

Meeting with Mick Duthie, Deputy Director Santa Marta, at East Lancashire Police headquarters in Blackburn: April 24 2017

Present: Mick Duthie (Deputy Director, Santa Marta), Mark Wiggin (CEO Caritas Salford), DCI Sion Hall and DI Mark Vaughton (East Lancashire Operation Proteus), Anthony and Mary Brown (Caritas Anti-Trafficking and Medaille Trust), Sam Baxendale (Medaille Trust), Brian Gregory and Mary Walmsley (the Friendship Foundation), Joe Howson (Lee House Mobile Trafficking Exhibition), Niall Pemberton (Red Cross), Dawn Eccleston (Hope for Justice), Louise Fairclough (Police and Crime Commissioners).

We first met Mick Duthie at the March 7th conference in Manchester. This was a regional follow up with North West Police Authorities. Mick was very interested in our anti-trafficking work and keen to meet with DCI Sion Hall, ourselves and others we are working with. He sees our local initiative as very much in the spirit of Santa Marta.

Prior to his appointment with Santa Marta, Mick was a Detective Superintendent and Head of Homicide with the Metropolitan Police. His career spans sexual offences, human exploitation and organised crime which. Out of interest, prior to his appointment with Santa Marta, he was leading the Madeleine McCann case.

There was no agenda but as we saw it the meeting aimed to: examine the read across between Caritas Anti-trafficking and Santa Marta; help Santa Marta develop a strategy to bring trafficking and modern day slavery into mainstream Catholic thinking; and explore how Santa Marta could guide and support us in our local activities.

Discussion was wide ranging but the things that struck me most were:

- Mick is developing the Santa Marta strategy and invited our support in doing so. He is currently meeting with a wide range of people including bishops and safeguarding heads.
- Mick is wanting bishops and chief constables to work together in the spirit of Santa Marta internationally
- A number of dioceses are becoming engaged with trafficking and Mick commented that Nottingham (who used our prayer card across the Diocese) were asking what they should do next. *Also, Catholic church leaders, police chiefs and ethnic chaplains met the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner in Peterborough, 29 November, to progress the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery in the East Anglia.* However Mick evidently feels that our approach puts us in the forefront.
- He is working on how to manage education and awareness raising at local level and indicated that future initiatives like our prayer cards and leaflets could be funded by Santa Marta.
- There was discussion on how to educate in schools. Medaille referred to their education pack which supplements that Caritas in Action Curriculum and was posted to all secondary schools in the Diocese. Joe Howson mentioned the Lee House mobile trafficking exhibition which will be launched soon. It is a version of the mobile refugee exhibition which over 3,000 students have so far experienced. Lee House is getting positive feedback from pupils, staff and parents. We talked about the difficulty of getting into schools and the value of school chaplains as points of contact.
- We had a brief mention of Government action on refugees and trafficking *which alerted us to our lobbying ambitions via Caritas Anti-Trafficking. The Transparency in Supply Chains (amendments) Bill has been dropped, as was a bill last year on providing better support for trafficked children. We need to influence government more.*
- A number of Police forces have network co-ordinators or similar posts and in some ways Sion's team of 8 has the same objectives. However we discussed a bespoke Lancashire model to centre initially on the today's team

- A particular area of concern is the unmet needs of trafficked victims – when they leave safe house provision, before they get there sometimes, and even during their stay. [*The transition from isolation to community to integration to employment is one fraught with difficulties and little coordinated support. We are exploring how to meet these needs with a view to a provision which may include accommodation but will probably centre on other things more strongly.*]

Throughout these discussions we kept coming back to our local anti-trafficking work and the desire for Santa Marta support and branding. In our final words with Mick before leaving it was clear that what he had heard had fully justified his visit to us and that he would be returning for more.

I need to develop our ideas, italicised, arising from this meeting, particularly about extending our awareness raising activities more widely through the Diocese; and how to tackle the unmet needs via some sort of premises provision as discussed with our Bishop.

Mary and Anthony Brown

28 April 2017