



New website launched to tackle modern slavery in Hertfordshire

The Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership (HMSP) will launch a new website on May, 13, to help tackle modern slavery in the county.

The new site, www.stopexploitationherts.org.uk, will provide a one stop shop for information and advice for residents, businesses and professionals who may encounter those at risk of exploitation. The website is also designed to help those suffering from exploitation, by signposting them to support services and giving information about their legal rights.

The website 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 and many other local organisations.

Mark Harvey, Operations Director for Adult Disabilities and Mental Health Services at Hertfordshire County Council and chair of the Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership, said:

“The new website builds on the work the partnership has been doing over the last two years in the county and will help raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery in the wider community. Hertfordshire is forward thinking in its approach to protecting and caring for those who may have been exploited, or are currently at risk of being abused or neglected. The website will provide a lifeline for those suffering abuse as well as making sure that the signs of exploitation do not go unnoticed and unreported.”

Kat Rolle, Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership Coordinator, said: “Along with other members of the Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership, we have worked hard to reach this important milestone to raise awareness of an often neglected and forgotten issue. This website will offer the right support to everyone including professionals suspecting something isn’t right as well as businesses looking at how to write a modern slavery statement. We hope that the launch of this website will encourage people to take action.”



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. Between January and March this year there have been 13 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.

For further information please contact Senior Press and PR officer Dan Atkinson on 01707 354581.



Issued by Corporate Communication
Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6XF
Tel: 01707 354588 • Direct fax: 01707 354589 • Media line: 0871 550 3003

www.herts.police.uk