

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Date	TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2019 – 2:00 p.m.
Authors	SIMON DOWN AND SUPERINTENDENT SHANE O'NEILL

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and is further to the previous report to the Panel on this matter in March 2019.

Recommendation

2. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

Background

3. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT) is an international serious organised crime issue, reflected as a priority by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the National Crime Agency (NCA), East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU), and Leicestershire Police.
4. The PCC has been working closely with police and wider partners throughout LLR to understand how we can better co-ordinate and enhance our shared ability to tackle MSHT and support victims to fully recover and re-integrate back into society.

Progress since the last report

5. The PCC has provided £10,000 grant funding to the national Unseen Modern Slavery Helpline which provides support to victims, provides advice to professionals and receives tip-offs of potential modern slavery from the general public. It passes this information onto the police.
6. A decision has been made to increase the capacity of Leicestershire Police to investigate exploitation utilising the precept increase that was awarded. An increase of a sergeant and six detectives will be added to the Child Sexual Exploitation team and combine with the Modern Slavery Team to target the range of offences covered by slavery across children and adults.

7. The LLR Modern Slavery Action Group (LLRMSAG) is now well established and is a well attended partnership forum through which work in relation to tackling modern slavery across LLR is being taken forward.
8. The LLRMSAG is part of the Strategic Partnership Board structure and has initially been focussing on awareness raising, education and campaigning. To this end, a #knowthesigns campaign for Modern Slavery was launched in June 2019 with the aim of raising awareness across all communities and agencies of the signs to be aware of. In addition, a new website has been created by Leicester De Montfort University to provide useful guidance information, links to all the partner websites, and news and updates on campaigns and awareness raising activities.
9. The LLRMSAG is also seeking to identify the most vulnerable communities to Modern Slavery and, once this work is complete, will allow for better targeting of the existing and future campaigns to raise awareness and inform people how to get assistance.
10. Further to the above, a seven day social media campaign will be run by the PCC's office from 14th – 20th October 2019 (incorporating Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October) to highlight the significant work of organisations behind tackling modern slavery across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and to promote the network of partners who work in collaboration with the PCC. Our objectives are; To reach as many people as possible across social media platforms to share the messages within the campaign; To collaborate with partners to strengthen the awareness raising of modern slavery, and promote their roles and responsibilities; To educate the public on the work partners are involved in to tackle modern slavery, the wide variety of partners working together, and the training and research undertaken to ensure we as professionals are better equipped to recognise and tackle the issue; To increase the reporting of modern slavery. Each day we will highlight the work being undertaken by a different partner organisation.
11. The PCC is in the process of finalising his Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Transparency in Supply Chains statement, whereafter he will be ensuring that his staff are trained to spot the signs and will work with the Force to ensure that they do similarly.
12. A review of the referral routes and links to the National referral mechanism (NRM) have been undertaken with amendments to local practices made to reflect the services provided centrally from the NCA.

Police operational activity

13. The identification of an address from a local authority team has recently led to a large investigation into Trafficking and Slavery where over 14 individuals have been referred into the National Referral Mechanism.
14. Arrests of those involved have taken place and the safeguarding and repatriation of the victims has taken place. The early identification of the signs was a key driver in allowing police to intervene, make arrests and gather evidence from the scenes.

Modern Slavery the next steps

15. The full establishment of the enhanced Criminal Exploitation Team needs to occur as officers are recruited into Leicestershire Police and then ensure sufficient partnership

and police intelligence is gathered to focus them on those most at risk of Slavery or Trafficking.

16. The PCC and his office will continue to drive forward partnership work around modern slavery and human trafficking.

Implications

Financial: The £10,000 for the Unseen Modern Slavery Helpline has been funded through the Commissioning Framework and the additional sergeant and six detectives have been funded through the precept increase.

Legal: None.

Equality Impact Assessment: None.

Risks and Impact: None identified.

Link to Police and Crime Plan: Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery is a sub-section of Vulnerability.

List of Appendices

None.

Persons to Contact

Simon Down – Commissioning Manager, OPCC
Tel 0116 229 8984
Email: simon.down@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Supt Shane O'Neill, Serious Harm Reduction Unit, Local Policing Directorate
Tel: 0116 248 2505
Email: shane.oneill@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Julia Yates – Research Officer, OPCC
Tel: 0116 229 8708
Email: Julia.Yates@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

This page is intentionally left blank