

## **Human Trafficking and Exploitation - Progress Report**

This paper provides the Board with a progress report on the significant body of work which has been undertaken and is planned with regard to tackling trafficking and exploitation in communities in Scotland.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

This paper invites the Board to:

- i. Support the Police Scotland 'In Plain Sight' awareness raising campaign, and its messages, where appropriate;
- ii. Note and comment on the Anti-Slavery Day event, the resources developed and the key themes identified from the day;
- iii. Consider what partnership working might look like in their area and what structures already exist which might contribute or even lead on tackling trafficking and exploitation in their area;
- iv. Share the links to the pilot training sessions with appropriate officers and indicate if they would wish to host training in their area in 2019;
- v. Confirm what work has been undertaken to tackle trafficking and exploitation by means of procurement strategies; and
- vi. Confirm if they would welcome further information at a future meeting on procurement options which can be considered by local authorities.

### **References**

Previous reports on human trafficking and exploitation:

- June 2018, Community Well-Being Board, Item 9 – Human Trafficking and Exploitation – Training and Annual Report
- November 2017, Community Well-Being Board, Item 5 – Human Trafficking and Exploitation – Nail Bars
- September 2017, Community Well-Being Board, Item 10 – Human Trafficking and Exploitation

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**November 2018**

## **Human Trafficking and Exploitation – Progress Report**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides the Board with a progress report on the significant body of work which has been undertaken and is planned with regard to tackling trafficking and exploitation in communities in Scotland.

### **Current COSLA Position**

2. COSLA is a key partner in the implementation of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy. This is a three year strategy from 2017-2020. COSLA chairs Action Area One – Identifying and Supporting Victims – of the strategy implementation working groups.
3. During 2017 there were 207 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which is used to identify victims of trafficking. This was an increase of 38% from the previous year and demonstrates increased awareness of trafficking and exploitation. There was a large increase in the number of men identified as victims of labour exploitation. However, relative the rest of the UK, Scotland referred a very small number of children into the NRM. This is currently being considered by the relevant Action Groups.
4. The strategy's first annual progress report was published in June of this year. It demonstrates that there is good work being progressed towards the aims and actions of the strategy, but recognises that there is still more to be done. Two parts of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act are yet to be implemented. First, the Duty to Notify, a pilot of which has been tested by City of Edinburgh Council, Border Force and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, will inform a consultation which will be published before the end of 2018. Secondly, we still await the consultation on the roles and responsibilities for Independent Child Trafficking Guardians. Again, we expect this to be published before the end of 2018.

### **Scottish Government and COSLA Anti-Slavery Day Event**

5. On 18 October, as part of Anti-Slavery Day, there was a joint Scottish Government and COSLA event. COSLA Community Well-Being Spokesperson attended and spoke at the event. Police Scotland also launched an awareness raising campaign, 'In Plain Sight', focusing particularly on victims of sexual exploitation. This will run through October and November. The Board is asked to support this campaign, and its messages, where appropriate.
6. The event involved presentations from academics which highlighted the research that has been done in this area, and the resources that exist to support organisations. For instance, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the University of Nottingham have developed and published an [Anti-Slavery Partnership Toolkit](#). This is intended to help local organisations and agencies work better together to tackle trafficking and exploitation and was developed, based on research, to help guide practitioners through the sharing of resources and good practice, inspire action, prevent duplication and support monitoring and evaluation.

7. There was also a presentation on the regional partnership established in Greater Manchester. The challenges and learning from this partnership were identified and discussed. A critical and long term element for successfully tackling trafficking is building trust in communities which are currently being, or are at risk of being, exploited. This enables people to come forward with intelligence, or as victims, and can be used to disrupt activity and provide the necessary support.
8. In addition there was an exceptional performance by the Rah Rah Community Theatre of 'My mind is free'. The play is coming back to Scotland in early 2019 and if local authorities are interested in discussing possible future performances, contact details for the company are available at this [link](#) or by emailing [human.trafficking@gov.scot](mailto:human.trafficking@gov.scot).
9. Key themes identified throughout the day were that:
  - We need to work in partnership – no single organisation or single model will be the solution;
  - We need to accept that trafficking and exploitation is happening locally;
  - We need to look at the drivers behind trafficking and exploitation – poverty and inequality are key drivers for both supply and demand;
  - We need to look at the tools we have and identify the tools we need – licensing, regulation and procurement may provide key opportunities; and
  - We need to utilise structures that are already established and see how they can contribute to tackling this issue.
10. The Board is asked to note and comment on the above resources and key themes.

### **Forthcoming Priorities**

11. A key priority identified by Action Area One is to support the development of regional partnerships to tackle trafficking. COSLA has been clear that local authorities are only one part of addressing this issue and that they might not be the most appropriate lead partner in some areas. The Board is asked to consider what partnership working might look like in their area and what structures already exist which might contribute or even lead on tackling trafficking and exploitation in their area.
12. Alongside wider reforms, there is a Scotland-specific review being undertaken of how the NRM process works for children and whether changes need to be made to ensure it is child centred and delivers the best outcomes for young people. Action Area One and the Child Trafficking Strategy Group have also agreed that communications for and to children around trafficking and exploitation should be developed. The relevant COSLA Boards will be kept informed of this work.

### **E-Learning and Training Offer**

13. The Board agreed in June that local authorities will accept the free e-learning DVD developed by Police Scotland and will seek to roll it out to as many staff as possible. Over the summer, Chief Executives were contacted to provide the relevant contact within their local authority to receive the DVD. Around half of local authorities have responded and have been sent the DVD.
14. The Scottish Government and Scottish Community Safety Network are both exploring whether the e-learning can be made publicly accessible through an online platform to increase the reach. The Board will be kept updated regarding progress on this.
15. Hope for Justice is a charity established to tackle human trafficking and exploitation. They are currently in a position to offer effectively free training to local authorities (venues need to be provided and there would be small costs associated with materials). After discussion with COSLA, they are adapting their training materials to ensure they are consistent with the Scottish context and approach, and COSLA has agreed to host

two pilot training sessions on 3 December 2018. The morning session is an awareness raising session this is open to local authority officers and elected members. The afternoon session is a more in depth session intended for first responders. It will go into detail about the NRM and is for relevant local authority officers. Places are limited to 36 per event. The Board is asked to share the event invitations.

16. The intention is that this training can then be offered to any local authority that wishes to host it. Board members are asked whether they would like to host training sessions in their areas. These will be arranged directly with the interested local authorities and will take place between February and April 2019.

### **Procurement and Supply Chains**

17. Local Government procures goods and services totalling £7bn. Robust public procurement strategies could be used to help to tackle trafficking and exploitation. COSLA is aware that some local authorities are already taking forward specific work relating to procurement, such as agreeing an adapted Charter Against Modern Slavery. The Board is asked to confirm what work has already been undertaken in this regard. The Board is further asked whether they would welcome further information at a future meeting regarding procurement options which could be considered by local authorities in their processes.

### **Next Steps**

18. COSLA will continue to work to provide local authorities and partners with tools and opportunities to tackle trafficking and exploitation in their communities. We would welcome any comments or thoughts from members as to the work outlined in this report, as well as the broad approach taken to tackling these crimes.

### **November 2018**