

STREET CRIME FORUM - JUNE 23, 2004

SESSION 1 - DISCUSSION GROUP D

SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

PARTICIPANTS

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POTENTIAL ACTIONS – REMEDIES

- With government assistance develop plans to monitor/anchor the child (mentoring)
- Current system doesn't satisfy the need efficiently/as urgently as needed
 - need better coordinated response, i.e. where does a child go? – what availability? etc.
 - children need to feel positive camaraderie/feel with a worker/assistant.
- Initial "ownership" of the problem/opportunity needs to be established – more action
- Create a networking model
- Sexual exploitation is multi-faceted – drugs/family/social
- Government is only one segment to the solution
- Sexual exploitation and prostitution are separate issues
- Seek alternative opportunities other than (government) programs
- Vancouver Youth Visions (VYV) consult with groups such as the VYV et. Al. (youth initiated/idea based)
- Deterrent for "customers" – what will work – what happens?
- Business concerns (youth selling sex outside doors)
- Patrols to monitor activity – other possible activities
- How to deal with moving pimps
- Protective intervention orders (why not used more?)
- Ability of "pimp" to be aware of orders often cause relocation of "pimp" and their sex workers
- Creating "safe" zones where if underage children enter – strong police presence occurs
- What drive individuals to become exploited?
- Native youth challenged by certain family upbringing through generations, and often end up in a recursive cycle of negative emotions, etc.
- Need to identify potential border-line instances and prevent problems in future (early intervention)
- Give agenda to higher levels to listen and implement any necessary changes (accountability)
- Inevitably the child victim needs to make a decision to get out

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- Prevention programs should be available at early age. If they exist, maybe they require enhancement/promotion
- Small scale drug use, i.e. marijuana, can often lead to more destructive/addictive drugs. Early prevention/education is necessary.
- Sense of power when sexually exploited youth are able to "sell" rather than be held against will/desire.
- Correlation of welfare (G.A.I.N.) in youth sex trade. It is often difficult to receive (G.A.I.N.) benefits
- System needs to be geared to the youth and not reversed