



Coventry Modern Slavery Partnership

Modern Slavery Annual Report

April 2025 – March 2026

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Highlights from 2025 – 2026

This year was the Coventry Modern Slavery Partnership (CMSP)'s first full year of being operational after being established in January 2025, as such this is the Partnership's first annual report. This year brought the launch of some new initiatives as well as our continued commitment to existing projects such as our training programme, and the Slavery and Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC).

In April 2025 we launched the CMSP's first action plan, giving our Partnership clear goals to help us progress towards our overarching 4P strategy. In July 2025, the [Coventry Protocol for Addressing Adult Modern Slavery](#) was adopted by Coventry City Council's Cabinet. The Protocol represents the first time Coventry has committed to a multi-agency strategy and operational pathways which marks a key milestone in Coventry's ongoing journey towards a water-tight modern slavery approach.

Training was a key focus for the Council this year, we delivered over 70 hours of training to over 1600 individuals in 2025/26. This year also saw the Council continue our Transition Panel meetings, through which we discussed support options and made safeguarding plans for 13 exploited children becoming adults.

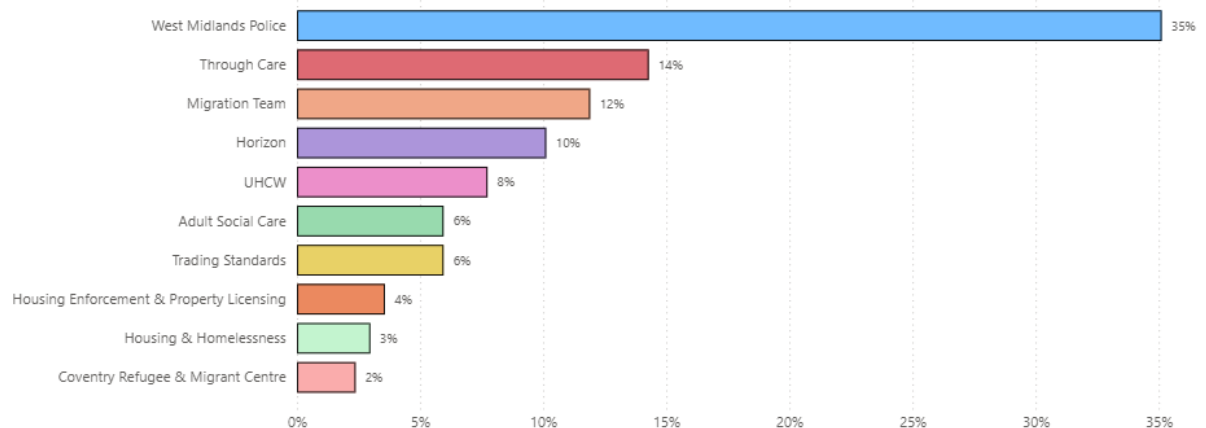
You can read more about all of the above and other aspects of the CMSP's work in this report. As Chair of the CMSP, Coventry City Council would like to thank all of our members for their continued commitment to preventing, identifying and disrupting modern slavery in Coventry.

