

Hello,

Thank you to everyone who has engaged, shared feedback, and contributed to discussions on our MSCOS website, we really appreciate your information, general feedback and suggestions. Do continue to engage in our moderated [discussion forums](#), where you can post anonymously and informally.

## NEW THIS WEEK:



**Safety from any trafficker or other abuser**

This week we are placing focus on the core outcome, '**Safety from Any Trafficker or Other Abuser**' which you can visit directly [here](#), we have featured the **Victim Navigator's Pilot model by Justice and Care** and **police forces in England, Scotland and Romania**.

***Detective Inspector Helene Miller KPM, Metropolitan Police London says,***

“The Victim Navigator Programme was introduced into the **Metropolitan Police Service Modern Slavery team** in January 2021. It saw an increase in victims of Modern Slavery/human trafficking, supporting a rise in prosecutions from 33% to 83%. Victim Navigators are independent of police investigators but work alongside them to bridge the gap between victims and the police. The programme gives the investigator time to focus on the case and bring perpetrators to justice, giving survivors a voice from the start of the investigation through to the court case and beyond. Survivors have recounted how having 'safe space' provided by the Victim Navigator programme, away from the intimidating environment of a police station has been invaluable, as well as being supported independently, has given them the confidence to give their account and support the prosecution.

**Justice & Care** currently fund 12 Victim Navigators across the UK and 2 internationally, with plans to increase that figure further. We must never lose sight of the fact that a stronger victim is a stronger witness – always remember the person behind the evidence.”

***Helene has worked alongside Justice & Care to introduce the Victim Navigator Programme into the Metropolitan Police Service.***

Some members of the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board** have provided an overview of recommendations they would share with the **Community of Practice** to help and support survivors to report crime safely and with confidence. They will be sharing their knowledge in more detail in the forthcoming MSCOS workshops and podcasts.\*

**Police Training:** It is clear to all those who work in the Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery field that there are police who are highly

trained and specialised in working on cases with survivors and examples of excellent policing and policing initiatives. However, some members of the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board (RAB)** believe that police training needs to be far wider, across all police forces and at all levels, starting from recruitment level and ongoing from there. These members of the RAB are extremely supportive of having a wider **Victim Navigators** system to reach police forces in all areas of the UK and beyond.

**Employment of Survivor Leaders:** Some members of the RAB agree that the professional employment of Survivor Leaders is key, both to the training of the **police** at all levels, and to working with **Helplines** and **Victim Navigator Teams**. In the view of some members of the RAB, and other survivors involved in the MSCOS project, professional Survivor Leaders who are appropriately accredited and employed could offer a vital welcome into situations of safety after trafficking and reporting of crime for the many survivors who feel far too afraid to come forward.

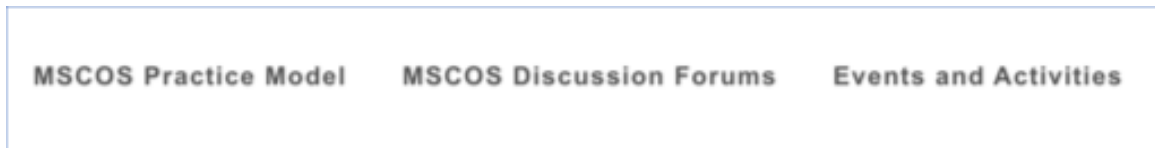
**Increasing public awareness to enable survivors to come forward to seek help or to report the crime of trafficking/modern slavery:** This is notoriously difficult for survivors who need to escape their situation. More general public awareness is needed about the crime even existing, about the **National Referral Mechanism** and the **Modern Slavery Helpline**. Use of **TV and other broadcast media** is advisable as this can reach a wide range of the population; it is important that the language and information used is current, non-sensationalist and can explain simply what a person should do if they are concerned about any situation of modern slavery, prioritising the immediate safety of the person.

**Using Health and Safety Standards with Modern Slavery Standards:** **Keith Lewis**, a member of **RAB** who also works with the **British Standards Institute** recommends that **Modern Slavery standards** should be run alongside **Health and Safety standards** so they can 'fit with' that existing infrastructure. This applies to shops, fast food chains, restaurants, and public toilets (which are often used by survivors in forms of labour exploitation and street sexual and criminal exploitation). Posters should provide numbers to call for help. The wording should be simple and designed to help people who may not recognise that they are experiencing 'trafficking' or 'modern slavery'. It is helpful to give examples of specific situations, such as, '*are you threatened by your employer?*' '*Do you have to stay with your employer?*' '*Are you receiving British minimum wage*'. It is equally important to encourage coming forward, by saying that all information and advice is confidential.

*\*The MSCOS RAB spoke with Rachel Witkin*

## DID YOU KNOW...

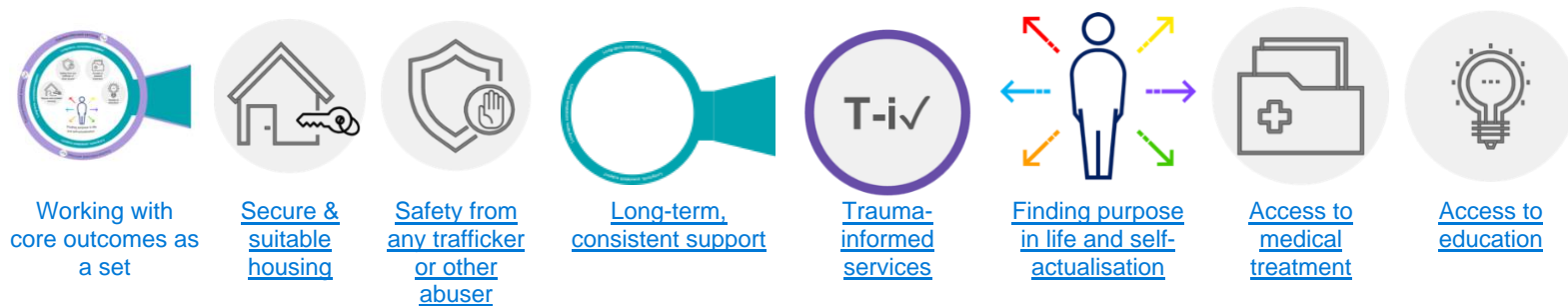
You can access the forums from every page of the website!



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*The MSCOS Community of Practice content is designed and directed by Queenie Sit and Rachel Witkin.*