

Committee:	Dated:
Safeguarding Sub-Committee	12/05/2022
Subject: Modern Day Slavery	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Outcome 1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

Because of the hidden nature of Modern Day Slavery (MDS) it is difficult to have an accurate measure of the prevalence of this exploitation, as there is no definitive source of data or suitable method available to accurately quantify the number of victims involved. This report identifies the five main types of exploitation associated with MDS, looking at the national and London statistics on modern slavery in the UK. The City of London has an MDS group which consists of representatives from the Department of Community and Children's Services, Police, Licensing, and external partners. Information from this group is included in the MDS Statement and reported to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board, who have identified MDS as a priority for 2022. The number of MDS cases in the City of London remain low but, given the hidden nature of this crime, it is likely that this does not reflect the true prevalence of MDS in the City of London.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Victims of MDS can be men, women and children of any age across the world. There is an assumption that victims of MDS are often trafficked to the UK from other countries, but residents of the UK are also among the victims who are exploited in the UK and other countries. The crime is often hidden from the

authorities and the general public. Victims may struggle to leave their situation because of threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception, and some may believe that they are not in a situation of exploitation.

2. There are five main types of exploitation that victims of MDS may experience:
 - a) Labour exploitation: victims are forced to work for nothing, low wages or a wage that is kept by their owner; work is involuntary, forced and/or under the threat of a penalty, and the working conditions can be poor.
 - b) Sexual exploitation: victims are exploited through non-consensual abuse or another person's sexuality for the purpose of sexual gratification, financial gain, personal benefit or advantage, or any other non-legitimate purpose.
 - c) Domestic servitude: victims are domestic workers who perform a range of household tasks (for example, cooking and cleaning); some live with their employers and have low pay, if any at all.
 - d) Criminal exploitation: victims are forced to work under the control of criminals in activities such as forced begging, shoplifting, pickpocketing, cannabis cultivation, drug dealing and financial exploitation.
 - e) Organ harvesting living or deceased victims are recruited, transported or transferred, by threat or force for money, for their organs.
3. The number of potential victims referred through to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has risen from 2,340 in 2014 to more than 10,000 in 2020. The profile of victims and the worst threats have also changed, with labour and criminal exploitation now the most prevalent forms of MDS identified in the UK. This increase is also replicated in the data from the Metropolitan Police, where offences relating to MDS have increased from 173 in April 2021 to 274 in April 2022.

Current Position

4. The City of London's MDS group is chaired by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance, who is the single point of contact (SPOC) for MDS, with support from the Domestic Abuse, Vulnerability and Risk Policy Officer. This group meets on a quarterly basis and is attended by MDS leads from across the Department of Community and Children's Services, Police, Fire Brigade and Lead on MDS Statement for the City of London Corporation. Support is also offered from the Human Trafficking Foundation – the Foundation hosts the London-wide network for MDS, which reviews London-wide data and intelligence from other local authorities and the Metropolitan Police.
5. The City of London MDS group reviews intelligence on incidents of MDS that have occurred in the past year. However, no reports or referrals of MDS have been received. Due to this low level of data, focus will be prioritised on potentially vulnerable groups, and areas within the City where individuals may be at risk of exploitation. The City of London has many businesses within its

boundaries, and the larger institutions are required under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement. The statement must set out what steps they have taken during the financial year to ensure that MDS is not occurring within their supply chains or organisation. There are, however, many smaller businesses and agencies based in the City of London that would not meet the requirement of producing a slavery and human trafficking statement.

6. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 gives the Secretary of State the power to issue guidance.
7. Section 54 requires that any commercial organisation in any sector, which supplies goods or services, and carries on a business or part of a business in the UK, and is above a specified total turnover, must produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation. For the purposes of this requirement, 'supply chain' has its everyday meaning. Regulations have set the total turnover threshold at £36 million. The statement must set out what steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that MDS is not occurring in their supply chains and in their own organisation.
8. Information and data from other local authorities has shown that raising awareness and training on MDS does increase people's potential to identify cases and report incidents. In 2022/23 the MDS group is planning to send out information on MDS, which will be disseminated across the City of London Corporation and to partner agencies, and offer training on MDS. A referrals pathways document is also being finalised to support staff and other agencies in making referrals once they have identified a case of MDS. The impact of the multi-agency awareness-raising sessions and training will be reported back to Members of the Safeguarding Sub-Committee at the end of 2022.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report:
 - Financial implications – N/A
 - Resource implications – N/A
 - Legal implications – N/A
 - Risk implications – N/A
 - Equalities implications – N/A
 - Climate implications – N/A
 - Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

10. As identified within this report, MDS is not always visible, and data sources in relation to MDS are not easily accessible. There are many pathways where individuals who are subject to MDS can receive support, and many people either do not see themselves as being subject to MDS, or they are too frightened to come forward. Therefore, that fact that there have not been any referrals of MDS does not mean that it is not happening in the City of London. Data obtained from the Metropolitan Police identifies the areas where there has been the most growth in MDS, which is the labour market, with a slight increase in cases relating to domestic servitude.
11. The situation in the Ukraine will also likely have an impact, as there is the potential for the risks of MDS escalating as more people offer homes to Ukrainian refugees. Several councils have raised concerns with the Human Trafficking Foundation about the potential for exploitation through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. A key factor in reducing these risks will be in relation to the checks on those individuals offering their home, and the level of support the refugees receive once they enter the UK.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- Modern Slavery Act 2015

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

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