



## Modern Slavery

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<b>ACPO / Strategic Lead:</b>	ACC John Savell
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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 The true scale of Modern Slavery within the UK is unknown as it is largely a hidden crime. 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.

1.5 Reports of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MS/HT) within Surrey Police are increasing year on year in line with national statistics on Modern Slavery. Between January and June 2019, Surrey Police submitted more than 50 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. This is already two thirds of the number submitted in 2018 (85). Surrey rank in the top quarter of counties in the UK in terms of number of victims of MS/HT coming forward.

1.6 Surrey Police, in partnership with Sussex Police, operate what is termed our 'control strategy' which currently includes a priority for modern slavery. The purpose of the control strategy is to ask questions of ourselves as what we need to better understand the issues for Modern Slavery to be. Currently the questions that we are testing are: Are we a gateway via Gatwick to the rest of the UK, children and adults brought in willingly or trafficked, but then abused and controlled: Are we following the money – who is organising and controlling the supply of people for businesses? How are people found – are they duped, blackmailed, willing, or unwittingly? What websites are being used to source the victims or trade their labour? By filling in these intelligence gaps going forward we will shape our response accordingly.

1.7 The strategic lead for Modern Slavery in Surrey Police is T/ACC Savell who also holds a key role in the linked NPCC portfolio for Organised Immigration Crime. He is supported by Chief Inspector Alan Sproston who chairs the 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 continually improved its response in the identification, recording and investigation of MS, safeguarding more victims with referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The Regional Organised Crime Unit lead for MS has highlighted the way Surrey record crimes for the monthly data cut as best practice.

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, contact centre and force control room staff. This has been supported by intelligence led operational activity to target and disrupt criminal groups and safeguard victims.

2.3 A quarterly report is prepared by Surrey Police Performance and Consultation Unit in order to identify and track modern slavery. This feeds into the tactical plan to effectively target suspects, locations and identify vulnerability.

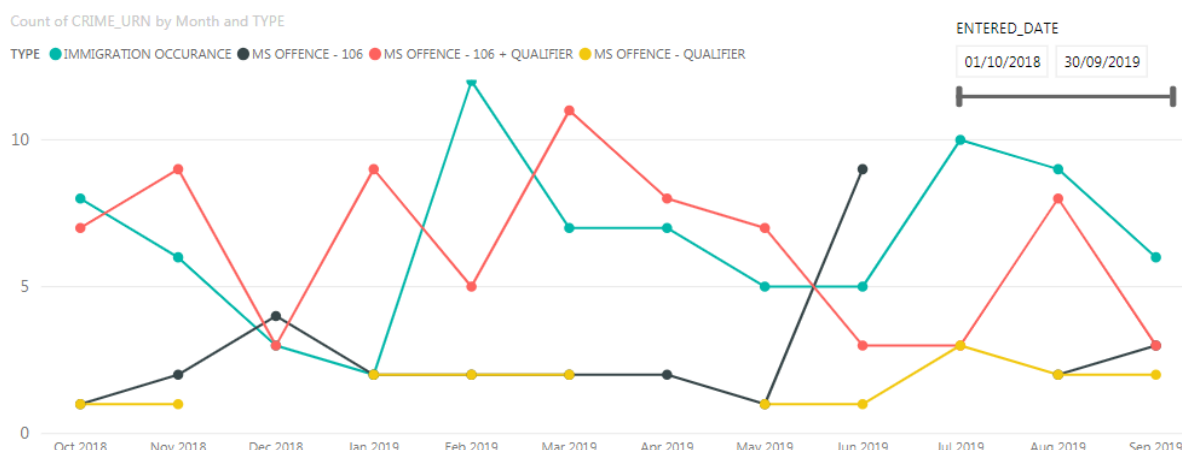
2.4 A Single Combined Assessment of Risk (SCARF) form is being developed for Modern Slavery by Surrey, which will enhance the Force’s capability to identify and safeguard vulnerable victims. This capability is not currently available for MS and the learning and capability will be shared nationally once developed.

2.5 The Home Office launched the new digital process for NRM referrals which came into effect nationally from the 29th August 2019. The new process allows NRM referral or duty to notify submissions to be made using a single online form available via the internet.

2.6 Internationally, nearly 90 countries have now endorsed a global Call to Action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030, over £200m of UK aid has been committed to tackle the problem at source, and partnerships are being deepened with countries from where victims are regularly trafficked to the UK.

2.7 The Government commissioned a review into Modern Slavery which was published in May 2019, this made a compelling case that now is the time to strengthen elements of the legislation and its implementation. The review made 80 recommendations aimed at improving responses on four discrete themes: Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, transparency in supply chains, Independent Child Trafficking Advocates, and legal application of the Act. The recommendations will be reviewed by the MS Working Group to see how we can improve our response as a partnership.

2.8 The graph below (covers the latest 12 months) plots all occurrences by type; immigration occurrence, Modern Slavery Offence - HO Class 106, Modern slavery Offence - Qualifier Added and Modern Slavery Offence -106 & Qualifier. The graph indicates the number of offences per month with the turquoise line. The other three lines identify the different ways the offences are recorded for the Home Office etc.



