

Understanding Exploitation in Tees Conference

Speaker Biographies



Sarah McManus

Sarah joined A Way Out in November 2015 as the Services Manager bringing with her extensive senior management experience working at a strategic level within the housing sector for 11 years. She has also served as a Non-Executive Director on a housing Board for a local provider and is degree and professionally qualified. She was promoted to the role of Chief Executive in January 2017 and is committed to business excellence and supporting some of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our community in this region.



Steven Knight

Steven Knight is an Investigating Officer / Labour Abuse Prevention Officer (North East) of the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) who is authorised to conduct Investigations in accordance with PACE 1984 and the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004.

The GLAA was formed in 2005 and operates throughout the UK with the principle aim of preventing worker exploitation, protecting vulnerable people and tackling unlicensed Gangmaster activity and criminal activity.

The GLAA can investigate all labour market offences in England and Wales from National Minimum Wage offences to Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking offences.

The GLAA works with and alongside numerous partners and law enforcement agencies in order to achieve its Strategic priority of protecting vulnerable people and preventing worker exploitation wherever it may exist.

Mary Robinson

Mary has been employed with Barnardo's for the past 24 years in different job roles. Mary qualified as a Social Worker in 2003 and is also a qualified Youth Leader and Counsellor. In 1998, Mary began working with adults and children who were being sexually exploited on the streets in Middlesbrough. The work involved a research project undertaken by Barnardo's and Tees Health Authority.

In 2000, Mary continued working with adults and children through the development of a new Barnardo's service, the SECOS Project (Sexually Exploited Children's Outreach Service) based in Middlesbrough.

In 2004, Mary was involved in another research project in Stockton on Tees. In 2006, Barnardo's opened a second exploitation service, the 'ACE' Project (Against Child Exploitation).

Mary has 20 years practice knowledge surrounding children who have been groomed and victims of sexual exploitation. Mary has held a managerial position for the past 15 years.

Mary is currently the Team Manager of five Sexual Exploitation services and a missing service, all of which are based within the Tees Valley. All the services provided, aim to reduce risk and support children to recover from sexually abusive and sexually exploitative relationships.

Mary works closely with Tees Strategic partners contributing to and influencing actions to tackle child exploitation.



Sam Keith, Service Manager Safeguarding Adults, Newcastle City Council

Sam has worked for Newcastle City Council for 15 years, and is a qualified Social Worker and Best Interest Assessor. She has extensive experience of complex risk and care management and since the inception of Operation Sanctuary has been the Single Point of Contact for Newcastle Adult Social Care. Sam was Team Manager for the Sexual Exploitation Hub when the team were recognised as winners of the Adult Team of the Year at the Social Worker of the Year Awards 2017. Alongside this Sam has provided an operational perspective to influence the strategic response to sexual exploitation in Newcastle. This has included the design and delivery of multi-agency training as well as the development of policies, procedures, and practitioner tools in this crucial area. Sam is passionate about improving outcomes for people who have been affected by sexual exploitation with a particular focus on the needs of young people reaching 18.



James Steward, Service Improvement Lead, Newcastle City Council

James has been based in the Safeguarding Adults Unit for 9 years and is a qualified trainer with extensive experience in the design and delivery of multi-agency safeguarding adults training. As Safeguarding Adults Board Co-ordinator James was responsible for the co-ordination of Safeguarding Adults Reviews as well as ensuring that learning from case reviews was fully embedded and making a positive difference to local practice. He formed part of the business group that acted as the link between the safeguarding boards and the independent reviewing team as part of the Joint Serious Case Review. James is now the Service Improvement Lead for Safeguarding adults, a position which includes responsibility for improving multi-agency approaches to safeguarding adults and Making Safeguarding Personal.

SPACE

From lived experience emerged a mission to:

- Safeguard young people entrenched in County Lines and better support families through guidance and advocacy;
- Campaign for safeguarding improvements, and to train professionals and wider community by sharing personal insight and awareness of:
 - County Lines indicators, gaps and challenges in the professional response, best practice approaches, grooming, extremism and Modern Slavery legislation;
 - Relevance of missing episodes;
 - Link between CCE, CSE and Radicalisation;
 - Need for contextual safeguarding and engaging parents as partners.





Steve Bell

Steve has been a Police Officer for 19 years and has worked in a variety of roles including response policing and crime investigation. He has an interest in more complex investigations and has vast experience in child abuse investigation, paedophile online investigation and sex offender management. Over the past 12 years his work has been predominantly in safeguarding.

Steve is the current Detective Inspector for Cleveland's Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Traffic Team.

