



## OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY

### REPORT TO POLICE AND CRIME PANEL 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### THEMED ITEM - EXPLOITATION

#### Report Title:

**Exploitation – preventing Child Sexual Exploitation / Modern Slavery / Forced Marriage / Hidden Harm / Female Genital Mutilation / People Trafficking**

## 1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Panel's themed item of 'Exploitation' is a wide-ranging topic. The Panel has requested a background report from the PCC which provides statistics and data for the Thames Valley to enable Panel members to receive a Thames Valley perspective on the issues of exploitation and the prevention of child sexual exploitation (CSE), modern slavery, forced marriage, hidden harm, female genital mutilation (FGM) and people trafficking.
- 1.2 From the PCC's perspective, the theme of 'exploitation prevention' primarily relates to two of the strategic priorities as set out in his Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021, being:
  - Strategic Priority 1, 'Vulnerability' (which includes the response by police and partners to human trafficking, forced marriages, FGM, CSE and other hidden harm such as honour-based violence, coercive control, stalking and harassment)
  - Strategic Priority 2, 'Prevention and Early Intervention' (which includes the prevention of CSE and FGM).
- 1.3 This report aims to provide the relevant background information requested by the Panel.

## 2 Information

### Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 2.1 PCC activity in relation to CSE has largely been around ensuring support for victims. The OPCC would probably be able to obtain victims data from SAFE (a PCC-commissioned service provider) regarding numbers supported, etc. but crime data is obviously held by TVP.

- 2.2 The OPCC has also invested in counselling services (unlike many other PCC areas) and a large number of those individuals entering counselling are historical CSE/Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) victims.

### **Modern Slavery / People Trafficking**

- 2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is an infographic ('Overview of Modern Slavery in the Thames Valley – 2019') which provides a picture of activity for all of 2019 (ignore the fact that it states 'This data covers the period 01 July to 30 September' above the table – this is a typo error). The Infographic includes data from police, NRM (National Referral Mechanism) referrals, and data from Willow (the PCC funded service supporting victims of exploitation of all types).
- 2.4 Attached at Appendix 2 is a short presentation by the OPCC to the 'Modern Slavery National Networking Meeting' held on 1 October 2019. This summarises PCC activity in this service area and how our thinking has evolved since 2014, to result in the Independent Trauma Advisors (ITA) pilot services to begin with followed by the Victims First 'Willow Project'. In turn, this will be followed by the new Victims First Specialist Service launching in April 2020.
- 2.5 Attached at Appendix 3 is a paper produced by Dr. Shona Morrison of the OPCC ('Evaluation of a Model for Identifying and Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery and Exploitation') which summarises the various (5) research and evaluation reports commissioned by the OPCC over this initial period, being:
- 1) Investigating Modern Slavery: A Literature Review
  - 2) Estimating the Extent of Modern Slavery in Thames Valley
  - 3) Cost Benefit Analysis of the ITA Pilots in Thames Valley
  - 4) Interim Evaluation Report on the Thames Valley ITA Project
  - 5) Final Evaluation Report on the Thames Valley ITA Project
- (The first 3 above reports can be found on the OPCC website using the: [Search - Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner](#) facility but are rather long...).
- 2.6 Thames Valley Police continues to have a strong Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Partnership, sharing national best practice regarding Modern Slavery. Coercive control, stalking and harassment have been a focus this past quarter and, as such, SaVE3 training has been delivered across the Force. This includes improved crime recording for stalking and harassment offences.
- 2.7 Finally, attached at Appendix 4 is the 'Unseen Modern Slavery Helpline (national helpline) Annual Assessment 2018' report. This document provides a national assessment of the Modern Slavery Helpline's operations in 2018 (however, the very last 2 pages (77 & 78) are the only ones that provide activity data broken down to police force areas).

### **Forced Marriage, Hidden Harm and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

- 2.8 In 2017, the OPCC ran a FGM workshop attended by a range of professionals and, from this, identified key concerns in the Thames Valley. Based on that we ran a grant funded competition that year (see Appendix 5) to fund projects for:

- (a) Training or other initiatives for key professionals (e.g. teachers, lawyers, health visitors, safeguarding leads) to encourage reporting and improve knowledge and the use of appropriate referral pathways.
- (b) Engagement and/or education in key communities where there are cultures known to be at risk of FGM.

2.9 The OPCC has funded a number of FGM projects, including an FGM awareness project – some descriptive data on delivery of this contained in the ‘FGM Awareness Training Project Infographic’ (Appendix 6). We have also strongly supported ‘Oxford Against Cutting’ in the past, and encouraged the development of a Thames Valley FGM strategy. We also grant funded some work by ‘Jeena International’ specifically around supporting FGM and Forced Marriage victims.