Modern Slavery Data

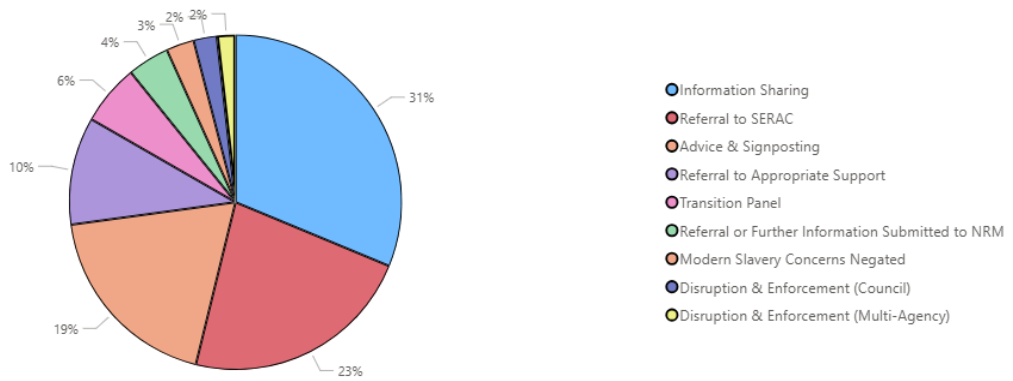
Data Summary



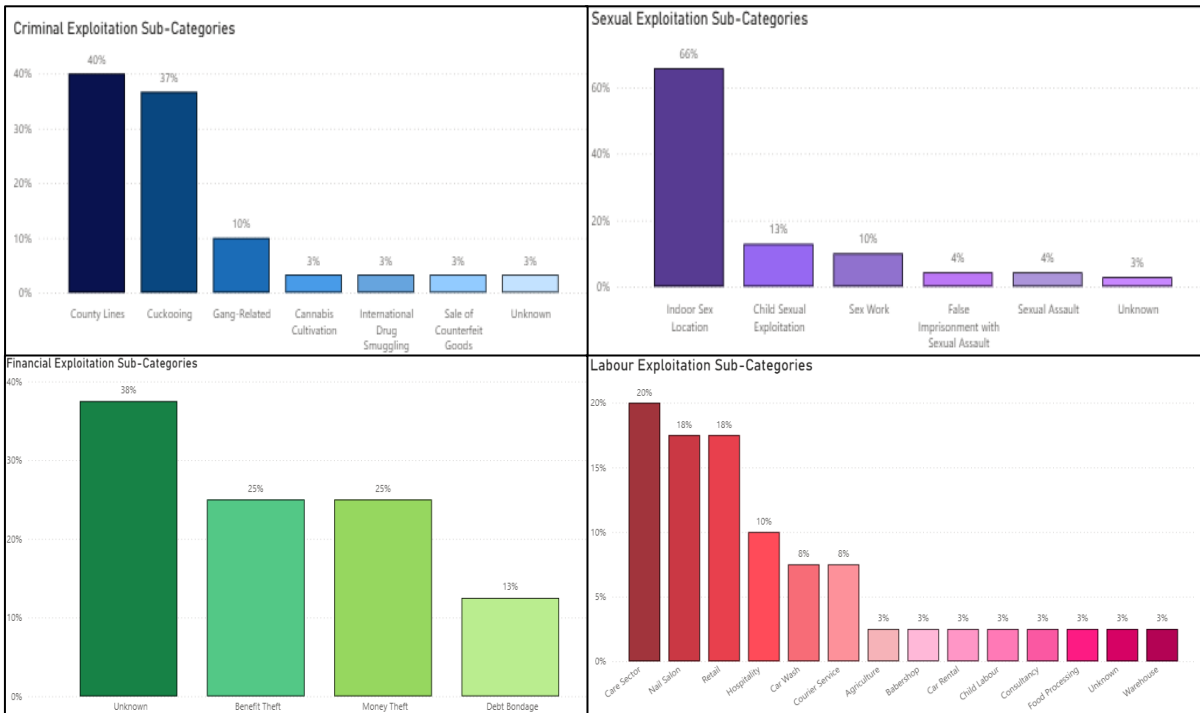
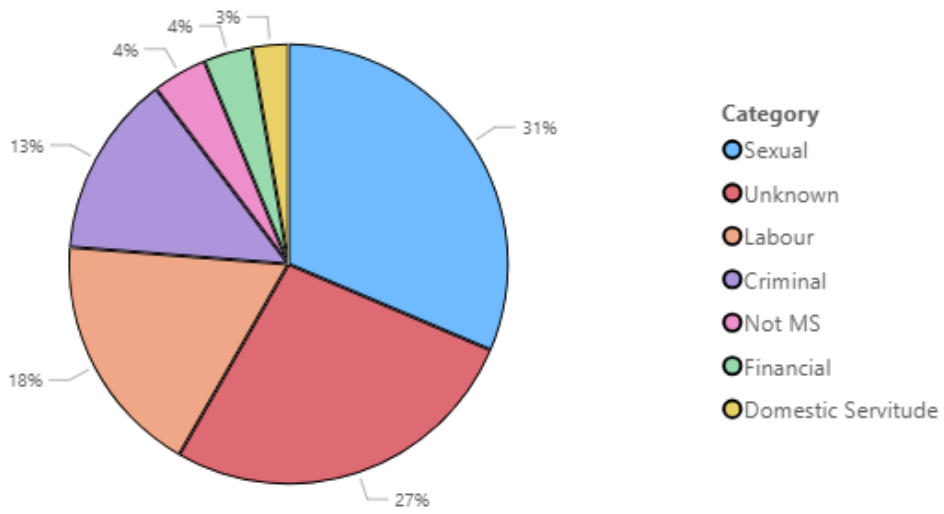
Referring Agency