Robin Brierley

Robin is the Cleveland Anti-Slavery Network Coordinator, a multi-agency partnership which includes statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations as members. He is also an independent consultant on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Robin joined Thames Valley Police in 1990, and went on to work for the National Crime Squad, Anti-Corruption Command within the Metropolitan Police, and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (now National Crime Agency).

He worked within the Enforcement Directorate as an SIO, and later within the Intelligence Directorate working on organised immigration crime. Robin was then seconded to the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) before leaving SOCA in 2011 to set up his own company.

Together with the Human Trafficking Foundation he founded and Co-Chairs and Coordinates the National Network Coordinators Forum. This was set up to bring together network and partnership coordinators from England and Wales to share good practice, raise awareness of current issues, trends and challenges. These are then escalated via the Police and Crime Commissioners Modern Slavery Network, Home Office and Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Robin is very much victim focused and endorses the view that partnerships are essential to identify and rescue victims, and contribute to an increase in investigations, prosecutions and convictions.



Simon Walker

Simon is currently a Detective Chief Inspector for Cleveland Police within the Protecting Vulnerable People department covering Child Abuse, vulnerable Adults & Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked teams.

Kirsten Dent

Kirsten is the regional county lines coordinator working to the remit of the National County Lines Coordination Centre which was set up by the Home Office following the serious violence strategy.

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM

Sara Thornton is the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner responsible for encouraging good practice in the prevention and detection of modern slavery and the identification of victims. She was the first Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council from 2015 to 2019.

Sara joined the Metropolitan Police Service in 1986 and in 2000 transferred to Thames Valley Police on promotion to Assistant Chief Constable. Following four years as Deputy Chief Constable she was appointed Chief Constable in 2007. She contributed significantly to national policing during this time and was the national lead on intelligence, Vice-Chair of ACPO Terrorism and Allied Matters, Director of the Police National Assessment Centre and ACPO Vice-President.

Sara is a member of the Royal College of Defence Studies, the Advisory Board for the Oxford University Centre for Criminology and a trustee and board member of the Police Foundation. She is a graduate of Durham University, also holding a Master of Studies (MSt) degree in Applied Criminology and Police Management from Cambridge University alongside honorary doctorates from Oxford Brookes University and Buckinghamshire New University.

Sara was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 2006 and made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2011. She was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2019. She has also been recognised with a Career Achievement Award from the Police Training Authority Trustees and the Sir Robert Peel Medal for Outstanding Leadership in Evidence-Based Policing. She is an honorary Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force supporting the work of the auxiliary police squadron.



Wendy Tinkler

Wendy began her policing service in Durham and very quickly recognized her passion in policing was safeguarding those most vulnerable in our communities. During her time in Durham she completed the project for the creation of their Multi Agency Sharing Hub.

In 2012, she was promoted to the rank of Detective Inspector, in charge of the Safeguarding Unit – encompassing domestic abuse, adult abuse and child protection investigations.

A year later, Wendy successfully achieved a first class Honour's Degree in Applied Investigation before becoming a Crime Manager/Detective Inspector for the area of Darlington – Here she was responsible for all serious and volume crime and managed a team of 45 detectives.



Elham Narimani

Elham was born in Iran in 1975. She finished her BA Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at University of Esfahan in 1999 and she started to work for the Ministry of Education as a secondary school teacher. She completed several on-the-job-training courses one of which was Management in Education Sector. In 2005 she founded Parastoo Private Language School in Esfahan. In 2009 Elham came to the UK with spouse visa and left the management of her school to her sister. In the UK, she started to work voluntarily for different charities and organisations such as Wear Valley Women Aid and Angelou Centre to support survivors of Domestic Violence. She also worked as a registered interpreter for Premium Language Services. In 2016 she started to work for Ashiana as an outreach support worker in the North East to help and support survivors of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery. In 2017 she got promoted to the Area Senior Worker and in 2018 she became the North East Area Lead for Ashiana. Working with vulnerable adults and survivors of abuse is Elham's passion and she is enjoying her role.



Carl Peters

Detective Inspector Carl Peters joined West Midlands Police in 1995 where he performed a number of roles including D/Sgt at Wolverhampton. Whilst performing this role in 2007 he encountered his first victims of human trafficking. A Romanian adult brought to the UK on the false promise of work who had escaped and alerted Police to the presence of a 13 old Romanian girl forced to work in a brothel. He admits they were clueless about the issue but with a bit of work they secured the young girl. Discovering there was nothing in place to deal with the issue was disappointing but by muddling through with Social Services the outcome was positive. Now working for Cleveland Police he was afforded the opportunity to work as part of a national programme to transform the Police response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and currently works as a Regional Co-ordinator looking after the 3 forces of Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland.