

Human

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Modern Day Slavery in London - Your Duty to Identify and Protect Victims

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The Human Trafficking Foundation

Our Chair, Anthony Steen CBE, was formerly the Home Secretary's Special Envoy on Human Trafficking during the passage of the Modern Slavery Bill. Our Trustees include Vernon Coaker MP, Helen Grant MP and Baroness Butler Sloss.

The Foundation has worked closely with statutory authorities for several years and understands the challenges local authorities face

The Human Trafficking Foundation is the secretariat for the APPG on human trafficking.

We also lead a national **Human Trafficking Forum**, which convenes in London, with 500 members, including NGOs, police and local authorities. We meet quarterly with approximately 90 stakeholders in attendance at each event.

We have also set up a **London Working Group** with 100 members, including NGOs, NHS, the Met Police's SCO7 anti-trafficking unit, UKBA and expert lawyers.

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery: encompasses slavery, human trafficking, servitude, forced or compulsory labour. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

HM Government

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New Statutory Responsibilities

The Foundation is leading a project to engage statutory authorities in London with the plight of victims of human trafficking, in light of the new Modern Slavery Act and Care Act, both of which have given local authorities new statutory responsibilities in this area.

Councils are struggling with the new responsibilities under these Acts and already a number of expensive judicial reviews against councils are underway.

NRM and MSA – useful toolbox

- * The creation of a new statutory defence for slavery or trafficking victims compelled to commit criminal offences
- * The provision of child trafficking advocates
- * The introduction of two new civil orders to enable the courts to place restrictions on those convicted of [modern slavery](#) offences, or those involved in such offences but not yet convicted
- * The provision of mechanisms for seizing traffickers' assets and channelling some of that money towards victims for compensation payments
- * Legal aid access
- * Life sentences for traffickers
- * Support/housing under the NRM

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Problem 1 – Identification:

There is considerable evidence that London is a hub for human trafficking and slavery in the UK and yet many staff in statutory authorities, from social workers to housing officers, struggle to identify many cases, even though there is now a **statutory duty to notify** the Home Office about potential victims.

Hence large numbers of cases in London, from slavery in brothels, homes and hotels, to cases similar to the Rochdale case of trafficked children, or the Connors case of trafficked homeless men, carry on under the authorities' jurisdiction, in places such as children's homes and licensed businesses.

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The Crime of Human Trafficking

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Means</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Recruitment / grooming❑ Transportation❑ Transfer❑ Harboring/Receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Threat/use of force❑ Coercion❑ Abduction❑ Fraud❑ Deception❑ Abuse of power❑ Position of vulnerability❑ Receipt of payments/benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Sexual exploitation❑ Forced labour or services❑ Slavery/practices similar to slavery❑ Servitude❑ Begging❑ Forced marriage❑ Organized crime❑ Surrogate mother❑ Organs

= CSE, ASB, multiple occupancy, missing persons, county lines, youth offending, benefit fraud, domestic violence, sham marriages...

NCA Data

Not always what you expect

“All victims are migrants...”

- * The 3,805 victims rescued by our authorities arrived from **108 countries**.

But ...

- * In 2016 the third **largest victim group came from the UK**

“All victims are hidden...”

- * “One leading anti-trafficking NGO told me you could find girls who had run away from home being exploited in areas of London, and gave an example of a specific park ... where this took place.” Shadow City

“All victims are women...”

- * Of the 3,805 victims found last year, 51% female and 49% male.
- * 15% of victims were referred for domestic servitude; and there are now more victims **were exploited for labour** trafficked than those who had been trafficked for sex.

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Issues with disclosure

- * Language
- * Concept of slavery
- * Taboo
- * Mental health issues
- * Fear- of traffickers and of authorities
- * Focus on immediate needs- food shelter
- * Threats
- * No long term options
- * Chose exploitation and sending a little money home above earning nothing
- * Don't understand what NRM is for
- * Fear of authorities

