

PLASP MEETING, 18 December 2019

Business Packs and Crime Prevention Conference

The 5 December Crime Prevention Conference at Ewood Park was well attended with around 170 delegates. The subject matter of the conference was wide ranging. Sion Hall spoke on *What is Modern Slavery?*. Businesses found the input on this subject especially beneficial. Around 50 “Business Packs” were taken. The Business Pack will be on the Lancashire Constabulary website soon. It comprises information to help employers fight modern day slavery and how they can ensure their own business are free of slavery. There has been much interest in the pack and [Unseen](#) will share on their website. It would be a good idea to repeat this type of event focusing specifically on industries where modern day slavery is likely to occur – catering and contract cleaning – ideally with an event before March.

Unseen has just launched a Business Helpline Portal which businesses can sign up to for £12,000 per year. The Hope of Justice Slavery Free Alliance is similar in coverage. The PLASP pack is of course free.

Business Pledge

PLASP has developed a Business Pledge which is live on the Lancashire Constabulary website but elusive and not currently promoted. We will have a link soon. The pledge will appear on all purchase orders and a link will take people to details of the pledge for businesses to sign up to it.

NHS England

Cathy Sheehan, Clinical Lead for Child Protection Information Sharing at NHS England and National Slavery Team lead, spoke of the [NHS Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Network](#) set up two years ago to get health staff more engaged. This network is much more than health workers and includes e.g NGOs, social workers, GLAA, Police.

At a meeting yesterday, Nurse of the Year, [Bonnie Sparkes](#) of West Herts Hospitals NHS Trust (WHHT) spoke about her work in partnership with Hertfordshire police to support potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery. Bonnie, who is a safeguarding clinical nurse specialist, protects vulnerable and hard to reach women by joining police on operations to reach those who need vital healthcare support. So far there have been 140 clients including some men.

[Snowdrop](#) along with Kathryn Hodges of [the Centre for Modern Slavery](#) at St Mary's University, Twickenham spoke of a bespoke Modern Slavery module for professionals which will be launched next year.

The [Care Quality Commission](#) have a role in inspecting safe houses and are consulting on methodologies.

Junior doctors in London recognized a gap in their training – no signposting protocol. There will be transferable skills from training on exploitation and domestic violence. A London/Brighton pilot is on the cards. There is a huge NHS workforce which is a target for training, some of which already exists.

Hertfordshire Constabulary's Modern Slavery Unit is [Operation Tropic](#), very active and linked with Lancashire Police. Sion Hall will seek out Bonnie Sparkes.

Homelessness Event

We are aiming for a roadshow type event in the new year working with Community Safety Partnerships. Front line staff dealing with the homeless need to know what to look out for. A team will also go out and talk to the homeless. Has modern day slavery been a feature of their homeless journey? The [Greater Manchester Homelessness and Exploitation Report](#), Autumn 2019 supplements [the Passage](#) published in 2017. Both give insights and recommendations which should steer our action on the homeless and modern day slavery.

Training update

There has been good feedback on trainer training in Cumbria.

There are a lot of changes around safeguarding boards and training needs to be standardized.

Clewer are offering a safeguarding training module for clergy.

Clinical Commissioning Groups are doing some front line training.

Hotel Event

The Shiva Foundation produced a report [Addressing Slavery in the Hotel Industry](#) and GLAA are also working with Lancashire Police. Blackpool would be a good place to start for an event. There are high risk occupations e.g. cleaning. Sexual exploitation has been issue with rooms booked for short periods. Night porters need to be alert and report suspicious occurrences.

Any Other Business

See an [update from the Friendship Foundation](#)

East Lancashire Exploitation Team

Victims are usually unwilling to testify against their trafficker but East Lancs Police are hopeful of success at a trial in April which involves a sexual exploitation case of a Romanian woman, rescued and now safe and willing to testify.

In the last 18 months there have been three cases of Vietnamese cannabis factories which have highlighted problems of how the NRM is operating and the difficulties of distinguishing victim from criminal. The mistaken assessment became obvious after the event in two cases but in a third it is still debatable whether the authorities have got it right. In this latter case the evidence seemed clear that the individual was a victim but then they were apprehended again in a situation which indicated otherwise.

There are concerns about continuing issues with car washes and nailbars and insufficient Home Office concern.