

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer:

Subject: Modern slavery training and awareness raising with key partners

Type of decision:			
Deputy Mayor's decision	x	Chief Officer's decision	

In all case this will need to be approved by the Assistant Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

The decision is that: Funding totalling £38,000 will be allocated to Programme Challenger to commission training on trafficking and modern slavery for key partners, particularly those working in the adult safeguarding, health and criminal justice sectors. The funding will be allocated across the three financial years 2018/19 (£18,000), 2019/20 (£10,000) and 2020/21 (£10,000) to deliver training sessions aimed at these sectors, with the funds used to book venues and refreshments, and for additional training facilitators to support Challenger staff where necessary.

Since the publication of the Modern Slavery Act (2015) and the formation of Greater Manchester's modern slavery coordination unit within Programme Challenger, a lot of work has been undertaken in GM to raise awareness of modern slavery and to educate professionals working across a variety of sectors about how to spot the signs of modern slavery and the entitlements of victims under the modern slavery act in respect of support and protection.

This education and awareness raising has also focused on first responders' role in making referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and their Duty To Notify (DTN) the Home Office / NCA should they suspect trafficking and/or modern slavery. As a result of this awareness raising and education, the numbers of NRMs and DTNs has risen consistently year-on-year since 2015. However, it is clear from a number of cases with which Challenger is involved and from discussions with charities working in this field and their service users that victims of trafficking and modern slavery are often finding it difficult to access services to which they're entitled (particularly housing, benefits, social services and their health needs, including mental health services) and that contact with statutory services can often be difficult and frustrating, particularly when professionals don't understand the impact of slavery and trafficking on a victim.

In 2017, the charity Stop the Traffik and the London region of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) delivered six, one-day modern slavery training sessions, with 30 attendees at each, mainly from local authority adult safeguarding teams, but also from health and criminal justice organisations too. Using a 'train-the-trainer' approach, this training was cascaded from the original cohort of 180 professionals to almost 10,000 professionals within a year. Furthermore, the training led to the development of an agreed London adult safeguarding pathway for modern slavery and the identification of Single Points of Contact in each London local authority adult services directorate.

This funding would enable Programme Challenger to undertake a similar training exercise with key partners across the ten districts of Greater Manchester, reaching out to a large number of relevant professionals across the conurbation. A directory will be produced comprising contact details of everyone that has received the training, which will be held by local safeguarding adult boards and be available to view within each district so that professionals know where to seek modern slavery advice within their organisation and to request training sessions for their team. This funding will therefore create a network of professionals with a thorough understanding of modern slavery and create a more sustainable approach to sharing knowledge than the current approach which relies heavily on a relatively small group of professionals within the modern slavery coordination unit. The majority of training will take place in year 1, with additional sessions provided in years 2 and 3 to refresh the knowledge of professionals and to provide information about changes to legislation, guidance and practice.

The impact of the training will be recorded and evaluated, with a particular focus on the extent to which the training has been cascaded. Challenger will work closely with LSAB Chairs and business managers to ensure there is local governance and oversight of this process. North West ADASS has committed to providing funding and will allocate staff time to assist with this work.

The reasons for the decision are:

It is imperative that victims of trafficking and modern slavery receive a good level of support from key partners if they are to remain safe and free from further abuse and exploitation. There is a significant body of research which demonstrates that without appropriate support, victims of trafficking and modern slavery are very often re-trafficked as victims often feel it is their only option if they are unable to access housing and/or benefit support. Many victims of trafficking become homeless without appropriate support and a significant number have drug / alcohol dependency or mental health needs. It is therefore crucial that the system response to working with these

very vulnerable adults is well informed, understands modern slavery and the needs of victims and is able to provide the support to which victims are entitled in law. Training for professionals is fundamental to this and whilst Challenger does already provide modern slavery training to professionals, the team is unable to meet the demand of working with the number of frontline officers that would benefit from this training.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

A better and more effective approach to working with victims of modern slavery will assist in reducing criminality, reducing exploitation of vulnerable adults and help to target and disrupt organised crime groups who seek to benefit from the exploitation of these vulnerable people. This will also assist in reducing homelessness as many of the victims of modern slavery who are not able to access housing services will become homeless. This will also help to reduce drug and alcohol issues as victims will be better able to access the services they need, as well as assistance with their general health needs.

Financial comments:

The funding for this proposal features as a budget line in the police, crime, criminal justice and fire three year financial projections.

Legal comments:

Any services or products procured through this programme will adhere to GMCA commissioning policy and EU rules on procurement.

Risk Assessment:

The most pressing risk is that victims of trafficking and modern slavery that don't receive the services to which they're entitled means that they are significantly more likely to become re-trafficked in the future. This not only results in potentially horrendous outcomes for the victim, but ultimately costs the system more in the medium to long term.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

The primary focus of this training is for adult safeguarding, but some places will be made available to children's social care and children's safeguarding boards.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

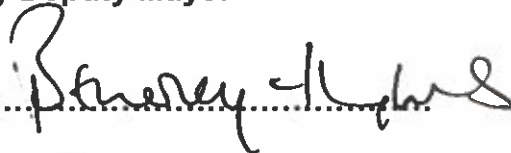
The primary purpose of this proposal is to improve the adult safeguarding response to victims of trafficking and modern slavery.

Agreed by Assistant Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

Signed.....

Date.....17/8/18.....

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Signed:.....

Date: ..A/8/18.....

Contact Officer: