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# Op Hexton:

Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking

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## Case Study | Inspector, Paul McLernon, Lancashire Constabulary, 2016 National Graduate Leadership Programme Alumni

**The Problem:** “Through social media and local partnership meetings, it became apparent that there were many pop up brothels in one particular ward. These were coming to the attention of my team because of associated anti-social behaviour and violence. After some intelligence gathering and information sharing with partner agencies, it became clear that a far more serious problem was occurring that was previously unknown to the police and our partners. Anonymous intelligence received on a particular day suggested that two underage females were being held in one of these brothels, who were vulnerable because of their age, beaten and subjected to sexual violence and were being moved around the area where they were sexually exploited by men for payment to the suspects.”



### The approach:

“A multi-agency operation was put into action specifically to rescue the two girls and longer term to reduce the availability of low rent properties available for pop up brothels.”

**The impact:** “The impact had a positive effect on the community who were suffering from the anti-social behaviour and seeing the violence associated with the property. We also reduced the impact on the community of seeing woman be sexually exploited on a daily basis. The two girls were rescued and other properties were shut down as a result.”

For further information about the details and impact of Operation Hexton please watch this [short video](#).

