quite a time talking about the split-up of her parents, a year ago. She feels that she is a complicated person, and has complicated relationships. She feels the parental break up helped her to mature, and she learned a lot - her ma told her about everything that was happening, treated her as an adult. Also gave her some responsibility, and control over sister (7 years old at the time). Ma and she have very good relationship, more like sisters. Ma now has boyfriend and is much happier. Financial situation does not seem too good. Pa now lives in a big house with new girlfriend (she was not the cause of the breakup, ma just could not stand it any more and asked him to leave) and does not pay maintenance regularly; they live in a small purpose built flat, which is a strain after the 'large Edwardian family house' which they lived in before. Tho money was always a problem and I think pa drank and gambled. They were always moving into houses, doing them up, and then selling them and moving.

She values her friendships, a small core of friends who mean everything to her. She thinks she will go to Art School, and would like to be a graphic designer, or something which uses that skill, something 'practical, not painting bowls of fruit'.

She regards all her experiences as potential learning experiences, and does seem to think about them. She liked talking to me and thought quite a lot of young women might, gives them an opportunity to think and talk about things which they might not normally do. Wished us luck with the research and offered to do reinterview and diary. I'll have to try to keep track of her, she said they might move to a larger flat, since the small one was an interim solution 'whilst the dust settled'.