

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**Anti-Slavery
Partnership**

THE PURPOSE OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP IS TO SUPPORT AND ENABLE THE DISCOVERY OF AND RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION THROUGH A VICTIM-CENTRED, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY EFFORT.

Connection, Communication, Coordination

Covering the five force areas in the South West, the Anti-Slavery Partnership has in 2019 been pushing forward anti-slavery activity in the region. The primary value of the partnership continues to be the open communication and connections between our partner agencies. The daily connections between partners facilitated by the ASP enhances our core functions of protecting victims and pursuing perpetrators, ensuring that:

- partners know who to go to for assistance in a referral into the National Referral Mechanism;
- who to direct pivotal pieces of information to;
- who to contact to get expert advice; and
- which partner agencies to draw upon for operational support.

The partnership acts as a key conduit for sector information to be transmitted: emerging trends and best practice is communicated around the region between local partnerships; changes in legislation and process are cascaded out through our network down to frontline staff; and the regional board provides direction for the South West, and data on how MSHT is operating in the region.

The collaboration of partner agencies proliferates the means we have to disrupt exploitative activity and the tools we have to provide justice to victims. New partners are regularly brought into the partnership, and we are pleased to have introduced statutory agencies such as Border Force and the British Transport Police, as well as non-governmental organisations who regularly encounter potential victims, such as Marie Stopes. The ASP can assist new partners to build up their response to Modern Slavery, and every new agency involved in the partnership provides a new avenue to collect intelligence and/or method to disturb trafficking.

Just as connectivity around the region benefits each partner agency, national connections improve our collective response. The ASP coordinator regularly attends the National Network of Coordinator's Forum to keep abreast of national developments and share good practice from other areas of the UK. In May we welcomed the Independent Anti-Slavery commissioner, to the regional Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting in Portishead. Dame Sara spoke on her objectives for the UK's response to Modern Slavery and heard from the chairs of our local partnerships about the impact we are having locally.

These are essential functions that the ASP fulfils, but the local partnerships also strive to produce innovative added-value work to progress our response. The Anti-Slavery Partnership is not a their daily duties. Despite this, work has been done to raise awareness of MSHT, undertake public sector supply chain analysis, develop new information sharing tools, train strategically placed groups, and numerous other projects that are pushing this area of work forward.

"Modern slavery is complex and frequently linked to other forms of crime. Intelligence gathering is much more than a job for the police and relies on agencies across the public sector working together and ensuring that their staff know how to spot the signs"

Peter Bungard, Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council
Chair of Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership

Education

Unseen's outreach team joined Gloucestershire's Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner and faith leaders to speak at the Gloucestershire ASP Anti-Slavery Day awareness event.



Awareness raising continues to be a key aim of the Anti-Slavery Partnership – with the public, private businesses, and amongst staff from our partner agencies. We know that we rely on members of the public and colleagues to notify us of key pieces of information and report their concerns, and we upskill them to spot the signs of exploitation and develop effective reporting mechanisms.

To be most effective partners amplify each other's communications and awareness campaigns, and in 2019 we supported the Modern Slavery Helpline Homelessness campaign, the Modern Slavery Helpline Appeal, and the Home Office 'Hidden in Plain Sight' across social media platforms, amongst many others

Partners such as a the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority will routinely educate business owners to ensure that they are compliant with health and safety standards and workers' rights, and prevent exploitation. Similarly, anti-trafficking charity Unseen provides consultation and monitoring services to corporates through their Business Services, training, the Helpline Business Portal and their continuous improvement scheme, Back2Source.



AVON & SOMERSET

Faith mobilisation

In 2019 the Avon & Somerset ASP assisted in the design of a project working with The Clewer Initiative to map out hand car wash sites in Bristol. Faith networks are important partners able to mobilise awareness amongst the public about Modern Slavery, and spot the signs of exploitation amongst vulnerable groups.

Engaging third sector

The Avon & Somerset ASP was also pleased to make closer links with third sector organisations. Work between Avon & Somerset Police and refugee NGOs in Bristol has established closer community engagement, enabling local police to provide support and establish pathways for information sharing to safeguard vulnerable groups.

