



The document focus is to raise awareness of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking for first responders and provide an informative assessment of the local threats and trends of this horrendous crime. Feedback and suggestions would be greatly appreciated. We want to make sure this document is interesting and informative; please contact [Jana.Sherrin@essex.police.uk](mailto:Jana.Sherrin@essex.police.uk)

### Who are Protect & Prevent?

Role of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Co-ordinators is to ensure an effective response to Modern Slavery in Kent and Essex by identifying current and emerging issues. Their role is to build and maintain effective partnerships with the stakeholders and to support all partners' anti-slavery activities, raise awareness, highlight emerging threats and fill intelligence gaps.

## Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Welcome to the second issue of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) newsletter covering Kent & Essex. This newsletter champions trauma-informed, victim-centred, multi-agency approach in line with the national guidance. We will cover MSHT on a tactical, strategic and operational view, everything you need to know as a first responder. The newsletter will now be sent quarterly.

### MSHT dates of interest

- 14th September Operation Aidant Focus Labour Exploitation
- 18th October World Anti-Slavery Day
- 2nd December The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery



### Kent picture -

Division	No.	NRM / MS1 Referrals	No.
Kent North	74	Kent Police MS1	35
Kent East	63	Kent Police NRM	150
Kent West	22		



Criminal exploitation is showing the highest figures across Kent with 98 victims including adults and juveniles. This will be linked to county lines, forced begging and shoplifting etc. The next highest figure is within sexual exploitation, with 39 victims, including both adult and juveniles. Forced labour figures for victims are currently 37, so only just behind sexual exploitation. These figures will continue to increase in the coming months. Kent has seen victims from fifty different nationalities. This highest no of nationals by three times as much is British, followed by Chinese, Romanian, Albanian and African.

### Operation Aidant – What is it?

Operation AIDANT is a series of multi-agency operational intensifications to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking led by the National Crime Agency. Every quarter all police forces, including the British Transport Police, take part with other law enforcement agencies including the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Immigration Enforcement, Border Force, Europol, DWP, HMRC. Each activity under Project AIDANT is given an MSHT focus and should be supported by NGOs, Local Authorities and other first responders. To get involved and work with us on these intensifications please get in touch.

### Consultation on research priorities for the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC) launched their consultation on research priorities for the next five years and beyond on the 22 July. The four main areas of the Centre's work are preventing modern slavery; understanding survivor needs and enhancing victim support; modern slavery in business supply chains; and the effectiveness of legal enforcement measures. The first part of the consultation is a survey, seeking to find out about the research priorities amongst individuals and organisations working in the anti-slavery field. The responses will help the Modern Slavery PEC develop its research strategy, which the Centre will publish in October 2020. A link to the survey can be found [here](#). Please do take the time to contribute and share the survey with colleagues, this is an important part of the consultation process and all responses are greatly valued. The deadline for responses is the 11 September.

### Useful Links

- [NRM guidance](#)
- [Unseen](#)
- [Home Office](#)
- [Local Authority Guide](#)
- [Modern Slavery Act](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Fearless](#)
- [HO Awareness Raising Guide](#)
- [HO First responder training](#)



### Trends & Intelligence Gaps



#### Trends:

- MSHT has continued throughout Covid
- Criminals have increased online exploitation - sexual / criminal / CSE
- Increase in benefit fraud and financial crime carried out by the exploiters against the victims
- Criminals/victims using delivery of uniforms to move covertly
- Increase in forced criminality, begging, shoplifting and Cannabis cultivation farms and illegal cigarette and tobacco selling
- Increase in forced labour shellfish and cockle picking, construction and agriculture etc

#### Intelligence Gaps:

- To what extent Covid has affected victims of MSHT
- The prevalence of MSHT across Kent & Essex
- Awareness of MSHT signs, indicators and ways to report for employees of local authorities as first responders and the general public.
- More intelligence required around the threat of child trafficking CCE / CSAE

