

Safeguarding Factsheet 4: Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

The basics

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term, encompassing human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour. This is a hidden crime and the true extent of modern slavery in the UK is unknown, but considered to be significant. In 2014 the Home Office estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK. In 2018, 6,993 potential victims were submitted to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). This was a 36% increase on referrals in 2017.

Human trafficking is when men, women and children are moved and forced into exploitation. The movement could be international but also within the country, from one city to another or just a few streets. A person is a victim of human trafficking even if they haven't yet been exploited but have been moved for the purpose of exploitation.

Slavery is where men, women and children are forced to work through mental or physical threat and are owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse. The victim may be physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom and be de-humanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'.

Servitude is similar to slavery, in that a person is under an obligation to provide a service which is imposed upon them, but there is no element of ownership.

Forced labour is defined as work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily.

A 2018 Home Office research report estimates the total cost of modern slavery in the UK, during 2016/17, to be between £3.3 and £4.3 billion.

In 2018 there were 136000 estimated victims of modern slavery in Britain.

Act, Means and Purpose

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ✓ **ACTION** Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.
Can be internal movement or cross border.
- ✓ **MEANS** Threat of use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability. **There does NOT need to be a MEANS used for children as they are not able to give informed consent.**
- ✓ **PURPOSE** To exploit an individual for benefit e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, illegal adoption, removal of organs, etc.

SLAVERY, SERVITUDE, FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR

- ✗ **ACTION** NOT required for action to have been taken to bring person into the situation.
- ✓ **MEANS** Threat of use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability through which a person is held in a situation. **There does NOT need to be a MEANS used for children as they are not able to give informed consent.**
- ✓ **PURPOSE** To compel another to act in a way that amounts to slavery, servitude or forced/compulsory labour.

Types of slavery and exploitation

Sexual Exploitation

An adult or a child who is trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation may be forced into prostitution, pornography or lap dancing for little or no pay. They may be deprived of their freedom of movement and subjected to threats and violence.

Domestic Servitude

Victims work in a household where they may be ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to exhausting hours, forced to work and live under unbearable conditions or forced to work for little or no pay. In some cases, forced marriage can be linked to domestic servitude.

Labour Exploitation/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. Forced labour can occur in various industries, including construction; manufacturing, home improvement, gardening, hospitality; food packaging, agriculture, maritime and beauty (e.g. nail bars).

Criminal exploitation/ Forced Criminality

Victims can be forced to participate in a range of illegal activities including pick pocketing, shoplifting, cannabis cultivation, county lines exploitation and other activities. The Modern Slavery Act provides for a defense for victims who have been forced into criminality.

Organ Harvesting

Victims are trafficked in order for their internal organs (typically kidneys or liver) to be harvested for transplant.

Debt Bondage

Debts may arise out of the exploitation, for example in relation to accommodation.

Other forms of exploitation

Forced or sham marriage, where people are forced into marriage for a range of reasons, including exploiting their rights.

Legislation

The [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) places a duty on specified public authorities (including local authorities) to report details of suspected cases of modern slavery to the National Crime Agency. The [National Referral Mechanism](#) is the framework for identifying potential victims and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.

The Kirklees perspective

In Kirklees we have a strong Modern Slavery partnership, with the aim of improving processes, implementing best practice and ensuring effective information sharing with partners within Kirklees, West Yorkshire and at a national and international level.

For advice on reporting or to discuss concerns around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Kirklees contact Safer Kirklees on 01484 221000 or email safer@kirklees.gov.uk

If a crime is happening, call the Police on **999**.

If you have a suspicion something isn't right and an adult or a child may be a victim, it is important you report it. No matter how small the piece of information may be, it could be

essential in building up a picture and safeguarding a potential victim. You can report your concerns to the police on 101, or in an emergency 999.

You can also report any concerns via the **Modern Slavery Helpline** 08000 121700
www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/

If your organisation has access to the West Yorkshire Police Intelligence Portal, any suspicions or concerns can also be reported through this. For further information or support, please contact Safer Kirklees on 01484 221000 or email safer@kirklees.gov.uk

Other contacts

Hope for Justice 0300 008 8000

Info.uk@hopeforjustice.org

If you suspect an **adult at risk** is being abused or neglected in any way, call for advice, or to report:

01484 414933 (24hrs)

If you think a **child** or **young person** is experiencing abuse or neglect, please contact:

Children's Social Care – Duty and Advice Team on **01484 456848**

or

Emergency Duty Service 01484 414933 (out of hours)

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000, email help@nspcc.org.uk, text 88858 (free service)

More information is on this YouTube short film: [Local Government Modern Slavery](#)