

Understanding Exploitation Across Tees Conference

Questions & Answers

1. *Money from slavery, some of it is used for other organised crime, can you advise if UK/foreign forces investigate financial funding toward other organised crime?*

Proceeds of crime is the term given to money or assets gained by criminals during the course of their criminal activity. The authorities, including the Police, have powers to seek to confiscate these assets so that crime doesn't pay. By taking out the profits that fund crime, we can help disrupt the cycle and prevent further offences. This includes assets obtained via slavery or any associated investigation.

2. *Are education classed as a first responder? If not, why not?*

No. Safeguarding Leads within educational establishments should liaise directly with the Local Authority Safeguarding Leads if they have any concerns regarding exploitation in any form.

3. *There is a need for more specialist support for victims locally, how do we address this? Can we commit to joint commissioning?*

The victim care pathway is soon to be launched and will be reviewed in 6 months. Any gaps in provision should be identified and joint commissioning will be considered.

4. *If there is a criminal conviction where the individual does not go to prison would the CPS attach a Criminal Behaviour Order with England and Wales conditions to protect others?*

If it is before a conviction it would be a Risk Order if it were on conviction it would be a Prevention Order.

5. *Health are not mentioned in duty to notify, are we supposed to notify our local police service and will they investigate further?*

Safeguarding Leads within the Health Trusts should liaise with Local Authority Safeguarding Leads.

6. *During the 45 day/90 day period the gangs may still be in touch with the victim. How confident are you in professionals submitting intelligence to safeguard victims?*

This is case dependent. Victims are usually taken to a safe house in a different part of the country. Victims may contact their traffickers for a number of reasons; because they are frightened, worried of the consequences of what will happen to them or their families or they do not trust the authorities. Charities involved in supporting victims should inform police if they believe the victim is in touch with the traffickers.

7. *Can you complete the NRM if your organisation is not on the list of first responders?*

No. Contact should be made with the Local Authority Safeguarding Leads or via the Modern Slavery Helpline. There is an 'offline' version of the NRM form that can be used to prompt questions if talking to a potential victim, however first responders are the only people who have access to the digital form.

8. *Any plans for NHS organisations to be added to the list of first responders?*

No. Due to the number of Trusts within NHS England this is not deemed viable at the moment.

9. *How do you support the victim's family in their home country?*

Cleveland Police would liaise with overseas networks and third sector organisations to support families (where it is safe to do so).

10. *How far has economic crime unit got with the financial aspects of these car washes and where the money goes?*

If there is an investigation and criminal finances are identified and they are prosecuted, the money will be taken off them. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to charge on a modern slavery offence and charges are usually for minimum wage, health and safety, environmental health offences. Depending on the nature of the case a Proceeds of Crime Order (POCO) or a Reparation Order will be requested. A POCO means that money feeds back into the state, some to police, the treasury and CPS. A Reparation Order will ensure money goes back to the victim, so that they are paid what they are owed and as compensation.

11. *Could you please name the list of partners currently on the anti-slavery network established in 2018 in Cleveland?*

Cleveland Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland, Adult Safeguarding, Children Safeguarding, Community Safety, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Immigration, Department of Work and Pensions, Crown Prosecution Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Tees Esk Wear Valley Foundation Trust, South Tees Foundation Trust, Tees Safeguarding Adults Board, Hope for Justice, Unseen, Migration Help UK, North East Migration Partnership, North East Ambulance Service, Victim Care and Advice Service, National Crime Agency, Clewer Project, Crimestoppers, North Tees Hospital Trust, Halo Project, A Way Out, Ashiana, Homeless Link, Soroptimists, PD Ports and HMRC.

12. *How do we manage the danger of reinforcing racist stereotypes/prejudice whilst still raising awareness of the issue?*

It can be difficult, but it is about striking a balance of understanding the make-up of local communities and the links to crime but not labelling people. It is about identifying vulnerable people and not reinforcing stereotypes.

13. *Has there been an impact from the reduction in neighbourhood policing in terms of the intelligence picture for Cleveland?*

Identifying exploitation in our communities relies on gathering intelligence about potential victims and perpetrators. An important part of this work can be conducted by the police officers and PCSOs who work in neighbourhood policing and who are able to gain a good understanding of the needs and concerns of their local areas. With a nationwide reduction in police officer numbers, there is a risk that less

intelligence is being gathered. In Cleveland, both the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable are committed to recruiting additional officers, some of whom will be deployed back into neighbourhoods across the county.

Another important source of intelligence is from the public themselves, who act as the eyes and ears of agencies invested in preventing and tackling exploitation. There are a range of ways the public can report concerns about exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking including calling the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. The Unseen and Safe Car Wash apps are also easy ways for the public to report concerns from their mobile device. Cleveland Police can be contacted on 999 in an emergency and 101 in a non-emergency.

