



NRM Devolved Decision Making Pilot

Exploitation awareness week 2026





NRM Pilot

NRM is the National Referral Mechanism. This is a referral that authorities have a duty to complete to a Single Competent Authority (SCA) in the Home Office when a person (in our case children) is identified /suspected of having been trafficked. The SCA make decisions about whether there is evidence to confirm they have been trafficked and this then grants them some protections and support.

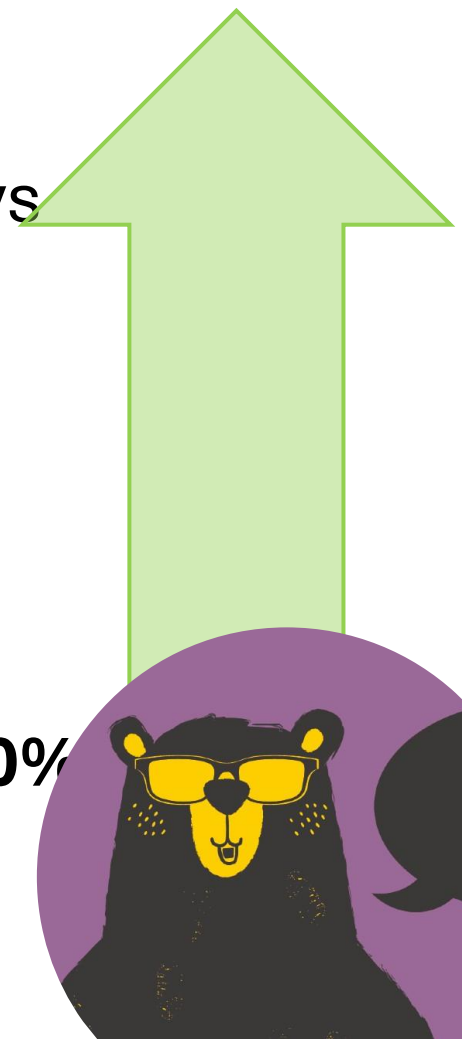
The purpose of the Pilot Programme is **to test whether determining if a child is a victim of modern slavery within existing safeguarding structures is a more appropriate model for making modern slavery decisions for children.** This approach will enable **decisions about whether a child is a victim of modern slavery to be made by those involved in their care and ensure the decisions made are closely aligned with the provision of local, needs-based support and any law enforcement response.**

Warwickshire are one of 28 LA Pilot areas and commenced in February 2023

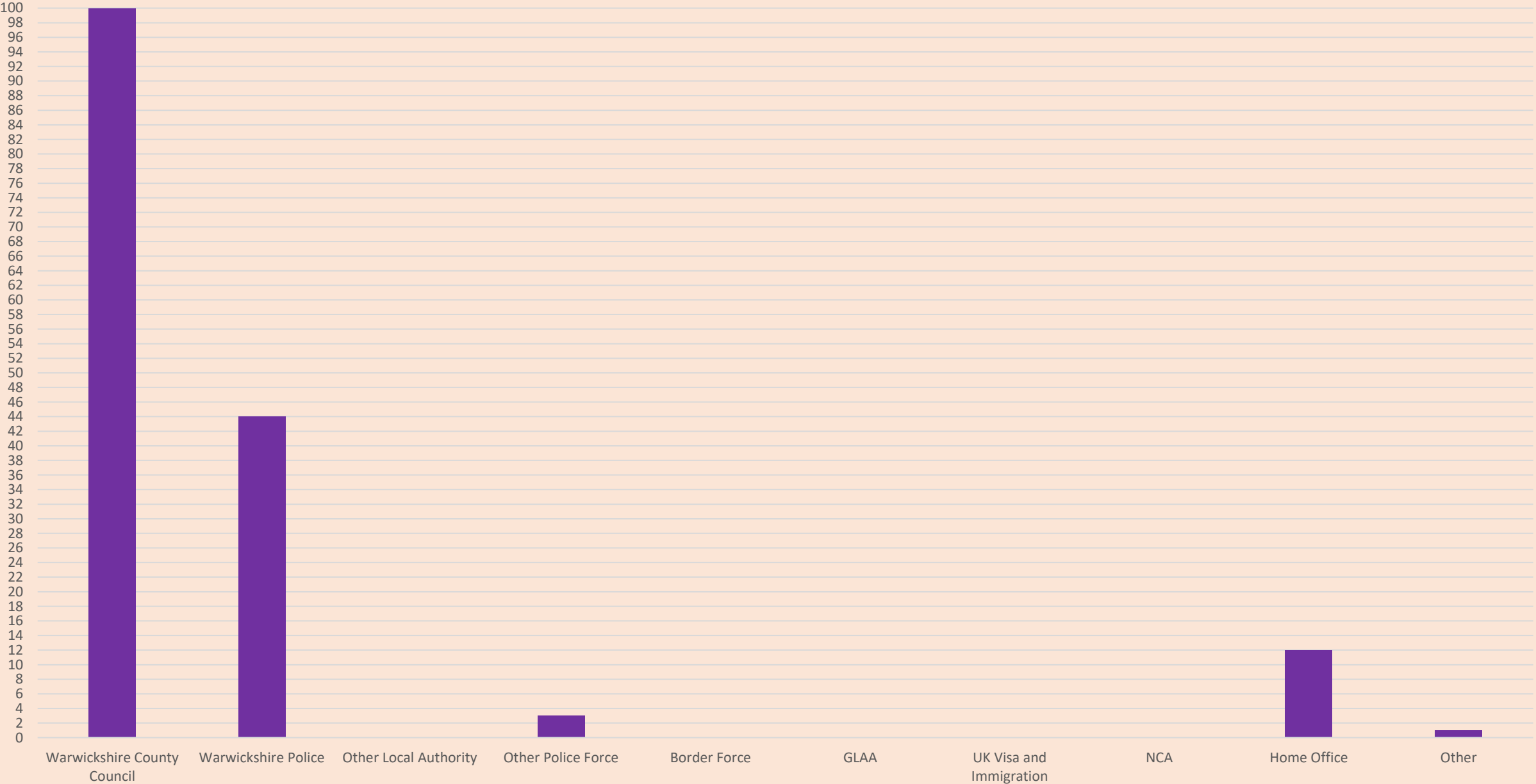


Data

- Number of referrals up considerably from pre-pilot levels. **176 in total to date.**
- Average time for CG decision within pilot is currently **47** days
- Only **1** failed to meet RG threshold
- Joint RG & CG decisions made on **48%** of referrals
- Dip sampling now being completed on decisions due to **100%** quality assurance rate.



First responder agency referrals



OFFICIAL



Evidence gathering

A crucial part of the NRM Devolved Decision making pilot within Warwickshire is the information/evidence gathering process.

This is completed upon receipt of referral and is sent out to key agencies which includes –

- Health teams
- Police
- Children and families
- Education
- Any other agencies support the young person.

The information gathered is used along with the NRM referral within panel for the decision making.



Impacts of the pilot

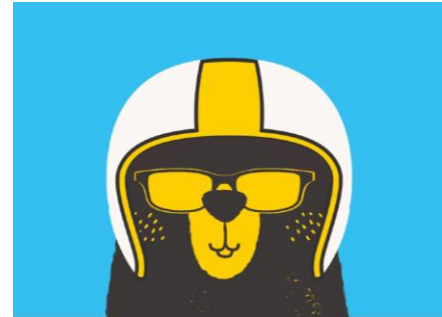
- The speed of the decision-making process is a significant contributor to improved safeguarding provision.
 - Earlier stage identification and referral into NRM, and **improved safeguarding** through connection with local support agencies and ICTG service
 - CG decision within 17 days of NRM receipt for a child appearing in court on criminal charges committed consequent to the trafficking enabling consideration of the Sec 45 defence within proceedings without the need for ongoing adjournments
 - CG decision assisting the child's asylum claim, achieved within 13 days of the referral
- Children have been recognised as victims as opposed to offenders, preventing unnecessary criminalisation (NRM submitted as opposed to instant CJ action)
- CG decisions enhancing status and credibility of victims within court hearing
- Key strategic bodies and Executive leads delighted with the impact of the pilot. Home office have commented Warwickshire are a gold standard pilot.





NRM Coordinator and NRM Support Officer

- Single point of contact for Warwickshire professionals and Home Office (SCA) re NRM
- Consultations with first responders to discuss potential referrals, advise and guide in respect of requirements, and support in completing a quality referral.
- Arrange and organise Panel meetings within pilot timescales, setting the agenda's
- Maintain reporting requirements and performance data regarding activity, timeliness, and impact.
- Identify themes and trends, and report to the Project Lead for presentation to the Steering Group.
- Conduct training and awareness raising to multi-agency professionals about NRM and the pilot.





Any Questions

Thank you for listening!

Contact:

NRM Project Lead: Nigel Jones

nigelajones@warwickshire.gov.uk

NRM Coordinator: Kerry Sabec

kerrysabec@warwickshire.gov.uk

NRM Support officer: Share Roberts

shareroberts@warwickshire.gov.uk

