**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – Serious Organised Crime, Including County Lines**

**The Community Safety and Wellbeing team continue to offer their highly successful webinars aimed to raise awareness of these vitally important safeguarding issues.**

**“Keeping People Safe from Vulnerable Situations”**

**Essential Training for all Colleagues in Adult and Children’s Safeguarding**

Serious and Organised Crime lies behind some of the most heinous abuses of Human Rights in recent times. These include Modern Slavery, in all its various forms, and County Lines, a phenomenon that is blighting the lives of young people, children, and some of the most vulnerable adults in our communities. Modern Slavery is a crime that carries a potential life sentence – in reality for offenders and perpetrators of the crime, but also, metaphorically, for the potential victims. It exploits vulnerable adults and children and usually involves many other crimes and Human Rights abuses. County Lines is a specific form of Modern Slavery, involving the exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults in the illegal drugs market.

There is a serious risk that the crisis triggered by COVID-19 will lead to a rise in modern slavery and human trafficking. The main drivers of modern slavery - poverty, lack of opportunity and other vulnerabilities – will intensify, resulting in an increased risk of exploitation and abuse.

**We all have a duty to safeguard our residents and our communities, as stated in West Sussex County Council’s recent Reboot and Reset Plan 2020-2024. This is further strengthened by the West Sussex Anti-Slavery Pledge launched in October 2020 and, indeed, the Modern Slavery Act of 2015.**

Since last September, we have been able to reach out and train over 600 colleagues working within West Sussex County Council and partner organisations through two separate, but intrinsically linked webinars.

**If you have not already done so, please sign up to one, or both webinars on offer. They will continue to run throughout the course of the year.**

The aim of these webinars is to support you in gaining a basic knowledge of what Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is, including County Lines, and how to recognise and report it.

You will be able to:

* Define Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and County Lines
* Recognise the context of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in relation to culture, society, and the law.
* Identify the underlying causes of Modern Slavery.
* Identify some of the different types of Modern Slavery and their identifying features.
* Recognise when Modern Slavery is occurring.
* Know what to do if you suspect that Modern Slavery is taking place, including referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

For more information contact Steve Morton, Delivery officer for the Community Safety and Wellbeing team:

steve.morton@westsussex.gov.uk

**To request a place on any of the training below please visit the**

[**Learning & Development Gateway**](https://www.westsussexcpd.co.uk/cpd/default.asp?sid=)

**Modern Slavery Basic Awareness Webinars**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time** |
| Tuesday 20th July | 1pm – 3:30pm |
| Thursday 5th August | 10:00 am – 12:30pm |
| Thursday 26th August | 1pm – 3:30pm |
| Wednesday 8th September | 10:00am – 12:30pm |
| Tuesday 21st September | 1pm – 3:30 pm |
| Tuesday 26th October  | 10:00am – 12:30pm |

**Serious and Organised Crime, including County Lines Webinars**

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| **Date** | **Time** |
| Thursday 15th July | 10:00am -12:30pm |
| Thursday 22nd July | 10:00am – 12:30pm |
| Tuesday 10th August | 1pm – 3:30pm |
| Tuesday 31st August | 10:00am – 12:30pm |
| Thursday 16th September | 1pm – 3:30pm |
| Wednesday 13th October | 10:00am -12:30pm |
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