

APPG for Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

21st July 2020

Meeting with Mark Burns-Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire and Chair of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network

The Police and Crime Commissioner raised concerns regarding the operation of the NRM and immigration status of some victims; how the legislation applies to those in county lines. There are also smaller organisations who play a critical role at a local level, and we need to understand how the Salvation Army interacts and works with these. He has been working with Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer (National Policing Lead for modern slavery) on the NRM transformation programme. He is awaiting further information on how the Home Office will engage the PCC and other partners in this programme. He also contributed to the Centre for Social Justice report [It Still Happens Here](#), in which the estimated number of modern slavery victims in the UK is much higher than the Home Office.

Karen Bradley MP, Chair, echoed that it is disturbing that the Government Modern Slavery strategy hasn't been refreshed. This was discussed in the APPG meeting with the Minister for Safeguarding on the review of the 2015 Modern Slavery Act, and the APPG had hoped for a follow-up meeting before recess. Karen tabling written questions. The Home Office might be changing its view in light of. Modern slavery must be seen as victim-focused.

The Commissioner also discussed how the NRM is not the best place for children, and the issue comes back to the capacity of local authorities and safeguarding. Changes have been made to the Single Competent Authority role and he would like to see an assessment of how this is going and the effectiveness of this.

Further meetings between the PCC and the APPG were discussed.