

SOC LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS BULLETIN

Working together to tackle serious and organised crime

Welcome

Welcome to the third edition of our SOC Local Partnerships Bulletin, developed to share good practice from across law enforcement and the public, private and voluntary sectors to work together to tackle serious and organised crime. We hope these articles will form the basis for practitioners and policy-makers to interact and share information to help develop both local activity and national policy that will protect the public from serious and organised crime.

This third edition 'spotlights' the work of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and the practical tools which can be used to disrupt and reduce vulnerability to serious and organised crime in the community. Case studies highlighting successful local approaches in Bedfordshire, Surrey and others are also included. Information sharing remains key to partnership working, as demonstrated by features from the Intellectual Property Office. We also showcase the active role that local voluntary sector organisations can play in accessing the most vulnerable parts of society. Finally, we are again seeking feedback on this bulletin and would greatly appreciate if you could take the time to fill in [this](#) survey.

For more information about the Government's response to serious and organised crime please see the [Serious and Organised Crime \(SOC\) Strategy 2013](#). The SOC Local Partnerships Bulletin will be released on a quarterly basis by the Home Office's Strategic Centre for Organised Crime, part of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) and will be available [online](#). If you have an article which you would like to feature in a future edition, please email the submission form found [here](#) to the team mailbox below. If you have any further feedback/suggestions or questions, please contact your usual SCOC contact or the SCOC Local Partnerships mailbox at: SCOC.localpartnerships@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT... GANGMASTERS LICENSING AUTHORITY



The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) core business is preventing modern slavery. They prevent worker exploitation and tackle illegal labour provision into the fresh produce sector.

The GLA achieve this by:

- **Licensing** - operating a robust scheme
- **Enforcement** - investigation of unlicensed Gangmasters
- **Compliance** – inspecting licensed providers

Supplying temporary workers to the food industries is big business and organised crime is often unearthed during investigations. Human trafficking, forced labour and other forms of criminality, including fraud and tax evasion are common. Criminals are aware

that large numbers of vulnerable workers, predominantly migrants can be exploited. Lured by the prospect of decent wages, they accept hard and monotonous work whilst traffickers control their money and accommodation through fear and intimidation. The GLA encounters potential trafficking victims on a regular basis and has highlighted common indicators on their '[Spot the signs](#)' webpage. GLA Officers are often requested to work with police in trafficking cases. Investigating is difficult– victims are suspicious of authority and may move, or be moved, before a case reaches court. However working in collaboration with partnership agencies enables the GLA to protect vulnerable and exploited workers and relentlessly to pursue offenders.

For more information go to www.gla.gov.uk



Working in Partnership

Officers from the GLA identified and disrupted the activity of thirty two serious and organised criminal gangs last year, illustrating that exploiting workers for profit is a growing industry that can offer huge returns to criminal operators.

As an intelligence led organisation without powers of arrest, the GLA works in partnership with other agencies, such as the police and HMRC, to protect victims and bring offenders to justice. In the past two years this partnership approach has resulted in prison sentences from a

number of successful prosecutions. Recently the GLA worked with Lincolnshire Police and the East Midlands Regional Asset Recovery Team to convict a Lithuanian couple for unlicensed provision and fraud offences. The couple received custodial sentences totalling five-and-a-half years and Proceeds of Crime proceedings are continuing.

To find out more about working in partnership with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority - please call the intelligence unit on **0115 959 7052**.



PREVENT SERIOUS CRIME: THAT'S AN ORDER

Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO) legislation has now commenced in Scotland on 1st March. SCPOs can be awarded against offenders convicted of, or involved in, serious crimes. They impose conditions, prohibitions and requirements to prevent further involvement in serious crime. Breaching an order is a criminal offence. Lucy Smith, Organised Crime and Police Powers Unit, Scottish Government said “The Scottish Government is committed to providing law enforcement agencies with tools to help them disrupt organised crime groups as much as possible. SCPOs are one such tool.”

