

# West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

A network of agencies tackling modern slavery in the West Midlands and beyond

MAY 2019



## West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

I need to start by saying thank you to everyone who supports the Network and the various strands of work we all undertake. By working in partnership, it enables us all to be far more coordinated and focused and ultimately, I hope, providing better outcomes for victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Attendance at our meetings continues to be high which is really encouraging especially as we know you are all so busy and of course resources are finite too. It's important for us to remain relevant and of value to you, so please do let us know if you have any ideas in which we can improve the meetings or of any presentations you would like to be included in future meetings. Starting the meeting after next, we will be asking if you could attend 30 minutes prior to the network meeting commencing so you have an opportunity to network over a cup of tea/coffee and to exchange contact details and ideas etc. This would seem a better idea than trying to do it post meeting when everyone needs to get away on time. We will also be having a Challenges/Good Practice Board for you to leave messages on, we appreciate that sometimes members may feel unable to ask certain questions in an open forum. We can see if there are ways to address any issues within the network, if we are unable to do that, we can then escalate to the Strategic Board and other relevant partners.

You may remember we have a Homelessness/Modern Slavery Task Group - this is proving to be a very successful and productive project. Our recent meeting included several presentations including Sifa Fireside, Homeless Link and the WMP NRM Coordinator, Adam Goode. It was very well attended and included partners outside of our region for example West Yorkshire OPCC and the Home Office MS Unit. Our work feeds into a number of strategic partner organisations, but importantly into the WMCA Mayors Homelessness Steering Group and Rough Sleepers Task Group.

An identified significant gap is the lack of knowledge of how many homeless or rough sleepers are referred into the NRM, or how many exit and become homeless (this is a national issue too) - this we feel is really something we need to change in order to prevent and protect this vulnerable cohort of people. This has been taken to the WMCA Homelessness Steering Group where the issue will be escalated. At this moment in time, unless it specifically mentions on an NRM that the PVoT is homeless, the information is just not captured.

Our work with partners on mapping regional victim care and support services started last month. We are very pleased with the enthusiasm and commitment to progress this strand of work. Our first meeting took place last month with around 12 identified organisations who have identified as providing services to victims across the West Midlands. These include the CPS, Local Authorities, Salvation Army and third sector organisations providing for example housing, advocacy, post NRM support and employment opportunities. The next meeting will look at a case studies, working through them to identify what service each agency provides and how, including capacities and geographical coverage. If you are not already part of this work and provide services to victims and would like to join us please contact [donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org](mailto:donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org)

Thank you to all our members and look forward to seeing you again soon

**Robin Brierley, Executive Director, West Midlands Anti Slavery Network**



## WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

West Midlands Police participated in Project Aidant 16 in April 2019, Project Aidant are regular periods of enrichment and intensification focusing on a particular area of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. All Police Forces in the UK work with stakeholder partners throughout this phase of activity, this Aidant phase has focused on Labour Exploitation. The exact results of West Midlands and our partner's activity are still being collated and shared with the National Crime Agency however early indications suggest this is our most successful yet.

The planning phase for West Midlands Police focussed on building on our current intelligence picture by utilising intelligence held within the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN) and applying analytical assessment to this. The tactical intelligence team vulnerability hub enhanced the analytical work, identifying key tactical priorities that were provided to West Midlands Police network of Modern Slavery Co-ordinators / SPOCs on Neighbourhood Policing Units and Specialist Departments.

Our network of partners were involved in operational planning with the local SPOCs leading to efficient and effective operational activity taking place to rescue victims of modern slavery, identify trafficking networks and gather more evidence and intelligence. This activity saw officers conduct enforcement at factories, nail bars, barbers, car washes and construction industry affiliated sites.

West Midlands Police officers have also worked closely with non-government organisations and statutory partners, to undertake innovative community engagement activity. This community engagement activity has been completed to raise awareness of labour exploitation across a wide range of vulnerable sectors. This engagement work has identified a hot spot for labour exploitation in fast food, restaurants and building trade with three victims rescued from just this activity in the Project Aidant period. The community engagement has also resulted in an uplift in community intelligence of 18% during the period.

In addition, West Midlands Police worked with the National Data Analytics Solution Team (NDAS) on a pilot project in respect of MSHT. The pilot used data from Police systems innovatively to identify intelligence opportunities, vulnerable locations for labour exploitation and potential victims of MSHT. The pilot system uses an analytical algorithm to analyse natural language processes within the systems, early indications suggest that this approach provides up to ten times more visibility to Police of intelligence, locations, victims and opportunities relating to MSHT. Information taken from this system was tested against some of the operational findings during the Project Aidant phase and this is being used as part of the use case the pilot is presenting to the Home Office.

