

Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decision to be taken by: Rob Ayliffe, Director of Policy, Performance and Governance

Report title: Changes to Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership

The decision	To: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dissolve the existing Anti-Slavery Partnership2. Adopt the new partnership structures, including the establishment of the Strategic Co-ordination Group and Operational Partnership.3. Establish wider Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Network.
Background Documents	March Update Paper Agreed Version Draft Terms of Reference March 24
Reasons for the decision	<p>In March 2023, it had been identified that the Anti-Slavery Partnership was in need of reviewing to ensure it remained fit for purpose.</p> <p>Members of the Partnership considered good practice in the structure and methodology of the Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership.</p> <p>Meetings were held with all partners to consider their views on the next step.</p> <p>Agreement in principle was sought in March 2024 with the final meeting of the Partnership agreed to be held in June 2024.</p> <p>The new structure will be established in September 2024, with the first meeting of the Strategic Co-ordination Group arranged for 11 September 2024.</p>
Resource implications	Responsibility for administrative and clerical support for the new model will remain with Democratic Services and carried out by National Graduate Trainees. Met from existing resources.

Who has been consulted?	Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership
What were their comments?	
Recognition of the need to make changes to the partnership and agreement that the Dorset model represents best practice.	
Background/ Context	
<p>In November 2014, the government produced its Modern Slavery Strategy setting out its approach by detailing the work expected from Government departments, agencies and partners in the UK and internationally, putting victims at the heart of the strategy, aligning its approach to the 4P framework – <i>Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare</i>. This was consolidated by the 2015 Modern Slavery Act, increasing sentencing powers and created the post of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to ensure that law enforcement, public authorities and the voluntary and private sectors work together to address these crimes in a cohesive and effective way.</p>	
<p>In April 2016, the Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership was formed in response to the rising prevalence of these issues across the county following the 2015 Modern Slavery Act.</p>	
<p>It is one of five local partnerships across the South West (alongside Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire) and sits on the regional South West Anti-Slavery Partnership to share intelligence and coordinate response regionally as well as carrying out localised actions and intelligence at a countywide level.</p>	
<p>In March 2023, it has been identified that the Anti-Slavery Partnership was in need of reviewing to ensure it remained fit for purpose.</p>	
Partnership Changes	
Scope	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership focus is on preventing modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) and supporting its victims within the geographical confines of Gloucestershire. • The activity of this partnership is underpinned by the statutory duties of partner agencies. 	
Purpose	
<p>The purpose of the partnership is to support and enable the discovery of and respond to incidents of human trafficking, slavery and exploitation through a victim centred, multi-disciplinary and collaborative community effort to end modern day slavery.</p>	
Aims	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of modern slavery. • Support and enable the discovery of and response of incidents of MSHT. 	

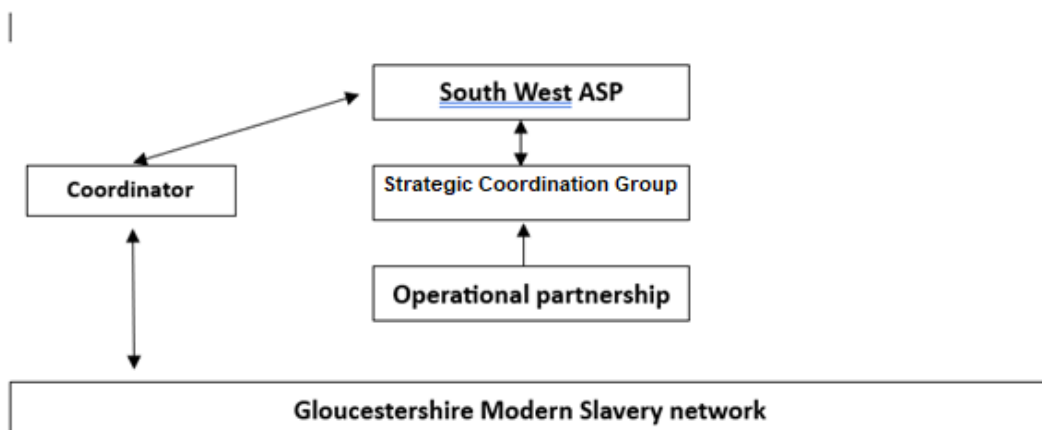
- Increase the identification, protection and provision of support for victims.
- Disrupt illegal activity and bring more offenders to justice.
- Improve understanding of MSHT and hot spots throughout the county via the sharing of data and information.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of MSHT among frontline and non-frontline staff, members of the public, businesses and other groups across all sectors and train people to spot the signs so they know where to go for help.
- Keep agencies informed of relevant legislation and help coordinate their responses to MSHT, ensuring compliance with statutory duties etc.
- Agree approaches to joint working in relation to modern slavery operations.
- Improve multi-agency collaboration to disrupt illegal activity and bring perpetrators to justice by sharing local intelligence in order to increase the likelihood of prosecutions.
- Encourage collaborative working locally and information sharing between agencies to support victims of MSHT.
- Improve data recording and sharing between partner agencies to identify threat areas/hotspots.
- Develop understanding of and response to modern slavery issues across Gloucestershire – identifying victims and targeting perpetrators