SCPOs in action - Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire Police have added SCPOs to their toolkit tackling labour exploitation. Convictions under the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and subsequent award of SCPOs against four members of a family known for labour exploitation illustrates the force's determination to protect vulnerable individuals. The vulnerable individuals tended to be from homeless shelters and soup kitchens. Bedfordshire Police therefore specified SCPO conditions for the convicted offenders to include:

- notification to the Police, 24 hrs in advance, of the employment of any persons, stating their personal details and employment terms and conditions
- prohibited from retaining any employee ID documents or providing accommodation as part of contract, unless premises are a dwelling and deemed suitable by a nominated officer
- banned from canvassing for work in any area unless requested 24hrs in advance and agreed by the nominated officer
- must maintain records for three monthly inspections by Trading Standards, HMRC, Gangmasters Licencing or Health and Safety Executive

Monitoring of the SCPOs has not only encouraged a positive multi-agency response but led to enhanced intelligence sharing, already resulting in the full term recall on license of one of the offenders.

David Cestaro has a wealth of experience in tackling Modern Slavery and for more information, please contact David at david.cestaro@bedfordshirepnn.police.uk or for more information on applying for the SCPOs please contact Donna Norris at Donna.Norris@hertfordshire.pnn.police.uk

The National Crime Agency and SCPOs

The National Crime Agency (NCA) used an SCPO to jail a fraudster who breached his order. The investigation also prevented a large-scale fraud. Paul Jenkins, Deputy Director said “This is an excellent result. We used the breach of an SCPO to send a firearms offender back to jail.” Full article ‘Forger sent back to jail for breaching court order’ [here](#)

SCPO updates

The Serious Crime Act 2015 updated SCPO legislation adding new computer, firearms and drug offences. For more information on SCPOs please contact Nick Barnett at nick.barnett1@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) - Fuel Fraud

Duty on fuel accounts for almost £28 billion of tax revenue per annum. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimates that uncollected revenue on fuel duty is approximately £480 million per annum. As well as this loss of revenue, non-road worthy vehicles are often used in the transportation of illicitly produced fuels with illegal processes having the potential to cause environmental damage through the indiscriminate disposal of dangerous toxic waste.

While smuggling cheaper fuel and theft from major pipelines is rare, fraud is common through rebated fuels (Marked Gas Oil, 'red diesel,' and Kerosene), where duty is 80% less than for regular diesel. Rebated fuels are marked with a combination of dyes and covert markers and consequently HMRC's Road Fuel Testing Units are equipped with a number of chemical tests to identify if markers have been removed. On 1 April 2015 a new covert marker, which is resistant to known methods of laundering, was introduced.



Contact Details

If you suspect fuel fraud and require immediate HMRC presence, please contact the National Co-ordination Unit (NCU), Telephone Number 0870 785 3600.

If you have lower risk suspicions please e-mail the Intelligence Bureau – (intelligence.bureau@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk)



Online Movie 'Release Group' sentenced to over 17 years

In December 2015, an online film piracy group were successfully prosecuted for the first time by the Federation against Copyright Theft (FACT). The investigation was supported by the police from West Midlands, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire and West Mercia, and the West Midlands Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN).

The five members estimated to have cost the industry in excess of £5 million, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud and were given custodial sentences totalling more than 17 years. The extent of their criminality was vast. On just one website where the group shared their films there had been millions of downloads.

FACT works closely with law enforcement against online piracy, to protect the film and broadcasting industry against copyright and trademark infringements.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property said: "The illegal copying and distribution of films has real consequences for the film industry and consumers. Today's sentencing shows how seriously the courts take this crime and the power of collaboration between industry, government and enforcement agencies."

For full article
[please click here](#)



CyberSafe Network

In July 2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey launched the UK's first local CyberSafe Network - an online resource for businesses, professionals and practitioners in Surrey, designed to empower them to better safeguard themselves and their communities.

Earlier work with partners around cybercrime prevention revealed that they lacked a shared understanding of what cybercrime really meant to Surrey, it was felt that national campaigns were failing to reach the most vulnerable and data, advice and resources were extremely fragmented and of variable quality.

To address this, the Network was created to provide members with:

- a clear “brand” to raise cybercrime up the local community safety agenda;
- easy access to the latest alerts, advice and cybercrime news (the Network automatically collates relevant content from numerous trusted sources, bringing it all into one place)



- A comprehensive and regularly updated resource hub, providing users with a ‘one-stop-shop’ for preventative material and the latest intelligence. (Users are also able to share their own content, and rate that of others.)
- Email alerts when new content matching their professional areas of interest are added.

The Network has now been in operation for 6 months and has proved popular with partners, with hundreds of social workers, teachers, community safety officers and neighbourhood watch members now registered.

For more information please visit: www.cybersafesurrey.org

Do you know who you're dealing with?

ACRO Criminal Records Office plays a crucial role in tackling serious and organised crime by making sure dangerous offenders cannot go under the radar. Home to the UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records, ACRO manages information relating to criminal convictions of both UK and foreign nationals which occurred overseas.

Police and law enforcement can request conviction data on foreign national suspects to uncover the true extent of criminality, as Kent police recently discovered in the case of a Slovakian national arrested for abstraction of electricity. Through ACRO they learnt that the individual had previous convictions in Slovakia which included sexual abuse of a minor, burglary, blackmail and theft, serving terms in prison in his home country. By working with ACRO

Kent police were able to respond to the true threat posed by this individual, including his registration on the Sex Offenders Register and ascertaining that he meets the criteria for deportation.

The ACRO Intelligence Unit also monitors UK nationals convicted of sexual offences overseas until their return to the UK, where police can then effectively monitor and manage their risk.

Don't let dangerous offenders go undetected, contact ACRO and find out who you are dealing with.

To find out more about the range of services ACRO provides go to www.acro.police.uk or contact **Michael Scott** on **02380 745597** or email Michael.scott@acro.pnn.police.uk

DEPRIVING THE CRIMINALS OF THEIR ILL- GOTTEN GAINS

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 contains a number of powers which allow for the recovery of criminal assets, including assets that are held overseas. It is an essential tool for depriving criminals of their ill-gotten gains.

In international cases it is usual for the country who recovers the assets to retain them. However the concept of asset sharing is now gathering momentum with the Home Office responsible for the negotiation of such arrangements. The division of assets can be reflected in either bi-lateral overarching agreements or treaties, or negotiated on a



case by case basis. The UK has recently received assets back from Switzerland in two cases (both notorious drug dealers and in one case the sum of £194,000) and in cases from the Isle of Man (the latest sum standing at £165,000).

For more information, please contact **Alison Moore** at Alison.Moore@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk

NCA FNO THREAT DESK – OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY MARCH 2016

The NCA's multi-agency Foreign National Offender (FNO) threat desk has now been fully operational since September 2015. It has already been involved in a range of initiatives to drive up immigration disruptions to tackle serious and organised crime. The team is providing ongoing support to nine live operations against priority/high priority organised crime groups and also played a central role in Operation TRIVIUM 5 (a roads policing initiative to target FNOs using the roads network). The work can range from advising the initial tasking on how to include immigration powers as part of the response, to case-working individual nominals. The team has particularly captured law enforcement's attention where they have identified and subsequently progressed action to remove someone's British citizenship because they obtained it using fraud (for example, an Albanian nominal who initially claimed to be Kosovan in order to qualify for asylum in the UK, and subsequently became a British national).

If you would like to know more about targeting foreign nationals engaged in serious and organised crime please contact: IntelHubForeignNationalOffenders@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk



NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NORTH YORKSHIRE GAIN PARTNER AGENCIES



As a result of information sharing via the GAIN network a fraud and fire safety prosecution case conducted by the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (NYFRA) against Tokyo Industries (One) Ltd, Mellor and others commenced.

- The fire alarm and fire detection system was not working
- Fire risk assessment for the property was not adequate

On 5th October 2015 at York Crown Court, Mellor was found guilty and fined a total of £173k.

Twenty Four premises were identified across several counties and with support from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority (LFRA), NYFRA conducted a series of Inspections under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This legislation that covers all business and commercial premises, protecting occupants from fire with provisions to ensure that comprehensive Fire Risk Assessments have to be undertaken.

In the cases of Tokyo Holdings and Mellor, breaches were identified and enforcement notices served, with the company and director subsequently summonsed for a range of breaches including:

- Emergency lighting system not working correctly

Ceri Loy, from GAIN stated, “Our partners recognised and understand that organised crime groups are a blight on society. Their activities include using pubs, clubs, restaurants and other commercial premises to launder the proceeds of crime. We work with all agencies to ensure compliance with the law using a wide range of disruption activities together with bespoke enforcement powers.”



For more details please contact **Ceri Loy** at ceri.loy1@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

UK INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

Working with partners is truly day to day business for the UK’s Intellectual Property Office intelligence Hub. The team is comprised of researchers, intelligence officers, analysts and Intelligence managers. They are responsible for providing the link between industry and enforcement partners, supporting the development of intelligence packages as well as continuing to support investigations. Recent successes in partnerships have included;

- Two counterfeit good importers sentenced to 4 years 3 months and 4 years in prison – lead agency Enfield Trading Standards
- Five men sentenced to a total of 17 years imprisonment for illegally acquiring and distributing films – lead agency the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT)
- 5 tonnes of counterfeit goods seized from a single shipment detained by UK Border Force, HM Revenue & Customs and IPO Intelligence staff

Colleagues are reminded that any enquiries relating to counterfeit goods and online piracy can be referred to the IPO via ipintel@ipo.gsi.gov.uk

For further information on the work of FACT please refer to our Practical Tools section Page 4

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION (NAVCA)

NAVCA is the national voice of local voluntary sector infrastructure organisations. NAVCA champion and strengthen voluntary and community action by supporting their members in their work with charities and community groups. There is a NAVCA member providing support and development services to local civil society organisations in almost every district, unitary, London borough and metropolitan area of England. Many charities and community groups contribute to achieving crime priorities. For example tackling domestic abuse, reducing re-offending, strengthening

community engagement and giving support to victims. Serious and organised crime can have a serious effect on individuals and communities and it is frequently the most vulnerable people who are targeted by organised criminals. NAVCA members play an active part in ensuring that the concerns and interests of the most disadvantaged communities and the most vulnerable people are understood by local decision makers. They also help charities and community groups share good practice, ideas and encourage collaborative working.



navca

local focus national voice

NAVCA MEMBERS IN ACTION

Southend Association of Voluntary Service (SAVS) work through Turning Tides to deliver personalised information and advice to older people in Southend who are at risk from fraud and postal/door step scams. Using the Responders List provided by Essex Police, their Safe as Houses Project team carry out home visits to approximately 481 Southend households targeted by criminal gangs and organisations.

The home visits are conducted by trained and uniformed Turning Tides staff and volunteers, talking with local residents about fraud and providing them with information packs. Local residents are also asked to complete a questionnaire, which is returned to Essex Police's Serious Crime Unit to help build an intelligence picture



of scams. The visits provide residents with the skills and confidence to recognise and turn away scammers. This project builds on the successes of their previous Safe as Houses visits where Turning Tides delivered around 350 preventative visits to over 65s helping to build resilience and raise awareness within this community.

For further details on Turning Tides, please contact Alison Semmence at asemmence@savs-southend.co.uk or www.savs-southend.org/turning-tides-team

For more information on the work of NAVCA, please contact Barney Mynott, Head of Public Affairs at barney.mynott@navca.org.uk or check their website at www.navca.org.uk



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS - OPERATION ROCHA

In 2013, Derbyshire County Council Trading Standards were nominated as the lead agency to disrupt the activities of a mapped organised crime group involved in the supply of counterfeit and illicit tobacco through shops in Derbyshire and beyond. Enhanced intelligence sharing (including via Local Organised Crime Group (OCG) Partnership Boards) led to seizures of over 3.5 million cigarettes and over 1.6 tonnes of hand rolling tobacco, as well as securing sixteen successful convictions.

