



# Violence & Vulnerability Unit Newsletter

Issue 13.

30 March 2021



## Home Office visit

Last week, members of the VVU met virtually with the Home Office to talk through the work the Unit has undertaken over the last 12 months.

The team provided an update on activities, including a discussion on projects that fall into the targeting interventions workstream. The team reported on a project with HMI Chelmsford Prison which addresses offending behaviour with written word and music. The project has been a great success and has seen participants gain qualifications and report improved mental health.

The team also discussed with the Home Office, how successful the partnership work with Essex Police Serious Violence Unit has been, and how safeguarding and protection of the vulnerable has been built into key police operations.

## Trauma informed practice

The VVU's very own Kirsty Gibbons spoke last week at the first Wave Trust, trauma informed seminar. The theme was trauma informed prisons and the seminar explored how by working with offenders you can reduce reoffending behaviour.



Wave Trust's approach is that if you wish to improve outcomes for deep-seated problems, you must identify and tackle the root causes. If you understand the role of trauma in violent behaviour and do therapeutic work around this, you can address the root cause.

The Trust develops and pioneers research-based solutions to transform the futures of children, recognising that by reducing the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) of child abuse, neglect and children witnessing domestic violence, you can break the cycle of disadvantage and improve lives.



## Trauma support for children

We want to share with you the work of the Children's Society CARE team (Children at Risk of Exploitation). The CARE team provides trauma informed support and interventions to children and young people aged 8 to 24 that live in Essex; working with those that are at medium/high risk of exploitation or those that are actively being exploited, be that sexually or criminally.

The service focuses on those young people that are unable or unwilling to engage with statutory services and therefore are more at risk of falling through the gaps. For example, the young person may have a social worker but refuse to engage with them around the subject of exploitation or their concerns.

The CARE team offers therapeutic support on both a 1-1 basis and through targeted groups, as well as training and consultancy for professionals. The training packages are comprised of a half day around Criminal Exploitation (bookable through the [ESCB website](#)) and a course that looks at how we can strengthen and support the networks around young people, bookable by emailing [eventsessex@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:eventsessex@childrenssociety.org.uk)

The team works in partnership with Barnardo's who provide the support to parents/carers around the issues and impact of the exploitation of their child.

For referral forms and more information visit the [website](#)

## Recognising and reporting modern slavery

Sadly, gang culture, knife crime and County Lines go hand in hand with exploitation, and one of the extremes of this is modern slavery. Modern slavery and labour abuse is a crime that sadly continues to exist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



## Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) is a UK law enforcement agency responsible for investigating and preventing labour exploitation. Every year the GLAA identifies and safeguards thousands of vulnerable and exploited workers, giving them an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

The GLAA has police-style powers to investigate labour exploitation in all industries and sectors. They can issue warnings and enforcement notices and for more serious offending, we secure convictions for offences under the Modern Slavery Act and Gangmasters Licensing Act.

Led by intelligence, they rely on public support to help create workplaces where people are not exploited for their labour. You can play your part by [spotting the signs of exploitation](#), reporting your concerns and in the process helping to make communities across Essex slavery-free.

You can report concerns with the intelligence team by emailing [intelligence@gla.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@gla.gov.uk) or calling 0800 4320804. Alternatively, you can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



## Back in four weeks

The VVU newsletter is taking a short break until 27 April.

When we come back we hope to share with you exciting news about our website, and our social media campaign aimed at raising awareness of County Lines with young people.

In the meantime you can always follow us on Twitter [@EssexVVU](https://twitter.com/EssexVVU)

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If you would like to find out more about any of the items in this newsletter please get in touch [katie.canning@essex.gov.uk](mailto:katie.canning@essex.gov.uk) Follow us on Twitter [@EssexVVU](https://twitter.com/EssexVVU)



Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

Victims of crime can access support [here](#)  
Book your free Home Fire Safety Visit [here](#)

