

Mapping the Contours of Human Trafficking

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Study term: 1st May 2016 – 30th April 2016

Research Objectives

The main aim of the project is to establish a profile of human trafficking incidents and offences known to GMP since the implementation of the Modern Slavery Coordination Unit. Work commenced on the project 1st May 2016 and will conclude on 30th April 2017. The primary work of the project to date has been to prepare official data sets for academic analysis. This has involved removing identifiers, non-criminal incidents and back filling missing information. Data was sourced from two core datasets, pertaining to 2015 in Greater Manchester:

1. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – MSHTU (formerly the UKHTC)
2. Modern Slavery Data Tool (MSDT) – MSCU/GMP

Progress

- While the NRM dataset is complete, many of the fields within the MSDT were missing, either because the field was not contained in the initial intelligence reports or the MSCU did not have the capacity to return to complete earlier records for outcomes or additional information. These gaps in the 2015 data have now been addressed, with outcome data and demographic details being completed manually. The inclusion criteria for data for this project were twofold: firstly, either the data was contained in the 2015 NRM dataset or, for the records in the MSDT, where the incident was recorded as a crime. Qualitative intelligence summaries were gathered for each relevant record, to include the summaries from the 'Victims', 'Suspects', 'Crimes' and 'Locations' tabs of the MSDT dataset. The datasets were cleansed and completed. Coding was added in respect of the type of exploitation, type of location, market type (both legitimate and otherwise), and residential type.
- Time was also taken to link the records, both between the two datasets and also within the MSDT dataset, so that as much related information could be captured in each record. While some of this linking of records was undertaken automatically, a proportion of it had to be completed manually. Comparisons were drawn between the records in the NRM and the MSDT. We have noted some minor discrepancies between the data in some of the records with regards dates of birth, nationality and ethnicity.
- Regular meetings have been held between the project team and with core personnel within GMP's Challenger Team. We are now in a position to commence the data analysis. This is expected to take four key forms: 1) a comparative analysis of modern slavery crimes referred to the NRM and those recorded by GMP; 2) a comparative analysis of outcomes by different slavery type and by victim and offender demographic; 3) a geographical mapping of the places where modern slavery has been recorded by GMP compared with deprivation indices, population data and the distribution of general crime; and 4) a social network analysis of offender and victims relationships. We anticipate completion of this analysis by February 2017, by which point we will have commenced a consultation with GMP as to which information to make public and which to include in the confidential report to them. The project's dissemination is scheduled for March 2017.

Planned publications

Other related activities have included the drafting of an academic article mapping and critiquing UK and international policy relating to Modern Slavery, a scheduled seminar input on research with police data at the University of Leeds in Feb and the development of a bid to the University of Manchester to establish an interdisciplinary network. The project remains on track for timely completion.

Links and future bids

The major outcome of the project – a substantive application to the ESRC – is well underway. A draft is attached. We would welcome your feedback on this, including the pathways to impact document, should other members of the N8 partnership wish further involvement.