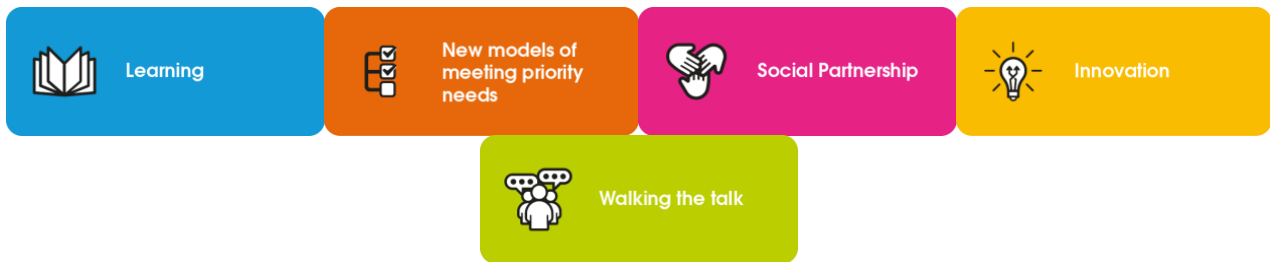


SOCIAL OUTCOMES



Trafford Council

Disrupting Sexual Exploitation through Closure Orders

Between 2023 and 2024, Trafford Council's Community Safety Team, in close partnership with Greater Manchester Police led a series of targeted enforcement operations to dismantle premises being used for the sexual exploitation of women under coercive and often criminal conditions. The team used Closure Notices and Orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, supported by safeguarding procedures and modern slavery referrals, to act swiftly without requiring a criminal conviction or victim testimony.

Project Overview

Three key premises were closed as part of a focused strategy targeting brothels and massage parlours operating across Trafford:

The Railway Inn (Altrincham) – A licensed pub operating as a brothel, where officers discovered a woman trafficked and coerced into sex work in exchange for crack cocaine. The premises were found in filthy, degrading condition, including used condoms, drug paraphernalia, and dog faeces throughout the upper accommodation. A Closure Notice was issued on-site by the Council, and a three- month Closure Order was granted. The Council's Licensing Sub-Committee later revoked the premises licence in full.

Stamford New Road massage parlour (Altrincham) – Closed following public reports and operational intelligence under Operation Avro. A 51-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of

modern slavery offences. After the initial three-month closure expired and the premises reopened, the Council acted again, obtaining a further Closure Order, with preparations in place for a third if needed. Two women, one of whom believed that she was actually in London were safeguarded having been found on the premises. These women disclosed that they had been trafficked from China, with asylum applications and tourist visas used to facilitate entry to the UK.

Barton Road massage parlour (Stretford) – A second massage parlour, operated by the same group as Stamford New Road, was shut down using a full Closure Order. Police intelligence linked those involved to Chinese organised crime groups operating brothels and trafficking networks across the UK. This site followed the same pattern: vulnerable women, suspected trafficking, high footfall, burner phones, and commercial sex work occurring under the guise of legitimate services.

Impact and Key Learning

- Three known brothels shut down, all connected to serious and organised exploitation.
- Victims safeguarded, with modern slavery protocols triggered.
- Organised crime networks were disrupted, including links to national Chinese trafficking operations.
- Premises licenses revoked, repeat closures pursued, and perpetrators arrested or placed under strict bail.

Councils from the South West, Midlands, and North East, along with two other Greater Manchester authorities, have sought Trafford's support in replicating the model.

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