

February 28, 2019: PLASP Meeting

Table Top Event Debrief

The event featured victim scenarios. Key things emerging included:

- the need for short term accommodation, pre NRM, non NRM and post NRM
- the need for legal advice and advocacy. The Red Cross and Hope for Justice offer a limited amount of the latter
- a move towards exploitation teams within constabularies because of links/similarities between Child Sexual exploitation (CSE) and trafficking
- the need for early intervention – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) may not be quick enough or sufficiently inclusive. You need crisis meetings or a virtual panel in the short term with longer term planning for less urgent needs
- the need for a directory of services, with named contacts rather than telephone numbers, included in a revised Toolkit
- some agencies were absent and there is a need for not just the key agencies but the right people within them
- inclusion of the business sector is crucial. A Review of the Modern Slavery Act recommends the inclusion of the Public Sector in supply chain legislation. We need to try and pull them in. There will be slavery in the supply chains of most big companies.

National Update

- The Police Transformation Team with 80 posts around the country is under review with the hope that funding will continue
- The North West ranks very highly in its achievements with 236 live operations. Male and females are evenly represented in the statistics. Figures for Forced Marriage are very low compared with elsewhere
- PLASP partners are involved in the production of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Toolkit which will go out nationally to all PCCs
- We should consider our own business pledge with particular emphasis on recruitment, training and induction

Operation Aidant

Aidant in Lancashire covered Preston, Blackpool, Blackburn, Burnley and Lancaster. The homeless are hard to engage but the handwarmers and haircuts acted as icebreakers and were well received, particularly the haircuts with a good queue forming rapidly after the word went round.

More details later.

Training

- Protected Learning Time (PLT) is an opportunity for modern day slavery training in primary health care
- We hope that GP surgeries will take up the idea of a Modern Day Slavery Poster on their video loop systems

- The Fire Brigade asked for training after the Table Top Event

Business Event, March 28th

- This half day event is for small to medium businesses, Lancashire based but not exclusively so
- The emphasis will be on procurement and transparency including the legal implications of employing trafficked people without knowledge
- The Modern Slavery Helpline will have input
- Need to establish links with Chambers of Commerce

Other things:

- Lancashire has been recognised for its actions and achievements compared with other regions
- The new Anti-Slavery Commissioner is Sara Thornton
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-independent-anti-slavery-commissioner-announced>
- The Faith Group is expanding and now has Salvation Army representation
- There is evidence that organised crime groups are taking advantage of the lucrative potential of housing 18-25 year old using Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). They may be fronted by someone with legitimate credentials
- The success of the Freedom Bus has engendered a desire for more of the same plus signing of other vehicles – police cars, taxis, refuse vehicles.
- The Clewer Initiative has produced a toolkit for rural communities
<https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/rural/>
- Following a meeting with Caritas Anti-Trafficking, Home Start <https://www.home-start.org.uk/> is a new link with the ability to offer support to families and the potential to recognise potential abusive or forced marriages.
- Mike Emberson, ex CEO of the Medaille Trusts has written a book, Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery which Caritas Salford Diocese is pleased to endorse as part of its strategy to eradicate modern day slavery in the Diocese by 2025.