



BRIEFING

FAO: WEST YORKSHIRE ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP (WYASP) MEMBERS

FROM: Rebecca Hurlock

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National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) Coordinator

DATE: 29/9/2020.

National Crime Agency (NCA) Project Aidant – Child trafficking 5th – 9th October 2020

Summary:

This briefing provides an update for the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) members on the focus for the upcoming Project Aidant which will take place w/c 5th October 2020 for one week.

Background:

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown measures in the UK and globally, the threat of modern slavery and exploitation has dynamically altered and created numerous challenges for law enforcement, local authorities and the third sector to respond and ensure people who would be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse are identified and safeguarded effectively. People working in car washes, nail bars and the hospitality sector have been displaced and many will be seeking to acquire work in other sectors, which may expose them to increased risk of exploitation.

Information:

This initiative is being led by Europol EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) Trafficking in Human Beings priority crime area, with countries across Europe working together. It is intended that this Project Aidant will enhance and develop our knowledge in relation to **child trafficking and exploitation of under 18s** who have been trafficked to and within the UK.



Partners are encouraged to conduct their own activity, including awareness raising, under the following specific objectives:

1. Identify the extent of under 18's who are being trafficked or exploited; to, around, or within the United Kingdom and use a range of disruption interventions in order to safeguard those who are vulnerable.
2. Identify the points of entry to the UK used by the criminals involved, or potential victims, ascertaining whether already established migration routes or criminal flows are being utilised.
3. Establish and confirm to what extent British Citizens under the age of 18 are subject to localised trafficking or exploitation and identify the criminals behind this activity.
4. Identify whether, and to what extent, the UK's child benefits entitlement system and tax credits system is being manipulated to create profit, identifying whether this links into established criminal money flows.
5. Gather intelligence from a variety of sources.
6. Raise awareness of child trafficking amongst local communities and galvanise local partners to undertake coordinated activity.

The aim of these objectives is to fill national, regional and local intelligence gaps in order to improve our response to the modern slavery and human trafficking threat.

In addition to work undertaken independently by each agency, it is anticipated that joint agency work will also take place. Should your agency chose to lead and propose joint work and request the assistance of partners, please communicate your plans as soon as possible. This will allow partners the maximum period of notice and enable them to give all requests the necessary consideration.

The Partnership Intelligence Portal (PIP) is being used widely by partners across West Yorkshire to build the intelligence picture surrounding organised crime, including modern slavery. As members of the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP), you and your organisation are reminded to continue to utilise this platform during Project Aidant to support our response and help identify incidents of child trafficking.

If your organisation is yet to sign up to the Partnership Intelligence Portal, please contact abigail.harper@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

If your organisation conduct any activity during Project Aidant, please inform the West Yorkshire Police Force Precision Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery Team directly by email: humantrafficking@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk