



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

9 March 2018

Performance Update – Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Introduction

This report aims to provide an overview of activity against delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. Each Police and Crime Panel meeting will focus on one priority from the Plan, looking at the five areas identified below. Additional briefing papers will be provided where applicable however this summary will pull together key information under the relevant sections.

Background/Context

Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery (HT/MS) has been a priority of the PCC since first being elected in 2012. As a key priority within the outcome of 'Safeguard vulnerable people', below is the narrative from the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021:

*'Human trafficking and modern day slavery is a significant threat both within West Yorkshire and nationally. Not only can it have a traumatic impact on its victims, but those involved in human trafficking often have links to other serious organised crime. West Yorkshire has already led the way nationally in tackling human trafficking and modern day slavery and I have set up a West Yorkshire Anti-Trafficking Network and a national network to combat this problem. I will continue to coordinate efforts against this crime by making sure we understand the extent and nature of the threat and resource the police and partners sufficiently.'*¹

The PCC has led the fight both locally and nationally, providing funding and support to prevent harm and prosecute offenders whilst also establishing a number of partnership networks including the West Yorkshire Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network and the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network for all Police and Crime Commissioners which he chairs.

Within West Yorkshire there has been a significant year on year increase in the amount of crime recorded under Modern Day Slavery (MDS) legislation, equating to a 126% overall increase.

Progress and Key Challenges

2014 – Established a West Yorkshire Anti-trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (WYATMSN) to improve coordination across the region, raise awareness, train staff and provide support to victims.

The network is regarded nationally as an example of good practice.

¹ Page 23, West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021

2015 – West Yorkshire were one of two forces chosen as a pilot area to test the recommendations following the review of the National Referral Mechanism (further details attached as Appendix A)

2016 – Established and launched a National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network, supported by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

2017 – The PCC spoke at a number of local and national events highlighting the importance of partnership working, the effect of Brexit on cross border investigations and the flow of intelligence and the portrayal of HT/MS in the media.

2018 – PCC spoke at a regional roadshow held at Carr Gate and organised by the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit.

Challenges:

The majority of victims are non-English and from within the Eastern European area. Approximately 60% knew their recruiter directly or indirectly prior to entering the UK, with some being a family member or spouse.

Historic cases are also being reported with 19% of recorded West Yorkshire offences having occurred prior to 2015.

There is also a high number of child sexual exploitation/abuse offences recorded under Modern Day Slavery legislation.

Working with WYP and Partners

The Community Outcome Meetings (COM) between the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner focus on important policing and community safety issues which are of a high public interest. The aim is to offer greater transparency to communities on how the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account on these important issues.

A report on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery is received twice yearly at COM as part of an agenda focused on 'Safeguarding Vulnerable People', with the latest being discussed on 8 January 2018 – minutes are attached as Appendix B. The reports and minutes are published on the PCC's website.

At this meeting the PCC asked a number of questions to gain assurance on the following:

- the measures in place to close gaps in intelligence
- utilisation of legislation since implementation in 2015
- how WYP were effectively and consistently delivering training
- how WYP saw investment through the National Police Transformation Programme and the impact expected for West Yorkshire communities

Investment in 2014 for a dedicated Human Trafficking Team within WYP has worked since then to mainstream HT investigations into divisional policing and further resources have recently been added to the team.

West Yorkshire has been recognised by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC) in his first annual report, and that innovative slavery detection work between West Yorkshire Police and financial institutions has been shared nationally as best practice.

All five West Yorkshire districts have established their own anti-trafficking strategy forum and developed an action plan in line with the Government strategy. Regular updates on

activity from the 5 districts is provided at the WYATMSN. There are clear links being made at a district level with HT/MS and Organised Crime Groups.

HMICFRS Inspection 2017 - Stolen freedom: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking

A thematic inspection took place during 2017. Whilst all 43 forces submitted information, West Yorkshire was one of ten forces visited for focused fieldwork and the PCC was interviewed during this process on his leadership in this area.

Nationally the report concluded that there were signs of progress in the policing response to modern slavery. However in too many cases, police work was reactive and showed little understanding of the nature and scale of modern slavery and human trafficking². Several shortcomings by police forces in addressing modern slavery were also identified.

The good work being achieved in West Yorkshire was however recognised in both the report and the subsequent press release from HMICFRS.

A copy of the response from the PCC to the Home Secretary is attached as Appendix C.

Aims and Future Delivery

The Priority Plan for Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery is attached as Appendix D. These plans will be refreshed, renewed and are work in progress but we will report on our delivery against these Priority Plans in public facing Community Outcomes Meetings.

PCC/Chief Constable Engagement days have been organised through the NPCC and APCC for February/March 2018 to cover the south and north. The PCC is due to open and speak at the event in the north on 2 March with the Deputy Chief Constable.

The £1,000 funding made available to West Yorkshire will be utilised to raise awareness amongst homelessness sector with an event planned for Summer 2018.

Following a number of recent convictions, the PCC would like to see the number of successful investigations and convictions continue to increase. As part of this, there is positive ongoing work to share intelligence between West Yorkshire Police and European police/agencies such as Europol and Eurojust.

It is hoped that West Yorkshire continue to lead as ambassadors in relations to European Arrest Warrants extraditions both on behalf of West Yorkshire and other force areas.

OPCC staff will continue to promote the Safer Communities Fund to third sector and community groups including those who provide services to tackle HT/MS and or support victims.

The PCC will also continue to encourage other PCCs to include HT/MS in their own plans, share best practice between police forces, advocate focused victim services and the sharing of good practice when supporting vulnerable people.

Resources and Funding

Safer Communities Fund has awarded a total of £36,343, between 8 organisations, to support projects which are tackling Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

² Page 1 <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/news/news-feed/call-for-concerted-and-concentrated-response-to-modern-slavery/>

2014/2015

- £3.5 million was made available to WYP for increased capability to deal with Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Cyber Crime.
- £200,000 funding secured from Ministry of Justice for a West Yorkshire network.
- Funding through Partnership Executive Group for a Safeguarding Co-ordinator/Advisor (wider safeguarding remit).

2016/17

- Supported proposal to the Police Transformation Fund and £8.5million secured to assist the police across England and Wales to assess the threat of modern slavery crime and improve response.

2017/2018

- The Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme (MS PTP) was launched to ensure a coordinated and embedded approach to tackling human trafficking can develop across England and Wales.
- NATMSN Co-ordinator appointed to the PCC's office.
- Senior Safeguarding Analyst appointed to work across wider safeguarding remit appointed to PCC's office.
- New Partnerships and Training Officer post within WYP Human Trafficking Team – first role of this type in the UK.
- £1,000 made available to all PCCs through the MS PTP for awareness raising activities