

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

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

December 2018



West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

2018 has flown by yet so much has been achieved by Network members and the wider West Midlands Modern Slavery and Exploitation structure. The Pan West Midlands Strategy has now been in place over a year, with each of the 7 Local Authority areas having a Modern Slavery Partnership which feed into the PVVP Strategic Board Chaired by WMP. This is all supported by the Network and its members, quite often taking the victims voice into strategic structures for challenges and issues to be escalated. One of our challenges for 2019 will be to identify ways in which victim care and support services within the West Midlands could be coordinated. This we are sure would provide a better outcome for victims whether or not they are in the NRM and would potentially lead to more referrals. One of our successes this year has been to begin to look at homelessness and its links with MS and Exploitation. One outcome of our work is that MS has been written into the Rough Sleepers Strategy launched earlier in the year. We all can be proud of achievements this year but there is more to do in 2019. We need to ensure the homeless do not become vulnerable to exploitation and that identified victims do not later become homeless and vulnerable to re-exploitation.

Some of these challenges can be addressed by having a better understanding of the regional picture of MS and Exploitation and identifying a clear and identifiable victim care pathway that complies with the Human Trafficking Foundation's Victim Care Standards Guidance. This work is at an early stage but WMP and the Network are making good progress at identifying what success means for victims and reducing the risk of re-exploitation.

The network has grown in the past 12 months and the enthusiasm and passion to build knowledge and work in partnership never ceases to amaze and impress us. We do appreciate that everyone is extremely busy, and often MS is just one area of business among the many you are dealing with at any one time. However, as a team we really have made a difference this year and for that we thank you tremendously. If you would like to showcase your work by means of a presentation or an entry in our newsletter, please let us know.

Lastly, we have been fortunate enough to successfully apply for Big Lottery funding to set up a Place of Safety project for victims post rescue in the West Midlands. This really is something that is badly needed and a recognised gap for victim care and support. The project will commence setting up on the 1st January 2019. Network members will play a key role in this project and we will keep you updated throughout the start-up phase and during the project itself.

It just leaves me to say thank you all for the work and contributions you have made this year its appreciated and recognised across the UK.

Season's Greetings to you all and we wish you a very happy 2019!

Robin Brierley, Chair, West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

HIDDEN VOICES TRAINING

A CHURCH AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2019
10AM TO 4PM
(REFRESHMENTS FROM 9:30AM)
STAFFORD BEACON CONFERENCE CENTRE, STAFFORDSHIRE TECHNOLOGY PARK, STAFFORD, ST18 0GB

Book via Eventbrite or contact james.henderson@tctogether.org.uk

#TacklingModernSlavery



£10 including lunch



Helping Churches and Communities Respond to Modern Slavery

What would it look like for people to join together to raise awareness of modern slavery, protect those who are vulnerable, and welcome the survivors into their communities?

What is hidden voices?

A new resource from The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's response to Modern Slavery (www.theclewerinitiative.org).

It is designed to help parishes and communities like yours respond to modern slavery. It uses a simple process that helps you to mobilise a community, with the church acting as a catalyst.

What will the day include?

Hidden Voices is written in four modules:

Understanding modern slavery

Prevention

Detection

Restoring dignity.

All of the modules include Biblical reflections and practical tools and activities to help churches work alongside their community.

There are also case studies that help people to see how they might already be coming across modern slavery without knowing it.

Book now at <https://hiddenvoices-lichfield.eventbrite.co.uk>

Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service –Our first month!

Our Home Office funded project launched on 18th October 2018, and we have been busy! We have had 15 referrals to date, and are spending lots of time out and about making professionals aware of the service and what we can offer, as well as continuing our awareness-raising of child trafficking in the region. Our ICTAs Laura and Elisha are travelling the country visiting West Midlands young people who are placed within our region, as well as further afield and their support so far has included immigration solicitors' appointments, relationship building, advising accommodation providers and social workers of safety aspects to consider, and enabling young people to start to talk about their journeys and experiences.

Our Regional Practice Co-Ordinator Bev has been making connections with a range of professionals to identify how she can most effectively support them in upskilling their workforce in relation to internal trafficking of UK children.

We have a number of Albanian young people open to us and they were thrilled that we made contact with them on 28.11.2018 to wish them well on Albanian Independence Day which is a very important date in their culture; this was something which meant a great deal to them. Small gestures such as this go a long way in demonstrating care and empathy when working with victims and vulnerable people.

Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (PPTC) has also been busy. On 6th November we hosted a Disruption Opportunities session for professionals to understand more about what a range of agencies could do to assist in the disruption of child trafficking/ modern slavery. Presentations were given by 8 different agencies including Home Office Immigration Enforcement, West Midlands Fire Service, Border Force and Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

On 17th November we took a group of young people to World Skills Fair at NEC, as part of our ongoing group work which aims to build resilience and empower non-UK young people who have experienced exploitation and trafficking to achieve their potential and thrive within their UK community. The young people enjoyed speaking to different exhibitors, and in particular having the opportunity to see what it felt like to fly in an RAF jet via a flight simulator.



If you would like further information about ICTA or PPTC, please contact:



Rachel Hopper

Team Manager

Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service (West Midlands)

Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (West Midlands)

Tel – 07712 238395

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Victim Support West Midlands has set up a new Hate Crime Project in Solihull and Wolverhampton which is funded by the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund.

The project commenced on 1st October 2018 and will run for a period of three years. We can be referred to using the referral form or by contact 01902 795830. This will enable the service to provide tailored one to one support for victims of hate crime in the local areas. The Project is also providing training for professionals to identify hate crime with the communities in which they support and refer individuals in for support from the Project – this input is approximately 2 hours and we will provide access to a resource pack for the organisation/team.

A schools' programme has also been developed to engage with both primary and secondary schools focusing on what hate crime is, challenging stereotypes and supporting an inclusive ethos. This will then result in the recruitment of School Champions (pupils and staff) who would advocate for support for colleagues and peers who are the victim of Hate Crime.

Please contact Ranvir Grewal, Hate Crime Project Manager for further info:

Ranvir.Grewal@victimsupport.org.uk

Health inequalities and health equity challenges for victims of modern slavery – Public Health England research in collaboration with WMASN and University of Westminster

Research has been undertaken by WMASN, Public Health England and the University of Westminster into health issues experienced by Albanian female survivors of modern slavery and findings have been published in the Journal of Public Health. Thank you to all those involved in this very important piece of work:

<https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/pubmed/fdy187/5155322?redirectedFrom=fulltext>



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

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network Meeting Dates 2019

WMASN meeting dates for 2019, for further information contact:

donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org

17th January

14th March

16th May

18th July

12th September

21st November

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

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599abfb4e6f2e19ff048494f/t/5bcf492f104c7ba53609aeb0/1540311355442/HTF+Care+Standards+%5BSpreads%5D+2.pdf>

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