



South West Anti-Slavery Partnership Annual Review 2018/19



3 regional meetings, bringing together over **30** partner organisations from across the region



21 local partnership meetings, creating a network of over **100** partner organisations



548 potential victims in the South West identified in calls to the Modern Slavery Helpline



3 conferences, engaging over **410** representatives



309 NRM referrals



12 sub group meetings

2018 has seen the Anti-Slavery Partnership grow and develop, with Modern Slavery still firmly on the agenda of most statutory agencies; and increasingly on that of community-based organisations and the business community. Local partnerships report a diversification and expansion of their membership; with better representation from new agencies and non-statutory bodies, and greater range of internal departments within existing partner organisations. The partnerships are also working more closely with other bodies; ASP representatives are promoting focus on MSHT by community safety partnerships and engaging with groups addressing overlapping issues such as county lines.

In 2017 it was recognised that Modern Slavery was gaining traction as a priority for key statutory agencies. Other forums are now addressing MSHT, and the partnership seeks to undertake work that sits outside of 'business as usual'. Each local partnership is proving resourceful at developing projects and tools capable of pushing forward local responses to MSHT. Targeted communications campaigns, task and finish groups, and new strategic collaborations are products of the South West's best practice model.

Whilst each of the local partnerships continues to pursue innovative and added-value projects to combat Modern Slavery, the core function to disseminate best practice, encourage information sharing, and working collaboratively remains a key element of the ASP's purpose. Bi-monthly activity around operation Aidant utilises partnership networks, and draws upon pooled intelligence from multiple sectors. Partners report that relationships built through the partnership is moving multi-agency working towards business as usual. This has resulted in 309 NRM referrals in 2018, a figure that rises year on year as our response to Modern Slavery evolves.

Maintaining a good level of understanding amongst frontline staff will continue to be a challenge as training is time and resource intensive, and the high turnover of staff and changing landscape of provision requires continual commitment to upskilling workforces. Training and awareness raising amongst frontline staff remains a priority for partners, however. Partners have looked to resolve these challenges by developing alternative modes of communicating – be that elearning, nomination of tactical advisors, the utilisation of apps, or large-scale awareness events.

In November 2018 the ASP hosted its Annual Event, bringing together over 120 representatives from 54 different agencies. The event was an opportunity for representatives on local boards to participate in the regional partnership; meeting contemporaries from other areas of the South West and learn about the good practice in the region. Each board was given the opportunity to showcase a piece of work undertaken by the local partnership, sharing expertise in a range of activities ranging from targeted task & finish groups to the use of Slavery and Trafficking Protection Orders (STPO).

The feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive. New connections made have led to a joint bid being made to Big Lottery to install training and coordination staff in Dorset and Devon & Cornwall; Gloucestershire ASP have made contact with Dorset ASP to learn from their experience in hosting large conferences; and Devon ASP requested guidance from Gloucestershire in coordinating reception centers. These examples demonstrate the value of connection that the partnership brings. The regional board continues to allow for best practice and learnings to be shared across the different localities, and gaps in practice to be closed.

2018 saw a rise in joined up communications, both internal and external. The regional newsletter has been circulated out to regional partners for dissemination to local boards, permitting upcoming events, publications, national news and developments to be shared to keep frontline staff abreast of changes. The partnership is also receiving increasing attention from communications teams within the South West. In April a communications sub-group met for the first time, bringing together partner representatives and communications staff, and from this it was identified that the most effective means of promotion for the ASP is to encourage and amplify campaigns run by existing agencies. In November 2018 Avon & Somerset Police communications launched a campaign titled #telluswhatyousee, and the networks created through the partnership enabled it to be amplified by partners in each force area. This approach led to #telluswhatyousee being picked up on local and national media, and as far away as the United States.

Whilst the ASP has seen success in 2018, partners continue to encounter challenges.

Dedicated resources - In the absence of statutory funding for anti-slavery partnerships, representatives contribute to partnership activity in excess of their existing duties. Greater resource and time is needed to allow partners to pursue proactive projects and to maintain frontline staff awareness through training.