Case Outcomes

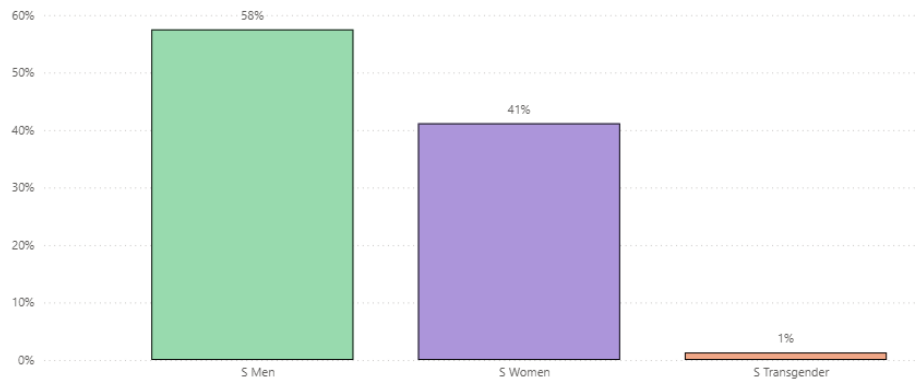


Exploitation Type

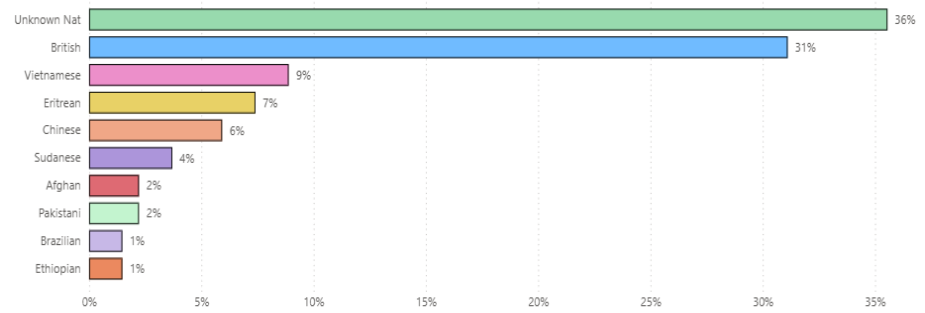


Survivor Data

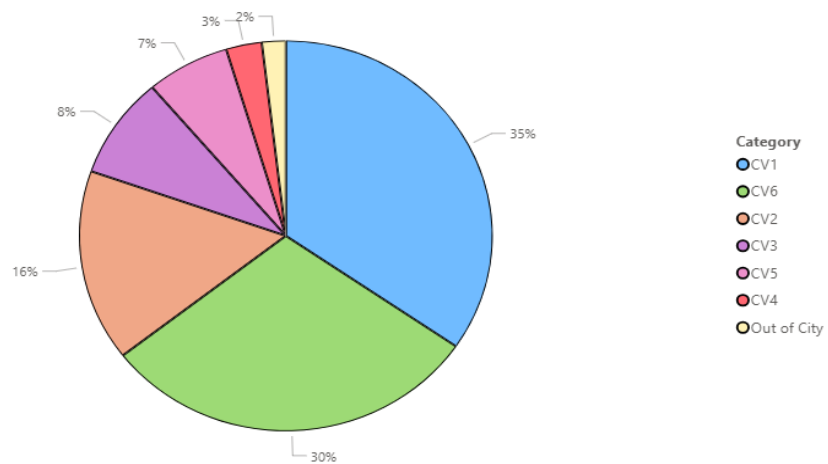
Survivor Gender



Survivor Nationality

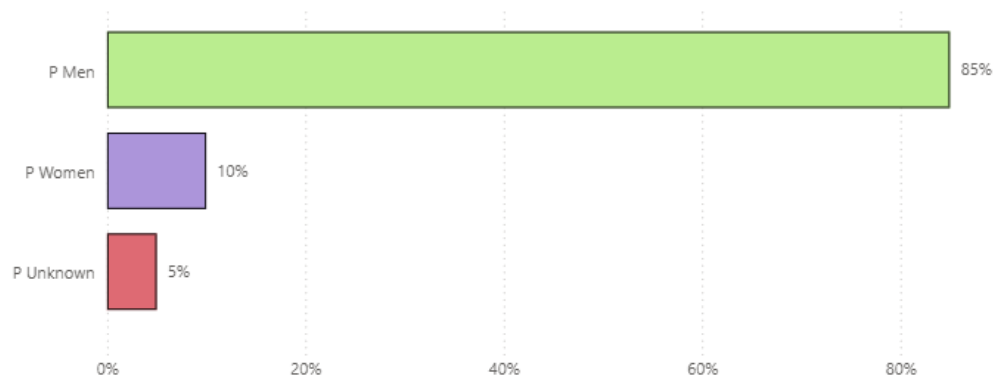


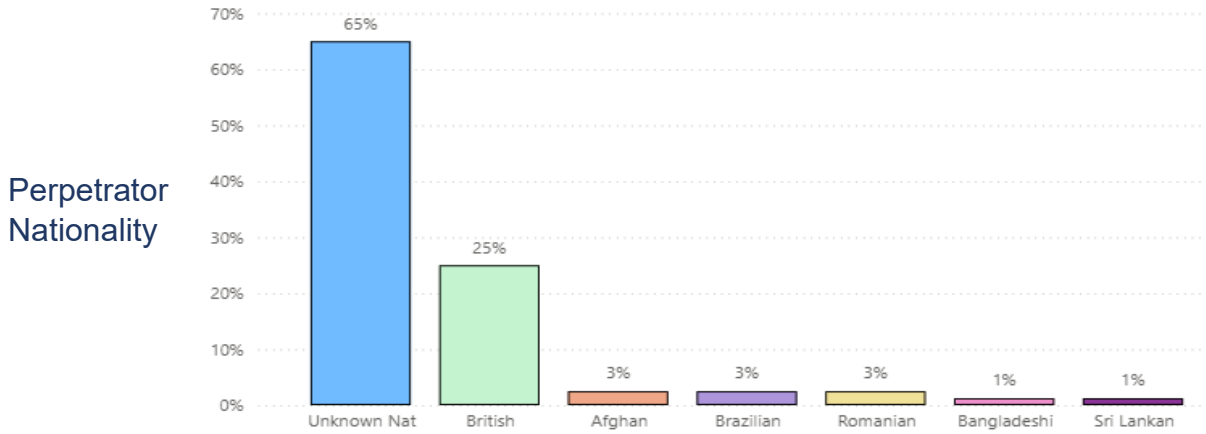
Location of Exploitation



Perpetrator Data

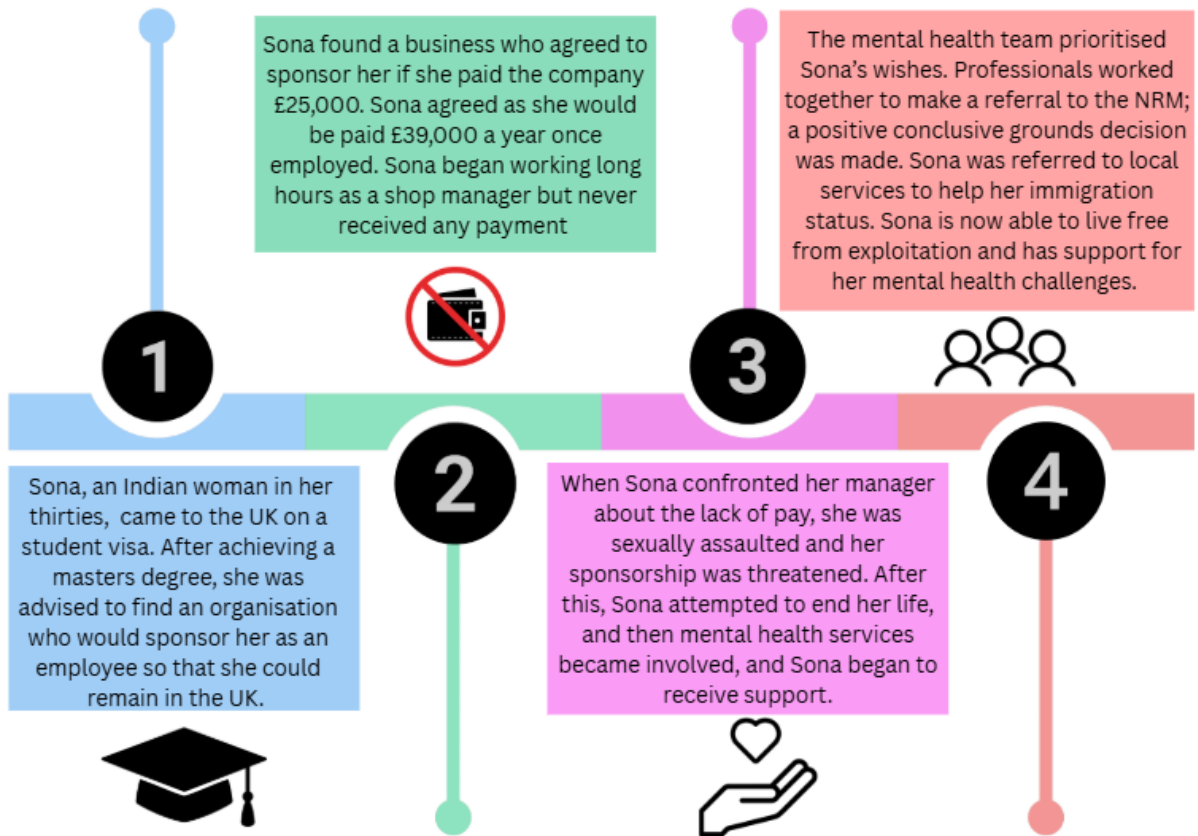
Perpetrator Gender



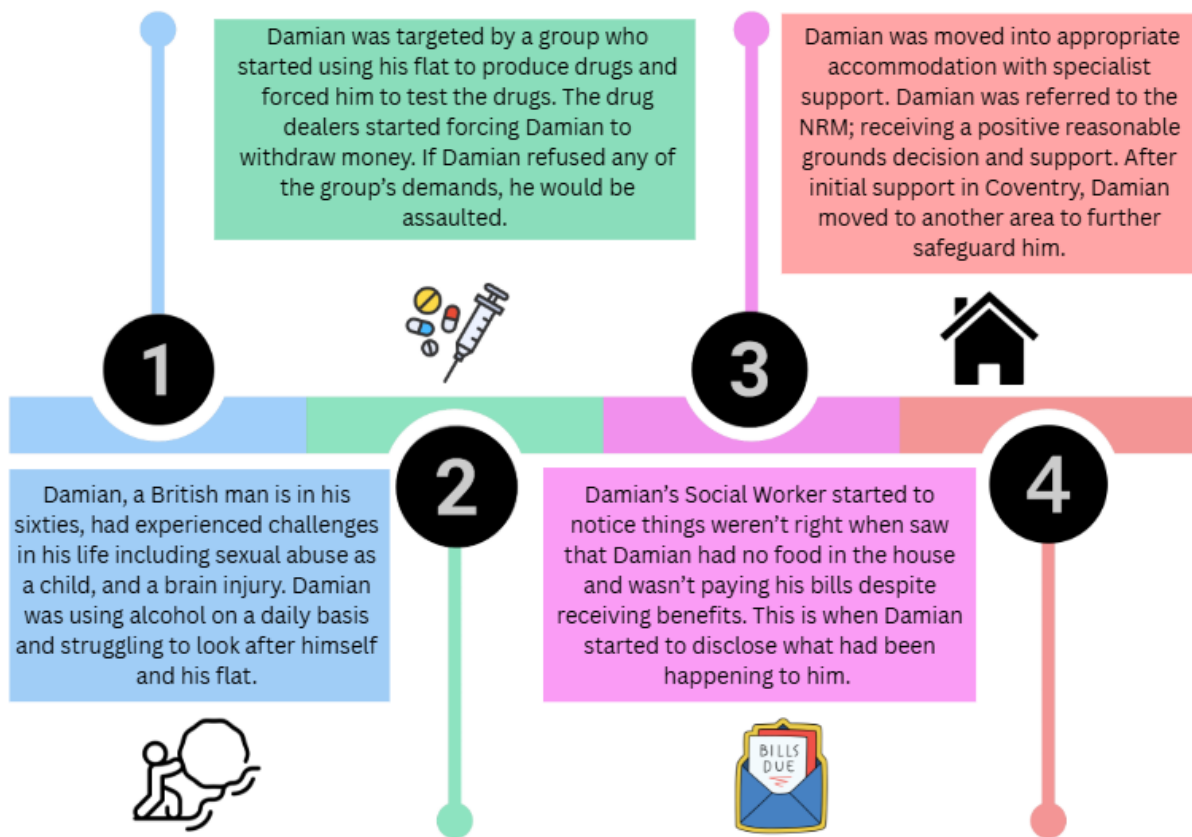


Case Studies

Sona's Story



Damian’s Story



Action Plan

Every year, members of Coventry’s Modern Slavery Partnership (CMSP) come together to decide the Partnership’s priorities for the next 12-month period. These priorities are guided by Coventry’s overarching strategic 4P plan which is published in the [Coventry Protocol for Addressing Adult Modern Slavery](#). The resulting action plan is then monitored in the CMSP meetings to ensure we are making progress against our targets. You can see a summary of our successes and development opportunities in relation to the 2025-2026 action plan below.

