

Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership

A meeting of Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership was held on Wednesday, 30th September, 2020.

Present: Emma Champley (Chair), Andy Copland, Steve Johnson, Julie Wilson, Karen Grundy, Alan Glew, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Susan Symmonds,

Officers: Michael Henderson, Calum Tittley

Also in attendance: Cllr Jim Beall, Ali Clay,

Apologies: Ann Workman, Reuben Kench, Neil Russell, Marc Stephenson, Sarah Bowman - Abouna, Natasha Judge,

AHP Declarations of Interest

1/20

There were no declarations of interest.

AHP Health and Wellbeing Board update

2/20

Councillor Jim Beall, Chair of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board was present to describe the Board's current position.

The Chair of the Board acknowledge the work that all Partners had undertaken and continued to, in response to the Covid pandemic. He referred to the numerous examples of the community pulling together, organisations being flexible about their boundaries and role; services adding capacity, the work of the voluntary sector and community hub activity etc. He highlighted the need to consider how we could harness all that positive working, going forward. He placed his thanks on record to the Partnership and highlighted a recently agreed motion to Council, which had recorded the Council's profound gratitude to frontline workers which included all partner organisations.

The Partnership noted that the Board had not met, as a Committee, since February, however, it would next meet later today (30 September 2020). The Board had held two workshop sessions, in June and July, where it had looked to reset its agenda, in the light of the impact of Covid.

The Chair explained that, at the workshop sessions, the Board's members had developed a Priority Action Plan and would be considering this further, at its meeting, today. He highlighted that Mental Health was included in Plan, which was of particular interest to this Partnership, Partnership members were given the opportunity of feeding into the ongoing process the Board was undertaking, via their organisations leads on the Board, the Partnership Chair, or directly to him.

The current situation with regards to Covid was briefly discussed and the rising levels of positive cases. The Chair mentioned the likelihood of more local work; in particular, a local contact tracing system. which may need the assistance of other agencies.

AHP Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2020

3/20

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

**AHP
4/20**

JSNA - Diet and Nutrition

Queried if there had been any engagement with supermarkets around healthy food campaigns. This would be raised with report author, ahead of consideration by the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

**AHP
5/20**

A way out - Update

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

**AHP
6/20**

Changing Landscape of Exploitation

The Partnership received a presentation relating to the changing landscape of exploitation. The presentation also included a number of videos which members viewed on their phones or other device, as directed by the presenter.

The presentation aimed to provide:

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

Members noted that:

- It was estimated that there were over 40 million people, worldwide, who were victims of slavery
- It was estimated that over 136,000 people in the UK were victims of slavery
- In 2019 10,627 potential victims were identified, a 52% rise on the previous year.

Members viewed the first video, produced by the Home Office and provided an introduction into the different forms of exploitation. 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking – It's Closer than you think.

'https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv1H_fAoOG4

Details of definitions and different types of modern slavery and exploitation were provided.

In terms of human trafficking it was noted that this involved an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through the use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them. It took

various forms and affected people of all ages, gender and races, with many victims targeted because of existing vulnerabilities including, learning disability, mental health problems and homelessness. There was a myth that victims had to be transported across a border to be trafficked. This was untrue and trafficking could, and did, occur at a very local level.

The Partnership then viewed two videos produced by Kent Police which formed part of its campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSCvCcPD_-Y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkSU5r9rdUY>

Members discussed County Lines and Cuckooing which were two particular types of exploitation, which the Council and partners were trying to respond to.

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

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

Members were directed to a video which had been compiled by a serving Police Officer and provided a focus on cuckooing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-ycrmPLjnE>

Locally, it was noted that the main form of criminal exploitation in Cleveland continued to be foreign nationals being forced into cannabis cultivation. Operations relating to cannabis farms identified victims as foreign nationals who had been trafficked into the UK for the purpose of criminal exploitation, employed as gardeners.

It was suggested that, across the Tees Valley, there were around 10 organised crime groups, operating; preying on vulnerable people. All partners needed to be vigilant.

The Partnership noted some of the signs that might suggest someone was a victim of modern slavery:

- Poor living conditions, cramped, dirty, overcrowded.
- Acting as if under instruction or someone speaking on their behalf
- Unsure of their own address and no access to Passport or identity documents
- Isolated with little or no free contact with family or friends and fearful of strangers

The exploitation was reported in the media, but it was not adequate, so there was a lack of awareness.

Members noted the many challenges associated with interacting with and helping those affected.

Members were advised of the National Referral Mechanism which was a process whereby 'first responders', such as local authorities, could submit referrals to the 'competent authority' which was currently the National Crime Agency and the Home Office. Upon receipt of the referral, they would then decide whether the referral should be granted a positive grounds decision.

The Partnership was informed of work on Teesside:

- Anti-Slavery Network formed in February 2018.
- Local Victim Care Pathway established
- 8-point checklist tool developed for practitioners.
- Police have renamed their Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing & Trafficked (VEMT) department in line with the changing complexity of exploitation. The Complex Exploitation Team (CET) had now been established.
- Sub-group currently looking at a better accommodation offer for victims of Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking with better wrap around support.

Discussion

- Members agreed that the presentation was extremely thought provoking and should be provided to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults' Board.
- Reference was made to domestic abuse cases where victims could ring the police and in circumstances where a perpetrator was nearby, they could alert the operator by pressing specified keys. It was suggested that this could be implemented for modern slavery cases. It was recognised that victims were likely to have great difficulty reporting their situation, in a safe way. This would be progressed through the Anti-Slavery Network. - Calum Titley.
- In terms of children to adult transition, it was explained that work was being undertaken, looking at how services could link up better. One proposal, that would be implemented, was to have adult representation on the VEMT Practitioner Group, where there were discussions about the number of children at high risk of exploitation. The adult representative and team would be able to track the children and be aware of issues when that person would, potentially, transition into Adult Services and be recognised as a vulnerable adult.
- It was noted that reciprocal arrangements existed with other areas in terms of housing provision for safeguarding vulnerable individuals.
- Organised crime gangs were very resourceful and had some understanding of local support services. They would often focus on families that had no professional input. Vigilance was key.

Resolved that:

- 1.the presentation and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- 2.the presentation be provided to the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults' Board.

AHP Forward Plan

7/20

The Forward Plan was noted.

It was explained that meetings of the Partnership would be moving to Tuesdays, at 10am.

Items for the meeting on 24th November 2020 had been identified, including those deferred from this meeting, however, scheduling of identified items was necessary for meetings thereafter. This would be undertaken in consultation with the Chair.