Multi-agency toolkit

A problem profiling toolkit has been produced and circulated to partner agencies, with information about Modern Slavery, statutory duties, and the processes for multi-agency days of action. This includes details of key partner agencies and relevant contacts.

Education

The ASP has in 2019 provided input to several forums to raise awareness amongst key stakeholder groups. In January the ASP was invited to speak at an event for medical students at the University of Bristol. In October Curo Housing Group invited the ASP coordinator to upskill its staff to recognise potential Modern Slavery.

Educating those who may come into contact with potential victims of Modern Slavery continues to be a area of priority for the partnership in Avon & Somerset. The ASP has engaged the Rural Crime Forum to highlight the risk of exploitation occurring in rural parts of Avon & Somerset. Representatives from the ASP were also invited speak to global parliamentarians to showcase the success of the ASP model at a Commonwealth Association event hosted by Bristol City Council.

Civil orders

Avon & Somerset has led in the South West in the use of civil orders to disrupt Modern Slavery activity. Slavery & Trafficking Risk Orders (STRO) and Slavery & Trafficking Prevention Orders (STPO) are recognised nationally as best practice in halting exploitative practices where criminal prosecutions are not possible. The development of these tools has diversified the means by which partners have to tackle slavery and trafficking.



DEVON & TORBAY

In 2019 the Devon & Torbay partnership has become an active member of the regional network.

Pathways

Recognising the importance of frontline awareness, DASP have contributed to the development of the Preventing Exploitation Toolkit for Devon. The toolkit is a central point for the public and professionals to access information about Modern Slavery and seek guidance.

Devon & Cornwall have also developed an online soft reporting mechanism to formalise information sharing pathways, and has processes in place to cascade intelligence requirements out to frontline staff in public sector and not-for-profit organisations.

Success story

Four men who treated a group of Vietnamese people like 'cattle' have been jailed for a total of 17 years. The men were all sentenced at Truro Crown Court on Monday 24 February, for their part in smuggling 29 Vietnamese immigrants into Britain via a 42ft yacht before being crammed into the back of a van. Following a trial at Truro Crown Court, three men were found guilty and were each sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison. All three men pleaded guilty prior to the trial to Section 25 of the Immigration Act – assisting unlawful immigration to a member state.

Emergency response planning

In Spring, Devon & Torbay established a task and finish group to produce thorough guidance on partner responsibilities in the event of significant numbers of potential victims requiring assistance. This emergency protocol document will be published in Summer 2020, and will ensure that partners respond in a joined-up and collaborative manner to most effectively safeguard potential victims.

Conference

In January, Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence' scheme held a training event for auditors to educate them - and participating organisations - about Modern Slavery, and how to spot the signs. The conference provided speakers from the Regional Organised Crime Unit, Unseen, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and Devon County Council. The scheme also produced [an awareness video](#) from the event to upskill a wider audience.



DORSET

Training

Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership continues to provide training to relevant groups throughout the year. Funding was secured through Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner to upskill key groups who are well positioned to identify exploitation. Haulers, taxi drivers, hotels, and university accommodation services will be engaged and taught how to spot and report Modern Slavery in their area of business. It is unfortunate that Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership was unable to secure funding through the Big Lottery to put in place a partnership coordinator and trainer, however the aspiration to pursue this element of partnership work continues.

Governance

Significant work was done internally for the partnership reviewing terms of reference, implementing a strategy and task plan, and the creation of an information sharing agreement. This has allowed a quarterly intelligence report to be shared with partners to better inform partnership work and individual partner agency activity.

Anti-Slavery Day

On Anti-Slavery Day the partnership supported the Bournemouth Walk For Freedom, an awareness event to raise the profile of Modern Slavery amongst the general public in Dorset. Activists journeyed through the city before arriving at a venue to hear speakers

Engaging stakeholders

DASP have also worked to engage key stakeholders to ensure they are safeguarding vulnerable people. In 2019 they identified that staff from language schools required assistance to prevent human trafficking through their establishments, and worked with them to establish reporting mechanisms and encourage information sharing.



