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CAMPAIGNING NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 40p



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Eastern European women 'forced into selling sex on our streets'

Fears they are lured by promise of restaurant work

BY ALY WALSH

POLICE are to investigate claims of sex trafficking after it was revealed that half of the prostitutes working on Derby's streets are now from Eastern Europe.

Some of these women are selling sex for as little as £5, often to help feed their families back home.

But police and charity workers fear some of them may have been trafficked in-

to the UK on the promise of work in restaurants and then forced into prostitution.

A new project has been set up to help these women, including a number from Romania, and police are investigating how many of them have been victims of exploitation.

The city has seen a gradual increase in non-British sex workers since the EU expanded in 2004 but there

has been a more dramatic rise during the past year, according to Derby charity Women's Work.

Dionne Reid, chief executive of the charity, which helps sex workers, said more than half of the women her team met were from Eastern Europe, with the majority being Romanian.

She said: "It's really escalated. They seem to move

TURN TO EXPLOITED, PAGE 2



Union accuses train firm of holding back finance details

BY ROBIN JOHNSON

A UNION has accused train-maker Bombardier of holding back information which it believes is key to resolving a dispute over pay.

Yesterday, workers at the firm's Central Rivers maintenance depot, at Barton-under-Needwood, held a second day of strike action after staging the first walkout on Sunday.

The Unite union organised the action following 10 months of negotiations with Bombardier's management over a pay rise for its 240 members working at the site.

They are among a total of 363 staff at Central Rivers, which is a base for maintaining trains operated by Virgin West Coast and Arriva Cross Country.

The union has renewed calls for Bombardier to get back around the negotiating table.

And its negotiators have called on the company to release information which could explain why the company is offering a below-inflation pay increase.

The union wants a rise in line with Retail Price Index inflation, which currently stands at 3.2%.

But the company has tabled an offer of 2.5%, which Unite members have refused.

Unite regional officer

TURN TO DISPUTE, PAGE 2

REPORTING LOCAL LIFE SINCE 1879

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Workers 'have no option' over action

DISPUTE FROM PAGE 1

Mick Stevens said: "Bombardier is offering a below inflation increase of 2.5% but the company is refusing to share vital financial information to justify this offer."

"If we were able to see the figures then we might be able to understand the company's point of view. But until they do, the workers feel they have no option but to take industrial action."

The action consists of a continuous overtime ban, which started on Saturday, along with six days of strike action. The next walkout is scheduled to take place on Sunday.

NHS Direct number to stop operating

A TELEPHONE number offering health care advice will cease to operate in Derbyshire on September 3.

NHS Direct offered patients telephone advice about non-emergency health problems but the Government has gradually been in the process of replacing it with the number 111.

At present, both numbers are operating across Derbyshire but 111 will soon take on all patients.

Anyone who calls NHS Direct on 0845 4647 will be redirected to 111, which has already taken 67,000 calls since it was launched in Derbyshire last year.

Police helicopter earning its keep

LATEST available figures show that Derbyshire police's force helicopter was called out to 14 jobs in a week.

Between August 13 to 20, those jobs included three searches for missing people and seven searches for suspects. The others were two calls to help officers on the ground and two searches for vehicles detectives were trying to trace.

On August 18, the helicopter was scrambled to successfully find a lost woman at the side of the A38 near Ripley, and it also helped find three children who went missing on Alport Heights.

Four in custody following assault

FOUR people last night remained in police custody following an assault in Ilkeston.

The quartet were among a number of people allegedly involved in the incident, which happened in Graham Street, at 7.30pm on Sunday. Two people were treated for injuries, with one man requiring stitches to his head.

A police spokesman said a number of neighbours dialled 999 after seeing the trouble flare up in the street. He said: "This is not being treated as a random attack but the injuries are not as bad as first feared."



Heage Windmill miller Anthony Sharp is demonstrating how easy it is to take a photograph of the windmill and send it in to a competition being run, details for which can be found at www.heagewindmill.org.uk. The closing date for entries is September 16 with winners announced on September 29. Prizes include free mill tours and certificates and the winning image could end up being used to help publicise the mill.

Picture: Lucy Shaw TEL:012038155-001, C

Foreign sex workers sending money home to feed families

EXPLOITED FROM PAGE 1

around a lot. We have made contact with some women and then they just disappear, so we fear there is a level of control there.

