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**Modern Slavery Information – September 2021**

*Colleagues and Modern Slavery SPOC’s,*

*These bulletins / updates I provide are to provide an opportunity for colleagues and specifically Modern Slavery SPOC’s to continue your CPD in your role as a SPOC, with the opportunity to join events, be informed on research and projects and to support and share campaigns across your respective services.*

*Please do support and promote where possible, and attend relevant events when able to do so.*

**Nationality and Borders Bill: The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Response**The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton, has written to the Home Secretary in response to the[**Nationality and Borders Bill**](https://humantraffickingfoundation.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c54676782d780a671a347fe3&id=c948b69769&e=717910204f)which was introduced on 6 July 2021. Dame Sara’s letter refers to the Bill where measures may impact victims of Modern Slavery with detailed focus on Part 4 Modern Slavery. Her response is available [**here.**](https://humantraffickingfoundation.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c54676782d780a671a347fe3&id=81bd662819&e=717910204f)

More information on the Bill can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-nationality-and-borders-bill>

Explanatory notes on the Bill:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/en/210141en.pdf>

**UK Anti-Slavery Day 18th October 2021**

Anti-Slavery Day, 18th October, provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage government, local authorities, companies, charities, and individuals to do what they can to address the problem. It was created by the Anti-Slavery Day Act, a Private Members Bill introduced Anthony Steen CBE, now Chair of the Human Trafficking Foundation. Each year more and more charities, individuals, local authorities, and police forces take action to mark Anti-Slavery Day. It is so important and relevant that for this year we all play a role in identifying this exploitation which is often ‘hidden in plain sight’ in our communities.

This year we will be promoting the work of the Sussex Anti-Slavery Network and some of our key successes over the last 12 months, which includes WSCC adopting a Corporate Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.

[WSCC Modern Slavery Pledge & Transparency Statement](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/corporate-policy-and-reports/our-modern-slavery-pledge-and-statement-of-intent/)

**As lockdown eases and international borders reopen, it is anticipated that the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic will lead to many more people, both British nationals and people trafficked from overseas, being exploited in the UK.**A worldwide economic downturn linked to Coronavirus will leave many more people in poverty. This will result in them becoming susceptible to criminals wanting to exploit demand for cheap labour or prey on young or vulnerable people to exploit in County Lines networks smuggling drugs into local areas.

There are more than 300 live policing operations targeting modern slavery in the UK and Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in the UK is far more prevalent than previously thought. A growing body of evidence resulting from an increase in law enforcement activity points to the numbers of victims being much higher than estimated, and the threat continuing to expand.

A surge in operational activity focusing on labour and sexual exploitation co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency through May and June – codenamed Operation Aidant –led to 111 arrests in the UK and some 130 people being encountered who may be considered as victims. Additionally, the number of people being referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as potential victims of modern slavery continues to rise. In response the NCA has launched a  campaign focused on sexual and labour exploitation, explaining how the public can help stop it. Over the next six months the campaign will highlight the signs of modern slavery which people may encounter in their everyday lives and encourage them to report it. [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cej6avHPIbg{/youtube}**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cej6avHPIbg%7b/youtube%7d)

We need our communities to be our eyes and ears, there will be people living and working in West Sussex where victims come into contact with everyone else’s so-called normal lives. They may see something they feel is not quite right. That might be someone seeming afraid, vulnerable or being controlled, moved around, or forced to work against their will. Spot the signs[**Modern Slavery Its closer than you think**](https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/modern-slavery---its-closer-than-you-think/) and we should signpost communities if they have suspicions to contact Sussex Police on 101 or the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

**National Referral Mechanism Figures Quarter 2 2021**

**T**he latest National Referral Figures for Q2 April – June 2021 provide further evidence of the expected rise in the identification and referral of potential victims. During this period the NRM received 3,140 referrals of potential victims of modern slavery. This represents a 7% increase in referrals compared to the preceding quarter (2,942) and a 42% increase from quarter 2 in 2020 (2,204). This quarter saw the second-highest number of quarterly referrals since the NRM began in 2009 and the highest number of referrals since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of all referrals this quarter, 50% (1,564) were for potential victims who claimed exploitation as adults (compared to 49% in the preceding quarter), whilst 43% (1,357) claimed exploitation as children . The age group at exploitation was unknown in 7% of cases (219). Overall, 61% (1,912) of potential victims claimed exploitation in the UK only, compared to 64% in the last quarter, whilst 28% (882) claimed exploitation overseas only.

Following a substantial decrease in quarter 1, referrals for those claiming exploitation overseas have increased sharply this quarter, which is likely to be due to increased travel into the UK as COVID-19 travel restrictions have eased. As in previous quarters, overall, potential victims were most commonly referred for criminal exploitation only, which accounted for 34% (1,076) of all referrals. An additional 15% (456) of referrals stated potential victims had been referred for criminal exploitation and other exploitation types. For adult potential victims, labour exploitation was most commonly reported (32%; 501), whereas child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation (49%; 662).

