

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

03 March 2015

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

**ORGANISED IMMIGRATION CRIME, HUMAN TRAFFICKING &
EXPLOITATION**

1 Purpose of the Report:

To update the Cabinet Member on activity undertaken to respond to the threat and risk of Organised Immigration Crime, Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Derbyshire.

2 Information and Analysis:

Each year the Community Safety Team fully participates in an annual threat and risk assessment led by Derbyshire Constabulary. This evidence and intelligence based assessment identifies the top threats and risks for the County in relation to crime and community safety. The identified priorities then feed into the Health & Communities Service Plan and the County's Community Safety Agreement, which is a statutory responsibility, overseen by the Safer Communities Board.

In 2014 the threat and risk process focussed on Organised Immigration Crime, Human Trafficking and Exploitation (OICHTE). The definition of "Trafficking in persons" means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. OICHTE is the second most profitable criminal enterprise worldwide.

The Salvation Army reported that in the year July 2013 to June 2014, compared to the previous year, there was a 62% rise in the number of human trafficking victims seeking support. In 2013 the East Midlands made 120 referrals to the Salvation Army, with labour exploitation being the highest exploitation type, followed by sexual exploitation. The

Salvation Army is currently contracted to provide support, which is known as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Victims can also self-refer to the NRM but numbers of self-referrals are not fed back to local areas at this time.

The Modern Slavery Bill was presented to Parliament on 10 June 2014. The key measures being put forward within the Modern Slavery Bill, aim to simplify and toughen existing legislation. Elements of the draft Bill include;

- Introduction of an Anti-Slavery Commissioner to ensure the law enforcement response is co-ordinated and effective.
- Increase the maximum punishment from 14 years to life imprisonment.
- Establish a legal duty to report potential victims of trafficking to the National Crime Agency, to help establish a clearer picture.
- Further support for victims.
- Develop a similar framework to the Counter Terrorism model of Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue, which includes the establishment of Anti-Trafficking Partnerships in local areas.

Raising awareness and improving skills is another key section of the Modern Slavery Bill, aiming to ensure that people have the knowledge they need to tackle this threat.

It is clear that the nature of human trafficking in Derbyshire is evolving and trafficking does not occur exclusively in urban areas. Derbyshire Constabulary has run several operations in recent years, some of which were supported by the Council's Emergency Planning Team, with the provision of rest centre facilities for groups of victims. However, there is a significant lack of intelligence available and victims are often reluctant to cooperate with police investigations. Possible reasons for this include; victims not recognising that they are victims, victims being afraid to turn to 'authorities', and victims fearing possible repercussions from traffickers.

The County Council has also recently received self-referrals from trafficking victims, mainly through Adult Care, though we have not established a clear picture regarding numbers. We are also aware of health colleagues at Derby Royal Hospital recently identifying a victim of trafficking. Information sharing with the police is now being established to enable a better intelligence picture.

Local Developments

Partners in Derbyshire have agreed to establish a joint city and county Anti-Trafficking Partnership and an inaugural meeting was held on 20

January 2015 at Derby University. The meeting was well attended with representatives from the Police, Immigration Enforcement Agency, Gangmaster Licensing Authority (GLA), Bishop of Derby's Office, Health, Red Cross, Derby University as well as City and County Councils. The attendance indicated a significant commitment to addressing the issues in Derbyshire but all representatives expressed a preference to support a joint city and county partnership.

Following workshop style discussions it was agreed that key priorities for the partnership are:

- Clarify policies, procedures and pathways for staff who may be the first contact (utilising the Safeguarding Boards' Sub-Groups)
- Training of own staff and multi-agency partners
- Awareness raising both internally and externally
- Increasing levels of intelligence to be fed into a central hub under the banner of 'Advenus'
- Identify local non statutory support for victims, including support for those post prosecution who may wish to remain in Derbyshire and consider commissioning support, if appropriate
- Identify appropriate reception centre capacity to support police investigations

In anticipation of increased activity in relation to this priority Derbyshire Constabulary has established a central intelligence hub, based in Derby, which includes partners from the GLA, Dept of Work & Pensions and the Immigration Enforcement Agency.

In addition, the Community Safety and Trading Standards Teams have established a link to the England Illegal Money Lending Team, East Midlands representative, as there are clear connections with OICHTE and will ensure that this team is included in the work of the local Anti-Trafficking Partnership.

3 Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, legal, finance, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

4 Key Decision:

No

5 Call-In:

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

6 Background Papers:

Modern Slavery Strategy. Local OICHTE Threat & Risk Profile - Restricted. Papers held in Community Safety – Contact Sally Goodwin

7 Officer's Recommendations:

1. That the work undertaken by the County Council and partners to tackle Organised Immigration Crime, Human Trafficking and Exploitation be noted.
2. To agree a further update report on the progress of the Anti-Trafficking Partnership's action plan.

**David Lowe
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