

# Kirklees Modern Slavery Strategy

2018 – 2021



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**Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery is one of the priorities under the protecting people from serious harm theme in the Kirklees Partnership Plan. Safer Kirklees lead on this area working closely with the adult and children safeguarding boards and a number of key partners including the police, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH), health and the voluntary sector. Our approach focuses on raising awareness, intervening early and taking positive action against perpetrators where necessary.**

## The National Modern Slavery Strategy

The aim of the National Modern Slavery Strategy is to reduce significantly the prevalence of modern slavery in the UK, as well as to enhance the international response. Modern slavery is often an international crime and to tackle this requires strong collaboration. The overall aim of the Government's human trafficking strategy is to "tackle trafficking from end to end", from recruitment to exploitation, ensuring agencies have the right tools to allow them to do so. This is done through:

- Preventing individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery
- Preventing people from engaging in modern slavery
- Strengthening safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness against this crime
- Reduce the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enhanced support and protection.

Please [click here](#) for the national Modern Slavery Strategy

## Definitions of Modern Slavery

The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 encompasses slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Modern slavery is a hidden crime, although often in plain sight and is one of the world's largest organised crime industries involving the use of force, deception or coercion to exploit someone to obtain some type of labour, crime or sex act.

Modern Slavery encompasses adult and child victims who rarely come forward to seek help due to many factors, including language barriers, threats, fear of the perpetrators and/or fear of being criminalised. Traffickers look out for potential victims who are susceptible for a range of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability or economic hardship. The trauma caused by the perpetrators can be so great and many victims will not identify themselves as such or ask for help and support, even in the most public of settings.

There are several broad categories of exploitation linked to human trafficking, these can include:

- Sexual exploitation
- Labour exploitation
- Child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Criminal exploitation - forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc.
- Forced or sham marriage
- Organ harvesting

## The Safer Kirklees Approach

A Kirklees modern slavery & human trafficking partnership has been developed to improve collaborative working, implement best practice and ensure effective information sharing with partners within Kirklees, West Yorkshire and at a national and international level.

A cross board Safer Kirklees, adult (KSAB) and child safeguarding board (KSCB) action plan focuses on the following key objectives:

## Prevention and Early Resolution

**Aim** – To prevent and reduce harm caused by modern slavery

- Raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery and associated processes within the partnership and in communities
- Work in partnership with communities, voluntary and statutory organisations to gather intelligence and increase reporting
- Develop partnership intelligence mechanisms to drive prevention and early resolution
- Identify those at risk to prevent and reduce harm
- Development of a network of 'first responders' with an increased knowledge base and champions of the strategy

## Partnership Problem Solving

**Aim** – To develop intelligence led partnership problem solving

- Work in partnership to ensure approaches are victim focused for both adults and children
- Work collaboratively throughout West Yorkshire to ensure best practice
- Ensure the Kirklees Modern Slavery Network is effective and accountable
- Develop and Implement processes to support National Referral Mechanism reform

## Enforcement and Diversion

**Aim** – To challenge and enforce, ensuring potential victims are safeguarded

- Raise awareness of the consequences relating to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by promoting successful investigations
- Through partnership Intelligence engage key risk business areas to promote ethical responsibility
- Ensure appropriate partnership mechanisms are in place to safeguard potential victims

## Evaluation, review and monitoring

This strategy is a three year document which links with other local strategies, projects and initiatives that will be reviewed annually. The strategy and linked action plan will respond to the changing local, national and international scene and reflect the impact of this on our communities and subsequent service provision.

Performance will be monitored through regular scrutiny updates to the communities, child and adult safeguarding boards. All partners will contribute to the review process by providing qualitative and quantitative data to ensure success can be measured, as well as taking responsibility for the completion of actions under their name and service area.



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