

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

28 APRIL 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY IN BRIDGEND.

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet Equalities Committee of current intelligence surrounding human trafficking and slavery in Bridgend and the wider western bay area.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2016 - 2020 is a statutory plan that impacts on the whole of the council. The SEP outlines equality objectives that are linked to fostering good relations, awareness raising and community cohesion.

2.2 This report also supports the following corporate priorities:

- Priority 2: Helping people to be more self-reliant
- Priority 3: Smarter use of resources

3. Background

3.1 Modern slavery and human trafficking is defined as the movement of a person from one place to another (within a country or across borders) with deception or coercion, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability into conditions of exploitation including:

- sexual exploitation;
- labour exploitation;
- domestic servitude / slavery and
- exploitation of human tissue (organ harvesting).

3.2 Regionally, a Western Bay Anti – Slavery Forum was established in 2013 focusing on:

- promoting anti – slavery awareness training across the western bay region;
- considering the frequency and type of referrals under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and receiving information on local slavery via a Multi - Agency Referral system (MARAC) and
- exchanging human trafficking information and intelligence gathering across the range of statutory services and 3rd sector organisations.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The briefing note attached to this report as appendix 1, provided by the Regional Community Cohesion Coordinator, outlines detailed information and data on human trafficking and slavery in Bridgend and the wider western bay region. The key issues for Cabinet Equalities Committee within the briefing note are:

- the lack of awareness of what constitutes human trafficking and how to report it;
- the support available for victims of human trafficking;
- information gathering and trend analysis of child sexual exploitation.

The briefing note also describes the steps taken to increase local awareness.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

Whilst no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out, this report will positively support the authority in meeting its equality duties.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1 There are no financial implications within this report.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That Cabinet Equalities Committee receives and considers this report and appendix.

Andrew Jolley

Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services

Date: 18 April 2016

Contact Officers:

Sarah Kingsbury

Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development

Email: Sarah.kingsbury@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643212

Paul Williams

Equality Officer

Email: Paul.williams2@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 643606

Background papers: None.