

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 13
27 JULY 2022	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notice of motion has been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:

1. Motion from Councillor Yasin

"Street prostitution has existed in Peterborough, especially in the area surrounding Burghley Road but has now extended onto Green Lane, Eastfield Road, Crawthorne Road and many more; for many many years.

Various police operations have been launched and a number of street sex workers are known to the constabulary. However, no such intervention has had a significant impact on reducing the number of street sex workers. Women who sell sex are at significant risk of psychological, emotional, physical and sexual harm. The psychological impacts of selling sex are immense and multiply the longer a woman remains in prostitution. Trauma responses make managing everyday life more difficult, so accessing services and agencies is more challenging which, in turn, leads to increased vulnerability and further exploitation.

Being in prostitution becomes a cycle that is incredibly difficult to break. There is also a significant impact on the local community with high levels of anti-social behaviour as a result of the women selling sex and the men in the area who are pimping the women or buying sex, including drug-dealing, hazardous litter and noise nuisance.

Peterborough needs a long term, coherent and robust approach to street prostitution within the City that seeks to end the harms caused by those who purchase sex.

Therefore, this Council resolves to;

- **Recognise street prostitution as adult sexual exploitation and a form of violence against women and girls**
- **Recognise the public health risks associated with street prostitution and ensure harm reduction measures are in place for women selling sex on the street,**
- **Enable departments within the Council to work with local third sector organisations to develop exiting pathways that allow women who wish to stop selling sex to do so, including:**
 - **helping to facilitate a forum for services to fast-track women into trauma-informed support,**
 - **promoting collaborative working and holding organisations to account for the support they offer**
- **Once exiting pathways are in place that are shown to be appropriate and working, which enable women to exit street prostitution, to move the focus towards ending street prostitution in the City, sending a clear message that Peterborough will not tolerate perpetration of sexual harm.**

- **Ask officers to draft a violence and vulnerability strategy, which considers the specific needs of women who sell sex on the street, for consideration by the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee, asking them to make appropriate recommendation to Cabinet.”**