

London Modern Slavery Partnership Board

Workshop session

11 July 2018

Attendees:

- MOPAC
- MPS
- Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)
- National Crime Agency
- Shiva
- Human Trafficking Foundation
- London Councils
- Hestia
- ECPAT

Purpose of discussion

Since his election, the Mayor had made two commitments to creating and delivering a public facing campaign which helps tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – one in the Police and Crime Plan and one in the VAWG strategy.

A £600k budget was mentioned in the VAWG strategy. A proportion of this could be spent on a Modern Slavery campaign.

The workshop provided an opportunity to gather an initial expert led steer from stakeholders.

MPS Problem Profile

- A MPS Strategic Analyst opened the workshop by providing an overview of findings from the Problem Profile.
- There was a significant increase in reporting to the Modern Slavery helpline following the Evening Standard campaign and a related episode of '24 hours in police custody'.
- Females were found to not just be victims – many were running brothels or picking victims.
- Modern slavery victims may experience domestic violence at work and at home.

- It was important to consider the impacts of identify victims: they may be cut off from their perpetrator, made homeless and have no legal status. MPS also faced an ongoing challenge dealing with such increased reporting.
- A redacted report would be ready for circulation shortly.

Workshop discussion

Part 1

The first part of the workshop discussion looked at what sector we should focus on.

Discussion covered a range of ideas:

- Domestic workers – this could cover those with visas (and the Home Office is aware of) or domestic servitude (that the authorities are not aware of in quite the same way)
- Charity collections – sorting centres, some evidence of children being involved
- Focusing on countries of origin – using local newspapers or targeting community centres
- Building on work already in progress – e.g. work with church groups on domestic servitude
- Using a national campaign to help focus on London
- Construction – focus on employers

Partners agreed work should focus on domestic servitude given the low levels of intelligence received by the police, the need for more enforcement work, the engagement work already in progress in this area and the clear links to the wider VAWG campaign.

Part 2

The second part of the workshop focused on the impact partners would want to have on domestic servitude.

Discussion covered the following thoughts:

- Focus on the victim:
 - Awareness – improve the number of people escaping this type of modern slavery
 - Understanding why so many don't want to enter into the National Referral Mechanism
 - TV/Radio case studies – MPS has had victims come forward after hearing stories like theirs on the radio
- Focus on the perpetrator:
 - Awareness – not acceptable in UK/recognise cultural differences (noting many perpetrators believe they are “saving” the victim. Need to change cultural conversation)
 - Community work would need to stretch from “cradle to grave” to change cultural attitudes

- Community needed to be present in campaigns, targeting one community at a time to see success. Their input needs to be captured at the start.
- Targeted social media campaigns
- Review effectiveness of existing campaigns in the community
- Utilising free channels of coverage – e.g. TV/radio interviews, spreading message across existing networks
- A co-ordination role, likely to be based in related NGO.

Partners agreed to develop measures of success related to:

- An increase the number of NRM referrals for domestic servitude
- An increase in community awareness of domestic servitude
- A longer-term increase in prosecutions, followed by a reduction in the prevalence of domestic servitude

Partners agreed the following next steps to further consider how best to target a campaign:

- Further consultation, taking in the views of:
 - Victims via a focus group (*to be held at City Hall*)
 - Further NGOs via existing networks including the Anti-Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery London Working Group
- MOPAC to discuss further with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.