



# COLIN'S BLOG 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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Here we are at the last Bank Holiday weekend until Christmas. Many Parents, Grandparents and carers will be thinking, phew, it's almost time for the children to return to school! Teachers will be bracing themselves for the academic year ahead, however, don't forget that this weekend is when I need everyone to embrace my campaign to: -



## **SMILE 4 ESSEX !**



**First of all, here is an article which will focus your mind about: -**

### **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - what does it mean for us?**

Cristina Gavrilovic

Anti-Slavery Partnership Co-ordinator, Essex Police and Kent Police

The Organised Crime Groups who profit from exploiting a human being work within a complex structure and will target any member of a community that is seen as weak and vulnerable. Modern Slavery is a brutal crime and human beings are treated as commodities whilst exploited for criminal gain. Children, women and men are affected and it has no borders. These crimes take place within local communities, across borders, nationally and internationally.

Slavery can be found in a number of trades such as textile, agriculture, car washes, nail bars, catering, cleaning, delivery, sex industry, forced criminality such as drug mules and domestic servitude to name a few areas.

There are a number of methods in which victims of these crimes become vulnerable to exploitation-poverty, a disability, mental health, addiction to controlled substances and alcohol dependency, debt bondage, young children, online advertising of job offers, seeking a better life, cultural and kidnapping or sale of an individual.

There are a number of general indicators that we can all look out for and a dedicated National Helpline offering advice as well as assist with reporting concerns.

Modern Slavery Helpline: **0800 121 700**

Crimestoppers- **0800 555 111**

Police **101/999**

**Stop the Traffik App** on Apple and Android

Labour Exploitation

Workers lack suitable work clothing such as waterproofs

Appear malnourished

Signs of physical abuse

Eye contact/body language - look for non-verbal signs of communication  
Workers live in overcrowded private rented accommodation  
Workers seem fearful and poorly integrated into the wider community  
Evidence of workers paying for food/accommodation directly from wages  
Debt to employer is reported  
Signs that movement from the premises is restricted  
Recruiter retained ID documents  
Employees/potential employees lack a contract or written job offer  
3<sup>rd</sup> party talks on the workers' behalf-worker not free to talk

### Sexual Exploitation

Sealed letterbox  
Window bars  
CCTV  
Curtain always drawn  
Advertising for sexual services of people from a particular ethnic or nationality groups  
Going to hotels or unusual places to meet their friends  
Getting in/out of different cars  
Receiving unexplained and expensive gifts like mobile phones or clothes  
Can you see signs of workers sleeping in the premises? Sex workers do not usually sleep in the brothels  
Signs of health issues including poor mental health  
Pregnancy home visits- what can you see

### Benefit Fraud

#### Home Visits:

Rubber bands/discarded envelopes on the floor of the property  
Piles of post stacked up-There are usually multiple mail deliveries to one address  
A script nearby a telephone- It will be prescribed around calls for benefit claims  
EU children are brought into the country to claim multiple child benefits  
Multiple identities are used  
Move around the country  
Multiple housing benefits are made  
People with disabilities or poor mental health are targeted to gain benefits

### Domestic Servitude

The person never or rarely leaves the house without their employer present  
Makeshift or inappropriate sleeping arrangements such as sleeping in the loft/basement or just on a mattress on the floor  
Is the person forced to work in excess of normal working hours  
The person will not have access to their legal documents  
Restricted communications/interactions with anyone outside the address  
Cultural/Class beliefs that they are servants/entitled to have servants or home help

### Forced Crime

Repeat offenders

Addictions-drugs/alcohol

Debt

Learning Disability or Mental Health

Gang related activities

Lifestyle beyond their means

Regular missing episodes

Cared for/foster children

Signs of physical abuse

Reluctant to talk/give any personal details

The persons' history

Found at locations not usually associated with the person such as hotels/ vehicles driven by strangers/regular trips to specific towns

## **Nominations now open for awards celebrating police volunteers.**

Policing and Fire Minister Nick Hurd today (Friday, 18 August) launched the 24th annual ***Lord Ferrers Awards*** to recognise the outstanding contribution of special constables, police support volunteers and volunteer police cadets.

This year a new category has been introduced for Technical Innovation, to encourage recognition of 'cyber specials' and those volunteers using technology creatively to combat the changing nature of crime.

Last year almost 300 nominations were submitted by police forces across England and Wales, and for the first time, members of the public could also recommend volunteers for their service, 43 exceptional candidates were shortlisted.

Policing and Fire Minister, Nick Hurd said: "Policing has a long and proud history of volunteers and the Lord Ferrers Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

"Every day special constables, police support volunteers and volunteer police cadets make a selfless contribution to tackling crime and supporting police forces.

“I urge police officers and members of the public to nominate police volunteers who they think have made an outstanding contribution to their communities for an award.”

The awards ceremony, sponsored by Police Mutual, will take place in Central London in November 2017. Winners will be presented with their awards by Home Officer Ministers, senior officials and Chief Police Officers.

Members of the public have from 18 August until midnight on Sunday 17 September to make nominations.

The deadline for nominations is Sunday 17 September, 2017.

