

Minutes of Cross Party Group on Human Trafficking

Meeting – 8th October 2013 – 12:30 – 13:25 –

Conference Room 21

Present

Joyce Watson AM (JW)

Julie Morgan AM (JM)

Nitesh Patel (NP) – Communications Officer, Joyce Watson AM

Dr Mwenya Chimba (MC) – BAWSO

Stephen Chapman (SC) – Welsh Government

Emma Garland (EG) – Intern for Julie Morgan AM

Robin Davies (RD) – International Justice Mission Volunteer (IJM)

James Bushell (JB) – IJM UK

Jim Stewart (JS) – Evangelical Alliance

Emeline Makin (EM) - Evangelical Alliance

Jamie Westcombe (JW) – Equality & Human Rights Commission

Zsanett Shashaty (ZS) – Wales Migration Partnership (WMP)

Item 1 – Apologies

David Melding AM

Bethan Jenkins AM

Barbara Natasegara, Safer Wales

Mike Wilkinson, New Pathways

Emmy Chater, Newport City Council

Item 2 – 4

JW approved as Chair of the CPG on Human Trafficking by members of the group.

BAWSO and Safer Wales approved as Secretariat of the CPG on Human Trafficking by members of the group.

Note of correction to the Minutes of the 4th June 2013 for 'Bernie Bowen-Thomson' to be changed for 'Angelina Rodrigues'. The minutes otherwise approved in full.

Item 5

Paper distributed to members of the group – 'Report on Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking (PAHT) Project.

Item 6

SC said that funding had been provided to his department for a new members of staff to work with him on this agenda. The member of staff has experience in working for NGO's.

SC said that a Regional Coordinator would soon be appointed and to take control of this issue in North Wales.

SC met the Minister of State for Immigration. They spoke on the plans to introduce the Modern Slavery Bill. The Minister, Lesley Griffiths AM will be attending Westminster soon to discuss this issue further.

SC said that the Modern Slavery Bill will consolidate different legislation into one place. The Proceeds' of Crime Act would allow money to support law enforcement agencies and allowing the proceeds to support victims.

SC said that a Human Trafficking Commissioner would be appointed as a result of the Bill and the introduction of Trafficking prevention orders. Police would also be granted authority to board vessels. Further areas being looked at would be employment practices. A 'virtual task force' would also be introduced via the Bill.

SC said that the Welsh Government is looking to refresh and improve their 'Human Trafficking' Website and the aim would be to make it a central place on all things Human Trafficking related, including what we are doing in Wales and case studies. The aim will be to always ensure that it is kept up-to-date.

SC said that the Leadership Delivery Plan has emphasised the need to 'source a proper evidence base'. A primary and secondary data set would be compiled. The recent case in Gwent emphasised to people across Wales that this is an issue that needs to be tackled.

Training is a priority and a recent task group on training has been delivered, together with a number of other training initiatives Wales wide. SC said that consistency of training is important.

SC said that a Communications Plan is currently being put together, not only to improve the new website but so as to introduce a new 4mins DVD across Wales.

SC said that increased awareness through the media is required and in the form of assisting with documentaries and press releases.

Angelina Rodriguez from BAWSO is leading on a Victim Care Pathway.

SC said that his department works closely with stakeholders across Wales.

SC confirmed that BAWSO is now a first responder.

SC confirmed that he is always available to work with stakeholders across Wales.

Internal trafficking has to be looked at just as importantly as trafficking from other countries.

JW welcomed moves for a 'Trafficking Commissioner' within the provisions of the Anti-Slavery Bill but said that she was a little nervous to hear of 'Regional Coordinators' in Wales and if the reporting mechanisms would become confused.

SC said that he feels that once Regional Coordinators are in place, Wales will be in a better position to tackle the issue of Human Trafficking.

A question was asked on the 'Polaris Project' and whether Wales was looking to make use of it. SC said that he is aware of the Polaris Project and that nationally they were looking into it, with a view to seeing how it could be used in Wales. SC said that he would get an update for the next meeting on it for members of the CPG.

JW said that increasing awareness and education of the devastating impact of Human Trafficking and reporting was vital.

SC said that awareness training was important and more needs to be done in this area before 'Polaris' and a central helpline number is considered.

Item 7

MC said that BAWSO was leading on Victim Care Pathways. BAWSO is also working with the Cardiff Multi Agency Forum and to learn best practice.

BAWSO has delivered 4 'Master Classes' on Human Trafficking and to raise awareness and that they are open to anyone to attend.

BAWSO still work closely with the Human Trafficking Foundation (HTF) and MC is a member of the National Care Standards and has worked closely in its formulation.

MC said that she is happy that the new Bill will join different legislation together.

MC said that BAWSO are working on their 4th report on Human Trafficking and what is currently happening across Wales, with an expected launch in November 2013.

SC said that on the 9th October 2013, they would be interviewing for the North Wales coordinator role.

Item 8

NP said that the next meeting would be attended by the UKBA and Home Office.

ZS – Said that she had received an email from the Home Office. Joanna Hopkins has agreed to meet with key partners, including the Wales Migration Partnership (WMP).

Item 9

Date of next meeting - TBC