



Human Trafficking

Identifying, Protecting and Supporting Victims in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Report of the day: 26 June 2018

Civil Legal Assistance Office Aberdeen

The Scottish Legal Aid Board

www.slab.org.uk

Programme overview

09:45 Registration and tea/coffee

10:15 Welcome and introductions, Claire Kettlewell, Civil Legal Assistance Office

10:20 The role of Police Scotland in disrupting trafficking and identifying victims, DI Alan Armit, Police Scotland

- Police Scotland as a First Responder
- Local examples of trafficking and efforts to disrupt and prevent these
- Police practice when identifying, protecting and supporting trafficked adults and children
- What to do if you suspect trafficking

10:50 Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2017 and role of the local authority, Mirren Kelly, COSLA

- Overview of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2017
- Role and remit of the Action Area 1 Group
- Local authority as a First Responder and disrupter of trafficking
- Best practice for local authorities protecting and supporting suspected/ confirmed adult and child victims
- Where professionals can go to for further information/ guidance

11:20 Break- tea/coffee

11:35 Right to identification and early access to legal assistance, Kirsty Thomson, Just Right Scotland

- Definition of human trafficking (adult and children)
- The right to identification and the National Referral Mechanism
- Rights and responsibilities
- Importance of early access to legal assistance

12:05 Hidden in plain sight: identifying and supporting victims of trafficking, Bronagh Andrews, TARA

- Introduction to TARA and TARA's role as a First Responder
- When to refer to TARA and/or approach for advice
- Example case studies
- Best practice for supporting and protecting survivors of sexual exploitation

12:35 Identifying, protecting and supporting survivors of trafficking, Shook Tang and Christiana Atsu, Migrant Help

- Introduction to Migrant Help and its role as a First Responder
- Statistics of survivors supported by Migrant Help
- Human trafficking indicators - What to do? How to refer? Where to ask for help?
- Case study discussion

13:05 Closing remarks and next steps, Claire Kettlewell, Civil Legal Assistance Office

13:10 Lunch

Introduction

Human Trafficking: Identifying, Protecting and Supporting Victims in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

1. This event aimed to raise awareness among key stakeholders in Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire of human trafficking and their respective roles in assisting survivors.
2. The multi-agency and expert panel discussed topics including: what human trafficking is, the victim identification process and legal framework, support needs of adult and child survivors, and where survivors together with those supporting them can go to for help.
3. There was also be opportunities for delegates to network and identify opportunities for collaborative working on this important issue.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Human Trafficking Project

4. The Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Human Trafficking Project aims to improve outcomes for survivors of trafficking located within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by ensuring victims are identified, protected and supported at the earliest opportunity. We are working to develop partnerships and referral mechanisms with local authorities, third sector, public and private organisations to achieve this.
5. The Project was established by the [Civil Legal Assistance Office Aberdeen](#) in 2017 in response to the [Scottish Government's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2017](#). The Project is focused on the [Scottish Government's](#) Action Area 1 of identifying victims and supporting them to safety and recovery.
6. Human trafficking is a complex crime and often hidden crime that can take place in any community. Instances of trafficking have been reported not only in our major cities, but all over the country including Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Elgin and Inverness. The number of potential human trafficking victims in Scotland has risen over the last year. 213 referrals were made to Police Scotland in 2017, a 42% increase from 2016. However, it is believed that the number of victims in Scotland actually runs into the thousands.
7. Victims often don't see themselves as such which can result in them encountering barriers when accessing services and support. We therefore believe that local support, advice and enforcement agencies need to work collaboratively to improve provision for victims within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Key points and next steps

Summary of key points

8. Feedback from delegates highlighted that the event had been helpful in bringing experts together in Aberdeen to examine what human trafficking is and how it impacts victims and to explore the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) that enables identification of victims of trafficking.
9. The role of key public and third sector agencies in identifying/ supporting victims of trafficking was explored, although delegates thought there could be more of a focus on what support is available locally, as much is concentrated in the central belt. Whilst delegates thought the event provided a good opportunity to network and explore possibilities for collaborative working, there was also an appetite for more time to be available to this.
10. Presentations on the rights and support needs of victims of trafficking at the point of referral to the NRM and beyond indicated that civil legal advice had an important role to play in any referral pathways that were set up, especially for adults. The wider pathways cut across criminal and civil law, third and public sector organisations.

Summary of next steps

11. In response to delegate feedback, CLAO Aberdeen's focus will be on exploring how best to facilitate more opportunities to discuss local support that is available, what pathways currently exist and what needs to be developed.
12. CLAO Aberdeen's particular interest, given our remit, is in how civil legal advice services can fit in with locally developed pathways to support victims.

Delegate list

| No | Organisation | Representative |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Aberdeen City Council | Kymme Fraser |
| 2 | Aberdeen City Council | Claire Duncan |
| 3 | Aberdeenshire Council | Kirsten George |
| 4 | Aberdeenshire Council | Fiona Lovie |
| 5 | Aberdeen Citizens Advice Bureau | Kellyann Fraser |
| 6 | Banff and Buchan Citizens Advice Bureau | Blanka Bartova |
| 7 | Barnardos | Julia Milne |
| 8 | City Church Aberdeen | Scott Robertson |
| 9 | Civil Legal Assistance Office | Claire Kettlewell (speaker) |
| 10 | Civil Legal Assistance Office | Hayley Mullen |
| 11 | Coalition of Scottish Local Authorities | Mirren Kelly (speaker) |
| 12 | Cyrenians | Laura Keith |
| 13 | Ethnic Minorities Law Centre | Ajmal Yamin |
| 14 | Gordon Rural Action | Sarah Flavell |
| 15 | Grampian Women's Aid | Alison Hay |
| 16 | Grampian Racial Equality Council | Dave Black |
| 17 | JustRight Scotland | Kirsty Thomson (speaker) |
| 18 | Lindsay & Kirk solicitors | Morag Stevenson |
| 19 | Migrant Help | Shook Tang (speaker) |
| 20 | Migrant Help | Christiana Atsu (speaker) |
| 21 | NWG Response Unit | Kay Wallace |
| 22 | Police Scotland | DS Lorraine Mackie |
| 23 | Police Scotland | DI Alan Armit (speaker) |
| 24 | Rape Crisis Grampian | Nicoleta Ciubotariu |
| 25 | Scottish Children's Reporter Administration - Aberdeen | Roma Bruce Davies |
| 26 | Scottish Children's Reporter Administration Aberdeenshire | Imogen Dey |
| 27 | Shelter Scotland | Iona Rennie |
| 28 | Scottish Legal Aid Board | John Osborne |
| 29 | Scottish Legal Aid Board | Stuart Drummond |
| 30 | Scottish Legal Aid Board | Anne Dickson |
| 31 | Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance | Bronagh Andrews (speaker) |
| 32 | Violence Against Women & DASA Projects | Fiona Whitehouse |

Contact

13. If you would like to know more about the project or the event, please contact Claire Kettlewell on 01224 402330, or via KettlewellCl@clao.org.uk.