

## What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. The term 'Modern Slavery' captures a whole range of types of exploitation including:

- sexual exploitation: including sexual abuse and forced prostitution
- domestic servitude: victims being forced to work or perform domestic chores
  - forced labour: can happen in construction, hospitality and beauty
- criminal exploitation: making another person commit a crime
  - other forms of exploitation: organ removal; forced begging; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

More information can be viewed:  
- for [Adults here](#)  
- for [children here](#)

## Identification and referral of victims

In practice, it can be very challenging to identify a potential victim of modern slavery, but in order to refer them appropriately everyone should be aware of the signs to spot potential victims of modern slavery. There are some common indicators that may be present in a situation of modern slavery. These include but are not limited to:

- unexplained gifts, clothing money or phones
- Poor living conditions (dirty or overcrowded)
- Physical appearance (malnourished, unkempt, withdrawn, anxious)
- Restricted freedom/ does not have access to a passport or bank account
- Behaviour (avoids eye contact, frightened)
- Unusual travel times
- Isolation

The Referral pathway can be accessed [here](#).

## Supporting Victims

Supporting victims can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing / homelessness services.

On initial contact the potential victim may not trust authorities and may appear unwilling to co-operate, especially if they are in the presence of their controller or around other victims.

In addition to feelings of fear and intimidation, they may feel psychologically or financially dependent on their controllers. It is possible they may not understand the concept of trafficking or identify themselves as a victim.

## 7 minute briefing: Modern Slavery

### Where should I refer a potential Victim?

If a potential victim of modern slavery is encountered, if in immediate danger, contact the Police, otherwise a referral **must** be made via the MASH referral pathway.

If the potential victim is a child (under the age of 18) you need to complete a referral through the "[portal](#)."

If the potential Victim is over the age of 18, they would be classed as an adult, so you would need to get consent from the potential victim, then use [Safeguarding Adults Form on the portal](#) to raise an alert in a timely manner; If no consent is given you should contact the [Safeguarding Adults Team](#).

### What Training is available?

For general training on Modern Slavery for council staff there is an e-training module available on [Fusion](#).

For Frontline staff in Havering, the Safeguarding Partnership is offering Modern Slavery training throughout the year. This is available to book [here](#).

For those first responders in the council, the Home Office is offering [guidance](#) on how to spot the signs of modern slavery, and what to do when you come across a potential victim of modern slavery, giving you confidence to follow procedures swiftly and with compassion.

### Ensuring that the supply chains councils procure from are free from modern slavery.

Supply chains must be more transparent for consumers. We should all push for a movement for the eradication of modern slavery from the supply chains of businesses operating in the UK.

All sectors, businesses and agencies which recruit staff of volunteers, commission or procure services, should operate a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery, and this should be communicated to all suppliers, contractors and business relationships with them and reinforced as appropriate in contracts and reviews thereafter.

### Community safety services and disruption activities

Councils' statutory powers support joint investigations by allowing for the sharing of information in support of the prevention or detection of crime and in support of legal proceedings.

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and towns using dedicated mobile phone lines. It is a widespread form of harm and is present in many areas.

County lines is a major cross cutting issue involving gangs, drugs, violence, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation and missing persons. Potential victims may be trafficked to new locations to sell drugs