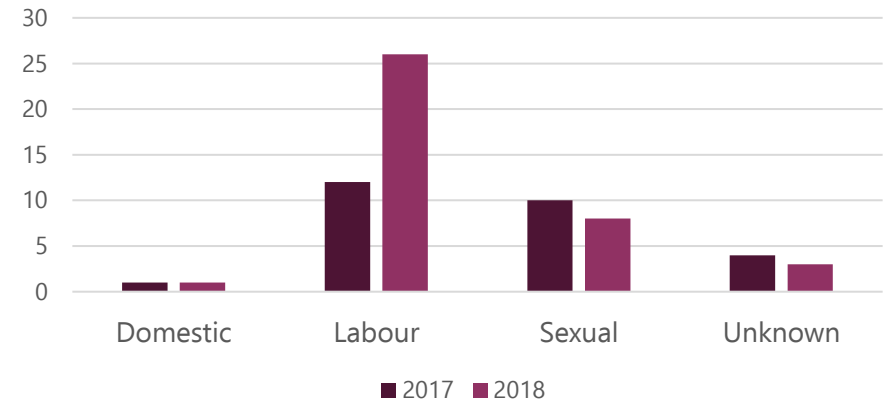
Information sharing – Whilst resources such as the Modern Slavery Helpline have improved reporting of MSHT, inter-agency communication remains an obstacle to effective partnership working. Promotion of information sharing internal to partner organisations is needed to ensure key information is regularly shared.

Public awareness – Public awareness of MSHT is rising, however in the absence of funding for large scale publicity campaigns intelligence remains low for some exploitation types, and enforcement agencies struggle to identify all cases of Modern Slavery in isolation.

Avon & Somerset ASP

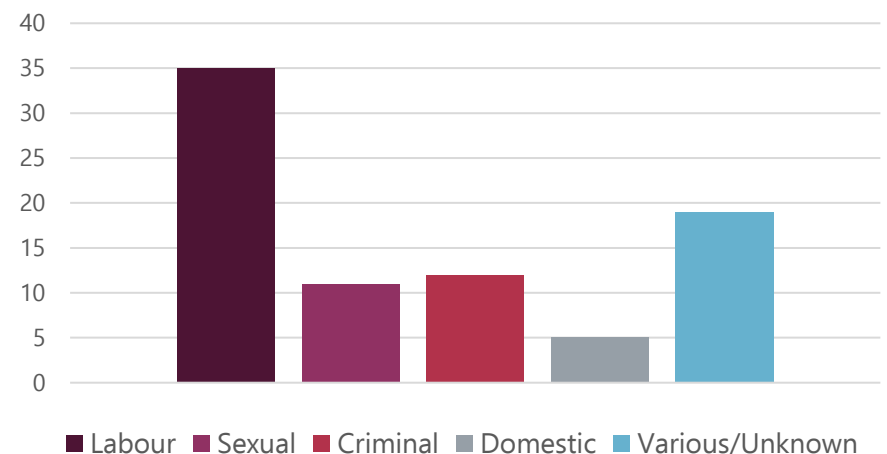
- The 'task and finish' model is proving successful in Avon and Somerset, which has seen its first prevention order filed as a result of the ASP car wash task and finish group. Similar groups are being developed to facilitate collaboration between A&S police and the NHS, and to safeguard overseas domestic workers with the support of UK immigration.
- The ASP rural exploitation working group has developed key relationships between stakeholders in rural areas to target exploitation in lesser known sectors. This has resulted in several multi-agency visits to sites identified through problem profiling, and awareness of MSHT has been spread through local policing teams and PCSOs.
- Partnership working in the area continues to benefit from the close working relationship between Unseen and Avon & Somerset Police and the PCC funded support from Unseen staff on police operations and welfare visits.
- The car wash task & finish group was commissioned by the ASP strategic board in Spring 2017 concluded in 2018. The group was tasked with mapping hand-car wash businesses located in the Bristol area and assessing the prevalence of Modern Slavery in the operation of these businesses. Existing and external partner organisations were invited to participate in multi-agency visits to assess the sites. The project contributed to existing intelligence, heightened awareness amongst external agencies and resulted in A&S first STRO.
- Funding was secured through the Police & Crime Commissioner to train representatives working in rural settings to spot the signs of MSHT, and build relationships with partner organisations working in their area.
- A&S Police continue to train MSHT Tactical Advisors to proliferate sound understanding of the crime through the force. Partners from other agencies provided an introduction to their roles at a tactical advisor training conference in January.
- A toolkit has been developed to improve multi-agency working processes between police and partner agencies. The toolkit includes partner powers and contact details and best practice for information sharing and days of action.
- A new relationship with refugee services and NGOs in Bristol has prompted mutual learning and information leading to a potential investigation.

