

Briefing Note

Western Bay Regional Anti-Slavery/ Human Trafficking

What is Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking?

Anti-slavery / Human Trafficking can be 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. Exploitation types include:

- Sexual Exploitation
- Labour Exploitation
- Domestic Servitude / Slavery
- Less common but equally valid is Exploitation of Human Tissue (Organ Harvesting).

Slavery has been outlawed on both sides of the Atlantic since 1805 but unfortunately it is still happening and here in Wales. We now have the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to help us tackle this heinous crime.

Regional approach:

The Western Bay Anti-Slavery Forum (WBASF) formerly known as the WB Anti-Slavery/Human Trafficking Group was set up in autumn 2013, meeting quarterly, the key focus of the forum is to:

- promote Anti-Slavery awareness training across the Western Bay footprint
- consider the frequency and type of referrals under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and receive updates on local Anti-Slavery MARAC
- facilitate an exchange of human trafficking information and intelligence gathering across the whole range of statutory services, and associated third party organisations.

Is slavery happening locally?

Yes, slavery is happening locally, but the cases are often 'hidden in plain sight'. We have had a number of 'high profile' cases across Wales with the survivors being supported by our multi-agency partnerships. These cases included Forced Labour, Domestic Servitude and Sexual Exploitation for example a woman, aged 26, was sentenced to eight years in jail in 2014 after being found guilty for trafficking Nigerian women into the UK to work in the sex industry. During the original trial, the jury heard the trafficked women worked in brothels - including in Cardiff and Swansea - to repay the women a £50,000 for travel from Nigeria and false documents. On 7th March 2016, a confiscation order was granted for £21,905 at Cardiff Crown Court under the Proceeds of Crime Act which means that the money must be paid back within 28 days or she faces a further nine month prison sentence being imposed.

Only in the last quarter (Oct – Dec 2015), there were a total of 22 Anti-Slavery/ Human Trafficking intelligence reports submitted to South Wales Police. Many relating to female working in the sex industry within Cardiff and Swansea massage parlours. These intelligence were also included the illegal trafficking of persons into the UK, cultivation of cannabis, and supplying fake passports and driving licences.

Local Intelligence:

The below table gives a breakdown of the number of intelligence submissions relating Human Trafficking based criminality between 01/10/2015 and 31/12/2015. Eastern Basic Command Unit (BCU) Cardiff saw the largest number of occurrences, many relating to females working in the sex industry within the cities massage parlours, whilst Western BCU (Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot) reported a similar theme with much of the intelligence relating to massage parlours and Hand Car Wash businesses.

Number of Intelligence submissions per BCU during the period 01/10/2015 – 31/12/2015.			
Eastern BCU (Cardiff)	Western BCU (Swansea, Neath, Port Talbot, Briton Ferry)	Northern BCU (Rhondda, Cynon, Taff, Merthyr)	Central BCU (Bridgend, Maesteg, Vale of Glamorgan, Barry)
22	20	7	2

The below contains some Intelligence relating to Western and Central Basic Command Unit (BCU) for this period including a short summary of the content of the intelligence. All personal details and exact address locations have been removed. Some intelligence has not been included as it is currently still being assessed.

- Two females worked at Swansea massage parlour for three nights during Sept 2015. The two females spoke Bulgarian and little English. Blonde female appeared to be in charge of the Brunette female, who spent a lot of time crying and was not in possession of a passport.
- Bulgarian male, resident in Swansea, is supplying fake passports and driving licences for a total cost of £1000.00 cash. £500.00 upfront in cash and then £500.00 after passport or driving licence handed to buyer. This person has contacts in London and you will find large amounts of cash at this address.
- The male at Swansea address has five to six females working for him as in prostitution. Females are sold for sex and may be **underage**. Drugs are possibly sold at this address including lot of used cash at this address. There is a bright light on outside of this house for the people in the know when sex is on offer for business.
- Mother and son from Swansea are actively involved in the cultivation of Cannabis. They have recently had one of their grow houses discovered by Police and a large crop seized. They have a number of other 'grow houses', one of which is believed to be a terrace house in Briton Ferry. The addresses are full conversions with plants in every room and are being looked after by a Vietnamese 'Gardener'. They are involved with a male person from the Newport area who is responsible for the setting up of the factories and placing of the Vietnamese Gardener. This male is paying Swansea female £2000 a month per house.

