

North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Strategy 2025-2028



NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE
Community Safety Partnership

North East Lincolnshire Council, Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square,
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Modern slavery is a serious crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership is committed to working collaboratively to tackle this form of exploitation, working within the North East Lincolnshire Outcomes Framework to ensure that “all people live in a safe environment”.

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 the “4Ps”:

Pursue: prosecute and disrupt individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery.

Prevent: prevent people from becoming victims of modern slavery.

Protect: strengthen safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation.

Prepare: reduce the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enforcement.

Definitions of Modern Slavery

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 was introduced to consolidate a number of international protocols and conventions. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human

trafficking. Modern slavery is hidden, often in plain sight; on our high streets, in local businesses and even suburban and rural homes.

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 fear of being criminalised. Unwittingly our communities may be using victims of modern slavery to cut their hedges, lay their driveways or have their takeaways delivered.

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

- Sexual exploitation
- Labour exploitation
- Child related exploitation
- Criminal exploitation – forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, and related frauds
- Forced or sham marriage

Our Approach

The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership has been established to prevent and disrupt modern slavery and human trafficking, and engage with communities, other agencies and local businesses to raise awareness.

Members include the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, East Midlands Ambulance Service, British Transport Police, Focus (adult social care), Care Plus Group, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, Humberside Police, Humber Modern Slavery Partnership, North East Lincolnshire Council, Safeguarding Adults Board, NEL Community Safety Partnership and Voluntary Sector organisations supporting local communities.

Local Strategy

The North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy will focus on the following objectives:-

- Governance & Leadership
- Community Awareness Raising & Engagement
- Effective Communications
- Training & Development of our combined workforce
- Greater Intelligence Gathering to enable disruption and enforcement activity
- Strengthening Safeguards and Support.

Objectives will be themed around the 4P model and will include the following supporting actions:

Pursue

- Targeted intelligence led multi-agency enforcement activity.
- Pro active visits to at risk sectors
- Develop stronger links with local communities to raise awareness and increase reporting of suspicious activity.

Prevent

- Continue our targeted communications campaign to further raise awareness and engagement amongst partners, businesses, and local communities.
- Deliver targeted training to help raise awareness and promote victim identification.
- Identify those at greatest risk to prevent and reduce harm.

Protect

- Continue to coordinate a local process for determining swift “conclusive grounds decisions” in relation to child National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals to mitigate further risk from harm.
- Ensure appropriate partnership mechanisms are in place to safeguard potential victims, including appropriate accommodation provision.
- Conduct appropriate campaigns to ensure workers are aware of their rights.

Prepare

- Develop the Modern Slavery Champions network to assist to raise awareness and be a point of contact within their organisation.
- Continue to develop a network of ‘first responders’
- Ensure the North East Lincolnshire Modern Slavery Partnership is accountable and has effective governance and leadership arrangements in place.

Governance

The implementation of this strategy will be overseen by the Modern Slavery Partnership. Progress and performance will be monitored by the arrangements of the North East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Children Partnership & Safeguarding Adults Board with additional scrutiny & assurance provided by North East Lincolnshire Council Scrutiny & Leadership arrangements.

