



Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

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Force Profile

- ▶ We recognise that there are substantial knowledge gaps about how MS&HT looks in Cleveland.
 - ▶ In line with the National Picture NRM referrals are low but are increasing.
 - ▶ The true extent of this criminality remains unclear.
 - ▶ Eight organised crime groups involved in trafficking have been identified in Cleveland.
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Cleveland Investigations

- ▶ NRM referrals are linked to adult labour exploitation associated with nail bars, car washes and fast food establishments.
 - ▶ Trafficked Vietnamese individuals to tend cannabis farms.
 - ▶ Intelligence to suggest trafficking for sexual exploitation is occurring in Cleveland.
 - ▶ Kurdish Males sexual assaulting and trafficking vulnerable females across force boundaries.
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Importance of Victim Care Pathway

- ▶ To have an agreed pathway which professionals can instigate so we can ensure the best possible initial care for those victims/survivors of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

CASE STUDY

Two Vietnamese males who were located in a cannabis farm by police.

Both males were arrested on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis.


Electricity Board were called to make the premises safe.

Both males were interviewed and claimed statutory defence – Section 45


Section 45

- ▶ The Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides a statutory defence for victims of child trafficking and slavery accused of certain offences – it introduces a defence for victims who are compelled to commit criminal offences.

Issues/difficulties

- ▶ Both males claimed to be under the age of 18. An Age assessment was requested which wasn't able to be completed that day.
 - ▶ Both males were accommodated in a property in Middlesbrough with another male from South Asia who was unknown to them.
 - ▶ The house was not monitored or staffed.
 - ▶ Both males were collected during the night by unknown males, transported to Northumbria and believed to be put back into the trafficking system.
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- ▶ The Accommodation where the two males were placed was unsuitable.
 - ▶ Neither had been age assessed.
 - ▶ No responsible person who could monitor and report if they left the premises.
 - ▶ They were reported missing.
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Domestic Servitude Victim

- ▶ Victim attended Police station and disclosed offences of Modern Slavery
- ▶ Victim entered into the NRM system
- ▶ Accommodation requested to support victim
- ▶ Only available accommodation - Hartington Road
- ▶ Area known for drugs and alcohol issues and persons with their own vulnerabilities.
- ▶ Victim accommodated, however contacted police the following morning as frightened and felt vulnerable

What Victims Need

Victims may be reluctant and feel humiliated. They may be fearful of the police and be concerned about the safety and wellbeing of their family. They may have been threatened and be in fear of what may happen should they report.

They need to feel safe and supported by the agencies around them.

They need to feel confident that we can help.



What do we need to do?

- ▶ Work in partnership to agree and formalise processes to support identified Victims.
 - ▶ Understand the complexities of our Victims.
 - ▶ Understand that in these cases there is no such thing as a “perfect victim”.
 - ▶ Ensure that we share information to identify potential Victims.
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