SWINDON & WILTSHIRE

Governance

The Swindon & Wiltshire partnership progressed significantly under the direction of chair Supt Jem Carter in 2019. Partners gathered in February 2019 in a workshop to identify priorities, gaps in provision, and challenges that partner organisations face. As a result the partnership put a robust activity plan in place.

National Referral Mechanism submissions rose significantly, with Wiltshire performing strongly in referrals per population in the South West. This is partly due to successful multi-agency operations, working in partnership with the Regional Organised Crime Unit.

Information sharing

Following example set by Devon & Cornwall, Wiltshire has also launched a soft reporting mechanism for partners to submit intelligence about exploitation online.

The sharing of intelligence requirements and a clear means of sharing information is key to successful partnership.

Sexual Exploitation

Funding was also secured to hold an event on sexual exploitation in January 2020. Despite its rural demographic, Wiltshire has seen several successful Modern Slavery operations to safeguard women in the sex industry. The multi-agency event brought partner agencies together to explore how they can improve their joined up response and a victim testimonial spoke to the importance of focus in this area.



Business engagement

Recognising the important role that private business plays in preventing and identifying Modern Slavery SWASP successfully applied for funding to hold a Business Breakfast in Swindon, inviting key business representatives to engage with the partnership and anti-slavery activity. A large high street bank has engaged with the ASP as a result.

The ASP coordinator joined Supt Jem Carter, Wiltshire PCC Angus McPherson and Shayne Tyler from Fresca Group at the SWASP Business Breakfast event in March 2019.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Educating the public

GASP marked National Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October with its first public event. Representatives from the local community as well as partner agencies, faith groups, voluntary sector and others attended to find out more about the GASP and modern slavery in Gloucestershire.

Schools

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner successfully won another bid from the Modern Slavery Transformation Fund to commission the theatre group Alter Ego to put on an interactive performance on people's experiences of modern slavery in schools in Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean for 230 pupils in all.

Training

In 2019, 5 half-day training sessions for 180 frontline public sector staff across the county, were conducted by anti-slavery charities, Unseen and Hope for Justice. Representatives from the GASP have facilitated sessions for several agencies and local groups, including Councillors, a Cirencester-based women's rights group, safeguarding teams, and delivered an assembly to a Gloucester Islamic girls' school.

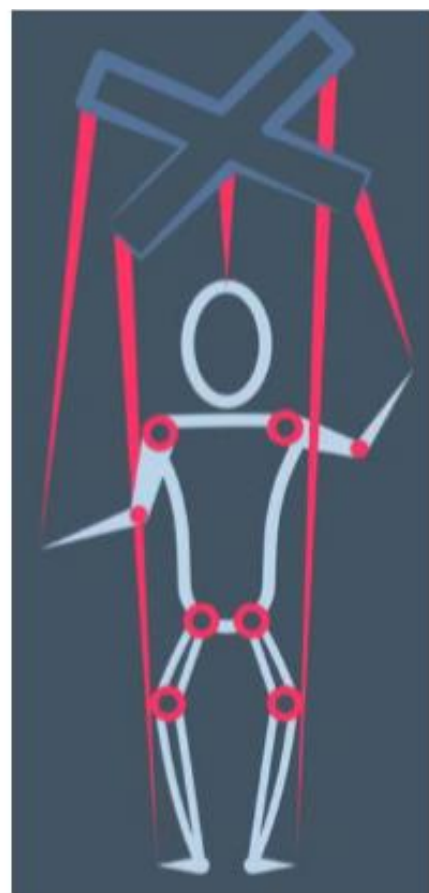
Partner organisations on the GASP continue their efforts to train their staff members on their role in tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. Campaigns to increase awareness have taken place across partner agencies for both staff and service users. The County Council have appointed named modern slavery leads in adults' and children's safeguarding and a number of councils have signed the Co-operative Charter against Modern Slavery.

Infographic campaign

To raise the profile of MSHT in Gloucestershire, GASP have produced an infographic using data from the National Crime Agency on referrals of victims of modern slavery in Gloucestershire in 2018. This was supported by postcards and posters displayed in offices, libraries, fire stations taxi waiting rooms, and town and parish councils.

