



News / Local News

Chatham man charged in human trafficking probe

A 33-year-old Chatham man faces multiple charges related to human trafficking, according to police.

Trevor Terfloth

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A Chatham man is charged with several human trafficking offences, Chatham-Kent police say.

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The investigation began when police responded Dec. 17 to a disturbance at a Chatham motel and arrested a man, police said.



A female, whose age wasn't released, told investigators the man had been exploiting her, police said.

A 33-year-old Chatham man was charged Dec. 24 with human trafficking, receiving material benefit, and exercising control, direction or influence.

He was remanded into custody pending a court date of Jan. 15.

“Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of persons for the purposes of exploitation, typically in the sex industry or for forced labour,” police Chief Gary Conn said Thursday.

“The reality is that human trafficking is real and it is here in our community. Human trafficking is a complex and hidden crime. It is also a human rights violation that results in serious and long-term trauma for survivors.”

He declined to provide more information about the investigation because the case is before the courts.

But Conn encouraged anyone who believes they may be a victim of human trafficking, or knows of someone who is being exploited, to come forward. Help and support services are available, he said.

Signs that someone is being exploited include fear for their safety or the safety of loved ones, unexplained bruises, tattoos or branding and a lack of necessities such as medical care, food and clothing.

For more information about human trafficking, visit <https://www.ontario.ca/page/human-trafficking> or <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>

Police also remind the public that support services are available through CK Victim Services at 519-436-

6630 or <https://ckvictimservices.com/>



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