

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

A network of agencies tackling modern slavery in the West Midlands and beyond



April 2018

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Thank you all for your continued support and contributions to the WMASN. NRM referrals continue to rise in the West Midlands and that's in part to all the work being done on awareness raising, training and information sharing. The joint NHS event outside Grand Central with the Rah Rah Theatre Company was such an innovative way to raise awareness and had some excellent media coverage. The Birmingham City Council Coordinator John Hunter has now retired and we wish him all the luck in the future. Unknown to me for a long time was that John, outside of work, was a poet and screenplay writer. He very kindly wrote a poem dedicated to all our work on Modern Slavery called 'Liberate' it will be on our website soon and anyone wishing a copy please contact us.

Our research work with PH England and Westminster University is in its final stages before going for review and we hope to have it published in the PH Journal in the near future. A key finding is the need for awareness of Modern Slavery by GPs and in particular their reception staff. This is vital in respect of victims being identified, and post rescue receiving the health care they require.

Our first Homelessness and Modern Slavery Task Group has taken place and draft Terms of Reference have been sent out for consultation. This work will feed into the Mayors Homeless Task Group and now into the National Task Group too. Key aims include understanding the nature and scale of trafficking of homeless and rough sleepers in the West Midlands and of potential homelessness post NRM support. It is envisaged that this will also support the 7 Local Authorities in their implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

Our last presentations on post NRM care and support by Snowdrop and Trafficking of Albanian Nationals by the Shpresa Programme received excellent feedback. We will aim to continue in the same vein in terms of raising awareness on particular subjects utilising experts in their field. Our next presentation will be on Domestic Servitude - it will cover two broad types of domestic servitude: the traditional domestic servant working for (often overseas) employers and the 'family' member who may never have been paid (the defence frequently being that he/she is a family member) and has been kept a virtual prisoner often for many years. It will also cover the other indicators of control, degrading and humiliating treatment and abuse. It will also cover the signs to look out for in a potential domestic servitude case and how those signs and indicators can be interpreted. Please contact us if you wish to attend.

Lastly Nick Walton and I are extremely grateful to Karen Saunders PH England for nominating us to be Members of the Faculty for Public Health for our work on Modern Slavery. I consider this a partnership award for us all.

Robin Brierley, Chair, West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

Modern Slavery Awareness Raising Campaign Launch

On 23rd March WMASN met with colleagues from the NHS and WMP at Grand Central and New Street Station to launch this NHS driven modern slavery awareness raising campaign aimed at the general public. The launch event showcased a poignant drama production by the Rah Rah Theatre Company which highlighted the plight of victims being trafficked for a variety of reasons including forced labour and sexual exploitation. The production took place in the back of a transit van and the audience participated by actually sitting in the van with the actors to listen to their stories; a completely immersive experience. There was excellent media coverage across radio and television which significantly raised the Modern Slavery profile with the public and reached a massive audience. It really was a brilliant day and thank you to all of our partners who were able to stop by. This was only the launch, further events will be taking place around Birmingham in the coming months.



Free for Good Campaign

When a person escapes from modern slavery they need help. Somewhere safe to stay, medical treatment, mental health support, legal advice, training, education and most importantly someone to walk alongside them as they figure out their next steps in rebuilding their life. Most of all they need security and stability as they look to the future.

The Government provides these victims with a limited period of care on a non-statutory basis while the authorities decide if the person is a victim, but then the support ends. Although some victims are entitled to further help, the vast majority are left to fend for themselves, often at risk of homelessness and vulnerable to being re-trafficked.

The Government has said it wants to lead the world in efforts to address modern slavery. This work needs to start with putting victims first and guaranteeing their rights to support. Lord McColl of Dulwich has brought forward a Bill in the House of Lords to put this right. His Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill will give victims in England and Wales a guaranteed right to support during the initial period when the decision about the status is being made, and for a further 12 months afterwards.

The Government has not yet agreed to support the Bill.

It is very important that the Government hears from as many people as possible asking them to support the Bill.

The Free for Good campaign was established to help promote this Bill and its proposed changes. Adavu is an official partner organisation in this campaign.

Please visit the website www.freeforgood.org.uk and ask your MP to back the Bill.

WMASN Anti-Slavery Day Conference Charity Donations

Thank you to everyone who made our Anti-Slavery Day Conference in October of last year such a great success. We were able to donate £384 to 4 different charities from the proceeds on the day. Liisa Wiseman Project Manager at Adavu said:

“Much appreciated. We will use this money on our clients such as interpreter costs; emergency, essential travel or small urgent household items (such as a temporary air mattress, miniature fridge for medication etc...)”.

Louise Gore from the Jericho Foundation stated:

“We are very grateful to The West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network for their kind donation from the Modern Slavery Conference. This will make an important contribution to the support we are able to directly offer Survivors of Modern Slavery through our Equiano project. The Jericho Foundation offer supported employment and volunteering to Survivors of Modern Slavery across our eight social enterprise businesses. Alongside work is a package of holistic support including legal advocacy, help accessing health care, benefits and accommodation, food parcels and other emergency support, confidence building and language classes. Our aim is to help someone move from surviving their exploitation to thriving in their local community. We are pleased to have the support of The Network in this.”

