**Maximising Funds case study - Thames Valley**

Funding provided by Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner is being used to:

* Part fund the post of the Anti -Slavery Coordinator, April McCoig, who is based within Thames Valley Police. April works closely with both Thames Valley Police staff and those from partner agencies to provide support in developing an effective and consistent response to Modern Slavery. April also coordinates the work of the Thames Valley Anti-Slavery Networks which aim to improve multi-agency networking across the Thames Valley region, promote proactive information-sharing amongst network members, and improve the modern slavery response by identifying training, communication and knowledge gaps.
* Fund the ***Victims First - Willow Project***, which is a Thames Valley-wide service to support anyone affected by any form of exploitation and/or other complex needs (adults and children). The service is provided by the Thames Valley Partnership[[1]](#footnote-1) and will be run for a trial period between July 2018 (with the service starting in September 2018) until March 2020. There will be three county wide hubs, one in Berkshire (to be based in Reading) one in Buckinghamshire (to be based in Aylesbury) and Oxfordshire (to be based in Oxford) with one Crisis and Support Coordinator and two Crisis and Support Workers in each hub.

The project will work directly with victims and their families to provide:

·         crisis intervention,

·         advocacy

·         longer term practical and emotional support

In addition, the service will provide support to Thames Valley Police and other partner organisations including:

·         training and awareness of exploitation and modern slavery

·         strategic support in developing local procedures in response to exploitation

·         assistance with operational activity

There is no time limit on the support provided and the project will offer support both pre and post NRM, in addition to anyone who does not consent to accessing NRM support.

Further information about Thames Valley’s work to tackle modern slavery can be found here <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/victims-first/modern-slavery/>, or through contacting April McCoig at April.McCoig@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

1. The Thames Valley Partnership has been in existence since 1993 and works in partnership with the statutory, private and voluntary sectors to provide long-term sustainable solutions to the problems of crime and social exclusion. The organisation works to protect victims and reintegrate offenders. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)