Pursue
Successes
Nine cases resulted in positive disruption and enforcement outcomes in 2025-2026
Coventry City Council and West Midlands Police completed a formal review of Coventry’s Slavery & Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (SERAC), expanded the membership and improved the meeting format to allow more opportunities for partners to bring cases.
Coventry City Council promoted our online modern slavery reporting system.
Coventry City Council added incorporated discussions of new and emerging exploitations threats into SERAC and CMSP meetings.
Coventry City Council delivered specialist training to operational teams in the Council’s Regulatory Services directorate to upskill them on identifying and responding to sexual exploitation when visiting properties and businesses across the city.



Coventry City Council added modern slavery related questions to Regulatory Services' inspection forms.

Coventry City Council's law enforcement bodies improved the rate at which they identify modern slavery concerns.

Development Opportunities

We would like to create further opportunities to upskill agencies on the best ways to share information with each other in order to effectively disrupt and prosecute modern slavery offenders.

Prevent

Successes

The CMSP completed a needs assessment to identify groups at high risk of exploitation in the city.

Coventry City Council delivered awareness raising sessions to residents in the groups identified in the needs assessment and upskilled the teams and organisations supporting them.

Coventry City Council published a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Transparency Statement for the first time since 2020.

Coventry City Council offered local businesses the opportunity to donate, sponsor and collaborate on our modern slavery projects through the Council's Social Value Pipeline.

Coventry City Council educated local businesses on the importance of safeguarding their staff, products and supply chains from modern slavery.

Development Opportunities

We would like to increase the amount of at-risk groups that we engage with directly and have a wider range of public awareness raising methods.

Protect

Successes

The CMSP completed an analysis of need to understand who is accessing survivor support services in Coventry, their additional needs, and who may face barriers in accessing local support options.

The CMSP published and promoted Coventry's Protocol for Addressing Adult Modern Slavery to highlight pathways to support, clarify each organisation's role in supporting survivors, and encourage the relevant organisations to take the lead in safeguarding and supporting survivors.

The CMSP fostered meaningful communication between local agencies, the Home Office and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) support providers to improve the NRM referral process.

Coventry City Council delivered training to Housing & Homelessness, Children's Services and Adult Social Care teams to ensure they are able to fulfil their legal responsibilities to survivors of exploitation who access their services.

Housing & Homelessness, Children's Services and Adult Social Care teams increased their rates of identifying modern slavery cases and receiving positive outcomes for survivors through the National Referral Mechanism process.

Development Opportunities



We would like to further bridge the gaps between statutory and non-statutory agencies through networking events to increase the rates of referral between agencies and improve understanding of operational processes.

Prepare

Successes

Coventry City Council delivered training to several Council teams, external organisations and multi-agency partnerships.

Coventry City Council commissioned specialist training inputs such as lived experience guest speakers, and sexual exploitation sessions for priority teams including our Modern Slavery Ambassadors and Regulatory Services teams.

Coventry City Council worked with University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire to develop a specialised training presentation to be delivered by and for health services.

The CMSP delivered a programme of events to mark national Anti-Slavery Day in 2025.

Coventry City Council trained the first cohort of Coventry's Modern Slavery Ambassadors.

Coventry City Council monitored the quality of information submitted about modern slavery concerns and raised issues with referrals via the Coventry Modern Slavery Partnership.

Coventry City Council worked with the Human Trafficking Foundation's Lived Experience Advisory Panel to ensure our training and strategic work was co-designed with people with lived experience of modern slavery.

CMSP members now have an opportunity to showcase best practice and successes in every meeting.

Coventry City Council championed the work of the CMSP through internal and external comms campaigns in local publications and social media.

Development Opportunities

We would like to capitalise on the success of existing initiatives by expanding our range of indicator resources, recorded training videos, and agencies with a trained Modern Slavery Ambassador.

Do you work with these communities?

- People with learning disabilities
- People with neurodiversity
- People using substances
- Low-income households
- People with poor mental health
- Domestic abuse survivors
- People experiencing homelessness
- Newly arrived communities (e.g. asylum seekers, refugees, people with sponsor visas, irregular status, no recourse to public funds, or no right to work).
- People with communication or language barriers
- People providing sexual services

We would like to offer you:
Free awareness raising sessions to help your staff and service users identify modern slavery.

Learn how to:
Spot the signs of exploitation
Talk about your concerns
Seek help

Contact us at:
modernslavery@coventry.gov.uk

Spotlight: High Risk Groups Needs Assessment

As part of the prevent arm of the 2025-2026 action plan, the CMSP identified groups most at risk of modern slavery and offered free awareness raising sessions via circulation of the below poster.



