

NMC07 (RT 17/5/89)

QU: I want to talk about the questions on the questionnaire in a bit more detail, but it's for you to talk rather than for me to talk; so just say what you think about everything. Start off by telling me what you're doing at college and why you decided to come.

AN: Well I did want to be a nurse. So that's why I went on the (?)EPM course.

QU: So you're actually doing the pre-health course with the others.

AN: Well, I was, but I changed..just doing what..I do the lessons. I was just bored and, so I just left it, doing Sociology.

QU: So did you decide you didn't want to be a nurse anymore?

AN: It was the course that put me off.

QU: Why?

AN: Just too much paperwork.

QU: How many 'O' levels are they getting you to do?

AN: Five..

QU: Quite a lot of work then. So what are you thinking of doing now then?

AN: I want to be a nanny now. Look after children.

QU: Are you going to do that and get the (?)NAEV or whatever or are you just going to do it independently?

AN: I'm just going to go back to college for the exams for a nanny, GCSEs.

QU: They've got a separate course for being a nanny?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you change your mind quite often about what you want to do?

AN: No, I've wanted to be a nurse for a long time, since I was a young lass. It's just this course; it's put me off.

QU: Do you have to do this course to get into nursing, can you not go about it another way?

AN: No, I don't think so.

QU: That's a shame. Are you disappointed about that?

AN: Yeah, it was just too much work, I can't keep up with it.

QU: Oh well, being a nanny will be alright; you can go abroad and travel. You went to [NAME OF SCHOOL]?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Did you come out with any exams?

AN: (?)You can't have any 'A' levels, (?)I come out with GCSEs..(139)..

QU: Did you ask them?

AN: No, better than college anyway.

QU: So you weren't into college at all?

AN: No. Hate it.

QU: Why is that? What's the difference?

AN: I don't know, it's just you know, they're dead slack on the work, you can get away with murder, if you don't want to do it, then you don't do it, they don't do anything about it. They just don't bother about it.

QU: At school you get more teaching?

AN: Yeah, like if you don't do your homework like at school and you get detention or something, so you'd have to do it anyway. It's (?)better at school.

QU: You feel you're better when you've got someone watching over you?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Are you going to leave this course and go back to [NAME OF SCHOOL] and do them there?

AN: I don't know; you can do it at..(149)..as well...(150)..I haven't decided yet.

QU: Would that be next year?

AN: Yeah.

QU: You're not tempted to go and get a job?

AN: Not really because.. no, I've decided I want to be a nanny.

QU: Best stick to it!

AN: ..(155)

QU: Have you got any other ambitions, not just in terms of what job you want to do, things you've always wanted to do, in the future?

AN: No.

QU: Do you want to stay in Manchester or do you want to move around?

AN: I don't know really; I think I'd like one of these big houses, you know with all the..(161)..and everything, with eight bedrooms even though you don't need them. I'd just like a big house like that.

QU: So you're not that interested in travelling?

AN: No.

QU: Tell me about when you were at school. What sort of sex education did you have, can you remember?

AN: Well in Biology we were split up; girls and boys, and one of the teachers took the girls, and another the boys.

QU: What did they talk to you about?

AN: They mostly read from books.

QU: Were the teachers embarrassed?

AN: No.

QU: But you were reading books, and they weren't talking to you?

AN: Like reading passages and then like having a group discussion about...contraception and all that.

QU: Do you think you got quite a lot of information from school about that sort of thing?

AN: Yeah, especially on child-care.

QU: Did they have a course on child-care?

AN: Yeah, it was all about pregnancy and everything.

QU: Did it put you off getting pregnant?

AN: Well it did when we watched a film, you know about a woman having a baby; it put me off straight away. ...(178)..I'm not going through that.

QU: Do you want to have kids, is that one of the things that you want?

AN: Yeah,..(179)

QU: But you're not having them?

AN: No.

QU: In your sex education, they talked about contraception and pregnancy, did they talk about homosexuality or anything?

AN: Not really. We didn't speak about it as much as they do about pregnancy and everything like that.

QU: You ticked on the box that they talked about masturbation, did your teachers talk about that?

AN: That was ages ago; I think it was in the second year in Biology. This man teacher was talking about it; I think one of the kids brought it up.

QU: Asked a question?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What was he saying about it?

AN: I think somebody said 'what is it?'. And you know he explained it.. Can't remember much about it, because in that lesson you know, everybody was just messing about. That's what you're like in the second year.

QU: Was he talking about men masturbating?

AN: Mmm.

QU: Were you ever told at school that women could masturbate?

AN: No.

QU: Would you think women can?

AN: Not then I didn't, no.

QU: Do you think girls talk about it to each other?

AN: No.

QU: Did they talk to you about relationships in your sex education, about the type of relationships you have sex in?

AN: No.

QU: So it was just sex as a scientific thing?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you think you could have done with people talking about relationships in a more sort of realistic situation?

AN: Yeah. Well we did with your friends and that, but not with teachers at school. Yeah, just talked it out with your mates.

QU: Did you talk about AIDS at all at school?

AN: I think it was in the last year, they started talking about it. That was in child-care. Then they gave us some leaflets about it, and all the different diseases that you get.

QU: Other STDs?

AN: Mmm.

QU: Can you remember what they told you about it?

AN: We had this really dumb teacher, she didn't know what she was doing herself, I'm sure she didn't. She just give us these leaflets, you know to read through. Then answer questions about it, you know like comprehension.

QU: Did people ask questions?

AN: I think most people knew everything about it; you know just through talking out with your mates and everything.

QU: Did you see the stuff on TV, you know, the week of programmes about AIDS? They had lots of things for young people; they showed people how to put condoms on fingers and stuff like that.

AN: I know a teacher done that. Yeah, the Biology teacher showed us how to put on a ..

QU: Was this when you first heard about AIDS, had you heard about it before then, had they talked about it at school?

AN: Yeah, but I never took much notice of it.

QU: So you didn't really know what it was?

AN: No.

QU: So what was your reaction when you found out what it was, when you realised what it was about?

AN: Well before I found out what it was really about, everybody was going - Oh, don't touch me, don't touch me! You might have AIDS and everything. When we found out what it really meant, we just wanted to know.

QU: So people weren't worried about it?

AN: No.

QU: Do you think that you and your friends think you are at risk from catching it? Or do you think that it's different types of people not like you that will get it?

AN: Yeah, not like me, just other people.

QU: Do you think that's the attitude of people?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What type of people do you think would be more likely to get it?

AN: Like the ones on drugs and everything. Sleeping...

QU: When you say 'on drugs', do you know how you could catch it being on drugs?

AN: Needles, sharing needles.

QU: Do you know people who do that?

AN: Not sharing needles, no. I don't know anybody at all; I wouldn't like to.

QU: Do you know anybody who injects drugs?

AN: I don't know anybody.

QU: So you wouldn't be at risk from anybody like that?

AN: No, I wouldn't like to know anybody like that anyway. And they wouldn't see me if they did, and I found out, if one of me mates took it.

QU: You say 'sleeping around', is that one of the ways that you get it?

AN: When I say 'sleep around', it's people like prostitutes. I don't know anybody who's a prostitute.

QU: Do you think somebody who is not a prostitute or a drug-user or anything, but somebody who has an active sex life would be more at risk?

AN: Yeah, they would.

QU: How do you know that you can protect yourself against it?

AN: By using something.

QU: Like what?

AN: Condom.

QU: Is there anything else apart from a condom?

AN: No, I don't think there is.

QU: Do you know how condoms protect you from catching AIDS?

AN: Not really; I've not really thought about it. It just covers the man's (?)thing, doesn't it?

QU: Do you know what it is that's infectious?

AN: The blood..

QU: Well the virus lies in men's sperm and also in women's vaginal fluid. It's in high concentrations in sperm. That's why the condom protects you against it. So you don't think that you would be at risk?

AN: No.

QU: Could you tell me about the relationships that you are in at the moment. You said on the questionnaire that you had a boyfriend.