Further and complete details will be provided in a sanitised format at the next WMASN meeting.

**DS Phil Poole, WMP**



Transforming Communities Together have been busy, recently, in partnership with the Diocese of Lichfield they held an evening of action called Re:Dress, tackling the fashion industry and its role in modern slavery and the environment. For further details please see the [Clewer Initiative](#) website.

They have also teamed up with the Big Issue to develop a training programme for vendors which allows them to be 'the eyes and ears' to report and tackle the issue of modern slavery. See the [Big Issue](#) website for further details.

If you would like to find out more about [Transforming Communities Together](#) see the website or contact James Henderson, Lead Development Worker at TCT: [james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk](mailto:james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk)

## Barnardo's PPTC / ICTA



WE WON!

Our PPTC service won a national NWG Working Together award for the work we are doing in bringing agencies together to tackle child trafficking, better understand our regional picture and develop good practice.



Our ICTA service across parts of England and Wales, was nominated for an NWG Helping Hands award for the exceptional direct work support they provide to trafficked children.

Our Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service has been live in the West Midlands for 6 months already! During that time, we have had 30 referrals for direct work with trafficked children who are 'separated from their country of origin', with 9 different nationalities being represented. Our work has involved support with immigration appointments, ensuring education placement are meeting the needs of the child, helping the child to understand what trafficking and exploitation are and advocating on their behalf within, and ensuring they understand, social care, immigration and criminal justice systems.

Alongside the direct ICTA work, our Regional Practice Co-Ordinator has had 16 referrals for casework support with trafficked children from the UK. This involves support to professionals working around the child, predominantly in relation to NRM and trafficking related concerns. Our Regional Practice Co-Ordinator is also busy delivering awareness briefings, NRM drop-in surgeries and conference inputs across the region.

Our West Midlands Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (PPTC) multi agency panel continues to grow and uncover additional hidden exploitation types. Our funding from West Midlands PCC has been continued into 2019-2020 to enable us to carry on driving forward awareness, identification and good practice in the region.

If you would like further information about ICTA or PPTC, please contact [rachel.hopper@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:rachel.hopper@barnardos.org.uk)

ICTA/ Regional Practice Co-Ordinator casework Referral form can be found here

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/772469/2019.01.21 - ICTA Referral Form - East Mids.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772469/2019.01.21_-_ICTA_Referral_Form_-_East_Mids.ods)

Our 24/7 child trafficking support line is available to any professional in West Midlands Combined Authority area 0800 043 4303.





The Adavu Project supports adult survivors of modern slavery in the West Midlands to rebuild fulfilled lives of freedom and independence in the longer term. Although we have been providing support to survivors for a number of years, we are just about to publish our very first newsletter! Please do subscribe to receive this e-newsletter that will be issued twice a year and will include news, updates and case studies. To do this just click on the link below and input your email address so that we have permission to send the newsletters to you.

<https://www.adavu.org.uk/news/>



### **Hope at Home Hosting Scheme**

Hope at Home train and support people to host survivors in their homes for an agreed time period. We step into the post NRM accommodation gap and work in partnership with agencies such as Snowdrop, Adavu, City Hearts and Unseen, who provide professional support so that survivors have both a stable home and the long term support needed in order to begin to rebuild their lives.

#### **Referral Criteria:**

Survivors must have a move-on plan in place, even if this is subject to change.

Post NRM with negative or positive Conclusive Grounds decision.

Over 18.

Survivors do not need to have access to public funds as hosts are voluntary, and no rent will be charged.

Professional support must be in place.

Hosts are located across the UK so we cannot guarantee having hosts in any specific location but will do our best to accommodate where we can.

For more information or to chat through a referral, please email us on

[info@hopeathome.org.uk](mailto:info@hopeathome.org.uk)

Jared Hodgson, Co-founder & CEO

[www.hopeathome.org.uk](http://www.hopeathome.org.uk)



## THE SOPHIE HAYES FOUNDATION – DAY 46 PROGRAMME

The Day 46 Programme from The Sophie Hayes Foundation is a free, unique employability programme extended to survivors of trafficking and modern slavery, once they are ready to start thinking about the future. It constitutes an eight-week group Workshop phase; six individual Coaching sessions over nine months, and regular Community Forum events that all participants are invited to attend. We take referrals from organisations that provide casework to survivors of trafficking. The criteria for being referred is as follows:

Survivor of trafficking (does not have to have been referred into the NRM)

Aged 18 or over (no upper age limit)

Ready to start thinking about the future

Medium comprehension and spoken English (can follow a group conversation using simple language)

Able to commit to an eight-week programme (with flexibility for unexpected events).

Engaging with a caseworker in referring organisation

We have just opened our next Women's programme for referrals, delivered in Balsall Heath from 25th April. Please get in contact if you are working with a client who would benefit from this programme – travel costs are provided. Additionally, we want to roll out our programme in new areas where survivors would most benefit. We are looking to launch a Men's pilot in June and plan other locations for our Women's Programmes, in a way that fits the need of the client group. If you or your organisation would like to offer or discuss a location - for either our Men's or Women's programmes - please get in touch to talk about partnership working! [morgan@sophiehayesfoundation.org](mailto:morgan@sophiehayesfoundation.org) 07935 219124.

## USEFUL LINKS:

**Modern Slavery Helpline – 08000 121 700**

**NRM** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

**Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB)** [fib@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fib@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

**Modern Slavery Act Duty to Notify** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>

**Human Trafficking Foundation Trafficking Survivor Care Standards**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599abfb4e6f2e19ff048494f/t/5bcf492f104c7ba53609aeb/0/1540311355442/HTF+Care+Standards+%5BSpreads%5D+2.pdf>



### Specialist support, delivered in victims' language

Refuge is the country's largest single provider of specialist services for victims of gender-based violence. Refuge set up the world's first domestic violence refuge, in London, in 1971. Today, it supports more than 6,500 women, children and men on any given day escaping many forms of abuse, including modern slavery and human trafficking.

Refuge runs specialist, culturally specific services to support modern slavery victims from Vietnam, China, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Clients do not need to be on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the Government's system to support victims of modern slavery, to get support from Refuge. Crucially, the support is delivered in clients' own language, by staff who understand the particular barriers different communities may face. Across Refuge's national network of services, staff speak more than 40 languages, including Vietnamese, Mandarin, Albanian, Polish, Bulgarian and Farsi.

Refuge has run specialist services for the Vietnamese community since 1994, and in the Eastern European community since 2008. Refuge provides therapeutic, trauma-informed casework, tailored to each clients' needs, including: support to access accommodation; support to access expert immigration advice; support to navigate the NRM, and/or justice systems; health advocacy; on-going emotional support; support with children; and support around safe contact with families and returning home, if clients want to.

Refuge's modern slavery team is based in London but take referrals from across the country. Refuge also operates a free, confidential Modern Slavery Helpline and provides support over the phone to clients, in their own language.

Refuge's Modern Slavery Helpline can be reached on 07741 119930 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm). For more information email: [modernslavery@refuge.org.uk](mailto:modernslavery@refuge.org.uk).

### **British Medical Journal Modern Slavery Letter – Poor Understanding of Modern Slavery in the Health Care System**

A letter written by Prof Patrick J Saunders, Visiting Professor of Public Health, University of Staffordshire and Megan Harris, Specialist Registrar, has been published in the *bmj* re: Poor Understanding of Modern Slavery in the Health Care System. This response was stimulated by the work of the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network. The response has been noted by a Birmingham MP resulting in a letter to Ministers. You can see the full text of the letter [here](#).

### **West Midlands Anti Slavery Network Meeting Dates 2019**

WMASN meeting dates for 2019, for further information contact:

[donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org](mailto:donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org)

**16<sup>th</sup> May**  
**18<sup>th</sup> July**  
**12<sup>th</sup> September**  
**21<sup>st</sup> November**



**Salvation Army Adult Victim of Modern Slavery Care and Coordination Services**

**General Enquiries:**

0300 303 0547 / 0548

Mon to Fri - 09:00 to 17:00

**24-hour referral and out of hours line:**

0300 303 8151





## THE SALVATION ARMY CONNECT PROGRAMME

The CONNECT programme is the Salvation Army's Modern Slavery Post- NRM Survivor Support Service. CONNECT provides community-based support through hubs which provide survivors of human trafficking and/or modern slavery with a link to their local community and signposting to the range of available support they may need.

The aims of CONNECT are to support people on their journey from victim to survivor by:

Helping them integrate successfully into local communities and society

Protecting them from psychosocial risks

Developing their personal competence through activities, workshops and specialist service provision

Increasing their access to legal Services

CONNECT seeks to mitigate the effects of the potential 'cliff edge' experienced by victims and survivors who were previously supported through the Victims of Modern Slavery Care and Coordination Services Contract whilst in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

The Birmingham hub is available to female clients with positive CG from across the West Midlands (Birmingham area and Black Country). Key contact: [melpo.economou@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:melpo.economou@salvationarmy.org.uk)

The Coventry hub is available to male and female clients with positive CG in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. Key contact: [Gillian.Spatcher@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Gillian.Spatcher@salvationarmy.org.uk)

The program will be in operation from end of May and we are awaiting referrals. Referral only.

## West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

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