Avon & Somerset NRM referrals 2017 & 2018

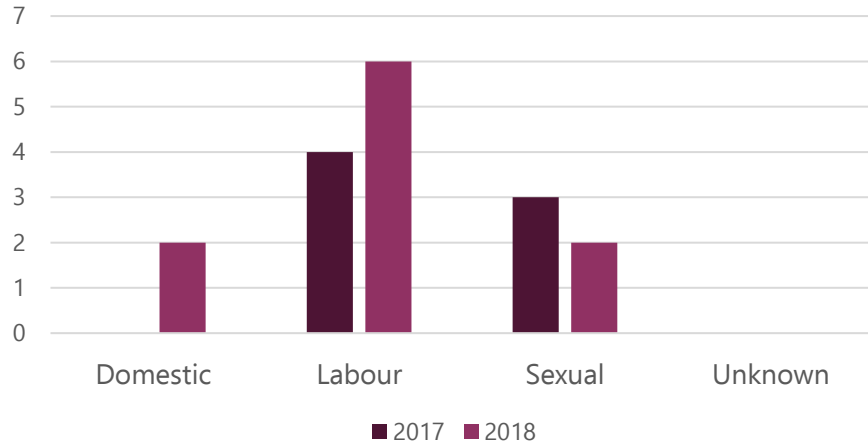


Avon and Somerset continues to see a relatively high level of NRM referrals. There has been a notable rise in labour exploitation referrals, which may be a reflection of increased public awareness in the area; reflected in the figures below.