14. Is there any protection from prosecution for a victim turned perpetrator?

There is a level of protection under the NRM, however there may come a point where it is in the public interest to seek prosecution to prevent further harm.

This is a subject that we spend a lot of time discussing at a national prosecutions committee and in terms of the legislation it can be really challenging for decision makers. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides a specific defence under S45 with different thresholds for adults and children. Adults **compelled** to commit crime as a victim of human trafficking and children who commit crime simply as a **consequence** of being victims can avail themselves of the defence. There is a schedule of offences, mostly serious crimes, that are not covered by the defence and this includes trafficking of others.

The challenge for investigators, particularly in relation to children, is how to deal with those involved in ongoing harm to others and those who have sought to engage in criminal behaviour who may be on a pathway towards significant and serious violence. Early intervention opportunities may fall under the defence with a risk of instilling a mind-set of 'untouchable' which could place themselves and others at greater risk of harm.

Regardless of perpetrator status, all victims are entitled to the support and protections of the NRM. It is accepted that a person can be both a victim and perpetrator and they do not lose the entitlements of one if they become the other.

15. Is it true that the modern slavery helpline will be closed next month due to lack of funding? Can anything be done to reverse this?

The Government has provided a one-off grant to keep the helpline open until March. After March funding will need to be sourced from elsewhere.

16. If GLAA go into car washes do they have powers to speak to staff on their own?

Yes. The GLAA were previously regulators but they now have the same powers as police and are investigators.

17. What powers do we have to stop adults who are being sexually exploited and do not disclose this. The law supports the right to make unwise decisions.

If an adult has capacity they have a right not to disclose. If an adult does not have capacity then there are safeguarding processes to support individuals who are being sexually exploited.

18. *I'm really pleased to hear a focus on vulnerability, not age. There needs to be more work on transitions when there are identified vulnerabilities.*

It is a priority for each Local Authority who are currently working to improve on transitions for victims of Child Sexual Exploitation. This also forms part of the Tees Strategic Vulnerable Exploited Missing and Trafficked Workplan.

19. *There is a lack of work between Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Adult Mental Health for victims of CSE in adolescents and young adults who suffer trauma and neglect, how do we improve?*

Each Local Authority is looking to improve transition services, part of this will be looking at how mental health services can work better together.

20. *Is Barnardo's a children only service? Would you work with an 18 year old who is a victim of sexual exploitation?*

Barnardo's work with young people up to the age of 19.

21. *Are there Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board plans to establish a strong transition for 18s at risk of any exploitation to ensure continued planned safeguarding approaches?*

Refer to question 19 and 20.

22. *Do Ashiana provide any support to local adult safeguarding teams in safeguarding a victim prior to a reasonable grounds decision being made?*

Not at the moment.

23. *Do A Way Out and Barnardo's offer support locally to young people and adults identified as modern slavery and human trafficked where not sexual? If not, is this a gap locally?*

A Way Out:

A Way Out works with women and girls aged 16 and over particularly around sexual exploitation, sexual violence and sex work helping to address a range of multiple overlapping disadvantages to help reduce and prevent harm. This is our area of specialism but there may be other agencies across the region who have developed expertise around other types of modern slavery.

Barnardo's:

This year, starting in Middlesbrough, Barnardo's have extended the work they provide to children who are at risk of or have experienced CSE to criminally exploited children. We are aware there is a gap in service provision for children who have been criminally exploited (CCE), and are working in partnership with Local Authority heads of services, to explore how best to address the issue. Potentially, we may extend the current CSE service provision we currently provide, to include CCE, across the other four Tees

Valley, Local Authority areas, we are currently funded by, but the change in what we currently provide, will need to be agreed with ourselves, commissioners and contract leads.

24. *Does A Way Out offer support to a vulnerable young person even if there is no evidence of CSE?*

Yes our Youth Service works with young boys and girls aged 8-13 based in two secondary schools and one senior school in Stockton addressing a number of issues that the young person may be struggle with and that the school have identified and referred across to us. Our Family Service works across the whole family and does support young people within that family unit enabling them to address a whole raft of issues particular to the young person that may be unrelated to CSE. Our Blossom service that works with girls and young women aged 16 – 24 provides trauma informed support around a whole host of vulnerabilities outside of CSE.

25. *How can victim support be streamlined and provided by one provider?*

Victims of exploitation are complex and there is not one organisation who could provide support for all victims' needs. Support needs to be multi-agency and specialist.

26. *Would police or another agency be best placed to share what is good/relevant intelligence around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for agencies less familiar?*

Intelligence is shared strategically and appropriately with partner agencies through relevant groups. Intelligence is also shared through the anti-slavery network meetings. The www.gov.uk website also includes NRM statistics. NERSOU create an insight report which is circulated every month to the anti-slavery network and could be added to the Cleveland Police website if deemed suitable.