

Anti-Slavery Partnership - Update

As part of the Anti-Slavery Partnership, Unseen has been working to create awareness of Modern Slavery across Bedfordshire at all levels. Through funding provided by the OPCC Unseen has provided multi-agency training to front-line professionals, 'Spotlight' sessions in secondary and upper schools and awareness-raising among communities. We have delivered the following:

Number of People	Type of activity	Forum
7,200	Awareness	Community groups/shops in Luton
306	Training	Multi-agency frontline professionals
18	Awareness	Bedfordshire Advice Forum
20	Awareness	GP Surgery
30	Awareness	Bedfordshire council of Faith
200	Training	New Police Cadets
1,253	Awareness	Secondary and upper schools
106	Awareness	Teachers
30	Training	Magistrates
40	Awareness	NGO groups (to be delivered in March)

Each training session and school session has been evaluated to review the training offer and consider the views of participants. From the evaluations, it is evident that many front-line professionals have very limited knowledge of modern slavery and do not know the signs to spot. Overall, the view was extremely positive, but many felt that the sessions were not long enough due to the amount of content that needed to be covered. However, a significant number of participants said that their knowledge of the issue had increased as a result of the training. These are some of the comments made by the different authorities represented:

Local Authorities

- The scale and complexity of the situation, double the time would be more appropriate
- Very powerful and thought provoking. Clarification on duty under S52 of the MS act 2015 (duty to notify) The session did provide a very comprehensive overview, however there was a lot of information to take in, more interactions and discussion may assist with the learning process.
- The various ways and places that people can be working as slaves. Training was very positive, could benefit from the delivery being over longer time

- This is present in all areas of my job, by potential and provoked my thought in this area, need more time
- Could be longer, very complex topic and only scratched the surface
- More time to discuss NRM referrals and services and how to interview victims
- Bringing the topic 'local'-making it really clear that it is happening everywhere and we all have responsibilities. Looking at the problem more logistically, it is crucial to support the survivors.
- Now I know how to report it

Bedfordshire Police

- More time on what we can do actually do. Practical examples of what we would be doing in a situation where we come across a victim.
- The information which explains what happens AFTER the victim is identified. My knowledge was sketchy to say the least
- Such an important topic and the trainer should have been given longer to cover it.
- Given my role as a Police Officer, this was highly relevant and I would advise a wider role out across the force focussing on the operational side and statutory duties
- Longer course 4-5 hours long

NHS

- Would be very good to have training for our team.
- I would have liked more information on how to help the victim, but in the time available it was a valuable introduction. I would be interested in more training on this topic, please keep me on your mailing list
- I have a safeguarding children role, so very relevant. Given the size of the issue and constraint of time-not sure how it can be improved
- Now can spot victims of MS, a full day course would be great to cover in more details
- Eye Opener
- New information in how to communicate with and help victims. How to spot victims. Needs to be half day really
- I learnt about the different types of MS, was useful to break stereotypes. Need to learn more interview techniques, longer workshops
- Very informative, detailed, motivational. More sessions, lengthier as the issue is current, and 2 hours is not enough to cover the topic

Speaking to many professionals after the training, the majority felt they either knew a little or nothing before the training and felt that longer multi-agency training to help them in their job and support the victims effectively would be helpful. Requests included how to deal with and interview victims effectively, how to complete an NRM form and how to further support the victims once discharged from the support under the NRM. Many had no idea of the relevance of the MS1, but after the training and having time to think about it, they felt that they had come across potential victims in their field of work but failed to recognise them.

Summary of Evaluation forms

Question	Responses		
	Too short	Just right	Too long
Workshop length	101	148	3
Knowledge before Training	None	A little	A lot
	24	198	26
Knowledge after training	None	Slightly	Significantly
	9	71	166

Only 252 valuations forms were returned and not all questions were answered.

Community Awareness

Unseen has attended a range of events across Bedfordshire to generate awareness of Modern slavery in hard to reach areas. We have met with several community groups and held stalls to promote the issue and tell people how they can get support e.g. CYCD, NOAH, Azalea, BRASS, BRCC. It is clear from our engagement with community groups that many have been engaging with potential victims previously but had not known the signs or what to do. Through our engagement we have raised awareness and many more are now aware of the signs and what to do.

We will continue this awareness raising through the NGO training we are hosting and the NGO Anti-Slavery Partnerships Forum. The training will be tailored to give organisations information on how to engage with victims, help them build their confidence to come forward and help them access the services e.g. NRM. It will also provide participants with an understanding of the duties and roles of statutory agencies such as local authorities, the police and NHS.

To create more awareness in the community about MS, Diverse FM will be playing an ad 8/10 times a day for the next 3 months on how to identify victims of MS and report it to the UK-wide Modern Slavery Helpline.

Unseen will be holding a stall at the river festival and has contacted NCA to see if they would allow the cubes they have used recently in their awareness campaigns to be used to raise awareness in Bedfordshire.



Lack of awareness of Modern Slavery

Lack of awareness among front-line professionals and communities in Bedfordshire remains an issue. To ensure potential victims can be identified and appropriately supported we must continue to raise awareness and use existing and new opportunities to do this.

Unseen is in discussions with Chief Supt. David Boyle to see if the CAADA/DASH risk assessment for DV and SE victims can be amended/updated to identify potential victims of labour exploitation, control and abuse. Introducing a few additional questions may support identification of victims:

- Do you work (including housework), how many hours per day?
- How much do you get paid?
- Do you have access to your ID documents?
- What are your current living conditions?

We are also looking at engaging with key players in Bedfordshire including Luton Airport. Emergency Housing for potential victims before they are accepted into the NRM or while investigations are being carried out is still an issue and one that is covered in the police improvement plan.