

Safer Somerset Partnership Newsletter

Edition 4

Summer 2017



**Safer Somerset
Partnership**

Feel Safe, Be Safe

Content

Modern Slavery Update p.2



Domestic Abuse Service Update p.2



Safer Somerset Partnership Update p.3



Home Office Update p.4



Home Office

Police Crime Commissioner Newsletter p.4



Modern Slavery Update

Training

Although modern slavery is a global problem, it also is a very real issue for the UK, including here in Somerset.

To help increase awareness of the issue, and how you can respond a **new** e-learning training is available at Somerset County Council's [Learning Centre](#).

Below are some general indicators of modern slavery that you may find helpful to be aware of:

SOME GENERAL INDICATORS

Behaviour — withdrawn, scared, not willing to talk, doesn't speak English

Appearance — unkempt, malnourished, few possessions, health concerns

Work — inappropriate clothing for job, long hours, little or no pay

Fear of authorities — doesn't want to speak to police or authorities

Debt bondage — in debt to, or dependent on someone else

Accommodation — overcrowded, poorly maintained, blacked-out windows

Lack of control — no ID, no access to bank account, work transport provided

Lack of freedom — unable to move freely, unwilling or scared to leave

Somerset Domestic Abuse Service

The Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS) contract was awarded in 2015, for a term of 3 years but the terms and conditions of the contract permitted it to be extended for up to a further 2 years. Somerset County Council are pleased to confirm that the decision has now been made to extend the contract to 31.3.2020.

If you know anyone who would like help and advice regarding domestic abuse, please call SIDAS on the confidential helpline—0800 69 49 999.

New Modern Slavery Helpline

This can be called by businesses, frontline professionals, the general public or potential victims.

IF YOU THINK SOMEONE MAY BE A VICTIM OF MODERN SLAVERY
CALL THE 24/7 MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE ON

08000 121 700

WORKING TOWARDS
A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY



Safer Somerset Partnership Update

Funding

The Safer Somerset Partnership were successful in securing the following funding from the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner 2017-18 Police and Crime Grant

Positive Lives (previously Housing Support for Offenders – Complex Adults Design Group)

Continuing project essential for supporting high risk of harm and high risk of reoffending offenders:

CSE Prevention

To provide preventative and targeted support to young people who are at risk of sexual exploitation and/or

criminal exploitation including those who have gone missing or run away from home. Focus on the 'push' factors such as abuse, bullying or family conflict and the 'pull' factors like grooming in order to quickly and effectively combat the underlying causes of running away and prevent problems escalating.

One Team Development projects

Two-part project to facilitate two main objectives:

Assist the Safer Somerset Partnership in quality assurance of One Teams over the next 12 months

Embed consistency of standards where required whilst ensuring the continuation of locally led teams

Assist the Mendip team transform from a 'virtual' to a face to face meeting structure by adding some coordination resource

Vulnerability Pathways – systems review

A one off system review, independently chaired, designed to consider the various vulnerability pathways in Somerset and assess areas for change and improvement.

Project SHE

The grant funding will fund a SHE diversion worker employed by The Nelson Trust who will work across Somerset but be based in Bridgwater and will therefore enable the start of the SHE scheme from our Bridgwater Custody Centre. The scheme is currently being delivered in Bristol from the Keynsham and Patchway custody suite.

The aims of SHE are to :

- Improve safety for those who are themselves victims/vulnerable
- Improve access to, and engagement with, support in relation to the nine reducing re offending pathways
- Reduce number of arrests/ re arrests
- Reduce number of remands/ short custodial sentences
- Reduce re offending
- Improve outcomes for children and families through prevention.

Domestic Abuse Annual Report

Find out what activity there was in the county regarding domestic abuse during the year ending 31.3.2017. The domestic abuse annual report 2016/17 can now be found online at <http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk/partnerships-governance-domestic-abuse-in-somerset/>

Home Office Update

In early 2017, the Home Office launched its **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Transformation Fund**. There were many applications made from across the country, including several from the Avon and Somerset area. Two which were successful and will directly benefit Somerset are:



Home Office

1) Bristol City Council are to receive £391,000 for an early help service in the city, plus to develop a dynamic Avon and Somerset wide multi-agency risk assessment model—this will modernize the MARAC processes.

2) The Police Crime Commissioner received over £120,000 for the provision of specialist support, across Avon and Somerset, for sexual assault victims with learning disabilities or mental health problems.

Drug Strategy

The Home Secretary recently launched the new Drug Strategy—this can be found online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/628148/Drug_strategy_2017.PDF

Police Crime Commissioner Update

Newsletter

The Avon and Somerset Police Crime Commissioner have recently published their latest newsletter—please find online at

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/News-and-Events/Newsletters.aspx>



If you have any questions or suggestions for future editions of this newsletter, please email
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