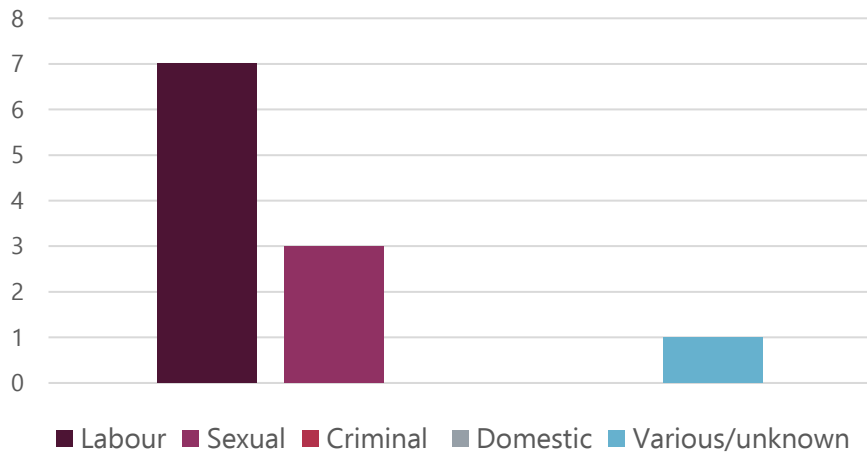
Avon & Somerset MS Helpline cases 2018



Dorset NRM referrals 2017 & 2018



Dorset MS Helpline cases 2018



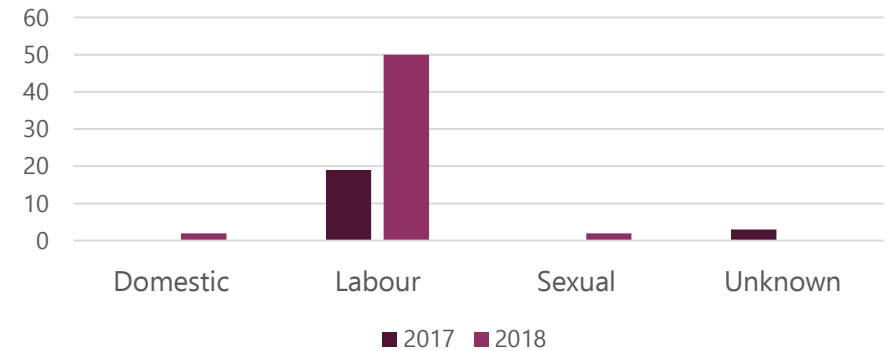
Dorset ASP

- As one of the newer Anti-Slavery Partnerships, Dorset has developed a lot during 2018. The membership of the board has increased significantly and the ASP benefits from strong engagement from new representatives, alongside leadership from the local authority.
- The board has developed a detailed strategy and task plan for 2018/2021 outlining needs and objectives of the partnership including: the development of a problem profile; hosting an anti-slavery day conference; development of reception centres; and monitoring of prosecution rates.
- Dorset has continued to place importance on awareness raising amongst frontline staff. ASP representatives regularly provide training to a high volume of professionals across sectors.
- Following contacts made through the ASP Annual Event, Dorset is leading on an application to Big Lottery to put in place dedicated staff to improve the response in Dorset and Devon & Cornwall. If successful, these roles will be responsible for providing training in the two areas and assisting with the coordination of partnership activity.
- In September 2018 Dorset investigated its first known incident of child trafficking through a language school. Three children from Vietnam had come in to a language school and suddenly disappeared, and were subsequently found in Birmingham, having been trafficked. In conjunction with the Local Authority Private Fostering Team, Dorset ASP are doing some joint safeguarding and Modern Slavery training for the local network of language schools. This will include signs for the schools to look out for that should heighten awareness, and the Dorset ASP are also producing safeguarding leaflets for the children in a variety of languages with helpline numbers on etc.

Devon & Cornwall ASP

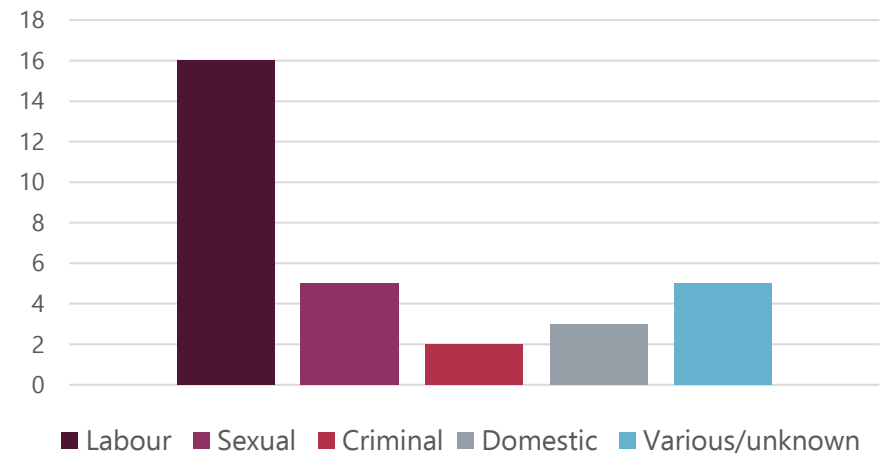
- The Plymouth Anti-Slavery Partnership (PASP) has diversified and as a result has increased community engagement. By engaging with voluntary sector and community organisations such as Shekinah, NSPCC, and churches, the delivery group is now able to harness more volunteer resources for awareness raising.
- Greater volunteer resource allowed PASP to run two public engagement stalls on anti-slavery day; one in Plymouth city centre and the other within Derriford Hospital. The footfall for both ran into the hundreds. The group also linked into the international Walk for Freedom event in Plymouth, handing out more than 200 leaflets.
- The involvement of local churches led to - messages around Modern Slavery were sent out via the church networks to 450 Anglican churches across Devon and 121 churches in Plymouth on Freedom Sunday, including words from the Bishop and a bespoke prayer for victims. This is an audience the partnership would never have reached in the past – accessing a previously unconnected audience.
- In October PASP obtained the first Modern Slavery warrant through Plymouth Magistrate’s Court and utilised ASB powers for the first time to gain a premises closure order to shut down a brothel used in modern slavery.
- Devon & Torbay ASP (DASP) reformed their ASP and MIGWAG (Migrant Workers Action Group) in 2018 - with clear ToR, more robust governance arrangements and improved representation. They have also developed and agreed a 2018-2021 delivery plan.
- DASP has called a task & finish group to develop a process and protocol on temporary housing and support for larger numbers of potential victims. DASP have reached out to GASP for their experience in forming a reception centre.
- They have developed an Exploitation Toolkit for frontline professionals to raise awareness of Modern Slavery and the overlaps with other forms of exploitation, with an eye to increase appropriate safeguarding referrals and to increase partner intelligence submission.

