

Our priority

Human trafficking and modern day slavery is a significant threat both within West Yorkshire and nationally. Not only can it have a traumatic impact on its victims, but those involved in human trafficking often have links to other serious organised crime. In 2014 the Home Office estimated that there are between 10,000-13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK. Victims are from all communities and backgrounds – it is a crime which affects men, women and children. Victims are not only trafficked internationally and nationally, but also across the cities and towns of West Yorkshire. Modern slavery takes many forms including forced labour, child slavery, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and has a devastating effect on victims and communities.

How we are going to deliver

Working in partnership is essential to prevent instances of this abuse, and to identify, protect and support its victims. We need to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to understand the nature of the threat, and to provide the right support to its victims. To do this effectively we must:

- Listen and learn from our communities to identify gaps in delivery, areas of vulnerability, and emerging threats. Using our shared experience, help devise quicker and more inclusive responses. **Listening to people.**
- Ensure that our partners and communities are aware of the signs of human trafficking and modern slavery, and that pathways are established and promoted to allow people to report their concerns. **Understanding our communities.**
- Work with our partners to develop strong relationships with the district, regional, and national networks that exist to gather and share information to help identify current and emerging threats. **Working together.**
- Build the existing district and West Yorkshire Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery forums by widening their membership and develop coordinated polices across the county. By building resilience, capability and capacity we will be able to identify vulnerabilities sooner and act to safeguard those at risk. **Preventing and intervening earlier.**
- We will continue to influence and shape national strategies and policies through our engagement with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, National Police Chiefs' Council, National Crime Agency, Gangmasters Licencing Authority, and the Home Office. **Improving our services.**
- Encourage and support initiatives around raising awareness, prevention and victim support. Funding innovative projects where possible through the Safer Communities Fund and the Partnership Executive Group. **Providing resources.**

How we'll know whether we've delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings, through which an in-depth report into Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. In addition to this, we will monitor progress through our Delivery Quarterly process. Specific indicators we will monitor include:

- The number of instances of intelligence from the West Yorkshire Police, partners and the public.
- The number of convictions of offenders in particular use of the Modern Slavery Act.
- Monitor the number of referrals into the National Referral Mechanism.