

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee CELG(4)–08–14 Paper 4c

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Chair
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Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: File JA/AJ

5 March 2014

Dear Christine

Re: Scrutiny – human trafficking

I refer to your letter of 4th December 2014. I apologise for the delay in responding.

In conjunction with the points listed in your letter, I would submit the following information:

1. With regard to effectiveness and achievements to date, my view is that Wales is taking the lead on co-ordination of anti-human trafficking activity. I view the fact that north Wales is the first official, formal structure overseen by a local Co-ordinator – Mr James Coy – as a significant step. I understand that Steve Chapman is progressing the same approach in the other three police areas in Wales. The work done by Steve Chapman in producing a formalised training package that will standardise and achieve consistency with the delivery of training amongst the partner agencies is real progress. Likewise, I think the victims' safeguarding pathway developed by Cardiff & Vale Health Board will prove effective - I understand that Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board staff have viewed this and consider it good practice. Thus, it seems likely that this good practice will be shared.
2. Over the course of the last four months, we feel that we have established an effective relationship with the Co-ordinator. Mr Coy has been in post since the 4th November and since then, we have met on a number of occasions. We held a 1:1 meeting on 25th November when he outlined start-up information in detail; we met with the Commissioner on 18th February when Mr Coy provided us with a full update on progress; I have met Mr



Coy at North Wales Safer Communities Board meetings on 13th November and 20th February. In addition, the Commissioner opened the Barnardo's Conference on child trafficking and I gave a keynote speech at the North West Wales 'Together Against Trafficking' conference held at Bangor University on 22nd January. I met Steve Chapman at this event.

3. On the effectiveness of multi-agency working between UK and Welsh Government departments, I am reliant to some extent on the briefings supplied by Mr Coy, however I can only reiterate here my perception that the Welsh anti-human trafficking project appears to be leading the way in that already I understand it to be the case that other areas of the UK have been in contact with a view to replicating the approach. Also of relevance on this point is the clarity of message on the part of the Home Secretary and the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Government Business.
4. You ask in this point what mechanisms are in place for sharing intelligence between Police and Crime Commissioners and agencies in Wales. I see this point as under development. The north Wales Co-ordinator is currently checking that we have in place the necessary protocols. There is a need to distinguish here between information and intelligence. Training and familiarisation activities for police and partner agencies targeted at identifying human trafficking will doubtless result in the sharing of not only information but intelligence also. Accordingly, it is important that the relevant protocols, including the Wales Accord on the Sharing of Personal Information, are still fit for purpose. I understand that Mr Coy has taken the lead in examining this issue and is ensuring that the agreements cover intelligence as well as information. In addition, with regard to the Government Agencies Intelligence Network, I understand that the Force is committed to working with the one at Bridgend and the one which is being established at Warrington. This should smooth the pathway for intelligence sharing between law enforcement and non-law enforcement partners.
5. On whether victim support services are considered adequate and responsive, we are about to embark on the completion of a needs assessment with regard to victims' commissioning in north Wales. According to the briefing the Commissioner and I have received from Mr Coy, interim reception facilities are being put in place in Holyhead Port. Our understanding is that each agency is going to have a part to play in the relevant victim pathway. I understand that the Cardiff pathway has been heralded as very good practice.



6. The final point asks whether I consider that awareness of human trafficking and how to refer victims into the National Referral Mechanism is consistent across police forces in Wales. My understanding is that, on the latter point, it is not. However, this has been identified. Initial training packages are still in the process of being rolled out. I understand from Mr Coy that Holyhead Port is due for completion in April and that it will involve the four main agencies at the port.

In terms of other information, it is perhaps relevant to point out that during the last two months, we have been consulting on the revision of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. This has involved discussions on anti-human trafficking. We are not aware of any barriers encountered by the local Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator.

Yours sincerely



Julian Sandham
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

