

Northumbria Research Link

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Northumbria's Crime Prevention Network



**‘CHILD TRAFFICKING’
A CROSS SCHOOL
COLLABORATION**

Background



- ▶ Embryonic collaborative network based on existing informal relationships around crime and criminal activity
 - HEIF 3 “crime and security”
- ▶ Strength in a cross-disciplinary focus that challenges our approach to research problems
- ▶ Desire to see policy making in the field of criminal activity that is ‘research informed’ and empirically underpinned

The Process



- Development and agreement of a research strategy
 - Co-authorship of one or more papers to evidence knowledge and capacity for collaborative activity
- Debating topics from internet through to immigrant crime to find a topic with a good ‘cross school’ fit
- Meetings held to agree approach, emergence of a smaller ‘core’ group and a topic
 - “Hidden in Plain Sight: Child Trafficking”
- Access to RDF ‘seed funding’ and appointment of a research assistant

Child Trafficking



Image from: http://anchorchildrensministry.blogspot.com/2010_11_01_archive.html

Child Trafficking



Image from "Running in Heels" :<http://runninginheels.co.uk/articles/prostitution/>

Child Trafficking



Image from:
<http://www.realbollywood.com/news/2010/03/child-trafficking-docu-bbc-defends-lilo.html>

Child Trafficking



Image from: <http://news.egypt.com/en/200903255695/news/world/2-us-women-charged-with-egypt-child-trafficking.html>

Child Trafficking



http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Call-to-Help-Child-Slavery-Victims/article/200701313562797?lpos=Home_Article_Related_Content_Region_7&lid=ARTICLE_13562797_Call_to_Help_Child_Slavery_Victims

Child Trafficking



Image from: <http://www.beaconradio.co.uk/news/headlines/over-100-west-mids-children-being-exploited/>

The Funded Project



- **Suffer little children: weaknesses in service provision for trafficked children**
 - Trafficking is a hidden issue not generally understood nor recognised as happening in Newcastle
 - Highlight the agencies involved in the Newcastle region to explore professional's viewpoints, the scope of current provision and any strengths, weaknesses and problems in this provision identifying any gaps in the service network
 - It is not to 'point fingers' but to report the situation 'as it is'

The Funded Project



- **Suffer little children: weaknesses in service provision for trafficked children**
 - Development of a knowledge or data map to inform the practice of all agencies involved to identify gaps and to support their calls for funding in a difficult financial climate
 - The stretch on all resources could seriously impact on services dedicated to child trafficking, this work offers an opportunity to share their experience and any concerns or ideas for change.
 - The research process could support agencies by identifying the key pieces of information they are able to contribute to the field of child trafficking and to identify specific data that agencies hold.

Observations



- Capacity to share and develop a ‘story of benefit’
 - Common benefits to overcome ‘silos’ but individuals in the group must also gain personal benefit
- Organically grown networks more likely to be sustainable than if imposed
- Good collaborations foster synergy and creativity that will result in change

Observations



- Though NCPN is presently focused on Countering Child Trafficking, this is not the only subject of interest, and once the trafficking project is fully funded and underway, the aim would be to repeat the process
- We are convinced that this cross-school approach to collaborative project work and co-authorship offers a lower-risk approach to acquiring research funding, and therefore should be a recommended approach.