

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Date	MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019 – 1:00 p.m.
Authors	SUPERINTENDENT SHANE O'NEILL AND SIMON DOWN

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Background

2. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT) is an international serious organised crime issue, reflected as a priority by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the National Crime Agency (NCA), East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU), and Leicestershire Police.
3. It is known that MSHT is a largely under reported and indeed hidden crime that requires a joined up approach between law enforcement and partner agencies to identify both victims and perpetrators. The method of victimisation utilised varies in each case but victims are mainly coerced by exploiting vulnerabilities, such as finance, cultural beliefs, language, immigration status and family cohesion. UK victims are also victimised through mental illness, and drug/alcohol dependence.
4. Methods of control of victims include violence, debt-bondage and physiological dependency by different means and groups utilise violence, sexual offences, drugs trafficking, child sexual exploitation and immigration crime.

Recommendation

5. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

A co-ordinated approach

6. Tackling MSHT is everyone's business. This includes (to a greater or lesser extent):
 - Identifying and reporting
 - Pursuing and disrupting perpetrators
 - Preventing would be victims and would be perpetrators from becoming involved

- Supporting victims and their full recovery/re-integration into society
 - Ensuring against MSHT within our own organisation and supply chains
7. The Strategic Partnership Board has identified that Serious Organised Crime (inclusive of MSHT) requires a co-ordinated approach to tackle it effectively and safeguard individuals and communities from its effects.
 8. Modern slavery is one of the two areas for priority for a review of the partnership response, preparedness and safeguarding arrangements for those affected by or involved in its commission. The PCC will be leading this review through the PCC's Modern Slavery Toolkit (developed by the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network).
 9. Modern slavery, alongside County Lines has been identified as areas of Criminal Exploitation that overlap and need to be prioritised to raise public awareness, improve intelligence and information of its impact across LLR and ensure effective multiagency disruption and prosecution of those responsible.
 10. Leicestershire Police has identified an increase of a supervisor and six officers from the recent precept increase to add to its current capabilities to address the growth in criminal exploitation which includes Modern Slavery and County Lines.

Police Intelligence

11. Intelligence indicates that forced labour predominantly includes working in car washes, nail bars or as slaves on traveller sites. Female European victims are forced to work in the sex industry, while Asian females are exploited for labour and/or sexually abused. Nationally there are increasing reports in the construction and food service industries.
12. Although technology is enabling the targeting of potential victims over the internet, the majority of recruitment still takes place face to face. Victims are often moved around the UK using a variety of transportation methods, such as public transport, private vehicles, taxis and hire cars.
13. This movement does not have to be for any particular criminal activity to be classified as slavery and trafficking and in the case of County Lines drugs supply, exploited vulnerable people are referred into the National Referral Mechanism to assist in safeguarding and protecting them from further exploitation.
14. Studies have shown that victims of MSHT are at a high risk of self-injury, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. These issues have been identified in cases in the East Midlands.

Modern Slavery Referrals

15. Nationally during the first six months of 2018 there were just over 2,500 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. Leicestershire had 51 referrals over 2017/18 with the local authorities, immigration and Leicestershire Police directly being the main referring agencies.

National NRM

Referral nationality	Jan - Jun 2018
United Kingdom	734
Albania	421
Vietnam	349
China	210
Romania	192
Sudan	166
Eritrea	123
Nigeria	107
India	100
Pakistan	75
Poland	67

Table 1 National NRM referrals by nationality (NCA, 2018)

Local NRM Figures

Referral nationality	Jul 17 - Jun 18
United Kingdom	19
India	10
Hungary	6
Sudan	5
Iran	3
China	2
DRC	2
Eritrea	2
Somalia	2

Table 2 Local NRM referrals by nationality (Leics Police, 17/18)

16. The Leicestershire nationality breakdown shows that there is a need to understand why we do not see Romanian, Polish and Albanian referrals as we have established communities across LLR. Hungarian referrals appear high on the Leicestershire Police figures, but not in national figures.
17. Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA – formerly the Gangmasters Licensing Authority) intelligence reports that victims of modern slavery for labour exploitation are more likely to be Romanian aged 18-25, with exploiters of the same nationality aged 26-45.
18. The various organisations who have been the first responder in NRM referrals in the past 18 months, are shown in the table below. This shows strongly that the police are not the sole agency that will identify and refer suspected victims of modern slavery.

First Responder Organisation	
Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)	1
HO Immigration Enforcement (HOIE)	1
Leicestershire Police	14
Local Authority	13
Metropolitan Police Service	3
Migrant Help	2
Salvation Army	3
UK Border Force (UKBF)	1
UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)	13
Total	51

Table 3 2017 & 2018 NRM Referrals recorded by Leicestershire Police by First Responder Agency (NCA, 2018)

Modern Slavery Identification

19. The responsibility on agencies around Modern Slavery are clear from guidance from the independent slavery commissioner as:
- a. Identification and referral of victims
 - b. Supporting victims – this can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing/homelessness services

- c. Community safety services and disruption activities
 - d. Ensuring that the supply chains are free from modern slavery.
20. Modern slavery intersects with many different areas that the public sector are involved with and a number of different staff members or representatives might come across it while going about their everyday activities.
 21. Key examples where staff might come across victims include housing and homelessness services, community safety work, trading standards and licensing services, social services and customer services.
 22. This means that although law enforcement agencies will no doubt be the agencies seeking to prosecute suspects; local authorities and other public sector services have responsibilities to identify, safeguard/support and refer individuals they suspect are victims of modern slavery.

Modern Slavery Current Demands

23. Nationally there are over 1000 live Slavery investigations underway by police forces with over 2000 potential victims associated to them.
24. Sexual exploitation is the highest proportion of these at 39%, Labour exploitation accounting for 28% and Criminal Exploitation at 24%. Smaller but still significant was domestic servitude.
25. The GLAA currently have live operations in the following industries; Food Processing, Domestic Work, Construction, Factories, Car washes, Restaurants and Warehouses.
26. Leicestershire Police currently has 50 live investigations where slavery or trafficking is suspected and these are dealt with by specialist officers with experience of Modern Slavery and Criminal Exploitation.
27. Leicestershire Police have worked with the NCA, GLAA and Local Authorities to investigate and arrest those suspected of Modern Slavery which is not always supported by a victim who may not immediately identify themselves as exploited.
28. There are 2 Modern Slavery Prevention/Risk orders in place in LLR that assist in stopping those suspected of Modern Slavery offences in carrying out certain activities or recruiting new victims.
29. Currently the intelligence picture across LLR reflects the national trends with intelligence showing that sexual exploitation through prostitution is most prevalent and these victims are mainly Romanian.
30. Commercial partners indicate a significant concern around the hosiery trade, nail bars and food processing supply chains at locations across LLR.
31. The growth since 2016 in live investigations has been seen across the country and it is expected that as agencies and the public become more co-ordinated in recognising and referring potential victims these numbers will increase. This will also improve our joint intelligence picture of this type of illegal activity.

Modern Slavery the next steps

32. The PCC will continue to work with partners to understand how we can better co-ordinate and enhance our shared ability to tackle MSHT and support victims to fully recover and re-integrate back into society.
33. The PCC will publish an MSHT Transparency in Supply Chains statement, consider what policy/procedural changes may be required to enhance our ability to fight MSHT, will train all his staff to spot the signs and will work with the Force to ensure that they do similarly.

Persons to Contact

Supt Shane O'Neill, Serious Harm Reduction Unit, Local Policing Directorate

Tel: 01162482505

Email: shane.oneill@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Simon Down – Commissioning Manager, OPCC

Tel 0116 229 8984

Email: simon.down@leics.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

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