

SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**MODERN SLAVERY****28 November 2018****INTRODUCTION**

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Victims of modern slavery are unable to leave their situation of exploitation, controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception. Slavery violates human rights, denying people of their right to life, freedom and security.

The UK is primarily a country of destination, with thousands of victims arriving from other countries only to be exploited by criminals. Slavery takes many different forms and affects adults and children, males and females.

Those who are enslaved are exploited for the financial gain of their captors. The vulnerable are made to work in cruel conditions for long hours without pay. Examples include women and girls forced into prostitution for profit, young boys made to commit criminal acts against their will and men kept in slave-like conditions in factories.

In 2017 there was a total of 5145 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK, a 35% increase on the year before. Victims came from 108 different countries, with the top 3 being Albania, the UK and Vietnam.

The most common types of exploitation for adults and children in the UK, where known, were labour exploitation and sexual exploitation. Individuals in the UK are exploited for labour in various places of work, from hotels to farms, boats to building sites and nail bars to cannabis factories. Labour exploitation spans the agricultural, hospitality, fishing and construction sector. In addition, people are exploited for sexual purposes, including forced prostitution, escort work and pornography.

Slave masters and human traffickers in the UK will coerce and control their victims, keeping them in slavery for weeks, months or years at a time. Individuals are often deceived into working in slave-like conditions, and then threatened in order to keep them there. Victims are moved from abuser to abuser and they are usually too afraid of their captors to risk escape, making slavery a hidden, complex crime.

For those victims who do escape or are rescued the UK has an established system of support, namely, the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). This was introduced in 2009. The NRM provides accommodation and other vital services for victims for a minimum of 45 days.

Although modern slavery can involve the movement of people across an international border, it is also possible to be a victim within one's own country; for example, last year the UK was in the top 3 countries of origin for all potential victims in the UK.

MODERN SLAVERY IN SURREY

In Surrey, in 2017 there were 51 NRM referrals made for Modern Slavery from Surrey Police. The breakdown of types of modern slavery, country of origin and adult or minor are shown in appendix A. The most common form of slavery in 2017 were female minors subject to sexual exploitation, followed by adult male labour exploitation.

This represent a growing trend in referrals for Surrey, following the national trend.

Surrey	Total NRM police referrals
2014	0
2015	7
2016	28
2017	51

This may well be a reflection of the growing awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking amongst police, partners and the public rather than an increase in the problem. Information from national organisations is that this is still likely to be a vastly under-reported figure on the true extent of slavery.

Surrey Police has carried out a great deal of training over the last few years and has subject matter experts available to provide advice to officers and staff. The force has developed guidance and action plans. Partner agencies are also involved in identifying and tackling Modern Slavery in Surrey.

Other actions taken by Surrey Police include:

- Appointing a strategic lead (ACC Burton) supported by a Detective Superintendent
- Introduction of a Force Modern Slavery Group with responsibility to improve the force's response to tackling modern slavery and safeguarding victims
- The force now has 30 Modern Slavery Single Point of Contacts who have received enhanced awareness training to support investigators to deal with related offences
- Development of a local Modern Slavery Action Plan
- Monthly intelligence led multi-agency enforcement operations with partners including the National Crime Agency, Gangmaster Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), South East Regional Organised Crime Unit, Local Authority, HM Revenue & Customs, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Border Force.
- Joint agency visits to non-regulated businesses such as car washes, nail bars and brothels with a focus on safeguarding those who may be vulnerable to sexual or labour exploitation

Partnership activity includes:

- The pan Surrey Serious Organised Crime Partnership Board, chaired by ACC Burton was launched in 2017. Membership consists of Police, other Law Enforcement Agencies, statutory partners, namely Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) Health, Education, Youth Justice and the Clewer Initiative, a charity set up by the Church of England to support victims of Modern Slavery.
- The Partnership has received funding from the Community Safety Board (CSB) and the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Fund to employ, for an initial period of twelve months, a Serious Organises Crime (Prevent) (SOC) partnership officer to

deliver the pan Surrey Serious Organised Crime Strategy. This will include raising awareness to statutory partners of their role in tackling serious organised crime with police and other law enforcement; sharing information and working together to divert young people and adults from being drawn into or continuing to be involved in serious organised crime, including Modern Slavery.

