



## Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2020-2021

### 1. Introduction

The Council has a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, including identifying and supporting victims and working in partnership locally. The Council's role can be separated into four distinct areas:

1. identification and referral of victims;
2. supporting victims by safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and providing housing/homelessness services;
3. community safety and disruption activities; and
4. ensuring the supply chains that the Council procures from are free from modern slavery.

Modern slavery intersects with many different areas that the Council is involved with and a number of different officers might come across it while going about their everyday activities. Key examples where officers might come across victims include housing and homelessness services, community protection work, licensing and customer services.

The procurement of services is an important part of the Council's expenditure. Understanding our supply chains and assessing the risk to those working in it requires commitment, support and collaboration. The Council is uniquely placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery hence the Council has voluntarily compiled this modern slavery Transparency Statement.

This statement sets out North Hertfordshire District Council's actions to understand the potential modern slavery risks related to its activities and to put steps in place to attempt to eliminate acts of modern slavery and human trafficking within its supply chain.

### 2. NHDC's organisational structure & supply chains

North Hertfordshire District Council is a local authority in the north-eastern part of Hertfordshire, in the East of England region. The activities the Council undertakes are wide ranging in order to fulfil its duties to its residents. Its highest spend contracts are for the Household Waste Services and Grounds Maintenance.

The supply chains for the Council's activities are considered as only operating within the United Kingdom and the country's risk of slavery and human trafficking is therefore relatively low. However, the Council remains vigilant and will take all steps available to manage the risks presented. To assist, a check list of the modern slavery identifiers within supply chains has been produced for dissemination within the Council's service areas to increase awareness of identifying modern slavery risks within supply chains. This checklist will be applied at the procurement stage of new contracts so that modern slavery risks can be managed at the outset of a contract. For existing supplier contracts, contract managers will be able to use the risk identifiers to highlight specific areas of risk for that good or service and then be able to seek further information from suppliers on the processes they have in place for mitigating that risk, and a monthly TISC check (as per 5 below).



For high risk, high value procurement, suppliers will additionally be invited to complete the Government's Modern Slavery Risk Assessment tool. This tool is designed to help public sector organisations work with their suppliers in understanding where the risk of modern slavery exists within their supply chains:

<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/msat>

### **3. Responsibility: who has responsibility for anti-slavery initiatives?**

The Council believes that safeguarding is the responsibility of all employees, Members, volunteers and organisations delivering services on our behalf. Everybody has a duty to safeguard children and adults in our local communities.

Our named Safeguarding Officer is our Service Director: Legal and Community. Designated Safeguarding Officers throughout the organisation support colleagues to respond and refer any concerns and a Corporate Safeguarding Group monitors current practice in relation to safeguarding and identifies key areas for development.

Responsibility for safeguarding sits with the Executive Member for Community Engagement. An annual report is also made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Each Service area is responsible for reviewing spend on their supplier contracts as part of their ongoing commissioning and budget setting process. As part of this process, whenever spend is reviewed, it is considered best practise to include consideration of modern slavery.

### **4. Link to relevant policies**

The Council's commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk is outlined in our policies for safeguarding children and adults at risk that can be found on our website: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/health-and-social-care/protecting-children-young-people-and-adults-risk>

### **5. What due diligence of suppliers is carried out ?**

For the appointment of new suppliers, the Council has the Government Standard Supplier Selection Questionnaire, which is used in all appropriate procurements and requests confirmation that suppliers meet Modern Slavery Act 2015 requirements.

The Council will use the Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) Portal to check compliance issues for both existing suppliers and future bidders:

<https://tiscreport.org/public-sector>

Any bidder who fails to evidence their compliance with the required legislation shall be excluded from participating further in the tender process. Incorporated within the Council's standard contract terms are clauses that specify the supplier's contractual obligation concerning Modern Slavery.

Any suppliers found not meeting the required standard will be asked to take action to improve; where this is not forthcoming the contract relationship will be terminated at the next opportunity, taking into account the contract terms and conditions.



## **6. Key performance indicators**

The following KPIs will be monitored:

- The number of new contract awards and whether the Modern Slavery Act 2015 applied to the awarded organisation.
- Numbers of staff that have completed modern slavery training, identified as mandatory for all staff.

## **7. How we train NHDC staff on anti-slavery measures**

In 2018/19, training on modern day slavery was identified as mandatory for all staff and briefings and e-learning was rolled out throughout the organisation (including to elected Members). Going forward, all staff are required to undertake safeguarding training at a level relevant to their role. Basic, level one or level two training is refreshed every two or three years. This training now includes modern slavery and human trafficking. Compliance with these training requirements is monitored by the Senior Management Team and audited by the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Procurement Officer maintains current knowledge of the latest developments in tackling modern slavery through dialogue with Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership and through their professional CIPS membership (including through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, Ethical Procurement and Supply e-learning which will be retaken every 12 months.

June 2020