HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION NEWSLETTER



Issue: October, 2019



Victims Identified on the Rise

For the first six months of 2019 the National Referral Mechanism figures reveal 188 victims have been identified – a 74% increase on the same period last year.

Operation Pack - Tayside November and December 2018

The operation was Police Scotland's response to off-street prostitution, with particular focus on sexual exploitation through human trafficking, operating throughout Scotland. The overarching objective of the enquiry was to safeguard the welfare of those being exploited and to identify and disrupt the activities of those involved in controlled prostitution and human trafficking.

A Chinese female was quickly identified as controlling and operating a number of addresses throughout Scotland for the purpose of prostitution. She advertised adult services on the Vivastreet website and controlled the number of clients, services provided and charged for services, whilst providing vulnerable females with a place to operate from, birth control medication, and transport around the country by rail and bus as well as electricity for the flats.

As a result of the police investigation, four vulnerable females from China and Thailand were removed from properties being used for sexual exploitation and provided with aftercare and support which included referrals to TARA. The accused female was indicted on two counts of human trafficking in Dundee and Perth under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act

2015 and pled guilty to both prior to trial.

Yen Huang, 62, was sentenced to 26 months in prison with the Sheriff saying:

"You pled guilty to serious offences. I have come to the conclusion there's no alternative to a custodial sentence.

"I have to take account of the misery which your actions caused to the complainers and I also take into account your early plea which meant those complainers did not have to give evidence."

After her conviction a Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Order (TEPO) was sought and granted, only the second in Scotland, which places conditions on the female upon her release from prison for a period of 5 years.

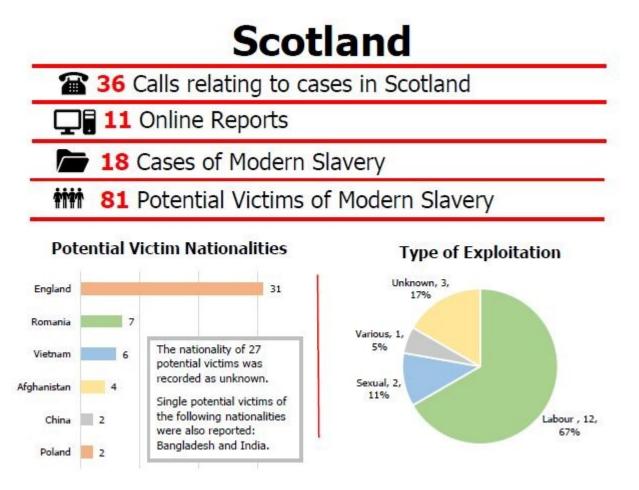
The conditions include informing police of changes to her personal details including; name and residence; restrictions on the number of mobile phones she can use to just one - which the police must be made aware of, restriction to one email account which the Police must be aware of; notification to police of all social media user names; and restrictions on only buying travel tickets for herself or immediate family. There are other conditions which will significantly impact her ability to facilitate further human trafficking offences on her release from prison.

Contact: human.trafficking@gov.scot



Quarter 2 Data from The Modern Slavery Helpline

The Modern Slavery Helpline is an independent UK-wide helpline which is free and confidential. The below data referrals to calls and reports relating to Scotland in the period between April to June – 2019



Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy Review

Public survey on Scotland's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy

This public survey is open to anyone in Scotland and seeks views as part of the Scottish Government's review of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

Section one contains general questions about the approach to trafficking and exploitation in Scotland which are intended for all respondents.

Section two contains more detailed questions which are likely to be of more interest to those working in areas related to trafficking, or who have a strong interest in the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy.

All questions are optional so please feel free to answer any questions that you have an opinion on. You can access the survey by following the link below.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5DKLFPG

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Vulnerable Young Person's Multi-agency Forum—West Dunbartonshire

West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership has an established strategic vulnerable young person's multi-agency forum (VYP MAF) for 14-21 year olds, who are vulnerable in relation to mental health, homelessness, isolation, addiction issues. sexual or financial exploitation and trafficking.

The forum includes professionals from a wide range of services, including social work, Skills Development Scotland, Police Scotland, CAMHS, adult mental health, adult and youth addiction teams, housing and staff from supported accommodation units.

The VYP MAF provides a multi-agency "thinking together" opportunity to facilitate planning in respect of both individual and groups of young people, ensuring that multi-agency and cross service consultation and cooperation in respect of their individual and generic needs is in place.

In relation to young people identified as having been trafficked, a social worker is immediately identified from the over 12's children and families team, and a multiagency vulnerable young person's case discussion convened to ensure all relevant agencies are working together to develop a plan specific to the young person.

This initial multi-agency aspect is key to a successful outcome, with the most immediate issue normally being their accommodation needs.

In West Dunbartonshire we have utilised a range of placements, including local children's units, supported accommodation, and CATCH Scotland all to a high degree of success.