AN: What do you want to know?

QU: Tell me what sort of relationship you have and how it started.

AN: It started, we met at a party about a year ago. Just got to know...I think it was November..(281)..

QU: So it was his first time as well?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Had you been seeing him for quite a long time before that?

AN: No, I'd never seen him before, since I'd seen him at the party.

QU: But before you slept with him for the first time?

AN: Oh, yeah. I'd seen him nearly everyday.

QU: What led you to decide to lose your virginity?

AN: I don't know myself because the lads I've been out with, they've always wanted to make love, you know and everything like that. I've just said no. I just didn't feel ready for it then. But with him, I just feel different.

QU: Did it make a difference that it was his first time as well? Did you feel happier about sleeping with somebody who was a virgin as well?

AN: Yeah, I did.

QU: Had the lads that you'd been out with before been more sexually experienced than you?

AN: Yeah, that's what I didn't like.

QU: What didn't you like about that?

AN: I just thought well, you know, they only want me for one thing.

QU: And they weren't interested in you?

AN: That's what I thought.

QU: Do you think that you were right?

AN: Yeah. Because most lads are like that though, aren't they?

QU: Certainly at that age. They can't get enough of it and then they want to marry a virgin. What made it different with this lad that you're seeing now?

AN: Well, we talked about it, and he wanted to, and I was saying no for a couple of months. And it just happened.

QU: Did you agree to it then, he wasn't forcing you into it?

AN: No. I agreed to it (?)at the last minute.

QU: Were you happy that you did it?

AN: Yeah..

QU: You are? What had virginity meant to you before then, what did being a virgin mean, did you see it as being pure..?

AN: Yeah, something like clean..like most of my mates have already done it now at school. I just feel like nobody's clean or anything.

QU: Clean?

AN: Yeah. Just dead different.

QU: Was it a nice feeling?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you regret having slept with your boyfriend, would you have liked to have kept your virginity longer?

AN: No, not really. I've stayed with him; I don't think I (?)would. We just like each other a lot and everything...(325)..

QU: When you were at school was there pressure for you to lose your virginity, especially girls?

AN: Yeah, I think there was. My mates did(n't) anyway..

QU: What? Once one person had done it..?

AN: Mmm..

QU: And you weren't interested?

AN: No, not at all.

QU: Do you think AIDS coming along has made a difference to the way you and people your age feel about sex and sexual experimentation?

AN: Yeah..

QU: Do you think you're more wary, cautious about it?

AN: Mmmhmm.

QU: Why is that? You said before you didn't think it was a risk to..

AN: Now with him, saying he was a virgin as well, and I was. And none of us took drugs, none of us that I know.

QU: So you weren't at risk?

AN: No, it was alright and everything, yeah.

QU: How long do you expect this relationship to last?

AN: Well he's always saying - 'Oh, when can we get married?' and everything. I don't know.

QU: Would you like to get married?

AN: Yeah, but not now.

QU: Would you like to get married to him?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you not feel that you'd like to find out what other men are like first?

AN: Not really, no.

QU: Have you ever talked to this boyfriend about AIDS?

AN: No, not really, no.

QU: Do you talk about contraception?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What sort of contraception do you use?

AN: We don't really use anything, mostly anyway. If we do use something then he wears a condom. But he doesn't like wearing it, he..it doesn't feel the same.

QU: Do you think it makes any difference?

AN: Not to me it doesn't, no.

QU: Do you think it does make a difference to him, or do you think he thinks it's unmanly?

AN: He just doesn't like wearing one.

QU: So if you don't use a condom, you don't use any contraception?

AN: No. But he wants me to go on the pill. I've been thinking about it. But obviously, you know, what if my mum finds out I'm on the pill? That's all I'm bothered about; my mum finding out. QU: Would she not be happy about it?

AN: No.

QU: What does she think about things like that then?

AN: Don't know. She'd go mad if she found out I was on the pill. She'd think I'd been sleeping around and everything.

QU: Even if you told her you'd just got your first boyfriend?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Did your mum ever talk to you about sex?

AN: Never.

QU: So she's quite strict. Do you think it would have helped if you were able to talk to her?

AN: No, not really. I talked to her about periods and everything, but not sex.

QU: Is she catholic, against it for moral reasons?

AN: No. It's just (?)done.

QU: Do you have brothers and sisters?

AN: I've got one brother and one sister, both younger.

QU: Right, so you can't talk to them either. What about your dad, does your dad live at home?

AN: Yeah.

QU: You can't talk to him?

AN: No. So he makes it difficult for you?

AN: Mmm.

QU: When you have sex without contraception; do you do anything? Like does he come out?

AN: Yeah.

QU: You are being careful about it then?

AN: Mmm.

QU: Would you rather that he used a condom all the time?

AN: Yeah, it'd be safer.

QU: Do you get worried about not using any contraception?

AN: I did at first but, like he's only ever come once and then he's pulled it out. Not the other times; but I think there's something wrong with him. I think it's called premature ejaculation or something. I think he's got that. I said that to him, you know and he went in a mood: 'I've got premature ejaculation'..

QU: So what, he's coming before you really get going? Is he coming early?

AN: No! He doesn't come at all.

QU: Ah. Premature ejaculation is when you come like almost straight away, so I don't know what not coming at all is.

AN: I think it takes him a long time, when he does come.

QU: The other thing is when you're having unprotected sexual intercourse, even before the man comes, there is some fluid comes out, which you can get pregnant from. So using withdrawal isn't really safe enough to make sure you don't get pregnant. You probably should do something about it. Would you not be able to go down the family planning clinic, would you be too worried to do that?

AN: ...(401)..I haven't got the confidence to go down..unless somebody could go with me. I haven't got the confidence.

QU: Are you scared about the idea?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Are you worried they would tell your parents?

AN: Yeah, it's just my parents that I'm worried about.

QU: You are 16? Well if you went down to the clinic, it would have nothing to do with your parents then. And if you didn't want to go to this area in case you might see someone who knew your mum and dad, you could go to one in another area.

AN: I do think about going all the time, I just haven't got round to it.

QU: Well I think you should do something about it. If you want somebody to go with, I'd be happy to come along with you. My mum went down with me, but I know it's a scary, horrible thing going down for the first time.

AN: LINDA said she'd come down with me, my mate from work. I tried it once with a mate from work but I just didn't have the courage to go. ...(422)..

QU: It's not easy is it? It doesn't seem sensible; if you're having sex you should be able to sort out contraception, but it's not that simple. So you haven't got pregnant so far? Is he worried about you getting pregnant?

AN: Well, a couple of months ago, I thought I was. And he said he was glad. Said he was glad in a way, and in another way he wasn't. But I said if I am, I'm having an abortion.

QU: So you don't want to get pregnant now?

AN: No.

QU: Why is that?

AN: It's just my parents again; they might chuck me out or something.

QU: What about you, in terms of your life, do you think that you could cope with a baby now?

AN: Mmm..

QU: You could?

AN: I think I could, yeah.

QU: Do you think you want one?

AN: Not really.

QU: There's probably a lot of things that you want to do first. Have you thought of leaving home, are you happy at home?

AN: No, I'm hoping to move out as soon as I can. When I get a proper job.

QU: Has it always been like that?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Why?

AN: I don't know; my parents are always arguing. Just don't get on.

QU: Do they give you any freedom?

AN: What do you mean?

QU: I mean let you go out when you want to go out..?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Let you see boys..?

AN: Yeah but, there is a certain time; if they want to go out, then I've got to stay in and mind my brother.

QU: What chances do you think there are for you of leaving home?

AN: Well they even say themselves, you know - 'Oh, I can't wait for you to move out', well if I can find a place and I've got the money, and I get a job..they'd do anything..

QU: Where do you think you could move out to?

AN: Don't know, as long as it's away from home.

QU: Like a private rented house?

AN: Mmm.

QU: Is your boyfriend making offers to you to move out?

AN: Yeah, he wants to move out as well.