2.10 Of course, all victims of these types of crime are supported through OPCC commissioned services – past, current and future – and the ‘Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee’ (BAMER) project was particularly focussed on engaging and raising awareness around such crime types/victims.

#### BAMER Project

2.11 In 2018, the Thames Valley PCC was awarded funds by the Home Office ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) Transformation Fund to support a two-year project focusing on Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) women across the Thames valley region covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. This BAMER Project was developed in response to low take-up of some VAWG specialist services by BAMER women, and aims to make such services across the Thames Valley more inclusive of the needs of, and considerate of the barriers faced by, the BAMER population. Within the scope of this project is Forced Marriage, Hidden Harm and FGM.

- 2.12 The **aims** of the BAMER Project were to:
- Assess, improve and better coordinate the multi-agency response to VAWG in BAMER communities across the region.
  - Map localised knowledge and networks to facilitate systemic change, and to provide a robust evidence base to inform future commissioning and support third sector grant applications.
  - Improve awareness of VAWG issues in Thames Valley’s BAMER communities; engaging and empowering these communities to identify and challenge these abuses, and to ensure they know where and how to access timely and appropriate support.
  - Ensure the needs of Thames Valley’s BAMER communities experiencing VAWG are met through improved and better informed service provision and pathways.

This work was driven by the belief that early intervention and awareness-raising work will also increase the number of individuals from BAMER communities identified as being affected by VAWG.

2.13 The **activities** of the Project can be summarised as follows and, where appropriate, are explained in full in the final project report:

- a) **VAWG Strategic Lead and BAMER Support Worker appointments**

- b) **Data collection and population mapping in Thames Valley**, with data collection representing a baseline from VAWG services and mapping based on 2011 census data designed to identify the distribution of BAMER communities across the region.
- c) **Establishing a Performance Framework**, with a set of indicators against which the BAMER support work is recorded and measured. This was developed within a Task and Finish Group (during January 2019), setting out a framework for reporting and measuring progress. [*It should be noted that collection of data in relation to the volume or work has proven difficult throughout the project*]
- d) **BAMER Support Worker community engagement** - as part of this, BAMER support workers facilitated a series of activities to develop better understanding of the experiences of BAMER women and the internal/external barriers they face in terms of accessing services. These involved research-oriented activities such as focus groups and interviews, plus collecting and developing individual case studies along with other types of engagement such as art and craft workshops or cooking sessions. Much of this work can be categorised as qualitative ‘research’ activity, whereby, for example in the period between January and August 2019, the support workers conducted 10 focus groups and 21 face-to-face interviews. The resultant learning and case studies and recommendations are included in detail in the final project report.
- e) **BAMER Support Worker outreach**, i.e. peer support groups and drop-in support.
- f) **BAMER Support Worker case work** - in addition to the drop-in support, five of the BAMER workers <sup>[1]</sup> also worked with clients on a one-to-one basis.
- g) **Mapping of services**, i.e., statutory agencies, voluntary agencies and community groups, carried out by participating organisations with support from the VAWG Strategic Lead.
- h) **Peer Review activities** (June 2019 to date), which incorporated design and development of a Peer Review Framework completed by the agencies and site visits for BAMER workers.
- i) **New Bridges** (October 2018 – March 2019) - A partnership of Oxford Against Cutting (OAC) and The Sunrise Multicultural Project, with a specialist focus on issues of sexual violence in BAMER communities.
- j) **Data Masters Workshop** on data for hidden harm - honour-based abuse (HBA) (January 2020) – a half-day workshop with a range of domestic abuse (DA) and VAWG agencies (presentation attached at Appendix 7).

2.14 Thames Valley Police (TVP) continues to maintain a focus on coercive control, stalking and harassment. As such, the ‘Safeguarding, Vulnerability and Exploitation’ (SaVE3) programme training has been delivered across the Force, including improved crime recording for stalking and harassment

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<sup>[1]</sup> The Berkshire East BAMER Support Worker does not have a caseload.

offences. TVP has also commissioned Domestic Abuse Matters training from January to June 2020 which has a specific focus on coercive control.

- 2.15 TVP has recently been preparing guidance, correct processes and communications for the introduction of Stalking Protection Orders. The implementation of these initiatives and increased awareness around the Force will improve the service to victims of stalking and harassment.
- 2.16 The College of Policing has also provided a number of training tools to be delivered at a local level to educate police officers around stalking and harassment and the Stalking Protection Orders.

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