Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Table Top Exercise, February 15, 2019

Clive Gunshaw, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Lancashire.

Welcome.

Mark Burns-Williamson, West Yorkshire PCC, National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Lead for Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, and Chair of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN)

- Mark started by acknowledging the work of PLASP and the Lancashire PCC, and the significant roles of the PCCs generally.
- Working together and drawing on each others’ experience is all important and enhanced by the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit. [The Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit (MSPTU) was launched in 2017 to provide dedicated specialist teams to support all police forces in England and Wales to transform the response to modern slavery. In the first 12 months, the MSPTU worked with partners to deliver training, established regional coordinators to strengthen local responses and established the joint slavery and trafficking analysis centre (JSTAC) to provide strategic intelligence of the level of the threat across the UK.]

Joanne Edwards, Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

Jo was a detective constable in 2004 when the tragedy of the Morecambe Bay cockle pickers occurred. It was a time when the crime wasn’t recognised as modern day slavery. It is an issue that is still little understood. Jo’s experience is in a number of complex areas of business across Counter Terrorism, Major Crime and Investigation, Intelligence, forensics and Serious Crime. Her main points:

- The complexity of the challenge encompasses both global and local, the two linked
- Recognition of the newly recognised County Lines has highlighted a cultural shift and the need to recognise the blurred line between criminal and victim
- Of the 400 referral in Lancashire in 2018 there are 100 live investigations, 40% of which are about sexual exploitation
- Jo acknowledged the work of East Lancashire Police, Detective Sergeant Stuart Peall in particular as a driving force, and also the PLASP work of Sion Hall and Abi Finch-Hall
- Jo is confident that understanding of the problem is increasing, but not confident yet of a full understanding
- The west of the County is County Lines and Criminal Exploitation; east is sexual exploitation and Vietnamese cannabis factories

There are challenges:

- Brexit and information sharing with the EU
- Society is changing with hidden risks within communities and a problem with trust that has led to the need for victimless prosecutions
- The pace of tech is making for new ways for the traffickers to operate, particularly online access to prostitutes
• Legislation lags with the need for better care standards for victims and to fill gaps in HMRC legislation
• Funding is needed for increasingly proactive and sophisticated responses to human trafficking
• ALL staff need to be aware and responsive
• The Transformation Unit and its network is facilitating standard practices across Police forces

Where we would like to be:

• Full advantage of the partnership
• Harder for the traffickers to operate – this is up to ALL of us
• Full understanding of the risk to, and vulnerability, of (potential) victims, across partnerships and coordination between them
• Training of all as ambassadors in spotting the signs
• A full cultural shift, particularly in the Police, to see potential victims as such rather than criminals
• Embed focused activity into plans to increase the evidence base
• The key is Partnership

Sion Hall ex DCI Trafficking, East Lancashire Police, and Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership Lead

• There are an estimated 40 million slaves globally and probably tens of thousands in the UK
• In 2018 there were over 80 victims identified many of which were Duty to Notify (DTN) rather than National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals
• We are starting to get a better picture with a better balance of “knowns” to “unknowns” but we know we have a way to go. Sion referred to a Donald Rumsfield quotation: “Reports that say that something hasn’t happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know.”
• We need to do more to identify those who don’t self identify; we need to change strategy as the traffickers change theirs; we need to improve victim support
• PLASP has promoted standardised training on trafficking and developed a Toolkit for NGOs and statutory bodies so they can respond in an effective and unified way. It is running a series of Freedom Days (Roadshows) across Lancashire which feature amongst other things a Freedom Bus and a Journey to Freedom
• PLASP has a Twitter account which has proved very popular with a large number of hits and retweets
• There has been a 57% increase in NRM referrals in 2018

Beth Coggan-Lennox, Unseen Modern Slavery Helpline Supervisor

• Translations in 200 languages available via video conference call
• The Unseen App is more than a vehicle for reporting potential trafficking, it is also a means of gaining information on the types of exploitation and the indicators. The Helpline itself can also offer advice and information
The Helpline is seeing more Domestic Servitude cases with more indicators highlighted in the media e.g. seen working early and late but rarely outside and never alone.

In two years since Unseen took the Helpline there have been 300 Lancashire contacts with 60 Modern Day Slavery cases recorded and 140 potential victims. Of 57 referrals, 45 were to the Police and 12 to Local Authority. Mostly they were Labour Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation with a small number of Domestic Servitude.

Call volume doubled in the week of Anti-Slavery Day

Unseen has posters and printed cards in 17 languages

**Sir Peter Fahy, QPM, formerly Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police**

In introducing the Table Top Exercise Sir Peter spoke of his own introduction to human trafficking from voluntary work with Retrak, travelling to Uganda and Ethiopia to work with street children. Street children are incredibly vulnerable to trafficking and are often targeted by predatory gangs who force them into sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour. As CEO with Retrak he merged the charity with Hope for Justice. *[The combined organisation will be active on four continents: Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. Best practice from both organisations will allow improvements in frontline programmes, and the enhanced size and scope will translate into a bigger impact on the global stage when campaigning and advocating for change at the national and international level, while reducing management and support costs. Sir Peter has become Director of Structural Reform at Hope for Justice. His role will be to engage directly with governments, agencies and relevant organisations to improve the national and global response to trafficking.]*

As we moved the scenarios Peter asked us to think: “How do we join it all up?”

The Scenarios and a Question and Answer Panel

In groups on ten tables we examined three scenarios and pondered questions after which Sir Peter facilitated feedback, discussion and asked some challenging questions. A summary was reserved for the plenary following a question and answer session with a panel of experts comprising: Helen Gordos (NCA); Beth Coggan-Lennox (Unseen); Phillipa Roberts (Hope for Justice); Sion Hall (PLASP); Abi Finch Hall (Lancashire Police); Martin Hill (NW Modern Slavery Lead for the CPS).

Peter Fahy’s Summary of main points and action arising:

- You cannot underestimate the “The power of the abusive relationship”
- The NRM is necessarily intrusive and victims may need preparing for how to present but without any guarantee of a successful outcome
- The [Trafficking Survivor Care Standards](#) are a resource to be aware of and make use of
- There is a need for a Victim Care Panel within the Local Authority
- Short term pre-NRM accommodation is a need not currently being adequately met
- There is a pressing need for legal advice/support
- There is need for a directory of victim support services
- How do we coordinate safeguarding issues?
- There is more diversity in trafficking and organised crime than any one partnership can be aware of and there is a need for regional sharing
• The routes by which intelligence is gathered needs logging so that front line staff can benefit from the sharing of information and protocols.
• There were agencies not represented in the Table Top Exercise which need to be – businesses in particular. Engaging with Private Sector business is key to eliminating modern slavery in supply chains.
• The importance of collaboration and the power of the partnership cannot be underestimated. Lancashire presents good work in this respect.
• CSE brings modern slavery into main stream which necessitates inclusiveness and avoidance of separate Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)
• All of the above begs for a more integrated model and stronger coordination. There is need for a hub.