

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15th September 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Cheshire Anti-Slavery Strategic Partnership

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of the work being undertaken to ensure a Pan-Cheshire response to the issue of Modern Day Slavery.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

2.1 The report be noted; and

2.2 The Board consider the information presented and the attached protocol (appendix 1) ,raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced requirements for law enforcement agencies, working in partnership with other agencies, to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice those engaged in human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced labour. It also introduced a range of measures to enhance the protection of victims.

3.2 The Act is designed to combat [modern slavery](#) in the UK and consolidates previous offences relating to [trafficking](#) and slavery. The act extends to England and Wales, and received Royal Assent and became law on 26 March 2015.

3.3 In 2018 the Government commissioned an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act. As part of its response to the 80 recommendations, a further consultation on Transparency in Supply Chains has been undertaken, of which the final outcomes may change statutory obligations. As it stands now, the Government hasn't refreshed their timescale for completion, which has been delayed and the outcome of the review is as yet unknown.

- 3.4 Since 2016, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, there has been, working across Cheshire an Anti-Slavery Network, bringing together key Partners. Supported by an Independent Chair, who is a well-respected expert in the field, this network has worked towards developing training packages, ensuring clear victim pathways, and sharing best practice. This has ensured a consistent approach across Cheshire to support vulnerable victims.
- 3.5 In late 2019 it was agreed that the four local authorities in the Cheshire Sub-Region and the Police and Crime Commissioner would fund the Cheshire Anti-Slavery Network (CASN) for two years with a joint funding pot of a one off contribution of £4,000 each, totalling £20,000. Whilst this is a considerable reduction in funding than previously available, with some changes, and an additional offer of in-kind support from the Chester Diocese, it will be possible to continue with the Network.

4.0 Way Forward

- 4.1 The current governance structure has the modern day slavery agenda sitting under the Harmful Practices Sub-Group of the Pan Cheshire Protecting Vulnerable People Board.
- 4.2 Following a review of this sub-group it's been suggested that it should be a 12 month task and finish group, working towards ensuring other more traditional Harmful Practices (such as Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and FGM) are embedded across other groups. It was felt that due to the low numbers, as highlighted by data, this was a better use of resources as opposed to a dedicated group.
- 4.3 With that in mind, a new strategic partnership has been formed which will focus solely on Modern Day Slavery, which will provide direction and scrutiny for the operational Network. This Cheshire Anti-Slavery Strategic Partnership (CASSP) will report to the PVP Board, and be chaired by the Chief Executive of Halton who is currently the Chair of the PVP Board.
- 4.4 The joint funders and the Independent Chair have agreed the work plan highlighted below, which provides details on role, responsibilities and suggested outcomes.

Outcome	Est Comp Date	Responsible Officer/organisation(s)	Success Criteria
Quarterly CASN meetings	Ongoing	CASN Chair with support from Chester Diocese, and CASN Members	Meetings held and minutes shared with PVP Board Relationship development Sharing best practice Consistent messages Established rota for meeting management
Monthly Briefing document	Ongoing	CASN Chair and Chester Diocese	Monthly email to members
Review of the Pan Cheshire Strategy and Action Plan	Ongoing	CASN Members	CASN members to feed into review Draft Strategy & Action Plan to be presented and agreed by Cheshire PVP Board
Development of business forum	Ongoing	CASN Chair and members	Formal business forum in place with a nominated representative at the CASN
Development of a Pan Cheshire Code of Conduct	Sept 2020	CASN Chair and members	Draft Code to be presented and agreed by Cheshire PVP Board
Dedicated victim pathway	Sept 2020	CASN Chair and members	Draft Pan-Cheshire Victim Pathway agreed by PVP Board
Consistent training materials	Ongoing	CASN Chair and associated members	Programme of training sessions, across Partner organisations, to be agreed by CASN members Materials to be updated in line with recommendations from Parliamentary review

5.0 FINANCIAL UPDATE

No significant impacts within the quarter from a financial perspective.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.6 RISK ANALYSIS

None

6.7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background