- The National Police Transformation Team for Modern Slavery has invited Surrey Police to be one of two forces to work in partnership with the charity, Justice and Care piloting a Victim Navigator (VN) caseworker role for twelve months, supporting victims of Modern Slavery through the criminal justice process. The funding for this post has been secured by the charity supported by a financial contribution from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

There have been a number of high profile cases and operations aimed at tackling modern slavery in Surrey over the last year, including:

- In April 2018, two men were sentenced to a total of 13 years for forcing kitchen staff from the EU who working legally but were being exploited by the men for excessive accommodation, transport and administrative costs
- In August 2018, police arrested two people in Sunbury on suspicion of keeping a woman in domestic servitude

OFFICE OF THE PCC ACTIONS

The OPCC for Surrey has taken an active involvement in tackling modern slavery in Surrey. This has included:

- Aligning partnership governance structures of Serious and Organised Crime into the Community Safety Board
- PCC funding, through the Community Safety Board, for a Partnership Co-ordinator for Serious and Organised Crime, including Modern Slavery
- The PCC has campaigned for regulation and licensing for car washes and nail bars – including press statements and correspondence with Victoria Atkins, MP, Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability
- Applied for and received national funding to run an event in to raise awareness of slavery amongst the business community in Surrey. This event was organised in partnership with Surrey Chambers of commerce and had around 50 attendees.
- Currently applying for further national funding to run awareness raising events with the pub and hotel industries in Surrey, planned for Autumn/ winter 2018
- Met with key partners to discuss identifying and tackling Modern Slavery – including the Clewer Initiative, the Santa Marta Foundation, Surrey businesses and Surrey University
- Articles in the Surrey Chambers Magazine to raise awareness
- Development of the Anti-Slavery Partnership for Surrey, see below.
- Part-funding of a post within Surrey Police to provide pathways for victims of Modern Slavery
- Scrutiny of Surrey Police activity in tackling Modern Slavery.

SURREY'S ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

To date, Surrey has been one of the only areas in the country not to have a specific modern slavery partnership. Instead, the partnership was for all Serious and Organised Crime. The rationale for this is that the intelligence shows that Organised Crime Groups in Surrey operate across crime types – Modern Slavery, drug networks, County Lines, organised burglary gangs etc. The SOC Partnership Board has a range of statutory partners involved and an action plan specifically for Modern Slavery.

However, the Clewer Initiative held a seminar in June 2018 inviting anyone in Surrey involved or interested in tackling Modern Slavery. The Clewer Initiative is a 3 year project to enable Church of England Dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. The seminar had attendance from a wider range of statutory, charity and voluntary group partners. At this seminar, the OPCC presented and asked the attendees whether they would like to see a specific partnership for tackling Modern Slavery in Surrey. This was welcomed by the attendees.

Following the seminar, the OPCC, Surrey Police, Surrey University and the Diocese of Guildford jointly worked together on the development of a partnership. An intern was employed from Surrey University to draw on existing research and best practice and to interview key people in Surrey. The intern reported end of August 2018. Following this report, an Anti-Slavery Partnership for Surrey was formed. The first meeting was on 19 October 2018. The partnership was well attended with members from police, Surrey County Council, borough councils, faith groups, crime stoppers, Surrey University, business community and victim pathways. The terms of reference, membership of the group and objectives were agreed. The partnership will report into the SOC Partnership and then the Community Safety Board.

The partnership is fully linked in with the Serious and Organised Crime Partnership Board, with the chair reporting into this board. In turn, there is reporting to the Community Safety Board. The Anti-Slavery Partnership is aimed at bringing charity, volunteer and statutory partners together to raise awareness and support victims. The SOC Partnership Board has all enforcement partners together to carry out enforcement activity to identify and tackle Modern Slavery.



SUMMARY

In summary, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is being increasingly recognised as a problem across the UK, including in Surrey. The OPCC is scrutinising Surrey Police and taking an active role in identifying and tackling the problem in Surrey.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Police and Crime Panel note the work carried out by the OPCC to assist in tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Surrey.

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Appendix A – Modern Slavery NRM Referrals from Surrey Police 2017

Claimed Exploitation type		Gender	Afghanistan	Albania	China	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Hungary	Iran	Iraq	Poland	Romania	South Africa	Sudan	UK	Vietnam	Total
Labour exploitation	Adult	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		Male	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
	Minor	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
		Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Sexual exploitation	Adult	Female	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
		Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	16	0	17
		Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown exploitation	Adult	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Minor	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Male	2	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	11
Total			2	6	1	2	1	4	2	2	3	1	1	2	21	3	51