



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

DS 797 Chris Acourt

What we do ?

- Dedicated Modern Slavery team within Cambridgeshire Police.
- Able to draw on a wealth of experience and knowledge.
- Experienced civilian staff who speak various languages (essential in first contact).
- Supported by dedicated intelligence team.
- Additional trained officers who have completed intensive Modern Slavery training.
- Victim focussed / Victim led.
- Close links with various partner agencies who we can call on to support victims / investigation.

What I would like to talk about

- What is Modern Slavery.
- Why Slavery still exists in 2023.
- Understand the different types of Exploitation.
- Understand why victims become victims.
- The local picture.
- Understand what to look for and how you can help.
- Learn what support networks are in place for victims.
- Case study.

What is Modern Slavery?

- When an individual is exploited by others, for personal or commercial gain. Whether tricked, coerced, or forced, **they lose their freedom.**

Why Slavery still exists in 2023

- **Money** – It is the world's third most profitable crime, behind drugs and arms trafficking, causing an estimated cost to the UK in the region of 33 Billion pounds (2021).
- **Unlimited access to your Product (Victims)** – Want a better life, Regular Income, safer and easier to transport than drugs / guns etc so less risk to the exploiter.
- **Low risk / High reward** – MSHT hidden crime, victims often poorly educated with addiction issues or criminal past.

What does Modern
Slavery and Human
Trafficking look like in
2023 ?



- Reality

Hides in Plain site.

Labour Exploitation.

Criminal Exploitation.

Sexual Exploitation.

Domestic servitude.



Labour exploitation

- Car Wash.
- Nail Bars.
- Construction.
- Care homes.
- Land / Manual workers.
- Factory workers.
- Restaurants/ Takeaways.
- In reality – anywhere.



Sexual exploitation

- Mostly conducted Online via adult sites offering in call and outcall services.
- Viva Street.
- Adult works.
- **Street sex workers** (often driven by addiction to drugs and / or alcohol.



Criminal exploitation

- Cannabis Farms (Gardener).
- Forced drug supply (Delivery and cash collection).
- County Lines (Children as young as 10).
- Benefit Fraud.



Domestic servitude

- Least visible form of exploitation.
- Victims have very little contact with the outside world.
- Only contact may be visits to health practitioners / dentists.



How Victims are Targeted

Exploiters will target their Vulnerabilities.

- Poor education / learning difficulties.
- Addiction to drugs / alcohol.
- Homelessness.
- Promises of a better life (employment / accommodation).
- Criminal offending history.
- Financial problems.
- Unable to find work via legitimate sources.

How Exploiters retain control

- Fear (of Exploiter and OCG network both here and in home country).
- Violence.
- Debt Bondage (inflated cost of travel, finding work, accommodation etc).
- Lack of understanding of rights and entitlements.
- Victims feel they have nothing to go back to.
- Lack of trust of persons in Authority (based on experience from home country or what exploiters have told them).
- Victims become dependant on Exploiters / Love.
- Unaware that they are victims (pay / conditions better than home country).

The local Picture

Labour Exploitation - County wide in many forms.

Sexual Exploitation – Mainly present in population hubs (Cambridge / Peterborough).

Criminal Exploitation – Cannabis factories (countywide).

County lines – Peterborough / Cambridge.

Domestic Servitude - ? - Likely to be in more affluent areas of county.

Identify Victims of MSHT

- Physical appearance – Poor clothing, hygiene.
- Living conditions / appearance not consistent with their income.
- Poor overcrowded accommodation or high turnover of occupants.
- Access to ID and Bank cards.
- Others will often speak on their behalf or they may seek some form of reassurance from another before they speak.
- Appears subdued and uncooperative.
- Reluctant/ unable to answer questions about where they live, where they work, employers details etc.

What can I do to help?

- If you feel someone wishes to talk about their situation, give them a safe space to speak in (alone).
- DO NOT use friend or family as Interpreter.
- Allow victims to move at their pace (may require multiple interactions to build trust).
- Give them a safe point of contact.
- If a First Responder Organisation explain NRM scheme and complete as per guidelines
- If Not a First responder Organisation contact Police and / or report via the Modern Slavery Helpline.
- If something doesn't look / feel right. Trust your professional / personal instincts.

Support for victims of MSHT

- **National Referral Mechanism.**
- Framework for identifying and referring potential victims of MSHT and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
- Accommodation.
- Health.
- Mental health support.
- Financial support.
- Advice and guidance.
- In a safe environment.
- Children (under 18) are supported under Local Authority.

Case Study

- Female Czech victim moved in with Aunt / cousins after the death of her Mother. Almost immediately forced into Sexual Exploitation.
- Came to the UK with Aunt. Was pregnant on arrival. Aunt forced her to give up the child for adoption. Interpreter not used during initial appointments.
- Social services attended to liaise with female re adoption. Aunt and Cousin did all the talking. No interpreter used.
- Child adopted 2014. Female sent out to work shortly after. Wages paid into Aunt's bank account.

Case Study

- Aunt claimed numerous benefits in the females name forcing her to attend medical appointments and portray someone with serious learning difficulties.
- Aunt also claimed additional carers benefits and Motability vehicle.
- In addition to this female was forced to go out to work in other family members names. Wages again paid into Aunts bank account.
- Female fled captivity in 2018 making herself homeless. Police contacted early 2019. 3 year investigation concluding in custodial sentences for Aunt and other family members involved.

The background of the image is a faded, grey-scale version of the Cambridge University crest. The crest features a central shield with a golden crown on top, a blue and white wavy pattern, and a golden horizontal bar. The shield is surrounded by a blue circular border with the text 'CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY' and '1209'. The entire crest is set against a background of radiating leaf-like shapes.

2023

There are more people trapped in
Slavery today than at any other
time in History

The background of the slide features the crest of the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. It is a circular emblem with a blue outer ring containing the words 'CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY' in white. Inside the ring is a shield with a golden crown on top, a blue wavy band across the middle, and a golden base. The shield is surrounded by a wreath of grey leaves.

Points of contact

Modern Slavery Helpline – 08000 121 700

<https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report>

Crimestoppers – 0800 555111

Police 101 / 999

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Questions?

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