

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safeguarding Sub Committee	04/06/2019
<b>Subject:</b> Modern-day Slavery	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
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### Summary

This report informs Members on the progress being made in the Department of Community and Children's Services in relation to modern-day slavery (MDS). The MDS operational group was established in March 2019. The purpose of this group was to create referral pathways into services for cases of MDS and raise awareness. This group is well attended and has representatives from the Peoples Directorate, Safer City, Performance, Police, Housing, Health and the Human Trafficking Foundation. The MDS action plan is currently the workplan for the MDS operational group. A key priority within this plan is to raise awareness and deliver training on MDS.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. MDS is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation. There are different forms of slavery:
  - **Forced labour** – any work or services that people are forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment.
  - **Debt bondage** or bonded labour – the world's most widespread form of slavery, when people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.

- **Human trafficking** – involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
- **Descent-based slavery** – where people are born into slavery because their ancestors were captured and enslaved; they remain in slavery by descent.
- **Child slavery** – many people often confuse child slavery with child labour, but it is much worse. While child labour is harmful for children and hinders their education and development, child slavery occurs when a child is exploited for someone else's gain. It can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.
- **Forced and early marriage** – when someone is married against their will and cannot leave the marriage. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.

In 2009, the Government set up the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which potential cases can be referred to and through which victims can access relevant support.

## 2. The Modern-Day Slavery Act 2015:

- makes prosecuting the traffickers easier by consolidating the existing slavery offences
- increases sentences for slavery offences
- bans prosecuting victims of slavery for crimes they were forced to commit by their traffickers, such as drug production or petty thefts
- introduces child trafficking advocates to better protect trafficked children
- makes major UK businesses publicly report on how they tackle slavery in their global supply chains
- establishes an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to overlook the UK's policies to tackle slavery.

## Current Position

3. In response to s.54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the City of London Corporation developed the Modern -Day Slavery Statement in November 2018. This sets out the steps that the City has taken, and is continuing to take, to ensure that modern slavery is not taking place within our business, within the Square Mile or within our supply chains.
4. The Operational MDS Group was started in March 2019 with the key purpose to:
  - identify potential areas of risk in the City of London where MDS could be taking place
  - analyse performance data, share intelligence and potential incidences of modern slavery

- look at ways to raise awareness around the risk of modern slavery in the City of London, with partner agencies and the wider business community, looking at opportunities for joint initiatives
  - develop a training programme for the City of London on modern slavery, ensuring that City of London staff and partner agencies know and understand referral pathways if they suspect a case of MDS
  - link with wider London initiatives to understand the landscape of MDS across London to inform future developments of this agenda in the City of London.
5. This group currently meets on a bi-monthly basis, with representatives from the Peoples Directorate, Performance, Housing, Safer City, Police, Health and the Human Trafficking Foundation. There is an action plan in place covering the following areas: referral pathways into services; training and development in relation to MDS; and raising awareness on this topic across the organisation, with partners and residents.
6. This group reports to Safer City, City and Hackney Adult Partnership Board and City and Hackney Children Partnership Board on the progress being made on the Action Plan and any trends or themes that emerge from the performance data.

## **Conclusion**

7. The protection and support for victims of MDS can be difficult due to the delay in their cases being picked up by the NRM. Even when they have been accepted by the NRM, cases can often be discharged from this system with limited support. This can place victims at potential risk of going back into MDS. The Salvation Army has been identified as an agency that can offer support, but resources are limited. Therefore, a key part of the referral pathways in relation to adults will be identifying how victims will be supported pre- and post-referral to the NRM.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Modern-Day Slavery Action Plan

## **Background Papers**

- City of London Corporation Modern-Day Slavery Statement
- Modern Day Slavery Act 2015

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