

Routes Out and TARA Services – Update noted etc – Request to City Conveners.

4 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding the Routes Out and Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA) services and changes in UK legislation, advising

- (1) that the Council's TARA and Routes Out services provided specialist support to adult women exploited in the commercial sex trade;
- (2) that Routes Out provided harm reduction and/or exiting support for women engaged in selling or exchanging sex in the Glasgow area and had provided a dedicated confidential service to women caught up in systems of prostitution;
- (3) of the holistic approach undertaken by the Routes Out service, that regularly operated across 3 distinct strands namely a drop-in night-time service, an outreach service within the city centre and the east end and a case management support service, that included appropriate crisis and longer-term support in accessing services, such as addiction support and accommodation;
- (4) that TARA provided support to women trafficked to and around Scotland for commercial sexual exploitation and included provision of a 24/7 response, access to safe accommodation, subsistence support, specialist trauma support via NHS GCC's Psychological Service, legal and various advice services;
- (5) that TARA was funded by the Scottish Government and supported Scottish Ministers to discharge their legal obligations for this cohort of victim-survivors as per sections 9 and 10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015;
- (6) of the data collated by Routes Out during 1st April to 31st December 2023 and by TARA during 1st April 2023 to 15th January 2024, as detailed in the report;
- (7) of the UK legislation that while not yet commenced, the Illegal Migration Act 2023 had specific challenges for TARA and other trafficking support services in Scotland as it contained clause 24 that would disapply s9 and s10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act (Scotland) 2015 and if commenced, would prevent Scottish Ministers from supporting victim-survivors in Scotland;
- (8) of the Council's response to the UK Government consultation of their New Plan for Immigration in 2021 and the evidence provided to the Joint Committee on Human Rights and to inform their legislative scrutiny of the Illegal Migration Bill in 2023, as detailed in the appendices to the report; and
- (9) that on 6th February 2024, the Scottish Government published their strategic approach to tackle the issue of commercial sexual exploitation "Prostitution – challenging and deterring men's demand: strategic approach" and whilst this

framework was still being considered by services, would have an impact on Routes Out, as Glasgow had been proposed as a pilot area for this new approach.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) requested that the relevant City Conveners write formally to the Scottish and UK Governments requesting that the implications of the Nationality and Borders Act and the Illegal Migration Bill, regarding the committee's immediate concerns on the provisions contained within those pieces of legislation which relates to the safety of women in destitution, who are subject to commercial sexual exploitation.