Modern Slavery: The Underground Story of London

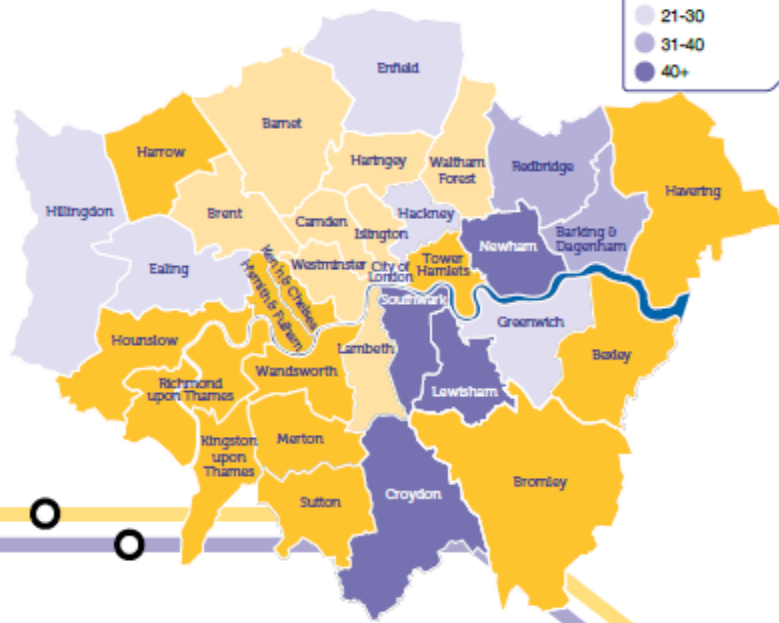
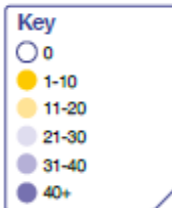
Slavery in London is not a new phenomenon. Since the 17th century slaves were taken across the Atlantic and sold to plantation owners in America and the Caribbean for sugar, tobacco, rum, rice, cotton and tea, all of which were shipped back to London. London was at the heart of the 'trade triangle' that fueled slavery. The Virginia Company of London had the first documented 'mail-order bride' trade where women were exchanged for tobacco (Eaves, 2009).

The Head of the Metropolitan Police's Anti-Slavery unit, DCI Phil Brewer, has said that the number of suspected victims in London is expected to increase by 60% to as many as 1,600 in 2017 (Guardian, 2017). On this basis we estimate that the average Londoner is never more than 1,000 sq mt away from someone who has been enslaved.

Geographical analysis

In 2016 Hestia supported victims in all London boroughs except the City of London.

The map below shows the areas from which victims entered our services. These areas are not necessarily where they were enslaved but show the victim's location at the time they came to Hestia for support.



Barking & Dagenham	34	Greenwich	24	K&C	7	Sutton	3
Barnet	17	Hackney	21	Kingston	5	Tower Hamlets	8
Bexley	7	H&F	5	Lambeth	19	Waltham Forest	19
Brent	19	Haringey	17	Lewisham	41	Wandsworth	4
Bromley	3	Harrow	4	Merton	7	Westminster	18
Camden	11	Havering	8	Newham	46	Homeless	19
Croydon	61	Hillingdon	29	Redbridge	31	Out of London	14
Ealing	23	Hounslow	8	Richmond	3		
Enfield	22	Islington	13	Southwark	54		
							Total: 624

Borough breakdown by gender and form of slavery

	Domestic Servitude	Sexual	Forced Labour	Domestic Servitude	Sexual	Forced Labour	Sexual
Barking & Dagenham	4	24	0	0	0	6	
Barnet	3	11	0	0	1	2	
Bexley	3	2	1	0	0	1	
Brent	8	9	0	0	0	1	1
Bromley	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Camden	3	3	1	0	0	4	
Croydon	5	51	2	0	1	2	
Ealing	6	7	2	2	0	6	
Enfield	3	18	0	0	0	1	
Greenwich	6	15	0	0	0	3	
Hackney	1	13	0	1	0	6	
H&F	1	2	1	0	0	1	
Haringey	3	12	1	0	0	1	
Harrow	2	2	0	0	0	0	
Havering	1	6	0	0	0	1	
Hillingdon	4	16	1	0	0	9	
Hounslow	2	2	2	0	0	2	
Islington	4	8	0	0	0	1	
K&C	2	2	1	0	0	1	1
Kingston	3	2	0	0	0	0	
Lambeth	7	6	2	0	1	3	
Lewisham	7	24	2	2	1	5	
Merton	2	4	0	0	0	1	
Newham	13	27	2	2	1	1	
Redbridge	4	23	0	0	0	4	
Richmond	0	3	0	0	0	0	
Southwark	7	39	2	0	1	5	
Sutton	1	2	0	0	0	0	
Tower Hamlets	3	4	0	0	0	1	
Waltham Forest	3	14	0	0	0	2	
Wandsworth	0	4	0	0	0	0	
Westminster	4	8	0	1	0	2	3
Homeless	0	0	0	1	0	17	
Out of London	3	3	0	0	0	8	
Totals	110	366	20	9	6	97	5
607 Women				112 Men			5 Trans

There are high concentration areas such as Southwark, Croydon, Lewisham, Newham and Barking & Dagenham. This is largely because these boroughs have National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation and many victims have been identified as trafficked whilst claiming asylum.

However the majority of London local authorities lack specific guidelines, a single point of contact and procedures or policies to assess the needs of victims of modern slavery (Human Trafficking Foundation, 2015). The lack of ID documents and confirmed immigration status can make it difficult to access support at a local level.

