



HERTFORDSHIRE Modern Slavery Partnership

New Twitter channel launched to tackle modern slavery in Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership (HMSP) will launch a new Twitter account on May, 6, to help tackle modern slavery in the county.

The new channel, @hertsmsp, will aim to provide information to those at risk of exploitation, giving advice on how to find support and information about their legal rights. It will also share tips on how local residents and professionals can recognise the signs that someone is being exploited and refer them to the new www.stopexploitationherts.org.uk website, which will be launched on May 13.

The channel will also be used to give updates on operations run by the partners including the dedicated policing team, Operation Tropic, and Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team.

The Twitter account has been developed by the HMSP, which is a partnership between Hertfordshire Constabulary, Shiva Foundation, Hertfordshire County Council, NHS Trusts, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire (PCC) and many other local organisations.

Mark Harvey, Chair of the HMSP, said: "The number of reported cases of modern slavery remains low in Hertfordshire, however we are certain that this is an underreported issue. Many of those suffering exploitation have been trafficked from overseas and may not wish to engage with the police and other local authorities. For these reasons social media is an excellent way to deliver information directly to these hidden victims and give them the opportunity to access support, advice and eventually freedom.



“The channel will also help to raise awareness of this little recognised problem and help local residents to spot the signs that someone is being exploited and encourage them to report their concerns.”

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

As defined by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner’s Office, modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Victims of modern slavery are unable to leave their situation of exploitation, controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception. Slavery violates human rights, denying people of their right to life, freedom and security.

Modern Slavery in Hertfordshire:

The number of reports of human trafficking and modern slavery remains low at this time however it is a largely a hidden problem and underreported as a result. During 2018, there have been XX modern slavery referrals through National Referral Mechanism. A significant proportion of these relate to offences that have not occurred within the county however are referred to Hertfordshire Constabulary because the victim has been housed in the county.

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