



A NETWORK OF AGENCIES TACKLING MODERN SLAVERY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS AND BEYOND

FOREWORD

Robin Brierley, Executive Director, West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

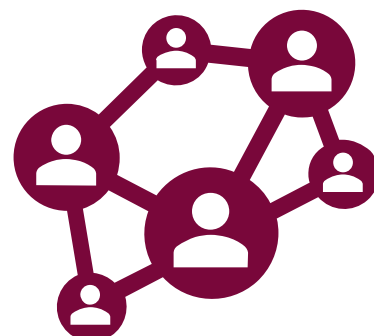
Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022, I hope you continue to enjoy receiving these every quarter, please do share with your networks and colleagues. If you would like to write an item or story for our future newsletters, please do get in touch with donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org.

As always, we all seem to be getting busier with so much good work being done by all our network members. It's not always without our challenges and it was good to see Wendy Sims hosting a workshop yesterday on how to enhance the work of their Sandwell Operational Partnership – it was a timely reminder of the key role that Local Authorities play in this agenda. Having an identifiable MS lead in each Local Authority seems to make so much sense to me – they have also adopted this model in Cleveland, and it works well – as well as all the other benefits it's a gateway into all the LA services and out again into the wider MS community.

This year will see the publication of the new Home Office Modern Slavery Strategy and I understand that partnerships will feature in more depth than in the 2014. I recently re read the Nottingham University publications on Modern Slavery Par – it was interesting to see that partnerships in their many forms continue to emerge and flourish but also a reminder that Police and Crime Commissioners play a key role in the success of the MSHT agenda. We would like to thank Simon Foster the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner for his continued support, and in particular thank you to Harjeet Chakira the OPCC Policy Manager Victims and MS lead for her hard work and diligence.

Robin Brierley, Executive Director

robin.brierley@westmidlandsantislavery.org



West Midlands Anti Slavery Network SafePlace

Hi from WMASN's SafePlace team! We hope that you are safe and well.

Since the last update, the SafePlace team have continued to provide direct wrap-around health and well-being and advice and advocacy support to male survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery at our SafePlace safe house. We have also continued to advise front line professionals on cases, signpost them to appropriate services, and provide emergency health and wellbeing items to survivors staying temporarily in hotels or custody suites.

The SafePlace team are continuously looking for ways to improve the provisions that the service offers to survivors of modern slavery. Taking this into account, we would like to put a call out to organisations who would be able to provide service users access to leisure centre facilities. Interventions that have intended to improve the mental health of men and boys have demonstrated that exercise-based interventions are extremely valuable in the treatment of depression and anxiety in men of all ages. Please get in touch with Jasmyn Kaur Sandhu at jasmynkaur.sandhu@westmidlandsantislaverynetwork.org or 07864 745720 if you would be able to facilitate this or know an organisation/individual who would.

During the last few months, SafePlace has received generous donations from Lush Cosmetics and the Library of Birmingham. Lush Cosmetics donated body lotions, body sprays, body scrubs, bath bombs, and shower gels made specifically for men. We would like to thank Lush for this donation and for providing items in languages other than just English. The Library of Birmingham donated a curated collection of books on modern slavery and human trafficking to the project. We would like to thank the Library of Birmingham for its donation and continued support over the years.

We would also like to say thank you to our referral partners West Midlands Police, Warwickshire Police and GLAA for signposting survivors to us and facilitating vital support.

Lastly, we would like to thank the organisations that we have worked with to ensure that survivors get the multi-agency support that they need. Your collaboration has been fundamental to securing positive outcomes for our service users.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or want to donate to our service, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our team.

Sifa Fireside – Adult Modern Slavery Pathway

Sifa Fireside formally launched the Adult Modern Slavery Pathway in partnership with the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network and Birmingham City Council.

During the virtual launch event Nicole Morris, Nick Walton, Morgan Mead, and Carly Jones spoke about the development of the pathway and how this collaboration is already improving frontline responses at the intersection of modern slavery and homelessness.

Alongside the panel, a free national template for other local authorities and regions was launched for other services to adapt, as well as a national pre-NRM casework toolkit for frontline professionals working on modern slavery cases and finally a briefing paper outlining the work so far and recommendations for next steps.

