March 29, 2018: PLASP Meeting

Some key points:

- Yesterday’s LANPAC funded Business Event was well attended with the relevant companies including some from the Public Sector and we look forward to further engagement. There was very good radio publicity.
- The Review of the Modern Slavery Act (2015) is likely to put an obligation on public sector organisations to provide anti-slavery statements as with Private Sector companies with a turnover of more than £36 million.
- The Lancashire Police partnership with the Chamber of Commerce provides an opportunity for Modern Day Slavery training to raise awareness in the Private Sector.
- The next newsletter, like the first, will be limited to two pages which makes it easy to tweet. There is plenty of material with the Table Top Exercise and the Business Event.
- There are minor changes to the Toolkit which is available on line. The Toolkit is getting positive feedback. There will be further revisions to enhance victim support which will be discussed at the next Victim Support sub-group. Development of a Victim Care Pathway aimed at providing the best possible support is complex and potentially costly.
- There are potentially two victims rescued from trafficking who are prepared to speak which may provide the opportunity for a speaker who can talk first hand, and the possibility for videos. The cases could feature in the Toolkit.
- From 2014 to 2018 there has been an increase of 60% of NRM referrals from the North and even more from the North West. There has been increased activity in all agencies and increased reporting from agencies.
- There is data from the Clewer Car Wash app which Lancashire Police can access directly. The App will be launched, at least partly to clarify use. Some of the data is coming from people’s homes either because of people practicing or people inputting data having left the car wash.
- On training we will analyse the data to get a breakdown of numbers and who is being trained. Whilst it is clear that some people trained as trainers are not passing the training on there is also evidence that the training is being put into practice. Training in Ormskirk and Buckshaw Village highlighted the number of people attending who were in employment and who could influence within their organisations, notably a teacher who was concerned about County Lines.
- There would benefits in training prison officers, which can be built on via Probation Service supervision. There are potential victim and perpetrators in prison, with a blurred area between the two. People can be on remand for a long period and there have been occasions when victims have been identified on remand and saved from prosecution.
- Sion Hall has been invited to speak at the Merseyside network who are keen to do a joint event similar to the PLASP Freedom Days. The Freedom Bus will feature and PLASP volunteers will be needed. There is potential to capitalise on the large footfall of two cathedrals.
- Onjali Q Raúf, who has written The Boy at the Back of the Class, a book that features issues on refugees, abuse and trafficking, is coming to Lancashire. This presents an opportunity to engage with her. The book is aimed at primary school children and stands to be a powerful tool of influence.