



Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2016/17

Warrington Borough Council support the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This statement sets out the Council's actions to understand potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps aimed at ensuring there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and its supply chains.

The Council provides a wide range of statutory and discretionary services for its residents, businesses, visitors and wider public and consequently purchases a wide range of goods and services from third party suppliers. In 2015/16 the Council conducted business with over 3100 suppliers.

Modern slavery is a crime resulting in an abhorrent abuse of human rights. It is constituted in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by the offences of 'slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour' and 'human trafficking'.

Modern slavery includes:

- Forced labour; Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence.
- Debt bondage; Victims are forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to.
- Sexual exploitation; Victims are forced to perform non-consensual or abusive sexual acts against their will, such as prostitution, escort work and pornography. Adults are coerced often under the threat of force, or another penalty.
- Criminal exploitation; Often controlled and maltreated, victims are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick pocketing against their will.
- Domestic servitude; Victims are forced to carry out housework and domestic chores in private households with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy often sleeping where they work.

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is absolutely committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. The below sets out practices already in place at the Council and any committed actions set for 2016/17 in response to the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act.

Council Structure

The Council structure can be found on the website here: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/structure>

Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;

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https://www.warrington.gov.uk/downloads/download/1859/warrington_safeguarding_adults_board_wsab_downloads

Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;

In November 2016 the Cabinet Office introduced the Supplier Selection Questionnaire which should be used in all tenders over the EU thresholds, this requires suppliers to declare any involvement in modern slavery, and such companies will not be accepted as a supplier.

The Council will build self-declarations regarding compliance with the Council's policies on modern slavery into its e-procurement system for all tenders and quotes and in documents to register on the financial payment system.

The Council will build clauses regarding modern slavery into all new contracts, allowing termination of the contract if these clauses are breached.

Steps taken to that it assess and manage the risk of modern slavery in the supply chain

While almost 64% of the suppliers the Council does business with have a presence in Warrington, the Council's supply chains stretch across the world. Raw materials and components can come from sources anywhere in the world and there may be many links in the supply chain which could be involved in modern slavery. The Council has limited resources to monitor and manage the supply chain and has to concentrate on the immediate supplier and to require in its contracts that suppliers ensure that their supply chain is free from modern slavery.

The Council will map the various sectors of supply and undertake risk analysis of each area and investigate risk mitigation procedures for each area.

Training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.

The Council provides training for staff and partners involved in person centred services where Modern Slavery may present. This training should be widened to include those staff who have responsibility for managing contracts and undertaking contract monitoring so they are aware of the signs of Modern Slavery and how to report suspected cases.

Professor Steven Broomhead

Chief Executive

Warrington Borough Council

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