[Adult Modern Slavery Pathway: SIFA Fireside \(office.com\)](#)

[NATIONAL USE - Modern Slavery Pre-NRM Casework Toolkit \(keepandshare.com\)](#)

[Adult Modern Slavery Pathway: Partnership Template For National Use \(office.com\)](#)

Nicole Morris, Anti-Slavery and Homelessness Development Officer
nicolemorris@sifafireside.co.uk

Adavu – Great Birmingham Run!

Calling all keen and would-be runners!

Want to get active and lose a few of those lockdown pounds?

Want to raise some much-needed funds for a project supporting survivors of modern slavery in the West Midlands?

Then PLEASE join [Adavu](#) in this year's Great Birmingham Run (10k or Half Marathon) on 1st May and help us raise funds for our work! Adavu has participated in the past, so we know what great fun it is in the wonderful and vibrant city of Birmingham.

Please contact us on info@adavu.org.uk for more information.

West Midlands Anti Slavery Network Meeting Dates for 2022:

For more information, please contact: donna.pryor@westmidlandsantislavery.org

28th April – 10:00-12:30

21st July – 10:00-12:30

24th November – 10:00-12:30



Slavery Adult Safeguarding Case Conference (SASCC)

The Slavery Adult Safeguarding Case Conference continues to take referrals from West Midlands Police and any of the West Midlands seven local authorities. Since March 2020, the OPCC funded model has overseen the initial safeguarding response to 20 potential victims/survivors.

Attendees include West Midlands Police, Local Authorities, Health, and a variety of third sector providers.

"I'm really pleased to see that the concept works. Whilst we have formally convened on a number of occasions, I have also provided advice/signposting and attended other multi-disciplinary professionals meetings, to ensure that the slavery/trafficking elements are understood and responded to accordingly".

Nick Walton, Victim Safeguarding Pathways Coordinator, West Midlands Anti Slavery Network
nick.walton@westmidlandsantislavery.org

Midlands Migrant Health Network

The Midlands team of the new Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) in the Department of Health and Social Care have set up a new **Midlands Migrant Health network**.

The network is for professionals from **all** services - local authority, NHS and VCSE - which support the health and wellbeing of vulnerable migrants in the Midlands. It is a forum for peer support and learning, and a chance for you to link with local, regional, and national colleagues.

Network members receive a weekly email from the OHID team with useful resources, training opportunities and information. The network will meet around every 2 months via video conference. At the February network session:

- colleagues from Sandwell gave a presentation, "Health for Hotels", about the success of their partnership approach
- we discussed how recent changes to the national public health and healthcare structures provide opportunities for improving provision and outcomes for vulnerable migrants
- attendees met new colleagues, and many will be making links outside the sessions

If you would like to join the distribution list for this network, please contact Dave McDonald
david.mcdonald@dhsc.gov.uk

Tea Break – 26th April, 6pm-7pm

Hi All,

I'm Davina, the Advice and Advocacy Coordinator for the West Midlands Anti Slavery Network SafePlace and the Tea Break Lead.

This is just a brief update on the Tea Break sessions that are commencing in April. A Tea Break provides the opportunity for employees and employers to be able to listen and talk openly and honestly about race and racism, either experienced or witnessed in the workplace, in an anonymous manner on a chosen topic.

The first Tea Break will be held on Tuesday 26th April, 6pm to 7pm, and the topic will be Diversity Hires.

If you are interested in getting your organisation involved or would like some more information, please feel free to contact me either via email: davina.woollery@westmidlandsantislavery.org or 07708 185364

Transforming Communities Together Podcasts

Transforming Communities Together has a few more 'Focus on Modern Slavery Episodes' for people to listen to - this one is with Christian Guy, Chief Executive of international anti-slavery NGO, Justice & Care, former Special Adviser to the Prime Minister in 10 Downing Street, and Chief Executive at the Centre for Social Justice. Christian talks about tackling Modern Slavery here in the UK.

<https://bit.ly/3rXQNes>

USEFUL LINKS

Modern Slavery Helpline: 0800 012 1700

Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB): fib@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

[National Referral Mechanism Guidance](#)

[NRM Form](#)

[Modern Slavery Act Duty to Notify](#)

[Home Office: 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery](#)

[Human Trafficking Foundation Trafficking Survivor Care Standards](#)

[Recovery Needs Assessment](#)

WEST MIDLANDS ANTI SLAVERY NETWORK CONTACTS

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