Devon & Cornwall NRM referrals 2017 & 2018

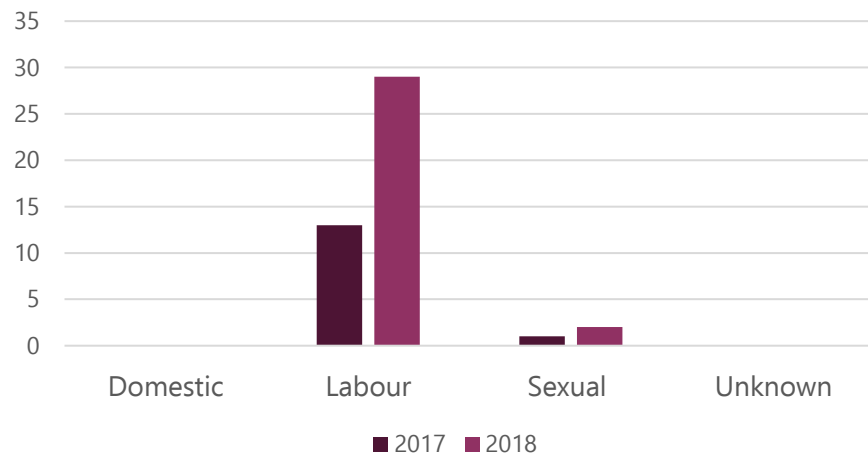


The range of exploitation types identified through the Modern Slavery Helpline suggests that awareness of Modern Slavery is high in Devon & Cornwall.

Devon & Cornwall MS Helpline cases 2018

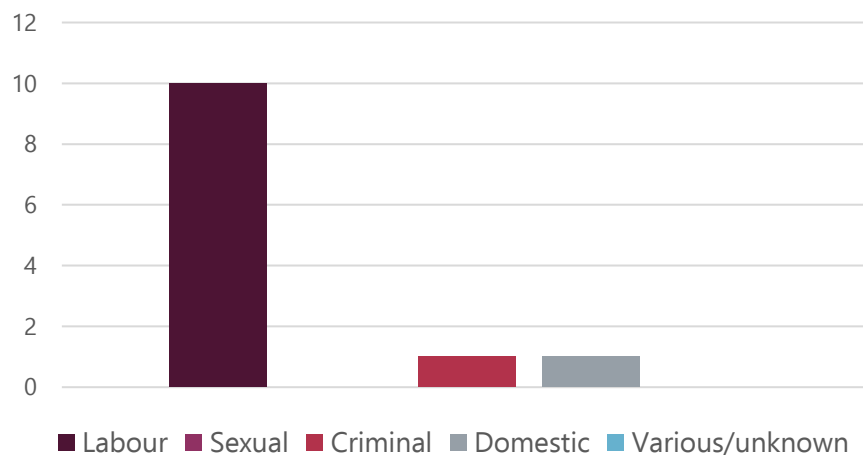


Wiltshire NRM referrals 2017 & 2018



Of the five forces in the South West, Wiltshire was the second most numerous in NRM referrals in proportion to population.