We were also able to make contributions to Hope for Justice and Barnardo's PPTC. Once again many thanks to all!



pits stop is a Walsall based abolition group. Its aim is to help bring an end to modern day slavery by raising awareness, supporting agencies with rescued victims and raising funds for international anti-slavery organisation Hope for Justice.

They have their 3rd Fun Run in Walsall Arboretum from 11.30 am to 3.00 on pm Saturday 9 June 2018. The route will start near the Centre Green, go round the lake, up to the Beacon Gate and back to the Centre Green. Runners can choose to do 5km or the longer 10km and is open to anyone whatever their age. There is no registration fee for taking part.

There will also be fun activities on the day, including food, a bouncy castle, face painting, games, crafts and information stalls.

All sponsor money and donations raised at the Fun Run will be going to the Hope Challenge 2018, an amazing cause and it will make a huge difference.

They would like to invite the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network and its members to the Fun Run to publicise the work that they do. There would be no charge for this.

There is plenty of space available on the Centre Green at the Arboretum. Organisations are welcome to take information and activities, as long as they have their own equipment, e.g. a gazebo, table and chairs.

All sponsor money and donations raised at the Fun Run will be going to the Hope Challenge 2018, an amazing cause and it will make a huge difference. As they are raising funds for Hope for Justice they ask that no fund-raising is done on the day for other organisations.

There is more information about the day and a chance for runners and walkers to register on the Eventbrite page:

[**pits stop 10k/5k Fun Run and Walk 2018**](#)

If anyone is interested please email Sue Fox at: j10pitsstop@gmail.com

As ever, Barnardo's Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (PPTC) project workers have had a really busy few months.

In January, we held our New Year Celebration Event for young people who we have worked with during 2017. 12 young people attended, from a range of countries including Vietnam, Afghanistan and Slovakia. The event included a presentation from PC Keely Gibbs and DS Khizra Dhindsa from WMP, as well as homemade food and badminton. There was also an impromptu musical performance by a group of Vietnamese children singing us some Vietnamese pop songs. The event also focussed on making memories and building friendships, and each child was given a journal and the opportunity to take some polaroid-style photos to start their 'new memories journal'.

Each child was also given a bag of Christmas gifts, which were donated by West Midlands Police, Berwick Partners and Sutton Schools of Tae Kwon Do.

A Foster carer who attended the event said "I am extremely grateful for the extra activities held which allows the young people to experience things they may have never before...and allows them to experience what being a kid is all about". One young Vietnamese man practised his English in thanking us all for a wonderful event, on behalf of all of the young people in attendance.



On 23rd February, we ran another group trip and 7 young people went bowling, which was a new experience for most of the young people and was an activity they had asked for. The activity, which included a meal together afterwards, further enabled the young people to build friendships and develop trusting relationships with peers. One Vietnamese young person commented that in her culture, sharing a meal together is special. She said people usually treat others with meals in order to make new friends or enhance established relationships and this experience evoked fond memories of that tradition.

PPTC has been chosen as one of John Lewis Birmingham's Community Matters charities throughout February to May 2018. This means that we will be donated a share of £3000 determined by the proportion of green tokens we receive in our collection box! We would very much appreciate you popping in and dropping a token in for us if you are passing!

As well as the direct work, we continue to chair the multi-agency Operational PPTC which is making significant progress in identifying themes and trends regarding child trafficking in our area, and in working together to provide the best care and support possible for trafficked children.

Our 24hour support line is available for any professional in the West Midlands who would like advice or support on responding to, or working with, a child suspected to have been trafficked. Our project workers can even support you with completing the NRM and devising safety plans.

24/7 Support Line - 0800 043 4303.

If you would like to find out more about the work of PPTC, please contact Rachel Hopper:
rachel.hopper@barnardos.org.uk



Salvation Army Adult Victim of Modern Slavery Care and Coordination Services

General Enquiries:

0300 303 0547 / 0548

Mon to Fri - 09:00 to 17:00

24 hour referral and out of hours line:

0300 303 8151



Update from Jean Fletcher at Wates:

Latest data is being shared with site teams, keeping them informed and helping to keep Modern Slavery on the Wates agenda.

Contacts / relationships being established – this has been particularly useful, we have now made contact with Shayne Tyler at Manor Fresh, and Jane Bladon from Staffline who attended an internal Wates workshop earlier this month to share her journey and experiences. This was very well received and gave us plenty to think about. Have now established an internal Modern Slavery working group and are considering how we can incorporate lessons learned into our own organisation and supply chain.

USEFUL LINKS:

Modern Slavery Helpline – 08000 121 700

NRM <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) fib@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Modern Slavery Act Duty to Notify <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>

Human Trafficking Foundation Trafficking Survivor Care Standards

<http://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Trafficking%20Survivor%20Care%20Standards%202015.pdf>

WMASN contacts

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www.westmidlandsantislavery.org



**West Midlands Anti Slavery Network
Meeting Dates 2018**

WMASN meeting dates for 2018, for further information including venue contact donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org

17th May
12th July
13th September
15th November