QU: So start up somewhere together?

AN: Mmm.

QU: Do you think you'd like to live with him?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you get on well enough?

AN: We do now; at first we was always arguing. The slightest thing, you know; it was an argument. But now, it's cooled down a bit.

QU: You say you're not worried about AIDS because you're his first partner, and as far as you know he hasn't been unfaithful to you. OK, say that your relationship with him ends, and you were free to have another relationship, do you think that you would think about AIDS?

AN: Yeah.

QU: What would you do about it?

AN: Well if it comes to doing things then I'd tell him to use something.

QU: What, use a condom?

AN: Mmm.

QU: If you were on the pill, would you still ask them to use a condom?

AN: Mmm.

QU: You say that your boyfriend doesn't like using a condom, if you started seeing someone else who had similar opinions about condoms, do you think that you'd feel strong enough to say - 'No, you've got to use one?'

AN: Yeah.

QU: It seems that a lot of young men won't use condoms which is a bit unfair. And if it's used for pregnancy then it's very unfair. But also it's used to protect you from HIV and AIDS. Would you feel happy about carrying them around with you?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Because a lot of girls say that they wouldn't carry them because people think that they're slags, or that it would give them a bad reputation, or that it would look like they were going out looking for it.

AN: You just don't, like flash them about, do you?

QU: Say that you weren't with someone, and you were going out, and you knew that you might cop off with someone, would you take them out with you? Would you think of that as being prepared?

AN: Well no, I wouldn't go just sleeping with anybody if I'd just met them the first night. Like I've been with him nearly a year now, it were last November. Because before I was with him for two years and I still wouldn't do anything.

QU: When you say you wouldn't do anything, does that mean you wouldn't have intercourse?

AN: Yeah.

QU: But you had relationships which included other sexual aspects which are called fore-play or whatever?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Were you happier with 'fore-play' than with intercourse? A lot of people say that when they start to have intercourse, the fore-play aspects stop and they just have intercourse. Do you and your boyfriend do all the other things that you did before as well?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you enjoy the sex you have with your boyfriend?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Do you get personal pleasure from it?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Is that important to you?

AN: Yeah.

QU: That's interesting, because I've talked to a lot of people who don't actually seem to be enjoying what they're doing. They are doing it for their boyfriends. And they don't realise that they should be enjoying it.

AN: Well I do the fore-play first, before the actual intercourse.

QU: Do you actually enjoy the intercourse? Or is it just for him?

AN: No, I enjoy it.

QU: Don't mind the personal questions. AIDS is important and safe-sex is one of the things that doesn't tend to get talked about very much. Having sex that doesn't include intercourse. Most people think that isn't sex if it doesn't include intercourse. The only part of sex which isn't safe is unprotected intercourse. So if the situation is that it's very difficult to ask someone to use a condom then there's an alternative of having sex which doesn't include intercourse. So the things that you did before you lost your virginity are things that are safe-sex. Do you think that you would be able to ask someone to have sex without intercourse?

AN: I'm not sure I'd be..(549)..to.

QU: There's something to think about. Do you find it easy talking to your boyfriend about sex?

AN: Yeah.

QU: Is that quite important?

AN: Yeah.

QU: How much at risk do you think someone of your generation is from AIDS or HIV?

AN: It depends if they like sleep around a lot. Have a different lad every few months, you'd be at risk then. Especially if you don't use anything.

QU: Do you think that women are as much at risk as men are?

AN: (?)Yeah.

QU: Do you think that people who are straight or heterosexual are as at risk as people who are homosexual?

AN: Yeah.

QU: So it doesn't make any difference?

AN: I don't think so.

QU: That's changed because a few years ago people thought that just gay men got it, and as long as you were straight there was no problem. You could do anything; sleep with whoever you wanted and you wouldn't get it. That's quite important that people have changed how they think about that. Is there anything that you still want to know about AIDS? Do you think that the information that you've got, from TV or whatever, has been enough?

AN: I think I know enough, yeah.

QU: Enough to protect yourself?

AN: Yeah.

(end:582)