Please note you can nominate once per application and you **can** make more than one application

- the Home Office can't accept 'self' nominations from individuals or teams
- the Home Office can't shortlist nominations where long service, extra hours or bravery are the sole case for nomination as these are recognised by other awards

## Identity fraud figures soar Posted: 23rd August 2017

- Record **89,000** cases recorded in first six months of year by Cifas
- Sharp rise in identity fraudsters applying for **loans**, online retail, **telecoms** and insurance products.
- Identity fraud now accounts for **56%** of all fraud reported by Cifas members, of which 83% was committed online.

**Cifas**, the UK's leading fraud prevention service, has released new figures showing that **identity fraud** has continued to rise at record levels in the first six months of 2017. A record 89,000 identity frauds were recorded, up 5% from last year.

**Although the number of identity fraud attempts against bank accounts and plastic cards has fallen these still account for more than half of all identity fraud cases.**

## How fraudsters operate: -

The vast majority of identity fraud happens when a fraudster pretends to be an innocent individual to buy a product or take out a loan in their name. Often victims do not even realise that they have been targeted until a bill arrives for something they did not buy or they experience problems with their credit rating.

To carry out this kind of fraud successfully, fraudsters need access to their victim's personal information such as name, date of birth, address, their bank and who they hold accounts with. Fraudsters get hold of this in a variety of ways, from stealing mail through to hacking; obtaining data on the 'dark web'; exploiting personal information on social media, or through 'social engineering' where innocent parties are persuaded to give up personal information to someone pretending to be from their bank, the police or a trusted retailer.

Data from @CifasUK shows that 17% of company-director victims have been hit by ID fraud more than once <http://ow.ly/ak1730eAdnP> 9:28 AM - Aug 22, 2017

### **Head of the City of London Police's Economic Crime Directorate, Detective Superintendent Glenn Maleary, said:-**

"Identify fraud continues to be a significant issue in law enforcement and the new figures which Cifas has released today come as no surprise. The more our lives move online the easier it becomes for fraudsters to steal our identity. It has become normal for people to publish personal details about themselves on social media and on other online platforms which makes it easier than ever for a fraudster to steal someone's identity.

"We urge consumers and businesses to be conscious of identify fraudsters and to use our **protection advice** to help stop them in their tracks. We continue to work with banks, retailers and other members of industry to disrupt fraudsters activity however we also realise it is our responsibility to help advise consumers and businesses around these types of issues. We urge anyone who is interested in finding out about the latest fraud trends to sign up to our Action Fraud alerts."

Find how this man fell victim to ID fraud an incredible 29 times Which? explains how to protect yourself against fraud By Joe Elvin 22 Aug 2017 Share on Facebook Share on Twitter Share by email A former company director has warned of the dangers of identity fraud, after scammers applied for 29 financial products in his name. The East Midlands man first realised he'd fallen victim to ID fraud after being posted a Laura Ashley credit card he had not applied for. It later emerged that scammers had used his personal details to apply for: eight credit cards seven current accounts six loans five mail order accounts. Upon receiving an unsolicited credit card, the man immediately contacted the company's fraud department and had his details added to Cifas' victim of fraud database. Around £100 had been

spent on credit cards in his name before the fraud was identified and stopped. He said: 'In subsequent months I found out the fraud was more prolific than I had anticipated. If the fraud hadn't been identified and stopped, the fraudster could have racked up thousands of pounds worth of debt in my name.' Find out more: what is identity theft? – see our consumer rights guide Company directors at high risk of fraud This worrying case of fraud was revealed by credit reference agency Equifax, which stated that fraudsters could have gained access to his details from Companies House, 'as he had previously been a company director'. According to fraud prevention body Cifas, company directors make up almost one in five (19%) of ID fraud victims, despite comprising less than 9% of the population. Data from Cifas also shows that 17% of company-director victims have been hit by ID fraud more than once. How to avoid identity theft Scammers are using increasingly sophisticated tactics to steal people's personal details and commit identity fraud, but there are several steps you can take to protect yourself: If you receive an unsolicited email or phone call from a company asking for your security details, never reveal your full password, login details or account numbers. Don't leave utility bills, or other documents with your personal details, lying around for others to see. Shred or tear up these communications before you throw them away. Create strong online passwords, and don't use the same one for every website you log in to. Change your social media privacy settings so that you're only sharing information with people you know. Don't accept invitations from strangers on social media sites. Never use public wi-fi to access sensitive apps or websites, such as mobile banking. If your identity has been stolen, you should contact your bank, credit card company and the local police on the non-emergency phone number, 101, as quickly as possible. You should also report the case to Action Fraud. Read more: <http://www.which.co.uk/news/2017/08/find-how-this-man-fell-victim-to-id-fraud-an-incredible-29-times/> - Which?

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report-a-fraud-including-online-crime>

# Action Fraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

## 0300 123 2040

WITH THE THOUGHT OF ALL THE TERRORIST ACTIVITY ACROSS EUROPE THAT KEEPS HITTING THE HEADLINES, we all need to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Here is a reminder of the dedicated Terrorist Hotline: -

**IF YOU SUSPECT IT REPORT IT**  
**CALL 0800 789 321**  
**CONFIDENTIAL ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE**