

CRI – Reducing Offending Behaviour of EU Nationals – Leeds Pilot - Emma Adair April 2012

Introduction

Since 2004, there has been a year on year increase in homelessness and criminal activity across West Yorkshire amongst Central and Eastern European (CEE) nationals* and alongside this, it is apparent that organised criminal activity is prevalent. At least 65% of the CRI Reconnections client group (homeless CEE nationals) have been victims of exploitation including trafficking for the purposes of forced labour and participation in organised criminal activities. Many are committing low-level needs based offending as a result of finding themselves destitute.

CRI and West Yorkshire Police (WYP) wish to pilot a regional project across West Yorkshire alongside UKBA and HMP Leeds. The partnership's aim is to reduce crime amongst CEE nationals in Leeds, reduce homelessness, protect victims of exploitation and relocate people to the country of origin if appropriate. The pilot will also examine the possibility of developing the use of Administrative Removal via UKBA for those CEE nationals that do not engage with services and continue to offend. We believe that if we can provide interventions for the above individuals within the criminal justice system, we can work with this group to improve community safety, reduce reoffending, ensure that they receive the support they need and enhance policing techniques to address increasing criminal activity in an effective and efficient way.

Service Model

The pilot for the service, with a budget of £90k for 12 months and funded by CLG will be based in Leeds, focusing on areas with higher criminal activity such as Leeds City Centre, Beeston and Harehills. Interventions will be predominantly provided within the criminal justice system. The service will also provide interventions in the wider community via targeted, multi-agency outreach and will look at developing the use of Conditional Cautions and Community Resolution Orders; the aim being to reduce the number of individuals that are entering/re-entering the criminal justice system.

CRI has an established reconnections model which relocates individuals to their country of origin in a safe and supported manner. There are existing relationships and procedures with relevant embassies and access to services in countries of origin. CEE staff on the existing team are able to engage with this group to provide effective outcomes.

The remit of this existing service will extend to provide assessment and interventions of those referred through the criminal justice system. WYP and Prison Offender Managers have identified processes and procedures to enable these interventions. Support for CEE nationals who want to stay in the UK will extend to a resettlement programme for those who qualify for welfare assistance or who have a realistic chance of obtaining employment and supporting themselves.

For persistent offenders, there will be a more assertive approach with more involvement from WYP and UKBA to examine whether Administrative Removal is an appropriate option.

In addition to assisting vulnerable individuals, the project will focus on the growing problem of human trafficking and exploitation for labour. CRI will work closely with

WYP and other partners to analyse intelligence gathered by officers and CRI staff with regards to the extent of the problem. West Yorkshire Police will involve key partners such as Crime Division, SOCA and UKBA. CRI will develop training support with WYP and other stakeholders on how to respond to complaints at a local level, work with local communities to identify possible organised crime links and exchange information to proactively combat crime.

The data gathered from this pilot scheme will be monitored on a quarterly basis including all relevant partners. Reports will be provided for CLG to assess the service outcomes.

Outcomes

The following will be monitored for those engaging with the service:

- Breakdown of gender/nationality/age/issues(health, substance misuse)
- Type of offence
- Time spent in UK
- Reason for moving
- Housing history
- Any further offending and the resulting involvement with the CJS
- Revocation of probation orders
- Community resolution orders
- Conditional cautions
- Reconnections
- Housing success
- Employment
- Property overcrowding

The following will be monitored for those not engaging with the service:

- Any further offending
- Type of offences
- Escalation of seriousness
- Administrative removal warnings
- Administrative removals

* 3,500 arrests in WY in last 12 months. CEEs now account for around 10% of all arrests in Bradford South.