- A person from Port Talbot reporting that her daughter has travelled to Macedonia and for the last few months she has been staying with a male, who has disclosed to her daughter that he is a human trafficker. He has explained that he has set up a business based in Gevgelija, and is transporting refugees and other people across 'the border' for money. He has bought a couple of cars and vans so that he can move people. He was in Italy last week and believes that the trip may have been connected with the trafficking. The person has no other details to pass/share.

UK National Referral Mechanism (NRM) statistics at glance (2015)

Key points

- 3266 potential victims were referred in to the National Referral Mechanism in 2015; a 40% increase on 2014
- Potential victims of trafficking were reported to be from 102 different countries of origin
- Albania, Vietnam and Nigeria remain the most common country of origin of potential victims referred.
- Potential victims from Sudan saw the highest percentage increase in the number of referrals compared to the previous year
- The most common exploitation type recorded for potential victims exploited as an adult was labour exploitation, which also includes criminal exploitation
- The most prominent exploitation type recorded for potential victims first exploited as a minor, where known, was labour exploitation, which includes the sub category of criminal exploitation.

Wales NRM statistics at glance (2015)

In 2015 the UK National Referral Mechanism (NRM) received 134 referrals of potential victims (PV) first encountered in Wales; this represents a 91.4% increase on 2014 referral totals and 4.1% of all UK referrals to the NRM.

The 134 referrals were comprised of 60 females (45%) and 74 males (55%) with 108 (81%) referred for adult exploitation categories and 26 (19%) being referred for exploitation as a minor.

Claimed exploitation Type	Female	Male	Total 2015	2014 - 2015 % Change
Adult - Domestic Servitude	8	3	11	10.0%
Adult - Labour Exploitation	5	57	62	181.8%
Adult - Organ Harvesting	0	1	1	N/A
Adult - Sexual Exploitation	28	2	30	50.0%
Adult - Unknown exploitation	3	1	4	-42.9%
Minor - Domestic Servitude	0	1	1	N/A
Minor - Labour Exploitation	2	2	4	-20.0%
Minor - Sexual Exploitation (non-UK national)	6	0	6	200.0%
Minor - Sexual Exploitation (UK national)	4	1	5	N/A
Minor - Unknown exploitation type	4	6	10	150.0%
Total	60	74	134	

Referring Agency Totals – Wales - All Referrals

Referring Agency	Adult	Minor	Total
Government Agency			
Home Office	68	5	73
UKBF	0	3	3
Government Agency Total	68	8	76
Local Authority			
Cardiff	0	1	1
Newport	0	4	4
Torfaen County	0	1	1
Wrexham	0	1	1
Local Authority Total	0	7	7
NGO/Third Sector			
BAWSO	15	1	16
New Pathways	13	6	19
Salvation Army	1	0	1
NGO/Third Sector Total	29	7	36
Police			
Dyfed-Powys	3	0	3
Gwent Police	2	1	3
South Wales	6	3	9
Police Total	11	4	15
Total	108	26	134

Country of Origin of Referrals 2015 – Wales - All Referrals

Rank	Nationality	Adult					Adult Total	Minor					Minor Total	Total
		Domestic Servitude	Labour Exploitation	Organ Harvesting	Sexual Exploitation	Unknown Exploitation		Domestic Servitude	Labour Exploitation	Sexual Exploitation	Unknown Exploitation			
1	Sudan	0	21	0	1	1	23	0	0	0	1	1	24	
2	Vietnam	1	7	0	2	0	10	0	4	0	3	7	17	
3	Eritrea	3	7	1	0	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	13	
4	UK	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	0	5	1	6	11	
5	Poland	1	8	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	
6	Nigeria	1	0	0	7	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	
7	Czech Rep.	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	4	7	
8	Albania	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	6	
8	China	1	3	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	
10	Ethiopia	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	5	
11	North Korea	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	
12	Morocco	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
12	Pakistan	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
14	Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	
14	Angola	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Bangladesh	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Bulgaria	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Burma	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Ghana	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Iraq	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Kenya	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Malawi	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Mauritania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
14	New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	
14	Not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	
14	Philippines	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Romania	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Somalia	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
14	Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	
14	Uganda	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	Zimbabwe	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	11	62	1	30	4	108	1	4	11	10	26	134	

What steps we have taken to increase local awareness:

The regional Community Cohesion programme have arranged for free train the trainer sessions including the delivery of **free** half day Anti-slavery/ human trafficking session as below:

1. Train the Trainer programme:

- Via the South Wales Anti-Slavery/ Human Trafficking group, we have arranged 'Child Sexual Exploitation Train the Trainer' session on 9th October 2015 in Swansea. 25 staff attended the session from across the region. They will be assisting us in further rolling out the awareness around child sexual exploitation.
- We have also 10 staff from across the region who have been trained in the delivery of 'Anti-slavery/human trafficking awareness' programme.

