

MODERN SLAVERY

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REASON FOR ITEM

The Chairman of the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee requested that an update on Modern Slavery be presented to the Committee.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to note the report.

INFORMATION

Modern Slavery can take many forms including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery.

Any consent victims have given to their treatment will be irrelevant where they have been coerced, deceived or provided with payment or benefit to achieve that consent.

Children (those aged under 18) are considered victims of trafficking, whether or not they have been coerced, deceived or paid to secure their compliance. They need only to have been recruited, transported, received or harboured for the purpose of exploitation.

The term Modern Slavery captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to:

- **Sexual exploitation**
This includes but is not limited to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, forced prostitution and the abuse of children for the production of child abuse images/videos.
- **Domestic servitude**
This involves a victim being forced to work in usually private households, usually performing domestic chores and childcare duties. Their freedom may be restricted and they may work long hours often for little or no pay, often sleeping where they work.
- **Forced labour**
Victims may be forced to work long hours for little or no pay in poor conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families; it can happen in various industries, including construction, manufacturing, laying driveways, hospitality, food packaging, agriculture, maritime and beauty (nail bars). Often victims are housed together in one dwelling.
- **Criminal exploitation**
This can be understood as the exploitation of a person to commit a crime, such as pick-pocketing, shop-lifting, cannabis cultivation, drug trafficking and other similar activities that are subject to penalties and imply financial gain for the trafficker.

- **Other forms of exploitation**

Organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

Local Operational activity

Trafficking is an issue for all local authorities but is more prominent where there are major ports of entry.

The responsibility to protect young people who are trafficked is a co-ordinated effort from a number of agencies. The first agency that young people come into contact with on their arrival into the UK is the UKBA who make the initial decisions and refer young people to the local authority where necessary. Local authorities work closely with partner agencies through the Local Safeguarding Children Board to put in place arrangements to combat trafficking. This includes the prevention and deterrence of trafficking through co-ordinated overseas and point of entry policing activity (including action by immigration services, law enforcement agencies, airport authorities, and overseas embassies).

A multi-agency, fortnightly operational meeting is held to discuss the risks and needs of all children arriving at the airport in the previous two weeks. This enables key information and intelligence to be shared, and protective measures to be applied to those children most at risk.

Hillingdon works with the young people in terms of managing their risk at point of entry into the UK; engaging with the young person about potential risks and also managing their contact with strangers. Trafficking is a relatively newly identified challenge for all agencies both locally, nationally, and internationally with examples of good practice across all agencies, and we keep under review trends and share best practice.

Duty to Report

From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities have had a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. This duty is intended to gather statistics and help build a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of modern slavery.

The 'duty to notify' provision is set out in Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and applies to the following public authorities in England and Wales at the time of publication (additional public authorities can be added through regulations):

- (a) a chief officer of police for a police area;
- (b) the chief constable of the British Transport Police Force;
- (c) the National Crime Agency;
- (d) a county council;
- (e) a county borough council;
- (f) a district council;
- (g) a London borough council;
- (h) the Greater London Authority;
- (i) the Common Council of the City of London;
- (j) the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
- (k) the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Home Office Strategic Communications have produced a partner fact sheet and a poster to help raise awareness of a duty to notify/reporting requirements for modern slavery and human trafficking amongst relevant organisations.

Hillingdon Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adult Board are responsible for raising awareness across the partnership.