In addition, in 2014, Trading Standards partnered with the district councils to determine the identities of landlords and shop tenants. Trading Standards and police then spoke to landlords and served letters, warning them about the problems of illegal tobacco, and risks to them in accepting rent from tenants

involved. As a result, officers secured the eviction of sixteen tenants from the premises, despite the lack of legal powers to close them. The number of shops supplying illegal tobacco has halved over the last two years, which has massively disrupted the activity of the OCG locally and prevented the supply of approximately 400,000 packs of illegal tobacco with a black market value of £1.4 million.

For more information please contact Steve Allen at Derbyshire Trading Standards at steve.allen@derbyshire.gov.uk



OPERATION IMPERIAL V2

When Gwent Police commenced Operation Imperial in 2013, their understanding of modern slavery changed. A vulnerable male, missing for over 13 years, was discovered working and living in appalling conditions on a farm in Gwent, following a Facebook campaign by his family, desperate to locate him.

A further six victims were identified, representing a total victimisation period of 100 years. The operation remains ongoing, with already one successful prosecution for forced labour, which resulted in a custodial sentence of four and a half years.

The work of Operation Imperial covered significant safeguarding issues for many other vulnerable people. Considerable joint working between neighbouring forces, the Welsh Government, Partners and charities created an effective partnership response to support victims and instigate enforcement activity against offenders.

Chief Superintendent Paul Griffiths, the Senior Investigating Officer, said: “Our work to secure the safety of those at risk of exploitation and slavery and to bring those responsible for these serious crimes continues”.

For more information contact Paul Griffiths at paul.griffiths@polic-supers.com





PROJECT WAGANDA

To improve our understanding of how people become involved in SOC and inform more targeted Prevent activity, the NCA have been working with law enforcement, central government and academia to publish their first ever national assessment of SOC pathways.

Cutting across different threats, the assessment explores the influence of family, friendship, ethnic/cultural, online and prison networks; the importance of individual or business vulnerabilities; and the intentional (or sometimes unwitting) involvement of crime enabling professionals. It is possible for people of any social or economic standing to become SOC offenders.

The public version of [Pathways into Serious and Organised Crime](#) was released on the [NCA website](#) in February 2016. Forces and local partners will find it useful for developing their own pathways knowledge and informing local Prevent initiatives. The Home Office published related SOC Prevent guidance in March 2015: '[Individuals at risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime – a Prevent guide](#)'

Individuals

- Specialist skills/knowledge
- Addiction
- Greed
- Financial hardship
- Mental health issues
- Transitional periods
- Troubled family life

**COMPLICIT
COERCED
CORRUPTED
GROOMED
EXPLOITED
UNWITTING**

Businesses

- Storage or transportation functions
- Money laundering opportunities
- Night time economy (contacts & clientele)
- Small /struggling companies
- Insider access

CHARACTERISTICS

Family

OCG families mentor and normalise criminality. Criminal favours for relatives can escalate.

Associates

Offenders in friendship, social, and employment networks can offer criminal opportunity.

Ethnicity and Culture

Can foster trust, and may give some groups global criminal contacts.

Prison

Offenders can maintain or create criminal networks. Vulnerable prison staff can be corrupted.

Online

Illicit opportunities for those who might not offend offline, and perceived anonymity on the Dark Web.

NETWORKS

Drugs

Orchestrators are driven by **profit**, whilst lower level offenders can be **exploited** or **debt-bound**.

Organised Acquisitive Crime

Offenders usually have a **history of prolific offending**, and may have a **limited education**.

Economic Crime

Offenders often have **knowledge and experience** of the targeted **sector**, usually through previous **employment**, and can **identify** and **exploit loopholes**.

Organised Immigration Crime, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Sometimes **struggling ex-migrants**, offenders can be drawn in for **money**. **Traveller OCGs** are often involved in **modern slavery**.

Cyber Crime

Offenders can be motivated by **profit, ideology**, or simply the **challenge**. Competent individuals may **develop criminal intent** upon identifying **potential profits**.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Offenders usually have a **sexual interest** in children. **Online** abuse can be driven by a desire to exert **control**.

Firearms

Possession and **discharge** is often driven by **protection/enforcement** of other criminality. **Hoarders** or those with a fascination can be **exploited**.

THREATS