Wiltshire MS Helpline cases 2018



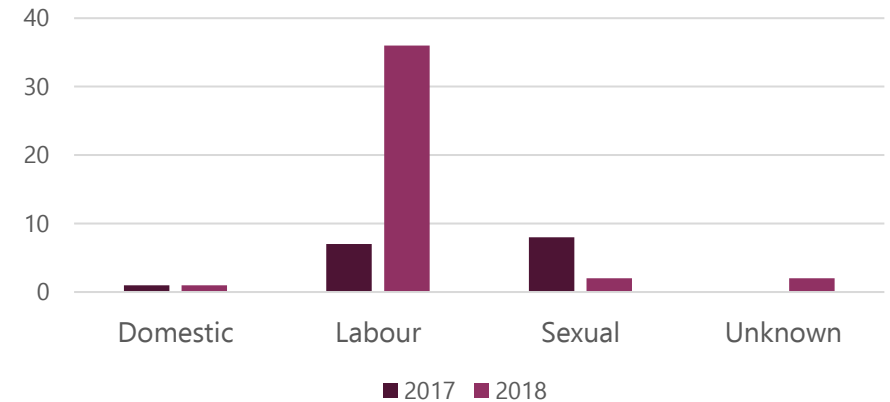
Wiltshire ASP

- Wiltshire has transitioned well between chairs in 2018. The incoming chair coordinated a strategy workshop in February to identify what works well, and who should be represented on the executive board. For the coming year priorities have been set, including information sharing, accountability, elearning, and the formulation of a practitioner event.
- A problem profile has been developed and disseminated to partner organisations.
- As with the other force areas, partners report a move towards multi-agency working as business as usual. In November the partnership celebrated the efficacy of partnership working in a series of positive welfare visits to potential victims of sex trafficking. Five potential victims were identified and offered support, and six arrests made.
- The partnership secured funding from the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner to host a business breakfast in Swindon, welcoming representatives from local private sector organisations. The well-attended conference provided insight into the risk of MSHT to businesses, and Modern Slavery in the UK. The event was picked up by local media, further amplifying the core messages and raising the profile of the SWASP and Modern Slavery more generally in Wiltshire. Businesses have reacted positively to the event, with offers of support and further collaboration with SWASP coming from well-known high street names.
- In Swindon a conference was held to explore county lines and Modern Slavery and the cross over between the two exploitation types. Delegates from more than fifty organisations came together under one roof to discuss the issues around drug gangs and Modern Slavery and how to spot the signs that a vulnerable person is already a victim or becoming one. The event provided insight to over two hundred and fifty representatives.

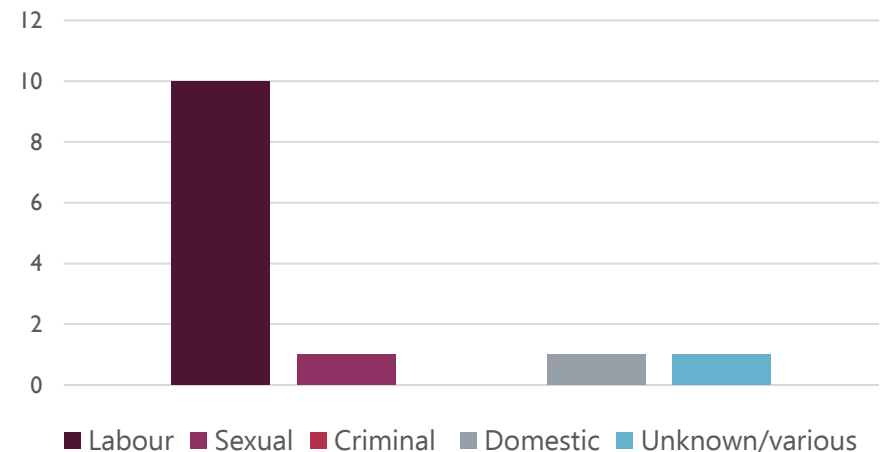
Gloucestershire ASP

- Gloucestershire ASP (GASP) continues to benefit from committed leadership from the county council, and now has a small team within the council pushing GASP activity forward. The quarterly format with guest speakers opening GASP meetings maintains partner engagement and continues to upskill representatives and widen their awareness of MSHT.
- Partnership materials have been created to raise awareness of MSHT in the area, and an elearning tool is under development which will likely significantly increase the number of trained frontline staff in partnership organisations.
- The partnership now has representation from across 25 different organisations, including the Police, Local Authority, business and the voluntary sector, and continues to work to create links. Connections were made with both the Santa Marta Group and the Clewer Initiative in 2018.
- 2018 saw the release of the Gloucestershire Police Serious and Organised Crime, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Local Profile. This was partially formed by responses from a questionnaire circulated to staff in force, and with external agencies. Responses from external agencies indicated a hesitance to share information with the Police. As a result, the partnership has worked to progressively raise awareness of modern slavery amongst staff, including why it is safe and acceptable to share intelligence or make a referral.
- Gloucestershire Constabulary have worked closely with Children's Services in particular to create a new process for assessing risk in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The engagement resulted in further awareness training for Foster Carers and Social Workers, commissioned by Social Care.
- The GASP was successful in its bid for round 3 of the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Fund for Police and Crime Commissioners. The funding was put towards 4 half day training sessions for 120 frontline public sector staff, conducted by Unseen UK.
- To ensure that awareness is raised on a continuing cycle, the partnership are also in the process of developing two eLearning packages for internal and external staff. A Gloucestershire specific infographic has been developed to raise awareness of the crime locally and encourage information sharing.

