

Ugly Mugs Database

The aim of the Ugly Mugs scheme is to:

- Improve the safety of sex workers and to reduce crimes committed against them by alerting them to dangerous individuals operating in their area.
- Systematically record and monitor crimes against sex workers.
- Enable third party reporting of crimes against sex workers.
- Assist sex workers, where possible, to report assaults to the police.
- Improve liaison between sex workers, sex work projects and the police.
- Contribute to successful investigation & conviction of those who commit crimes against sex workers.
- Deliver the message that any violence against sex workers is unacceptable and criminal.



This scheme has been successfully running in Merseyside for a number of years. The police and the Ugly Mugs Project Team (Armistead Street Project) received funding in 2006 from the Home Office to employ an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) to support sex workers who have been raped and sexually assaulted. The ISVA co-ordinates the work of the multi-agency partners and supports the sex worker through the criminal justice system if a formal complaint is made. The ISVA will work

with the partner agencies to provide a developed exit strategy, created for that individual.

- Over the past 3 years, 34 cases have gone through the Criminal Justice System, as a direct result of information received via the Ugly Mugs system.
- Of these 34 cases there has been a 93% success rate at Court. As a result of these convictions, the total amount of years allotted to the defendants was 124 years.
- 83% of all referrals made to Ugly Mugs, proceed into the Criminal Justice System.
- Over the past 18 months there has been a 400% increase in the number of referrals onto the scheme, which in turn has provided Merseyside Police with an increased awareness of the true situation of prostitution in their area, together with an abundance of high quality intelligence.