

# **Modern Slavery**

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 Modern Slavery is the term used within the UK and is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- 1.2 There are several broad categories of Modern Slavery including:
  - Sexual Exploitation
  - Force Labour
  - Domestic Servitude
  - Organ Harvesting
  - Child related crimes such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft related benefit frauds etc.
  - Forced Marriage and illegal adoption ( if other constituent elements are present)
  - Human Trafficking
- 1.3 Although Human Trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of this offence within the borders of a country. It is also possible to be a victim even if consent has been given to be moved, although children cannot give consent.
- 1.4 Modern Slavery is one of the twelve strategic threats as identified by the National Strategic Threat Assessment of Serious Organised Crime and is grouped under the Vulnerabilities pillar of response, led by the National Crime Agency then aggregated at a regional and local policing level.
- 1.5 The true scale of Modern Slavery within the UK is unknown. In 2014, the Home Office estimated that there were between 10,000 & 13,000 victims of Human Trafficking in the United Kingdom. This remains the most robust quantitative assessment available.
- 1.6 The strategic lead for Modern Slavery in Surrey Police is ACC Burton who also holds a key role in the linked NPCC portfolio for Organised Immigration Crime. He is supported by Detective Superintendent Mizzi who chairs a Modern Slavery working group with responsibility to improve the force's response to tackling modern slavery and safeguard victims. Operational activity is delivered under four strands, namely Pursue, Protect, Prevent and Prepare.

#### 2. Content

- 2.1 Since the commencement of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015 the force has improved its response in the identification, recording and investigation of Modern Slavery, safeguarding more victims with referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and is currently in 9<sup>th</sup> position out of 43 forces in England & Wales for its response in identifying and safeguarding victims of Modern Slavery through referral into the NRM.
- 2.2 This improvement is as a result of the local delivery of the National Modern Slavery Action Plan involving targeted awareness training to front line staff supported by intelligence led operational activity over a sustained period and recognising the crossover with other strategic threat areas such as Child Sexual Exploitation and Drug Related Harm.
- 2.3 In the last twelve months the force has conducted 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, HMRC, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Border Force.
- 2.4 The activity has involved deployment to key locations on the fast roads network (Operation Squadron), targeting organised criminal networks involved in trafficking of people into the country; this has attracted national recognition and is being implemented in other force areas.
- 2.5 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, resulting in a number of victim referrals into the NRM and two people were prosecuted for managing a brothel and money laundering offences.
- 2.6 In February 2018 the force successfully applied for its first Slavery & Trafficking Risk Order (STRO),

- preventing a woman form trafficking children for the purposes of sexual exploitation (Operation Woodgate).
- 2.7 The force now has 30 Modern Slavery SPOCs who have received enhanced awareness training to support investigators to deal with related offences
- 2.8 The following graph presents the volume (88) of modern slavery offences (highlighted in Blue and referenced as '106 offences') identified since the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Of note the reference to immigration offences alongside Modern Slavery offences is due to the recognition that there is a close correlation between organised immigration crime and modern slavery human trafficking.

2.9

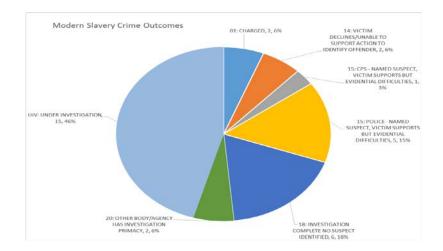


2.10 Between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the Force received 84 Intelligence submissions relating to Modern Slavery. This represents a decrease compared to the previous quarter (100). The below table identifies the subject types of the intelligence submission (please note, a single submission can be related to multiple subject types).

2.11

ТҮРЕ	TOTAL
Human Trafficking - Other	25
Other Immigration	21
Forced Labour	19
Sexual Exploitation	10
Overstay	7
Deportation	5
Bonded Labour	3
Asylum Seeker	2

2.12 Between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 the force recorded an arrest rate of Modern Slavery offences of 51.5% - this represents an increase compared to the previous reporting period, 42.3% (September – November 2017). The chart below provides a breakdown of crime outcomes for offences entered in the previous 12 months.



2.14 The ACC (Specialist Crime) has invited the National Modern Slavery Transformation team to visit the force on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018, to review a sample of Modern Slavery investigations to help identify learning and best practice. This will assist the force to improve its response to this criminality whilst having the additional benefit of preparing for the HMICFRS Autumn PEEL inspection where Modern Slavery investigations will feature.

#### 3. Partnership

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 SOC (Prevent) 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.
- 3.3 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).
- 3.4 The VN recruitment process is underway and we anticipate the post holder will commence employment by the beginning of May 2018.
- 3.5 The force together with the OPCC, the Surrey Chamber of Commerce and two locally based commercial organisations are working together to raise awareness of Modern Slavery within the labour market, hosting an event for business leaders in Guildford on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

### 4. Conclusion[s]

4.1. The force is making good progress in identifying and responding to the threat of modern slavery to safeguard victims and to bring offenders to justice whilst developing its partnership arrangements with key stakeholders through the pan Surrey SOC Partnership Board.

## Decision[s] Required

4.2. This paper is for information only.