2. Regional Anti-slavery/human trafficking awareness sessions:

- Since January 2015, we have delivered 52 anti-slavery/ human trafficking awareness sessions which are attended by 1014 participants across the Western Bay region. Amongst them was 767 staff in Swansea, 117 staff in Bridgend and 130 in Neath Port Talbot.

The training, which is being delivered to frontline professionals in Wales, is designed to help people spot the signs of Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking and:

- understand and define modern slavery/human trafficking
- discuss strategies to improve reporting of modern slavery/human trafficking
- be able to identify a victim of trafficking
- have knowledge about the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- know whom to contact for further advice

These training sessions will enable participants to gain better understanding of the various types of modern slavery/human trafficking and discuss strategies to raise awareness within the workplace or with the communities they work in. For 2016-17, the following sessions have now been agreed to be delivered in Swansea. Further NPT and Bridgend sessions will be finalised soon.

Date	Time	Course venue
7 th Apr	1.00 – 2.00	Education Centre, Morrison Hospital, Swansea,
18 th Apr	1.00 – 2.00	Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend
21 st Apr	1.30 – 5.00	Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Swansea
4 th May	10.00 – 1.00	Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend
10 th May	1.00 – 2.00	Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend
18 th May	10.00 – 1.30	Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea
27 th May	1.00 – 2.00	NPT Hospital, Baglan Way Port Talbot
20 th Jun	9.30 – 1.00	Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Swansea
21 st Jul	10.00 – 1.30	Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Swansea
7 th Sep	12.30 – 4.30	Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea
5 th Oct	10.00 – 1.30	Committee Room 1, Civic Centre, Swansea
3 rd Nov	1.00 – 4.30	Committee Room 2, Civic Centre, Swansea

Key issues for the Cabinet Equality Committee Members to be concerned about:

Anti-slavery/Human trafficking is a relatively new emerging area. There is still a significant lack of basic knowledge regarding this heinous crime. The Cabinet members to be concerned about the following key issues:

- Lack of staff awareness about 'what is human trafficking' and how to report it
- What support are available for victims of Human trafficking
- Child sexual exploitation and our arrangement particularly with regards to missing children and its link with child sexual exploitation including sex work; any trend analysis undertaken and are we recording relevant information and taking necessary actions, when needed. This is a very sensitive area in term of information sharing and for community cohesion implication.

The Way Forward:

We would seek your support:

- To encourage staff from key services e.g. Social Services, Education, Housing and those working closely with vulnerable people to receive our free courses on Anti-slavery/human trafficking.
- All relevant staff and especially those who are involved in the strategy meetings **MUST** attend both Anti-slavery awareness and First Responders awareness workshop to fully understand this agenda and ensure that referral are made to the Anti-slavery National Referral Mechanisms, as and when needed.
- The new Act places a requirement on public bodies to co-operate with the UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner and to report incidents of slavery to the Slavery Safeguarding Leads (SSL). SSL will be established in every public body after the findings of the current pilots in Yorkshire and the South West of England.
- Western Bay Anti-Slavery Forum should be regularly attended by a senior manager from Social Services and Western Bay Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards to ensure a safe and consistent flow of information between both groups.

Since the introduction of the new anti-slavery law last year, prosecutions for human trafficking in England and Wales have increased. There has also been an increase in the trafficking of people for sham marriages.

The number of people trafficked as labourers or domestic workers now exceeded the number forced into sexual exploitation. There are an estimated 13,000 victims of forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in Britain. Globally, forced labour generates an estimated \$150 billion in illegal profits every year, reported AFP.

We are at the same understanding stage of Human Trafficking as we were with domestic abuse a decade ago. There have been dramatic changes in the way domestic abuse is reported and handled. We can now learn from this field of work and fast-track people so they have a much greater understanding of the human trafficking and the extent of the issue in Western Bay.