Case example

- Rose' was from West Africa. She described how she was tricked and trafficked to the UK for forced prostitution. She was frequently drugged and beaten by her trafficker to make her easier to control.
- When as a result of her abuse Rose became too ill to work her trafficker called the police to report Rose as an 'illegal' immigrant. Rose ended up in a detention centre prior to removal from the UK.
- Rose was only identified as a victim of trafficking once in detention by the former Poppy Project. There is a risk that many others are not identified.

What do I do if I identify a potential victim?

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Alongside normal safeguarding procedures:

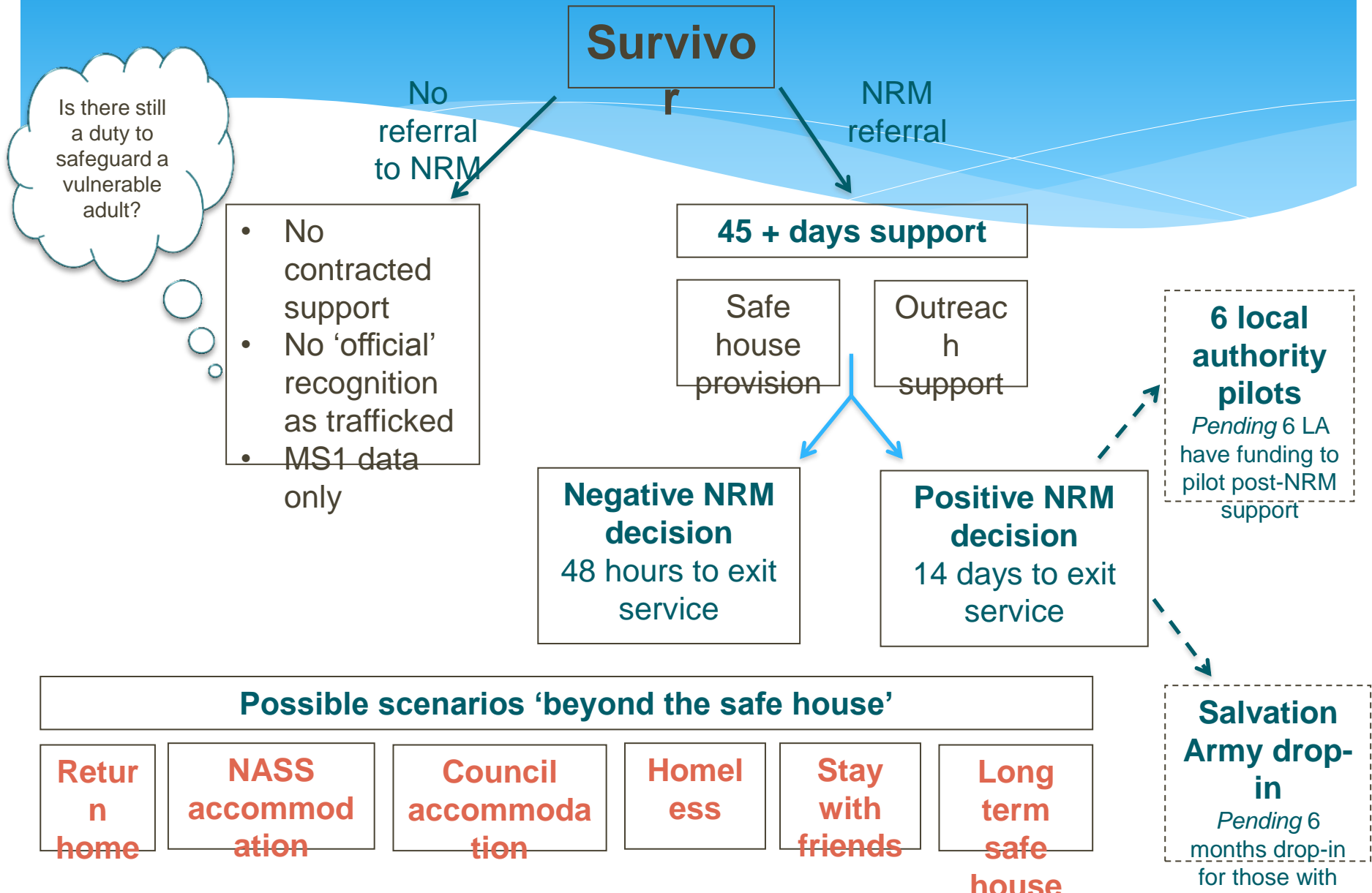
- * **Emergency:** In an emergency call police on **999**
- * **NRM referral:** If they are an adult and would like support and are happy to go in to the NRM, make a referral (first responders). If you do not feel confident to do this call the Salvation Army: **0300 3038151**
- * **Non consent and MS1:** If an adult does not want to go in to the NRM, statutory services have a duty to notify and need to complete an MS1 form to send to the Home Office. You may still need to consider how to discharge a safeguarding duty without the NRM (consider services outside the NRM e.g. Bakhita House)
- * **Advice:** If you are are uncertain and need to talk through concerns, call the Modern Slavery Helpline **0800 0121700**

