


| Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision | |
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| PCCG-2019-054 | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision |
| Subject | Connect Gwent Funding for Victim Support 2019/20 |
| Summary | To record the decision to provide Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Victim Support Services Grant funding to Victim Support for the provision of a Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Advocate |

DECISION

1. **The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides under sections 9 and 10 that the Police and Crime Commissioner for a police area makes crime and disorder grants and acts in co-operation with responsible authorities and makes arrangements with criminal justice agencies for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the area. This provision was further supplemented by virtue of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provided specific arrangements for the provision of funding for victims.**
2. **Consideration is required for provision of continuation funding to Victim Support from the base grant allocation of MOJ Victim Support Services Grant to provide a Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking (MDSHT) advocate for a further 12 month period. The post was established in June 2018 to increase current service provision for victims of MDSHT within Connect Gwent. In the past year the advocate has provided support to 28 individuals affected by MDSHT, ensuring they were appropriately safeguarded and supported. The advocate's work continues to be monitored by the Connect Gwent Hub Coordinator and reports are provided to my office.**

The victims who will be supported by this advocate are Potential Victims of Trafficking (PVOT) in the Gwent Police Force area. These individuals are from European Union (EU) / European Economic Area (EEA) and non EU countries and are internally trafficked up and down the motorways and towns of the UK on the promise of a better future. The post will also support any exploited British nationals. Government statistics report an increase in the this form of exploitation, particularly within agriculture, forced labour and County Lines.

The advocate will continue to work closely with the Gwent Police Anti-Slavery Team to provide direct support to victims and others affected by MDSHT. The advocate will work with victims, who have not met thresholds for existing service provision, to assess their needs and offer appropriate support; ensuring they are believed, supported and safeguarded. The advocate will also provide

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| The above request has my approval. | |
| Signed  | Date 12/11/19 |
| Contact Officer | |
| Name | Sam Heatley |
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| Background papers | Connect Gwent Annual Report as previously submitted as evidence for continuation of business |