For Q2 West Sussex County Council made 6 NRM referrals, 5 of these for children and 1 unkown. Sussex Police made 10 NRM referrals for Adults and 10 for children during Q2 and received a total of 88 NRM referrals from the SCA for crime investigation, 41 of these for Adults and 35 for children with 12 unknown.  Our Professionals should note that the decrease in the number of Conclusive Ground Decisions made in 2021 so far is due to resource pressures within the Single Competent Authority (Home Office) and a subsequent reduction in capacity as the SCA onboards and trains many new staff. It therefore remains imperative that we have a skilled workforce as a First Responder Organisation to identify PVOT and discharge our Statutory Duty to notify the Home Office via the DtN process of suspected adult victims of modern slavery that do not consent to enter the NRM. All designated first responders should use the [digital referral system](https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start) to make National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Duty to Notify (DtN) referrals.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-modern-slavery-as-a-first-responder>

**Training & Events**

Building on the First Responder e-learning training developed by the Home Office 2020 which we advocate our professionals to complete if not already having done so , [Modern Slavery for First Responders](https://www.westsussexcpd.co.uk/courses/bookings/c_detail_elearning.asp?ds=1&setstatus=1&cid=847&course_name_search=modern%20slavery&course_category_search=&startdate=#sthash.a1wRfbrT.dpbs) the Home Office have now released a second module which aims to further develop practitioners’ understanding of modern slavery from a child safeguarding perspective. The module focusses on child victims of modern slavery, the steps practitioners should take to safeguard victims, and the role of the National Referral Mechanism in these cases. **The new E-learning module can be found on our L & D Gateway here:** [Tackling Child Modern Slavery](https://www.westsussexcpd.co.uk/courses/bookings/c_detail_elearning.asp?cid=890) please do also see our Modern Slavery webinars available to ALL staff and partners on the WSCC [Learning and Development Gateway](https://www.westsussexcpd.co.uk/cpd/default.asp)

**National County Lines Coordination Centre South East Regional Masterclass Session: 7tth October see flyer attached above**

In support of County line activity, the 3P side of NCLCC- National County Lines Coordination Centre have scheduled a number of really useful and informative seminars for our region across the SE.

The events are **available to both Police and non-police colleagues**. The presentations being offered are:

1. County Lines Sketch Up video outlining what County Lines is.
2. Cuckooing presentation.
3. Civil Orders presentation.
4. NRM and Section 45 presentation.

The date of the event relevant to our region are contained within the poster attached above. FYI - The NRM presentation is brand new and is suitable for both Police and non-police.

**Booking is via Eventbrite and the link for this is embedded in the poster attached above and will be hosted via Microsoft Teams.**

**Ardea International Construction Sector Training**A huge labour shortage exacerbated by Brexit and the Covid-19 epidemic is creating an opportunity for organised criminal gangs to target construction companies. Ardea International are hosting online training on 'Protecting Your Business from Exploitation by Organised Criminal Gangs' 4th November, sign up[**here**](https://humantraffickingfoundation.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c54676782d780a671a347fe3&id=64a677860b&e=717910204f)**.**

**Unseen's Modern Slavery Helpline Anniversary Event**To mark the five year anniversary of the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline, Unseen are hosting an online event 14th October to reflect on the importance of the helpline in tackling Modern Slavery. Hear from Dame Sara Thornton, Lydia Hopton, Justine Currell and Rahel Harper. Please click on the link to [**register**](https://humantraffickingfoundation.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c54676782d780a671a347fe3&id=cd6b5e7108&e=717910204f)**.**

**Survivor Support Emergency Fund**  
The Human Trafficking Foundation established the fund with a grant from the Vandervell Foundation. The fund is available to help survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery with small one-off grants to meet their immediate needs when no other sources of funding are available. Further information including how to apply is available on the HTF[**website**](https://humantraffickingfoundation.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3c54676782d780a671a347fe3&id=585dcbc064&e=717910204f)**.**

**Useful newsletters**

**Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority**

[**https://www.gla.gov.uk/whats-new/glaa-partnership-bulletins/august-2021/**](https://www.gla.gov.uk/whats-new/glaa-partnership-bulletins/august-2021/)

**Research: Nottingham Rights Lab**

This newsletter is designed to update you on the latest resources available via the anti-slavery partnership toolkit.  Every month it highlights new documents, and also calls for examples from readers, which could help to fill an existing gap in knowledge. Sharing learning is essential to building evidence about effective action against modern slavery.

<https://mailchi.mp/343ac82a3abc/anti-slavery-partnership-newsletter-4793894?e=63ef4a0edc>