Welcome to the second edition of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) Newsletter. As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner’s (APCC) Lead for Modern Slavery, I have been greatly encouraged to see in recent months a significant increase in the national activity to drive forward the UK’s response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The 18th October 2017 marked Anti-Slavery Day which saw an increased number of public awareness raising events across the UK and during that week, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland launched his second annual report. The Home Office have since announced the several reforms to the National Referral Mechanism and the HMICFRS published their report; Stolen freedom: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

Also, a research report was published from the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the University of Nottingham’s Rights Lab which maps the anti-slavery partnerships in the UK.

This work does acknowledge good practice from law enforcement, statutory agencies, NGO’s and the third sector but it also highlights the gaps in our response that we need to address to deliver a more effective coordinated, consistent and cohesive response to this serious and organised crime. I recently attended the first ‘Unlocking Slavery’ Engagement Event for PCC’s and Chief Officers in Bristol. This event was an important opportunity for senior leaders to be updated on the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme and the impact this has had on our police forces response as well as the wider national and international operational activity undertaken by the National Crime Agency. In addition to these updates, the event addressed the importance of a holistic approach; working in partnership and keeping a victim centred approach at the heart of police investigations. The second of these events will be held in Leeds in the coming months and I will be writing again to all PCC’s to strongly encourage their attendance and engage in what are sure to be dynamic discussions.

Police and Crime Commissioners are working in partnership across a range of agencies at a local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime and to protect victims and the vulnerable from harm. I am determined to see all PCC’s work together with their police forces, partners and communities to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking, support victims and bring offenders to justice.

Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
Chair of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network

The latest meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network was held on 24th January 2018 in London and below are the summary headlines.

**Home Office Modern Slavery Unit.**

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) reforms announced in October 2017 comprise of several different projects to deliver the reforms; improving victim support and strengthening the decision making process. The reforms include:

- The establishment of ‘places of safety’ which will provide immediate support to potential victims.
- Improved pathways for those transitioning out of the NRM including extended time for move on support from 14 to 45 days, drop in services providing tailored support.
- National roll out of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates.
- A single, expert unit in the Home Office to handle all cases making decisions.
- Digitisation of the NRM form and referral process enabling data to be captured and analysed more effectively to better aid prevention and law enforcement.
HMICFRS – HMI Wendy Williams.
- HMI Wendy Williams addressed the network and spoke about the HMICFRS report of the police response to modern slavery. The presentation included:
  ➢ The scope and focus of the inspection.
  ➢ Findings and recommendations.
  ➢ Next steps and follow up inspection.

National Policing Modern Slavery Portfolio.
- The Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit is strengthening the police and law enforcement response to modern slavery. Many work streams in the programme are delivering products and tools to support police understand the nature, scale and threat of the problem in their area and delivering training courses and events to assist police investigate modern slavery crime.
- The first ‘Unlocking Slavery’ Engagement Event for PCC’s and Chief Constables was held in Bristol 21st Feb. The second will be held in Leeds, date TBC. All PCC’s and Chief Constable’s are encouraged to attend this opportunity for strategic leads to come together and be updated of the work of the Transformation Programme.
- Funding has been made available to all PCC’s through the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme for partnership events and activities in their area. Up to £1000 has been made available to each PCC.

Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.
- The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC) Kevin Hyland is pleased to see the changes to the NRM and welcomes the reforms.
- Kevin Hyland wrote to all Chief Constables recently about the HMICFRS report of the police response to modern slavery and has praised the improved police response since. He has recognised a significant increase in modern slavery crime recording in his latest Annual Report released October 2017.
- The IASC will be highlighting policing best practice going forward and encourage greater use of technology and accessing the support of Europol and Eurojust for cross border investigations.

The next meeting of the NATMSN will take place on 20th March 2018 at 4pm in London. For further information about the NATMSN or to include an item in the newsletter, please contact modern.slavery@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

The next meeting of the HTF Advisory Forum will take place on Monday 12th March 2018, 12-2pm in the Queenhithe Room at The Mermaid Theatre, Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3DB. The head of the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit will be joining us to provide an update on the reforms to the NRM and to answer your questions. We will also hear from The Salvation Army about their plans for a post-NRM drop-in service. Please email euan@humantraffickingfoundation.org if you are able to attend. For more information please click here.

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