



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement 2025/26

Preventing, protecting and
detecting through procurement



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

Introduction

Scope of the Modern Slavery Statement

The purpose of Stockport Council's 2025/26 Modern Slavery Statement is to set out what the council is doing, and plans to do, to ensure its supply chains do not have connections to modern slavery. Though the statement does touch on wider issues such as awareness-raising and how to report suspected modern slavery, it is important to note that its principal focus is on procurement rather than tackling modern slavery itself.

It is also important, however, to acknowledge that the council is engaged in other modern slavery-related work across its service areas that is beyond the scope of this statement. Such work aims to protect both colleagues and our most vulnerable residents from the risks associated with modern slavery. Together, the Stockport Safeguarding Adults and Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnerships launched their [Modern Slavery Strategy](#) and published it on the council's website in July 2025. It builds on work in the previous strategy and continues to promote training and workforce development across partnerships.

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is a serious and often hidden crime in which people are exploited for criminal gain. The impact is often devastating for the victims. Modern slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. The common factors are that a victim is, or is intended to be, used or exploited for someone else's (usually financial) gain, without respect for their human rights. The perpetrators seeking to take advantage of them could be private individuals, people running small businesses or part of a wider organised crime network. For adult victims, there will be some element of coercion involved, such as threats, use of force, deception or abuse of power. Although this can involve an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of modern slavery within your own country.

Types of Modern Slavery

Modern slavery takes many different forms. Prevalence of different types of modern slavery will vary by region and change over time. In the UK to date however, there have been four broad ways in which perpetrators have sought to exploit victims. In each case the victim may or may not have been moved (trafficked), either from another country, or within the UK, to be exploited.

Labour exploitation

Labour exploitation usually involves unacceptably low pay, poor working conditions or excessive wage deductions. Modern slavery however involves more than poor pay and conditions. In order to constitute modern slavery, there will also be some form of coercion, meaning that victims cannot freely leave for other employment or exercise choice over their own situation. Where the perpetrator is taking advantage of a child or vulnerable person, however, an offence can be committed even without the element of coercion.

Domestic servitude

Domestic servitude typically involves victims working in a private family home where they are ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to unbearable conditions or working hours or made to work for little or no pay. The victim could be used in this way by their own family members or partner. Again, it is difficult for them to leave, for example, because of threats, the perpetrator holding their passport or using a position of power over the victim.

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Sexual exploitation

Victims are coerced into sex work or sexually abusive situations. This includes child sexual exploitation. Victims may be brought to the UK on the promise of legitimate employment, and they may be moved around the UK to be sexually exploited. In some cases, they may know they will be involved in sex work but are forced into a type or frequency they did not agree to. Victims are usually female but can be male.

Criminal exploitation

This is exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain. For example, victims may be coerced into shoplifting, pick-pocketing, a sham marriage, benefit fraud, begging or drug cultivation (e.g. cannabis farming). 'County lines' cases have become increasingly prevalent since 2020 – this relates to drug gangs in large cities expanding their reach to small towns. Gangs will often exploit young and other vulnerable individuals by getting them to transport substances. Mobile phone 'lines' are used to communicate drug orders.

Organ harvesting

Forced removal and trafficking of human organs is another type of modern slavery that occurs globally. The first case of (intended) organ harvesting in the UK resulted in three people receiving substantial prison sentences, in May 2023, for conspiring to traffic a man into the UK to remove his kidney.

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Under UK legislation, all modern slavery offences are punishable by a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Section 52 of the act imposes a duty on several public authorities, including councils, to notify the Home Office of any individuals they encounter that they believe may be victims of slavery or human trafficking. Notification methods, including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), are explained in Appendix 2 and, in more detail, on the [Government website](#).

Existing safeguarding processes however should still be followed alongside such a notification, as a 'duty to notify' referral should not be relied upon to safeguard victims. Current local reporting mechanisms are also set out in Appendix 2 and council staff should report concerns regarding modern slavery via those processes as well as the NRM.

Section 54 of the act relates to Modern Slavery Statements. This requires commercial organisations with an annual turnover of £36m or more to produce and review annual Modern Slavery Statements setting out the steps they are taking, or intend to take, to ensure that their business and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery. Though councils and other public sector organisations are not currently required to produce such statements, the previous government did signal an intention to extend this requirement to the public sector. As at summer 2025, government is still considering updating the legislation to cover public sector organisations, including councils, under the full provisions of the law.

Current trends relating to modern slavery

National context

In the second quarter of 2025 (April-June), the latest period for which data is available, [Home Office National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) received 5,690 referrals of potential victims of modern slavery. This represents a 7% increase in referrals compared to the previous quarter (5,295) and an 32% increase from April to June 2024 (4,312). Within these:

- The most commonly-referred nationalities were UK (23% of referrals), Eritrean (11%) and Vietnamese (11%). This quarter saw the largest number of referrals received for UK nationals since the NRM began, increasing 6% from the previous record (in the previous quarter).
- Where the age group of the exploited individuals was known, 70% were adults (aged 18+) and 30% were aged 17 or under.
- Whilst most referrals of the non-UK nationals were adults, 77% of referrals relating to UK nationals involved people aged 17 or under.
- Adults made up the majority of referrals for all types of exploitation, with one exception – under 17s accounted for around two-thirds of referrals relating to criminal exploitation. Most commonly, these were young males being exploited by criminal gangs in ‘county lines’ activity.