Entitlements within the NRM

- * 45 day (minimum) recovery and reflection period
- * Assistance with physical, psychological and social recovery
- * Access to safe accommodation to a good standard of living
- * Access to material assistance
- * Access to psychological assistance
- * Access to medical treatment
- * Access to language support and translation
- * Assistance regarding their legal rights
- * Under lawful residence - access to the labour market and vocational training

Current care pathway

Snowdrop Project slide



Problem 2 – Lack of support when exiting Government safe houses :

After adult victims of trafficking finish receiving the Government provided statutory “45 days” of care, there is very little or often nothing in place in local authorities to provide any specialist support for victims of trafficking, even when they have recourse to public funds, and so many get lost in a tragic and repetitive cycle of exploitation.

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What happens to victims after the NRM?

- Living with friends/ family/ partner- 274
- Asylum Support Accommodation- 272
- Private Accommodation- 104
- Private Accommodation (EEA country- not UK)-79
- No information- 54
- Reported as missing person- 45
- Supported accommodation – 33
- Homeless Services - 30
- Supported accommodation – local authority – 12
- Supported accommodation – NGO in UK – 10
- Mainstream accommodation – local authority - 4

TSA record initial move on accommodation (see year 5 annual review)

Quotes from Beyond the Safehouse Report

http://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Life%20Beyond%20the%20Safe%20House_0.pdf

“My experience with clients who have been through the 45 days [Recovery and Reflection] period is that they end up on the streets again and they are so incredibly vulnerable because their wounds have been opened up, they have only had 45 days to deal with those wounds, and it’s not fair, but after 45 days they’re out... then in a blink of an eye it’s gone” Homeless NGO service provider

“When I moved out of the [Safe] house I went to a bed and breakfast and I got harassed by men, so another abuse again. I moved to North London, Hammersmith and Wembley, so I stayed in three bed and breakfast places. I was in that place for 6 months. The first one in North London, which had guys there, I was in for one month. The second one I stayed in for two days because the traffickers had taken me to that place before, and a girl who saw me, called me by my name, and I thought it was not safe for me so I asked to be moved. Now they moved me to West London in a temporary accommodation. I have been there for seven months.” A human trafficking victim

R (AK) v Bristol City Council³

CO/1574/2015

- * The claimant was a victim of trafficking. As a non-working EEA national awaiting a leave to remain decision, she was not eligible for housing or welfare support and could provide for her most basic needs only by engaging in prostitution.
- * She claimed that her situation was inhuman, degrading and contrary to the UK's duties under Directive 2011/36/ EU (Anti-Trafficking Directive) art 11 and Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings art 12, as well as ECHR art 3 or art 4.
- * She applied to the council for accommodation. They refused to provide her with accommodation or with subsistence level financial support.
- * In April 2015, on a claim for judicial review, she was granted an interim injunction requiring the council to pay her £50 a week and accommodate her pending trial. On the eve of that trial, the council accepted that, until the claimant could find her own accommodation, it was responsible for providing her with support and assistance.

Problem 3 – Inadequate services for child victims of trafficking :

While adult victims of trafficking receive specialist trafficking support for a minimum 45 days, children who are accommodated and looked after under the Children's Act (2004) usually receive no specialist services.

As a result, many vulnerable children may go into inappropriate care placements or accommodation. This can result in them being at risk of exploitation, in for example criminal activities.

There is also increasing evidence that children are continuing to go missing, with inadequate monitoring structures in place.

But good practice exists. For example, a “Talk Don't Walk’ project in Cheshire which “interviewed children and young adults who had run away from home led to a reduction in the numbers going missing between 2004 and 2007 by 72% and saved approximately £3.2m.”

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What next?

- * **Setting up a task and finish group on slavery with representatives from children's and adults services and safeguarding teams, housing, licensing, custody, health etc.**
- * **Map what is taking place in your borough**
- * **Develop a local referral pathway and protocol for staff working with potentially trafficked young people**
- * **Ensure all frontline staff are trained so they know all the indicators of human trafficking, know best practice and have a trauma-informed approach understanding survivors' rights and entitlements and how to fill in the NRM form**
- * **Create Champions/Single points of contact**
- * **Is there a way to record this crime in your systems?**
- * **Is this crime flagged up in your MASH and MARAC systems?**
- * **Need to map local specialist services available to potential victims**

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