Structure

The structure of the partnership is to be formed of the strategic coordination group, an operational partnership and wider network of stakeholders in Gloucestershire. This is to allow representatives of similar seniority, function and area of business to meet and plan how to make progress to tackle modern slavery.



The purpose of the strategic coordination group is to enact required changes to practice and process, identify gaps in provision and consider suggested actions from the South West Anti-Slavery Partnership in offering strategic oversight of modern slavery work across the county. The board will meet on a quarterly basis to monitor and evaluate progress towards aims and objectives outlined.

The operational partnership is to promote multi-agency activity, improve the threat picture in Gloucestershire and identify better ways of working individually and collectively and share information between operational partners. The operational partnership will meet on an agreed regular basis such as every two months to be decided at the first meeting which will support the aims and objectives of the partnership.

The work of the Strategic Coordination Group and Operational Partnership will be supported by the Gloucestershire Modern Slavery Network. The purpose of the Modern Slavery Network is to keep key stakeholders abreast of key sector news and updates, raise awareness of modern slavery and keep it on the agenda of partner agencies. The network would also be the means by which members can ask for partner agency contacts or further information.

Good Practice

Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership

- Provides strategic oversight of work to tackle modern slavery across pan-Dorset area.
- It is complimented by operational arrangements/groups with the Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole localities.
- Partnership has workplan based on aims and objectives that is reviewed regularly to determine progress and make adjustments to actions and activity.
- Membership includes:
 - Local authorities
 - SW ASP Coordinator
 - Police
 - ROCU
- Links with the South West Anti-Slavery Partnership Board and other groups as necessary to achieve its objectives.

Next Steps

- Sign off on the structure at the June 2024 meeting.
- Nominations from partner organisations to sit on strategic coordination group and operational partnership.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of action plan for strategic coordination group and operational partnership to take place. 	
Alternative options considered and why they were rejected n/a	
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed? Yes/No <i>If 'Yes', please see attached the signed Equality Impact Assessment.</i>	
Has any conflict of interest been declared by any Cabinet Member consulted on the decision? <i>The council's Monitoring Officer should be consulted, in the first instance, if any conflict of interest is declared by a Cabinet Member.</i>	Yes/No
If any conflict of interest declared, was a dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council?	Date of dispensation:
Does this decision report form or any supporting papers provided contain confidential or exempt information? <i>(Refer to Democratic Services Unit for advice if necessary)</i>	Yes/No <i>If Yes, please provide details of document(s) that are confidential or exempt</i>
Does this decision need to be published on the GCC website? <i>(Refer to guidance on "Executive Decisions taken by Officers").</i>	Yes/No

In coming to this decision, I have given due and full regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") by reference to the law itself and also the relevant Equality Impact Assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Having fully considered all available information, I have decided to reject any alternative options and take the recommended decision(s), for the reasons set out in this report.



Signed:

Name: Rob Ayliffe

Title: Director of Policy, Performance and Governance

Date: 19 April 2024

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