



# The Changing Landscape of Exploitation

Reflective session with  
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## Aims

1. An overview of the definitions of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
2. An understanding of the different forms of exploitation and how it's changing
3. Reflective discussions regarding the impact, risk, choice, challenges

## Facts

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It is estimated that there are over 40 million people worldwide who are victims of slavery

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It is estimated that over 136,000 people in the UK are victims of slavery

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In 2019 10,627 potential victims were identified a 52% rise on the previous year

# Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes on different forms. The term encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory work and human trafficking. Modern Slavery is a largely covert crime and victims tend to be controlled and hidden away.

There are broad definitions of slavery, but for the purposes of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 these are broken into the following terms.

- Slavery – where ownership is exercised over a person.
- Servitude – being coerced into providing services.
- Forced/compulsory labour – being forced to work or provide a service under menace and which the person has not offered voluntarily.
- Human trafficking - arranging or facilitating the travel of another with a view of exploiting them.

# Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them.

It takes various forms and affects people of all ages, gender and races, with many victims targeted because of existing vulnerabilities including, learning disability, mental health problems and homelessness.

## MYTH

Crossing a border is required in order to be trafficked

# Types of Modern Slavery/ Exploitation

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**Human Trafficking** is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.

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**Labour Exploitation** can involve unacceptably low pay and poor working conditions along with some form of coercion meaning the individual is not free to leave at their own disposal.

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**Criminal Exploitation** involves an individual often being coerced into committing a crime for someone else's gain, such as shop-lifting, drug cultivation or benefit fraud.

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**County Lines** involves criminal gangs exploiting vulnerable people and children, using them to carry and sell drugs from borough to borough, across many boundaries.

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**Cuckooing** involves professional criminals targeting the homes of vulnerable adults and using property for drug-dealing and other criminal activities.

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**Sexual Exploitation** often includes victims being coerced into sex work or sexual abuse, the victims may have been brought to the UK on the promise of legitimate employment or they may be aware they would be involved in sex work however not have consented to the type or frequency.

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**Domestic Servitude** usually involves victims working in a private family home where they are ill-treated, subjected to unbearable conditions or working hours for little or no pay. It is often made very difficult and sometimes impossible for the victims to leave.

# Exploitation in Teesside

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Labour exploitation, associated with the food industry, carwashes, construction and factories, remains the most common exploitation type and males represent over 80% of all victims identified.

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Potential victims of labour exploitation in carwashes have also been identified to be living and paying rent on properties owned or linked to carwash owners.

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The main form of criminal exploitation in Cleveland continues to be foreign nationals being forced into cannabis cultivation. Operations relating to cannabis farms identified victims as foreign nationals who have been trafficked into the UK for the purpose of criminal exploitation, employed as gardeners.

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The nationalities of these victims are solely Vietnamese or Albanian and information from at least one local policing area in Teesside, Stockton, have suggested that the numbers of Albanian nationals displaced into the area are on the rise.

# Media Publicity

**NEWS**

Home UK World Business Politics Tech Science Health Family & Education

England Local News Regions Tyne & Wear

## Tyneside Polish slave trafficking gang jailed

31 May 2017

f t e Share



NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Pawel Majewski, Robert Majewski, Sebastian Mandzik and Seweryn Szmyt

A gang has been jailed for running a slavery operation which saw Polish nationals trafficked into the UK to be used as modern day slaves.

News > North East News > Northumbria News

## Faces of evil: Gang jailed for trafficking people into Cowgate, Consett and Houghton-le-Spring

Three men and two women were sentenced after police made arrests in Newcastle and County Durham, rescuing 14 victims

By [Kate Doolan](#) 17:38, 16 Jun 2017

NEWS

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Marie Pawlowska, Agnieszka Leskiewicz, Andrzej Leskiewicz, Karol Leskiewicz, Robert Dobrowski

RECOMMENDED

People from Durham 1807 Court in Newcastle



# Spot the signs

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Unkempt, untidy or malnourished

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Poor living conditions, cramped, dirty, overcrowded

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Acting as if under instruction or someone speaking on their behalf

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Picked up and dropped off from work at unusual times

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Unsure of their own address

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No access to Passport or identity documents

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In a situation of dependence—bonded by debt, repaying transport costs, shelter

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No access to medical care

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Isolated with little or no free contact with family or friends and

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fearful of strangers

# Challenges

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## Male specific

- Managing emotions and pain
  - “I’ll be fine”
  - Short conversations when ready
  - Less likely to be offered empathy from other professionals
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## Female

Commonly require female only support

- More open to expressing trauma and emotion
  - More willing to engage in support if they understand it
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Communication/Language barriers

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Lack of local resources

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Police cuts

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Levels of trauma they’ll present with – historic and their trafficking

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Time – may not want to interact with you, trust building is essential

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Less independence if they haven’t been homeless before – basics needed with support and learning or re-learning

# The National Referral Mechanism

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Since 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015, potential victims of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour (Modern Slavery) in England and Wales have access to support previously only offered to potential victims of human trafficking. This support comes through the National Referral Mechanism and is currently provided by the Salvation Army.

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The NRM is a process whereby 'first responders' such as local authorities submit referrals to the 'competent authority' which is currently the National Crime Agency and the Home Office. Upon receipt of the referral, they will then decide whether the referral should be granted a positive grounds decision.

## Evidencing Modern Slavery

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To evidence Human Trafficking for the purposes of the NRM, there must be 'Act', 'Means' and 'Purpose'.

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To evidence Modern Slavery there must be 'Means' and 'Purpose.'

## Act (what is done)

## Means (How it is done)

## Purpose (Why it is done)

Recruitment

Receipt

Transport

Transfer

Harbouring or receipt of persons

Threat or use of force

Abduction

Fraud

Deception

The abuse of power or a position of vulnerability

The giving or receiving of payments or benefits

Sexual exploitation

Forced labour or services

Slavery or practice similar to slavery

Servitude

Forced Criminal activity

Removal of Organs

# Acts, Means and Purpose

# What have we done so far in Teesside

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Anti-Slavery Network formed in February 2018

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Local Victim Care Pathway established

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8-point checklist tool developed for practitioners

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Police have renamed their Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked (VEMT) department in line with the changing complexity of exploitation. The Complex Exploitation Team (CET) has now been established.

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Sub-group currently looking at a better accommodation offer for victims of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking with better wrap around support.



Any questions?