

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

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

DECEMBER
2019



West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network

This is our last newsletter of 2019, and the year has flown by again. During 2019 so much has taken place and there is so much good work being done by all our partners. Our network meetings have continued to grow in number which we are pleased about with new members joining on a regular basis. We do need to ensure the meetings add value to your work though so any ideas re the format, or any speakers you would like to present please do let us know. Our challenge board has been a challenge in itself, but that is now resolved and is now action led. This means that any challenges raised will be allocated as actions to organisations, and in some cases individuals so they may be resolved and then fed back at the network meetings. There are a number of ways challenges can be escalated if we are unable to resolve them within the network, they are: via the West Midlands MSHT Strategic Board, the Regional Organised Crime Strategic Governance Group, the PCC, Human Trafficking Foundation, IASC, the National PCCS MSHT Network, Home Office and many others. So most issues should be able to be resolved or answered in some way so please do take advantage of the Challenge Board facility.

Our care and support task group has produced some excellent outcomes including a directory of services that now sits on the PCC website. We are also in the midst of writing a risk matrix to cover all services, this will be really very useful in identifying suitable services for victims as well as identifying gaps in provision. Please do visit the PCC website and if you would like to be included on the directory please do contact us. Our case studies have been hugely worthwhile and amongst other things highlight the gaps for victims with high complex needs and no recourse to public funds. This is a real challenge for everyone and more common than we imagine.

The work with WMP and their team including the NRM manager has been hugely beneficial in helping network members understand the NRM data in far more detail than we have ever done before. Understanding exactly how many victims are identified in the West Midlands and starting to consider how we all ensure the best possible outcomes for them is a challenge for us in 2020. We must also start to consider those exploited in the West Midlands but identified elsewhere – linking with other regional partnerships of which there are many, will be advantageous for this I suspect.

In December we held our 10th Anniversary at Carrs Lane Church – the place in which the WMASN was founded. It was truly an excellent day with lots of superb speakers each speaking about their own journey in a lovely informal environment. Thank you to all those that attended and also for those that contributed prizes for the raffle. For those unable to attend it was a celebration of all your work too. When we look back over the ten years we have all come on a long way, with buy in from organisations we never contemplated would ever play such a significant role in this agenda including statutory agencies and those from the private sector too.

Thank you all again for your hard work and commitment – we still have work to do and look forward to seeing what we can all achieve together in 2020. Have a great year and let's ensure we keep the victim at the centre of all we do.

Robin Brierley, Executive Director
West Midlands Anti Slavery Network



Public Health
England

Raising awareness of modern slavery

Throughout the week commencing 14 October, members of our Health and Wellbeing team (HWB) and colleagues from the Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service (LKIS) joined with **West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network**, and representatives of the **Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme** to host a series of webinars on various aspects of modern slavery, to raise awareness, share effective practice and identify future actions.

The week of events was organised to mark **Anti-Slavery Day** (18 October), which provides an opportunity to raise awareness of **human trafficking and modern slavery**; encouraging government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address the problem. Webinars included an introduction to modern slavery and spotting the signs, wider criminality and vulnerability, links between homelessness and modern slavery, technology and cybercrime, and the importance of public sector colleagues making every contact count (**MECC**). Following the final webinar on Friday 18 October, there was a face to face stakeholder networking event and marketplace at the PHE West Midlands Centre in Birmingham, which gave delegates a chance to enter into lively discussion of topics raised throughout the week.

The week was a great success, with more than 150 people dialling in, some to all five days – with participants from across the West Midlands region and much further afield; including Dorset, Essex, Wiltshire, Jersey and even the US. Attendance included members of local authorities, police forces, NHS, **HMRC**, along with third sector colleagues. Feedback was very positive concerning informative and interesting content, and how useful and inclusive the format of webinars was, which made minimal impact upon the day for those tied up in operation work.



THE SALVATION ARMY CONNECT PROGRAMME

CONNECT are proud to announce the commencement of our Mentoring Programme.

The CONNECT programme is The Salvation Army 's Modern Slavery Survivor Support Service. For the last year, we have been providing survivors of human trafficking and/or modern slavery with a link to their local community and signposting through our Hubs across the country.

In addition to this, our Programme is now extending to incorporate Mentoring for clients in the West Midlands area. The mentor relationship is established within a group of three (a 'trio') with 2 volunteer mentors assigned to every individual survivor. Mentors come alongside the client to help them achieve their goals over a period of a year (meeting bi-weekly in a location convenient to the client).

Mentors help to model healthy community within a structured relationship, modelling how to establish goals, giving practical support and advice (eg facilitate meetings/activities, navigate transport etc) and helping celebrate successes.

We are now accepting referrals for Mentoring for both male and female clients with +CG. (Please refer to referral form for additional information).

For further information and referrals (incl. forms) please contact:

melpo.economou@salvationarmy.org.uk

USEFUL LINKS

Modern Slavery Helpline: 08000 121 700

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

[National Referral Mechanism Guidance](#)

[Digital NRM Form](#)

[Modern Slavery Act Duty to Notify](#)

[Home Office: 2019 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery](#)

[Human Trafficking Foundation Trafficking Survivor Care Standards](#)

[Recovery Needs Assessment](#)

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network meeting dates 2020, for further information contact:

donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org

16th January

12th March

7th May

2nd July

10th September

19th November

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