Elearning

GASP launched Elearning modules on a county-wide platform for professionals and members of the public to find out more about modern slavery. This provides an introduction on the crime, the common indicators and explains what to do if you have any suspicions.



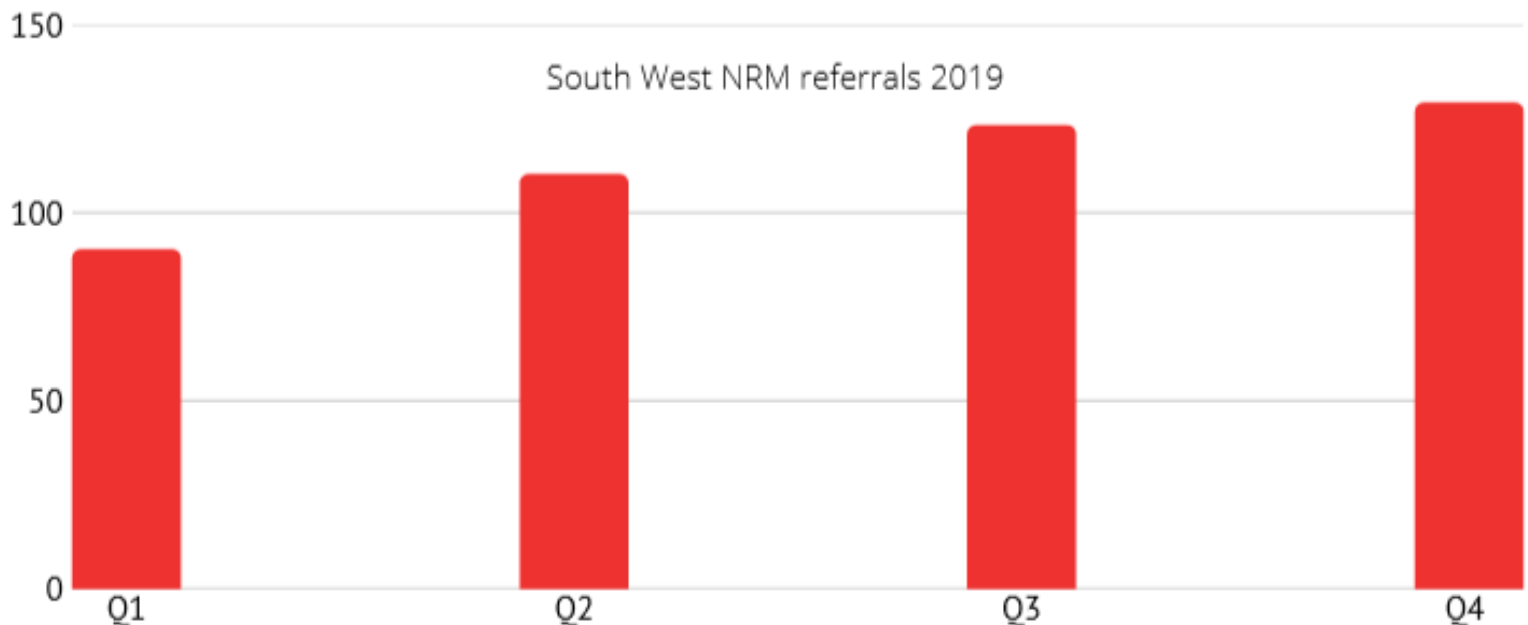
NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM

There was a 46% increase in NRM referrals in the South West in 2019. Increased referrals into the NRM reflect greater partner awareness of Modern Slavery and increased operational activity.



MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE

Referrals to partner agencies through the Modern Slavery Helpline indicate that awareness of Modern Slavery is growing in the South West.



The Anti-Slavery Partnership is made possible through the financial contribution of partner agencies. We give special thanks to the following agencies for their commitment to the Anti-Slavery Partnership in 2019.

Avon & Somerset Police
Devon & Cornwall Police
Dorset Police
Gloucestershire Constabulary
Wiltshire Police
NHS England
Bristol City Council
Somerset County Council
Gloucestershire County Council

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