"And there's also the issue of how these women are getting to the city."

Police say they have also seen this shift in the nationalities of sex workers.

Sgt Simon Adams is from the police's Operation Scarlet team, which was set up to crack down on prostitution and kerb-crawling in Derby.

He said: "They seem to be doing it to either send money back home to their families or to pay off people who have brought them here."

"We are planning to do further research into the exploitation side."

Sgt Adams said police had logged about 40 prostitutes working regularly on the city's streets in the past two years, with about half of them being from Eastern Europe.

And he said there were currently 10 Romanian girls selling sex in Derby.

Women's Work, which is based in Charnwood Street, has set up a project to help this new group of women, with about £5,000 from Derbyshire Community Foundation and Derby City Council's health and social care fund.

An outreach worker who can speak a number of Eastern European languages has been employed.

MANY FEEL STREET WORK IS THEIR 'ONLY OPTION'

SEX work may appear to be the only option for many of the Eastern European women on the city's streets.

This is the view of one of the outreach workers at Women's Work.

She has spoken to the young women and heard the same story many times.

The worker said: "They really want to have a proper job."

"But it is difficult for these women to find other work because of legal issues and lack of training."

Mrs Reid said it was a challenge trying to break through the different language and cultural barriers.

She said: "We are now dealing with completely different issues."

"When we started our project in 2003, we were dealing with women who spoke English and understood the law."

"Different behaviours and norms are acceptable here in the UK from what these women are used to, such as in terms of childcare and living conditions."

She believes many of these women have experienced severe hardship.

"Coming here and living in squats or overcrowded houses may seem terrible to us but for them it may actually be a better standard of life than at home," she said.

The charity, set up nine years ago, is accustomed to

"And they are not entitled to benefits."

She said the women were competition for the English prostitutes, with the non-British sex workers charging as little as £5 for sex.

"This causes conflict with the British women, who say 'they're charging peanuts so we cannot get our money'."

A handful of Eastern European girls dressed like street workers you would see in Amsterdam.

"They are very blatant and it's obvious why they are there."

working with women with drug and alcohol addictions, which Mrs Reid says is the motivation behind most British sex workers in the city.

But what drives the Eastern European women to work the streets does not often appear to be addiction.

In some cases it is more likely they are supporting their families.

Mrs Reid said: "I think quite a few of them here are working to feed families back in Romania."

She believes a lot of them come to the UK initially thinking they will get jobs in restaurants and are then drawn into sex work.

She said the charity had found it difficult to engage with many of the women but added they could not expect "overnight results".

"If we think back to when our project started with the



Some British prostitutes resent the competition.

local women it took a long time to build up their trust and engage with them," she said.

"We are just going through the same process but it's going to take longer because of the language and cultural barrier. A lot of them feel quite isolated."

She said the numbers of women who had grown up in the city and work on streets had "dwindled".

She believes this is due to both the work the charity has done and because many women involved in this kind of work are now attracting clients online instead.

Project workers from the charity go out into Normanston three nights a week trying to make contact with the prostitutes.

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COMMENT, PAGE 14

School revamp setback will cost an extra £440k

DELAYS in completing a £20 million refurbishment programme at a Derby secondary school are to cost almost £440,000 more than was budgeted for.

A report has been presented to the city council cabinet highlighting the need for additional funding.

The work at Derby Moor Community Sports College, in Littleover, was due to be completed this summer, with the new and refurbished buildings opened next week.

But the discovery of rusting steelwork in existing concrete beams and supports when the Derwent building was stripped back earlier this year has meant delays in completion and has incurred extra costs as a result.

The additional £439,799 will be funded from the city's Building Schools for the Future contingency budget.

The work should now be finished by January.

The report also requested an extra £85,000 for refurbishment at the former St Martin's Special School site, in Wisgreaves Road.

This was vacated by pupils in July, pending a move to a new school on the site of the newly-built Noel-Baker Community School, in Alvaston.

A further £67,000 will also be needed to improve the heating at Littleover Community School and create a permanent plant room.

But, despite the increased costs of some projects, the report reveals that others have come in under budget.

These include at Cavendish Close Junior School, Chaddean, where fire assessment works were costing £70,000 less than estimated.