Gloucestershire NRM referrals 2017 & 2018



Gloucestershire MS Helpline cases 2018



Review of 2018/2019 strategy

Item	Objectives	Progress/outcomes
Regional and local threat assessments	<p>1.1. The activity of the ASP will be planned out ahead of time, with a task calendar in place for the year ahead.</p> <p>1.2. Planning will be informed by the regional and local threat assessments released by the NCA, with the ASP annual plan setting out proposed activity from May 2018 – April 2019 in line with the release of the regional threat assessment.</p>	<p>1.1 Regional ASP activity was planned out in the 2017/18 strategy.</p> <p>1.2 In February 2018 the regional threat assessment identified that domestic servitude is underreported, and local boards were tasked by Sarah Crew to establish ways to increase reporting. Rural exploitation was also highlighted as an area for development. Every area undertook activity to increase intelligence on rural exploitation in January 2019 and A&S have established a T&F group to improve awareness and intelligence in rural areas.</p>
Increased role of the ASP coordinator	<p>2.1 The partnership will expand the role that it has in anti-slavery awareness raising and communications.</p> <p>2.1.1. The coordinator will be responsible for establishing an annual communications plan ahead of time. The coordinator will then liaise with partner’s communication teams throughout the year.</p> <p>2.1.2. The partnership will establish issues that it can speak cohesively on. It is considered that the partnership can have an influential voice, which, if harnessed, could be used to instigate change.</p> <p>2.1.3. The coordinator will take a greater role in maintaining communication between partners throughout the year.</p> <p>2.1.4. The coordinator will produce a regional newsletter updating partners on activity and developments in other areas, between meetings.</p>	<p>2.1 All five forces and partners supported the #telluswhatyousee campaign launched in October 2018.</p> <p>2.1.1 The coordinator consulted with comms’ teams from partner organisations, and it was decided the ASP will be more effective supporting/encouraging campaigns from partner organisations rather than instigating independent projects.</p> <p>2.1.2 The partnership met in January 2019 to discuss partner views on County Lines. The partnership has spoken on the need for an IMSA role.</p> <p>2.1.3 The coordinator has sought to increase contact with local partnership chairs throughout the year, and has attended the sub-peninsula partnership meetings in Devon and in Cornwall.</p> <p>2.1.4 The coordinator has compiled and circulated newsletters throughout the year.</p>

	<p>2.2. The coordinator will establish better links with other anti-slavery partnerships in the UK to bring best practice and learnings to the regional group.</p>	<p>2.2 The coordinator participated in a review process for the National Network of Coordinators Forum and reached out to the facilitator to improve communication between quarterly meetings. The coordinator has compiled a map of partnerships in the UK.</p>
Annual ASP event	<p>2.3. An annual Anti-Slavery Partnership networking event will be held. The aim of the event will be to celebrate the work of the ASP, raise awareness of the partnership and Modern Slavery in the region, and establish relationships with the NGO and business community.</p> <p>2.4. The event will be held in September, marking the end of the ASP year and sitting almost half a year from Modern Slavery week in November.</p>	<p>2.3 The 2018 ASP Annual Event was held in Autumn. It was attended by over 120 partner representatives and stakeholders from across the region, and received positive feedback.</p> <p>2.4 The event was held in November.</p>
Meeting frequency	<p>2.5. The ASP will hold partner meetings three times a year, in January, June and November.</p> <p>2.6. There will be task and finish sub-groups that will meet as required.</p>	<p>2.5 Three regional ASP meetings were held in February, April, and September.</p> <p>2.6 The IMSA task and finish group was held in February. No other T&F groups were required.</p>
Task and finish sub groups	<p>2.7. The ASP will establish task and finish groups to bring tangible benefits that stand outside of, and compliment, other anti-slavery efforts in the South West.</p> <p>2.8. A task and finish group to create posts for Independent Modern Slavery Advisors will meet for the first time in February 2018.</p>	<p>2.7 The IMSA task and finish group was held in February.</p> <p>2.8 As above.</p>