



Modern Slavery

This leaflet explains what Modern Slavery is and what you can do about it if you are worried that you or someone you know is experiencing it.

We have also published other leaflets about adult safeguarding.

Abuse is when someone does or says something which harms someone or makes them upset and scared.

Abuse is always unacceptable. Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. No-one has the right to abuse other people.

Abuse can happen once or can be something that happens over weeks, months or years. It can be accidental or deliberate. Just because there is no injury

that someone can see it does not mean there is no abuse.

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery includes several forms of abuse including slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude

Human traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- Forced to work (through mental or physical threat)
- Owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse, or the threat of abuse
- Dehumanised, treated as a commodity, or bought and sold as 'property'
- Physically constrained or has restrictions on his or her freedom of movement.

The indicators that someone may be a victim of Modern Slavery include:

- Physical appearance – victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, or appear withdrawn
- Isolation – victims may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control or influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work
- Poor living conditions – victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address
- Few or no personal effects – victims may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in, day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work
- Restricted freedom of movement – victims have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents (e.g. passports) retained
- Unusual travel times – they may be dropped off/collected for work on a

regular basis either very early in the morning or very late at night

- Reluctance to seek help – victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family

Who could carry out Modern Slavery?

Organized crime groups are often involved in modern slavery, but it is also committed by individual opportunistic perpetrators

Contemporary slavery takes various forms and affects people of all ages, gender and races.

Human trafficking involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them.

It is likely that the person responsible for abuse is known to the person experiencing abuse, and is in a position of trust and/or power.

Financial or Material Abuse can be associated with Domestic Abuse, but can take place in any situation.

What happens if I report a concern about Modern Slavery?

In England and Wales, public authorities such as Somerset County Council and Avon & Somerset Police have a statutory duty to notify the Home Office when they come across potential victims of modern slavery.

This duty is discharged by either referring a potential victim into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) where they are a consenting adult, or by notifying the Home Office where an adult does not consent to enter the NRM.

Who to contact if you are worried about Modern Slavery:

If an identified victim of Modern Slavery is also an adult with care and support needs, the response will be co-ordinated under the adult safeguarding process and therefore Somerset County Council's Adult Social Care service should be contacted as it has the lead for adult

safeguarding in Somerset, and works closely with other organisations including the police and NHS:

Adult Social Care:

- **Telephone: 0300 123 22 24** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday and Sunday closed.)
- **Email: adults@somerset.gov.uk**

The phone number for Adults and Mental Health out of hours is **0300 123 23 27**

If a crime has been committed you should always contact the police.

The police are the lead agency in managing responses to other adults who are the victims of Modern Slavery, and should therefore be contacted where the person does not have care and support needs.

Police:

101 or in an emergency 999

Further information:

Please use the following link to view other leaflets on our website: bit.ly/SSABLeaflets

