

## **London Modern Slavery Partnership Board (LMSPB) 9 April 2018**

### **Note and actions**

#### **Attendees**

- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)
- Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)
- HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSP)
- ECPAT
- Survivors of Institutional Abuse (SIA)
- Office of Director of Labour Market Enforcement
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Home Office Immigration Enforcement
- London Councils
- Shiva Foundation
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)
- Victim Support
- Caritas Bakhita House
- Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- Human Trafficking Foundation
- Home Office
- Home Office Border Force
- Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (ISAC)
- London Borough of Redbridge

## Note

### Item 1 - Introduction and update on actions

- MOPAC opened the meeting and went through outstanding actions.

### Sub-group updates

- MOPAC requested updates from the various sub-groups on progress made since the last meeting.

### Item 2 – London problem profile

- The MPS confirmed they had continued to collect data from NGOs.
- It was agreed that MP would present the problem profile for London at the next meeting.

### Item 3 – Enforcement

- The Home Office provided an update on construction industry enforcement:
  - A bid has been completed for wider Home Office resources and endorsement for the proposed operational concept.
  - Work is underway to develop suitable operational tasks – primarily based on HMIC information.
  - Detailed planning meetings are to take place. A preliminary meeting was held with MOPAC and MPS. It is agreed that the Home Office will co-ordinate but partners including the MPS and GLAA will do most of the work to help victims.

### Further discussion included:

- **Industry conference** – MOPAC asked partners if they felt a conference with the construction industry on Modern Slavery would further demonstrate to businesses that this is an important issue. Partners agreed that this idea should be explored further. MOPAC to bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- **Sharing models of enforcement** – FLEX asked if the Home Office could share proposed models of enforcement for NGO comment. Home Office

confirmed enforcement model will be compliance lead with multiple organisations involved to sequence the use of all available powers.

- **FLEX report on labour exploitation in London's construction sector** – LA confirmed that Flex had just launched a report on this issue that partners may wish to review (<http://www.labourexploitation.org/sites/default/files/publications/Shaky%20Foundations.pdf>)

#### **Item 4 – Procurement and supply chains**

- MOPAC confirmed that work was underway at City Hall to ensure procurement policies work to eradicate the risk of Modern Slavery taking place in the supply chain. Progress had been limited owing to other priorities, but MOPAC looks to provide an update on this work in the autumn.
- FLEX provided an update on her meeting with the Home Office. The Home Office are also looking at ways in which public procurement policies may be changed. A roundtable will take place to discuss this further.

#### **Item 5 – Victim identification – training and awareness**

- MOPAC stated that the Mayoral Strategy on Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) has now been published ([https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/vawg\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/vawg_strategy.pdf)). Funding has also been put aside to aid victim identification – including of modern slaves – but how this funding is to be spent was yet to be determined. MOPAC asked for volunteers to join a reference group to determine how funding should be allocated.
- IOM presented the joint proposal (International Organisation for Migration and Stop the Traffik) for trafficking and modern slavery awareness raising sessions ("Train the Trainer") for London Boroughs, police and NHS staff. MOPAC added that in the past these sessions had worked particularly well when they were multi-agency and that given the upcoming roll out of Basic Command Units across the force, this could help relationship building and information sharing in a timely way.

#### **Further discussion included:**

- **Flex action plan on labour exploitation** – LA confirmed that FLEX had published an action plan on labour exploitation (<http://www.labourexploitation.org/sites/default/files/publications/Risky%20Business.pdf>)

[iness Tackling%20Exploitation%20in%20the%20UK%20Labour%20Market.pdf](#)). It would be useful to explore public views on labour exploitation and ways in which this group can be further targeted.

- **Specific training for those likely to encounter child victims** – ECPAT added whilst the training proposal was positive, consideration should be paid to additional training for those likely to encounter child victims as they have complex needs.

## Substantive discussion

### Item 6 – The CPS response to Modern Slavery

- HMICPSI provided an overview of the report on the CPS's response to the Modern Slavery Act ([https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmcpsi/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/12/MSA\\_thm\\_Dec17\\_frpt.pdf](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmcpsi/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/12/MSA_thm_Dec17_frpt.pdf)).
- Although modern slavery and trafficking covers a spectrum of crime types it was not found to be treated as a single body of work by the CPS. Whilst cases involving sexual exploitation and domestic servitude fall under the well-established VAWG umbrella, other strands of modern slavery work fall outside of this structure. The most complex cases are dealt with in the specialist casework division, although the full breadth of work sits at the various units at area levels. HMICPSI found that links were not made across units leading to an inconsistent approach.
- Awareness was found to be lacking amongst front line lawyers, as training – whilst available – was not mandated. Awareness of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) was also limited.
- HMICPSI made eight recommendations to CPS to improve their response to modern slavery. Wales is a area of good practice.

### Further discussion included:

- **Data breakdown** – case management system used by the CPS does not allow for a breakdown of data by child or gender. The CPS could be called on to review a snapshot of cases in this way.
- **County lines** – Partners discussed the importance of CPS awareness when dealing with a county lines case – often a drugs prosecution or child exploitation prosecution could be pursued. CPS make convictions on what they can.

- **Disclosure** – The MPS added recent disclosure issues have had a profound impact on cases involving foreign nationals (a significant amount of material needs to be translated). The need to go through a victim's social media accounts could also be seen as intrusive.

#### **Item 7 – Developing a multi-agency response to Adult Services websites**

- The MPS provided an updated response to adult services websites. They explained that MPS review the sites and go with NGO partners to see those listed online for a welfare visit.
- They explained that gathering information on these visits was becoming increasingly challenging as those being exploited were increasingly briefed on what to say by OSGs.
- The MPS asked the NGOs to assist with gathering intelligence in relation to how the victims were getting the jobs. This would be used to improve police targeting.

#### **Further discussion included:**

- **Engagement with adult service website companies** – Partners discussed the ethical challenge presented on whether to engage with the website provider (to gather intelligence) or to move to shut them down.

#### **Item 8 – National Serious and Organised Crime portfolio**

- Devon and Cornwall Police provided an overview of the work in Chief Constable portfolio (NPCC Modern Slavery lead)
- An element of this is reducing organised immigration crime facilitated by organised crime, targeting clandestine entry events. A guidance document has been developed for all forces, advising all who encounter a clandestine event to not just see it as a potential immigration issue, but to treat the site as a crime scene where intelligence may be collected and to safeguard the individuals found.
- The MPS provided an overview of the welfare form created for first responders to fill in. A key intention of this form is to ensure a relationship/trust is developed between the potential victim and authorities.

- The MPS also provided an overview of the biometrics trial that took place in Hertfordshire. The trial has resulted in the biometric details of children found captured, preventing children being handed over to children's services without any information taken. In Hertfordshire this trial was successful, as the six children found did not go missing.
- The MPS provided an overview of MPS activity in relation to clandestine entry events, particularly at Victoria Coach station. This included MPS involvement in the regional response (Op Squadron) and partnership working with the local authority of Lambeth where there has been an increase Vietnamese victims.

**Further discussion included:**

- **Use of biometrics** – Partners raised concern about the use of biometrics and sought clarity on the use of the information gathered.

**Item 8 – AOB**

- The Home Office stated that EPCAT had been commissioned by the Home Office to put forward proposals on how to improve the NRM process for children. This would be circulated for comment.