Coventry Modern Slavery Survivor Support Needs Assessment

The CMSP completed a group exercise and circulated a questionnaire to understand which populations are most likely to access effective support in Coventry, these exercises have highlighted the following key themes.

Lack of Support Options for Men and Non-English speakers

All of the agencies that responded to the questionnaire did not accept referrals for men; one also did not accept referrals for people with a very low level of English comprehension.

Low levels of Referrals into Support Services

Across all respondents to the survey the amount of survivors accessing services during 2025 was low, the quantity of service users per service ranged from 1 – 32, with a median of 6 survivors per service in 2025.

Most Survivors Accessing Services had been Subjected to Sexual Exploitation

All of the respondents to the survey told us that sexual exploitation was either the most common or second most common type of modern slavery experienced by the survivors accessing their services. Sexual exploitation was followed by criminal exploitation and then domestic servitude in order of prevalence.

Young Adult Survivors are the Most Likely Age Group to Access Support

All of the respondents to the survey told us that their largest service user age groups were survivors aged between 18-34. On the contrary, all services told us that their smallest service user age groups were in the 55+ category.

Gaps in Service Provision

None of the services who responded to our survey provide counselling services or childcare to their service users. Similarly, we did not receive any responses from law enforcement agencies, so we were unable to determine what support they offer.

There was limited availability of housing provision, financial support, legal advice, Adult Social Care support, NRM reconsideration requests, access to voluntary returns and physical health support, with only one organisation reporting to provide these kinds of support to their service users. In contrast, all of the services provided signposting to other services, and advice and advocacy.

When asked to name gaps in support provision, CMSP members in and outside of the survey consistently identified services for male survivors, and housing provision as the most significant gaps in support provision. Other identified gaps were specialist services for survivors who use substances, counselling services, and services for survivors who are fearful of reporting their experience to authorities or the NRM.

Lack of Local Referral Routes

Only one respondent named local Coventry organisations in their most common referral sources, with all others naming regional services or out of area services. This



was very similar when they detailed which services they most commonly made referrals into, with only one service naming local Coventry services.

The Impact of Professional's Knowledge to ensuring Access to Support

When asked to identify the biggest barriers facing survivors attempting to access support in Coventry the most common answers were related to professionals not identifying modern slavery and therefore not making referrals. As well as professionals not having appropriate knowledge of support service provision and the relevant referral processes.

Anti-Slavery Day Events

In October 2025 Coventry City Council hosted three events to mark Anti-Slavery Day:



Our inaugural modern slavery conference held at Coventry City Council's Friargate office which sold out and was rated 5/5 by attendees.



A marketplace event at Coventry Cathedral to connect the public with support services which was attended by over 20 support services in Coventry and helped several survivors of exploitation access support for the first time.



An event at the Council's Job Shop for businesses to learn about their role in combatting exploitation which was attended by local businesses of various sizes and from an array of sectors.

Spotlight: Coventry's First Modern Slavery Conference



The UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Eleanor Lyons opened the conference, followed by panel discussions centred around our 4P approach. We heard from twenty organisations about their role, successes and challenges in helping to combat exploitation in Coventry.

The second half of the day involved an interactive case study activity which delved into the realities survivors and professionals face on the frontline of anti-slavery work. The West Midlands' Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster closed the conference with words of praise and motivation.











One attendee said "Every aspect of the day was so well thought through. I particularly liked the way that your approach enabled people to share good and emerging practice alongside some joint problem solving and celebrations of success".



Training

Sessions	Minutes	Hours	Attendees
51	4260	71	1673

Topics Covered

-  Spotting the signs of exploitation
-  Support options for survivors
-  How to talk about exploitation with people at risk.
-  The scale of modern slavery in Coventry
-  Safe procurement and supply chains
-  Supporting young people through their transition to adulthood
-  How to prevent modern slavery
-  Coventry's response to modern slavery

Audience

37% of sessions were for Coventry City Council employees.

Including colleagues from Customer Services, Adult Social Care, Public Health, Elected Members, Housing & Homelessness, Children's Services, Skills, Employment & Adult Education, Transformation & Change, Legal Services, Migration

26% of sessions were for non-Council organisations

Including Citizens Advice Bureau, Orbit Housing, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, British Red Cross and the Department for Work and Pensions.

29% of sessions were for a mix of Council and non-Council teams.

Including One Coventry Integrated Teams, the Drug & Alcohol Strategic Board, Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board, the Marmot Partnership, the Migration Partnership, and St Basils Youth Hub.

8% of sessions were delivered directly to people at increased risk of being subjected to modern slavery

Including over 160 migrants, students and people with disabilities and mental health conditions.

