

PLASP MEETING, 25 October 2019

Lancaster Roadshow, October 21st

The event was well publicised in advance in the [Lancaster Guardian](#).

Despite bureaucracy problems the day was a success. The driver of the freedom Bus had commented about people taking photos as it passed by. Journey to Freedom was sited at St Thomas' church with the Health Festival and had a throughput of around 80. 12 cadets helped with leaflets, 15 Soroptimists marched from Dalton Square to the Slavery Memorial, and Hop for Justice and PLASP had stalls in the Market Square. On the Sunday there was a short service on the steps of the Museum in the Market Square followed by a minute's silence in remembrance of all victims of slavery.

Training Update

Hope for Justice who have already done large scale training for Lancashire Police will be funded for two large sessions and we are checking availability for a theatre company production. PLASP training targets have been well exceeded for the period.

Lancashire Police Update

- Lancashire Police have produced a sticker for cars which promotes the National Slavery Helpline
- There is bid in for a match funded £1,500 from the Police Transformation Unit which would go to Dr Emily Cooper's support for sex workers research. Emily is a human geographer and is research active in the areas of sex work, and deviance in the city. She is a member of the Sex Work Research Hub and the UCLan Policing Research Team.
- There are seven recent or ongoing cases where Lancashire Police had been investigating possible instances of labour or sexual exploitation some of which are not now being pursued as human trafficking offences. The recent Week of Action, Operation Aidant, focused on brothels but without any instances of sexual exploitation found.
- "Joined up working" is something to consider for people released from prison and/or under probation with the Probation Service or the [Community Rehabilitation Company \(CRC\)](#), the private company that deals with lower end probation. There is a need to identify victims and perpetrators in prison. Prisoners are potentially vulnerable to human trafficking. CRC will attend the next PLASP meeting.

Blackpool Roadshow, 12 October

- In addition to the Freedom Bus, the Journey to Freedom and stalls we are exploring a Modern Day Slavery sign on Blackpool Tower, something on the illuminations and a flag on the Town Hall.
- There is a need for health screen for victims by way of some sort of reception centre. Provision at the moment is patchy. Ideally the requirement is for a 24/7 service available the same day with a practitioner and other support staff.

Anti-Slavery Day, October 18

- There is to be a full day multi-agency training event organised via the safeguarding boards.
- Local businesses should be alerted to Anti-Slavery Day, hopefully via the [LANPAC](#) Business Coordinator.
- A presentation by Sion Hall at a food processing factory will provide the opportunity to raise the day and its relevance to them.
- There will be a poster for company notice boards e.g canteens and we are asked to promote it
- Border Force will be at the Slavery Museum in Liverpool and we are welcome to field a stall.
- We will try and get a flag on the Harris Museum via the Events Team.
- The Friendship Foundation will have a stall at Booths and do three presentations on the 17 and 18th

Grab Bags

Cumbria Soroptimists have done grab bags for victims to cater for immediate needs – basic clothing and toiletries. They have given PLASP 12 for women and 8 for men. For the future PLASP wants to do something similar to include clean, comfortable second hand-clothing and underwear, tooth brush, tooth paste and a mobile 'phone. Second hand mobile 'phones would be on temporary loan and would only need a £10 sim card. Tesco do an inexpensive mobile with sim card. There is no funding for this which would have to come from donations.

Manchester Homeless Partnership Event Update

A recent Manchester Homeless Partnership event was well attended and triggered discussion at PLASP. Short term pre-NRM provision remains a problem with any statutory duty often failing for lack of accommodation and the specifics of eligibility.

The [Progress Housing Group](#) offer interim housing provision and attended their first PLASP meeting to hear about the issue. The ideal is for a single room with a locking door. Hotel rooms are a frequent fall back but hotels don't like visible safeguarding and safeguarding is often a key requirement. [Safenet Domestic Abuse Services](#) have recently been awarded a contract. They are geared up for families and women but have catered for men.

The Red Cross use the threat of a solicitors letter if local authorities fail to meet their obligations. It is a process that can be applied immediately and is generally successful. The follow-on solicitors letter and legal action would clearly takes longer and would only be of value to encourage a more helpful response later. Apart from accommodation there is also the issue of progression for victims to become self sustaining.

The issue is to be an agenda item for the next PLASP meeting with a view to setting up a sub-group.

Victim Presentation

A victim of labour exploitation wishes to tell his story for the benefit of others in raising awareness of the issue. He will come to the next PLASP meeting which is considered to be a safe environment for a first presentation with a view to further presentations and a possible video.

Other items

- There is to be a [Crime Prevention Conference](#) at Ewood Park on December 5 and volunteers are needed for a stall.
- The Passage have published a little booklet on human trafficking and the homeless.
- Sion Hall's post of leading PLASP is now permanent.
- Lancaster Castle is opening a Lancashire Police Museum which will have a number of cells one of which will have a panel on Modern Day Slavery.