2.9 HO class 106 is the Home Office Counting Rule code for Modern Slavery when recording a crime on Niche. There must be a 106 code in the statistics classification field when this offence is recorded. There are 8 types of slavery offences within this code which must be selected.

- 2.10 MS Offence relates to the Occurrence Type of Modern Slavery (a different field on Niche from the stats classification) this is shown when you enter the occurrence type tab on Niche.
- 2.11 Qualifier relates to the MS NICL 'flag' on Niche for Modern Slavery. This comes up when you enter the 'finalisation/miscellaneous' tab on an occurrence.
- 2.12 The number of MS Single Point of Contact SPOCs has risen from 40 to 55. These officers have an increased knowledge and awareness of MS and act as mentors for their colleagues. In collaboration Surrey/Sussex are running a bespoke 3 day course for investigators based on the national model, which will further improve the standard of investigations.
- 2.13 Specialist Crime Command have prepared a strategic profile for sexual exploitation to identify intelligence gaps. This will drive Police and Partner intelligence development to identify and safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice. This area of Modern Slavery is believed to represent seventy five percent of all Modern Slavery in Great Britain.

### **3. Partnership**

- 3.1 Surrey police are stakeholders in the Surrey anti-slavery partnership in conjunction with the Diocese of Guildford. The group have a partner led chair and participants from a wide range of key stakeholders. A considerable amount of education, interventions, engagement and intelligence gathering have been carried out through the group.
- 3.2 Surrey Police is one of only three forces to utilise the services of a non-governmental organisations called Justice and Care - Victim Navigator for MS. This unique pilot project places an independent 'Victim Navigator' in the Public Protection Support Unit of Surrey Police to provide specialist support to both victims of modern slavery in Surrey and the officers involved. The Victim Navigator (VN) works in partnership with Surrey Police to address the complex needs of adult victims of modern slavery pre and post NRM referral, including helping them to understand their rights and choices, access available support services, and to sustain engagement with prosecution efforts if desired.
- 3.3 In addition, the VN will support Surrey Police with ongoing efforts to enhance MS training and awareness as well as wider partnership working across Surrey. At the end of the two years, findings and data will be shared with the Home Office and National Crime Agency to support systemic change, including the expansion of this role to police forces across the country. In the last year the VN has triaged over 180 investigations into MS/HT with a view to enhanced safeguarding and currently has a caseload of 22 active investigations.
- 3.4 Partnership activity undertaken 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. The latest of these operations was carried out on October 10th 2019 which was attended by in excess of 50 partners and police. Sussex Police have mirrored this approach and Operations Command works collaboratively across both forces for a joined up approach.
- 3.5 In the recent Operation Aident focus week, joint agency visits have been carried out at non-regulated businesses such as car washes, nail bars and brothels. There has been a focus on safeguarding those who may be vulnerable to sexual or labour exploitation, resulting in a number of victim referrals into the NRM. A number of investigations are ongoing into brothels and sexual exploitation offences as a consequence of this work. Surrey were shown as having visited more vulnerable premises than any other force nationally.
- 3.6 On the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 international anti-slavery day was promoted by the partnership across the County. This was in the format of a collaborated media campaign including Crime Stoppers with high

impact visual media at Clackett's Lane Service Station. It is anticipated that this will encourage victims to come forward, but will also highlight the issue to Surrey residents.

- 3.7 Nationally, most Modern Slavery information is received in relation to the car washing industry. This was followed by the food preparation and processing industry and the construction sector. Issues reported also related to workers not receiving the national minimum wage, terms of employment, intimidation and coercion, and health and safety concerns. Intelligence most commonly relates to Romanian victims aged between; 25-35. Vulnerabilities continue to be targeted by offenders in the recruitment and control of victims. Those who are homeless are considered particularly vulnerable to labour exploitation, as well as asylum seekers, people with disabilities or those with mental health and/or drug or alcohol addictions.
- 3.8 Considerable improvement has been made to increase the partnership approach to safeguarding victims of Modern Slavery. An example of this is the Clewer project with the Churches in Surrey who are in the process of setting up a series of safe houses for victims of Modern Slavery. This is an ongoing project where Christian volunteers allow victims to live within their homes until they feel safe enough to adjust to society.
- 3.9 The Cuckooing Support Team, won a recent award for their work in this area. An appeal to local churches resulted in a substantial contribution and a 'pot of money' which may be used throughout Surrey for work in antislavery.
- 3.10 Professor Karen Bullock of Surrey University is carrying out a research study on Modern Slavery and exploitation in hotels. The hotel industry is thought to be at considerable risk of labour exploitation, and related prostitution activity but the issue is not especially well understood. This project has been driven through the partnership anti-slavery partnership.

#### **4. Conclusion[s]**

- 4.1 Whilst there remains much work to do Surrey Police is continuing to make 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 Surrey SOC Partnership Board.

#### **Decision[s] Required**

- 5.1 This paper is for information only.