We were also asked to talk about Coventry's approach to adult exploitation at various regional, national and international forums as an example of best practice.

Training Feedback

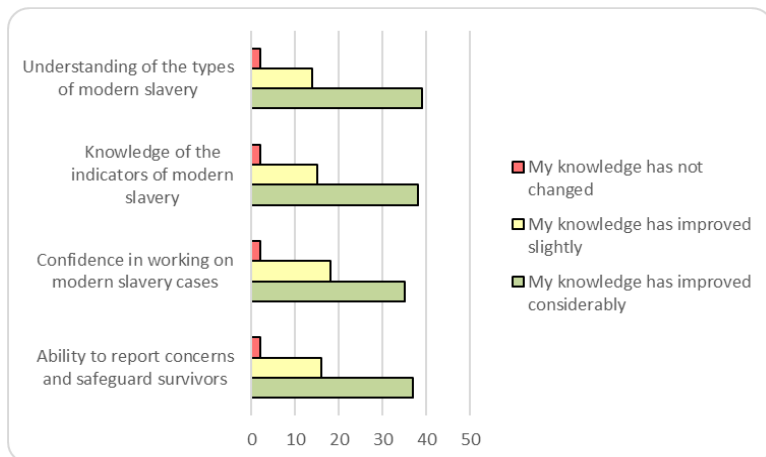
We asked Coventry City Council teams to complete a training feedback form. Here are the results.

4.65

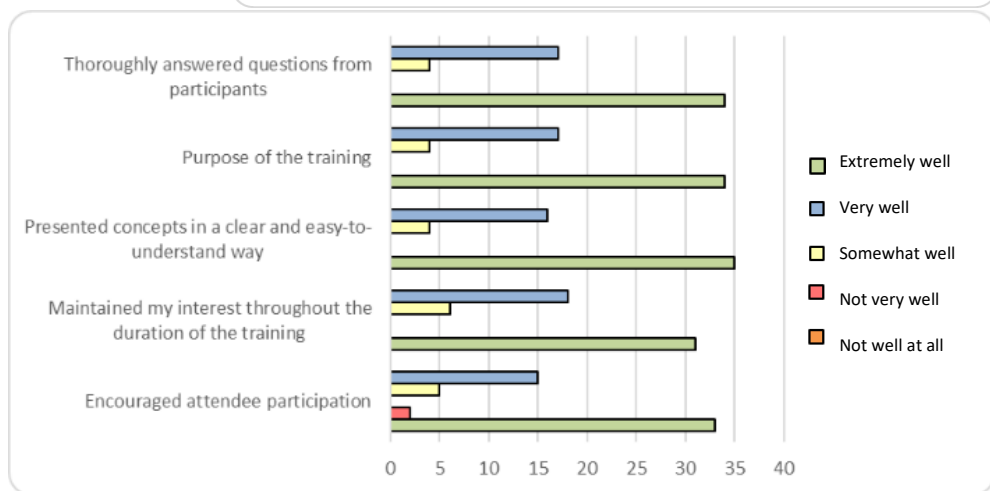
Average Rating



When asked how the training had impacted their level of understanding of modern slavery:



When asked how well the trainer had delivered the session:



Spotlight: Launch of Modern Slavery Ambassador Programme

In March 2026, sixteen professionals from organisations across the city completed their modern slavery ambassador training, making them the first Modern Slavery Ambassadors in Coventry. Our Ambassadors are now able to appropriately manage cases of modern slavery, educate their colleagues and implement strategic changes in their teams and organisations to improve identification and support for those affected by modern slavery.



One Ambassador told us they valued “the in-depth review of the legal aspects of Modern slavery crimes and reviewing “our” role in identifying and gaining useful information for the survivor’s best interest”. Another told us the course “gave me lots of new resources and materials that are really helpful for my role”.

We are grateful to Black Country Women’s Aid and the Human Trafficking Foundation’s Lived Experience Advisory Panel for helping to design and deliver the training course.

5.00

Average Rating



Next Steps

To build on our progress this year, we have created a 2026 – 2027 action plan which will push us to consider new projects whilst remaining dedicated to the positive impact made this year.

Our focus remains firm: pursue individuals and businesses who exploit people, prevent people from committing or being subjected to modern slavery offences, support those who experience exploitation, and prepare professionals and the public to identify and safeguard all those affected by modern slavery.

If you would like to join Coventry's Modern Slavery Partnership and help us achieve our goals, please contact modernslavery@coventry.gov.uk

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Hebe Lawson

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