In the Spotlight:

A Group based-Psychological Intervention to Promote Recovery for Victims of Trafficking in Scotland.

The Anchor – NHS GG&C Psychological Trauma Service (GPTS) is a specialist mental health service which offers assessment and psychologically informed interventions to victims of trafficking in Scotland.

The Safe Place to Cope group was developed in response to our commitment to meeting the mental health needs of trafficked individuals with moderatesevere mental health problems stemming from complex trauma who have been trafficked for the purposes of forced-labour or sexual exploitation.

Victims of trafficking referred to GPTS typically may present with a range of difficulties that can be understood within the framework of complex PTSD. These may include, core symptoms of PTSD (reexperiencing, avoidance/ numbing and hyperarousal), emotion regulation difficulties, alterations in attention and memory capacity (e.g. dissociation), difficulties establishing/ maintaining relationships, adversely altered beliefs about the world, self and others and somatic distress or disorganisation (Cloitre et al, 2012). Many clients also have difficulties with depression. Clients who are trafficked are frequently separated from family members including chil-



dren, experience social and cultural isolation, a loss of social role, and are vulnerable to re-victimisation. Individuals experience the added challenge of having to navigate the NRM process and cope with the threat posed by a negative conclusive grounds decision and deportation (Silove, Carswell). Common feelings reported by clients are fear, guilt, anger, shame, sadness and hopelessness. Self-harm and suicidality also feature.

Best practice (MATRIX 2015) and expert consensus quidelines (ISTSS, 2012) advise that individuals with clinically significant psychological distress stemming from the experience of cumulative trauma receive psychological therapy delivered in 3 phases. ISTSS advise that phase 1 therapy should: "introduce psychoeducation about the effects of trauma" as it relates to the individual's development, life course, worldview, relationships, and symptoms. Interventions in this phase should focus on emotion regulation skills, stress management, social and relational skills building, and cognitive restructuring. The Safe Place to Cope group is a "phase one" group with the primary aim of promoting skills to

enable victims of trafficking to manage distress and trauma symptoms following cumulative trauma. There is also evidence (Jobson 2008) that a sense of alienation is a significant factor maintaining PTSD in individuals who come from collectivist "inter-dependent" cultures and due to this the group also focuses on restoring social role.

Overall, the group is experienced as a 'safe place' which engenders hope and emphasises the possibility that life can continue to move towards what is valued and held to be important. This narrative is important in maintaining motivation to learn and use new skills in the face of real crises and ongoing external threat.

Service user feedback on most helpful aspects of the group:

"Now I can calm myself when I don't feel safe'

"The most helpful aspect has been restoring hope, feelings of confidence, safety and tips on taking the fear away"

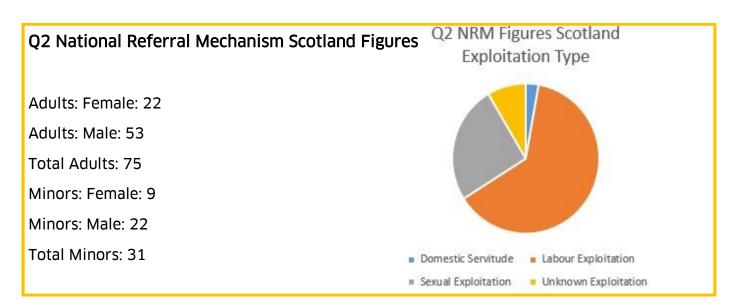
"When I am surrounded by other people I am not scared anymore and I believe that this city is a safe place for me"

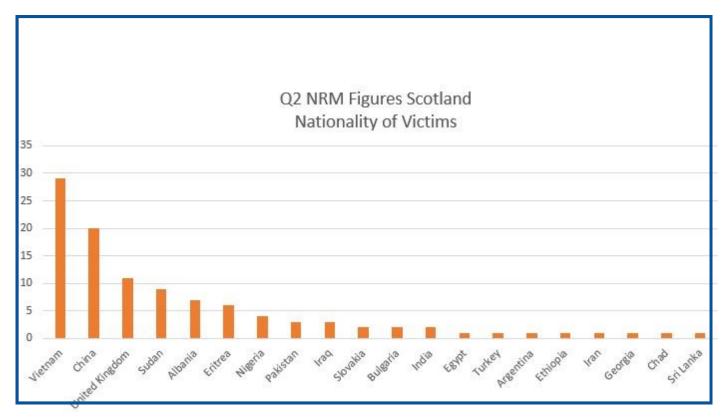
"I have learned to speak to people without the need to tell them about my past experiences"

"I often use the mindfulness and grounding practice and know that if I sit still these feelings pass"

NRM Figures - Q2

The information below shows the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) from the 1 April to 30 June 2019 (Quarter 2) in Scotland.





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