Stockport context

Recorded incidence of modern slavery is relatively low within Stockport. Between April 2024 and March 2025, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) logged 36 modern slavery enquiries relating to Stockport (46 in the previous year). These 36 accounted for 5.9% of the 612 enquiries across GM (though the originating district was not logged in 155 cases). The Stockport enquiries related to:

- Criminal exploitation (16 enquiries ; 44.6% of the 36).
- Labour exploitation (9; 25.0%).
- Sexual exploitation (5; 13.9%).
- Criminal (cannabis cultivation) (4; 11.1%)
- Domestic servitude (1; 2.8%)
- Unknown (1; 2.8%).

The alleged victim’s age and gender were known for 34 of these 36 cases. Of the 34:

- 25 (73.5%) were males (14 adult; 11 under 18).
- 9 (26.5%) were female (5 adult; 4 under 18).

Nationality of the alleged victim was known in 34 cases – of these:

- 16 (47.1%) were British.
- 5 (14.7%) were Indian.
- 3 (8.8%) were Vietnamese
- 10 (29.4%) were other nationalities

The majority of British alleged victims (11; 68.8%) were children. Of the referrals relating to other nationalities however only 4 (22.2%) related to children.

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The predominant theme running through these enquiries is being involved in the dealing or delivery of drugs and/or 'county lines' linked exploitation. Other forms of criminal exploitation featured much less frequently.

There are no currently-known instances of modern slavery activity being linked with apparently legitimate businesses, including any with links to the council's supply chains. It should be noted however that there are intelligence gaps in forced labour within Greater Manchester as a whole, so an accurate picture is difficult to ascertain.

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Purpose of the statement

Stockport Council is committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from modern slavery and human trafficking. In September 2018, the council publicly signalled this commitment through a council motion, carried with cross-party support, that condemned the practice of modern slavery. The motion also committed to signing up to a Modern Slavery Charter, to ensure that the council has robust procedures in place to guard against supporting modern slavery. One of the commitments set out in the charter was to produce a Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement and to review it annually to ensure it remains current. The council's first Modern Slavery Statement was published in April 2019 and it has been reviewed and updated approximately annually since then.

This is the sixth iteration of the council's Modern Slavery Statement. It will run from October 2025 to September 2026. It summarises activity undertaken since 1st October 2023 aimed at ensuring council services, businesses and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery. It also proposes activity for implementation up to 30th September 2026 to mitigate the risk of such links.

Stockport Council's responsibilities and related actions

This statement covers the activities of Stockport Council, which is a unitary authority providing all local government services within the borough of Stockport. The council manages a wide range of services, delivered both directly by the council and through external contractors. It has a large and diverse supply chain. A key partner in this work is STAR Procurement, the shared procurement service for Stockport, Knowsley, Rochdale, St. Helens, Tameside and Trafford Councils. The council's main services are listed in Appendix 3.

Responsibility

The council (working with STAR Procurement), has responsibilities relating to modern slavery that fall within the following broad areas of activity:

- **Defining and outlining** the risks in the supply chain, in its role as coordinator of public services, in the joint aim of safeguarding the community.
- **Prevention:** training commissioners, contract managers, staff and other public services/ community groups, issuing communications, ensuring senior management and member buy-in, issuing statements and encouraging suppliers to adopt anti-slavery statements.
- **Detection:** of non-compliance through due diligence, audit and monitoring.
- **Response:** investigating allegations and following the reporting pathway.
- **Evaluation:** through learning from investigations and the annually-updated statement.

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Review of activity set out in 2024/25 Modern Slavery Statement

In order to develop this sixth iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement, consultation was undertaken with the ‘action owners’ responsible for delivering the actions set out in the 2024/25 statement to review progress with those actions and to seek their views on future activity that they felt needed to take place. Activity undertaken since the adoption of the 2024/25 statement is set out in the following tables, by the areas of activity identified above. Where actions have become embedded into everyday practice this is indicated below. Though such activities will continue to be undertaken into 2025/26 and beyond, they will generally be excluded from subsequent Modern Slavery Statement action plans as they develop into ‘business as usual’.

Responsibility: Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
The 2024/25 iteration of Stockport Council’s Modern Slavery will be published on the council’s website and promoted on the intranet when Cabinet has approved it (scheduled for 5th November 2024).	The statement was added to the council’s website on 6 th November 2024.
The review of the 2023/24 statement and the draft 2024/25 statement will be discussed at the Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) meeting on 14th October 2024. The group will maintain oversight of the delivery of the refreshed statement’s action plan, including a mid-year progress report in spring 2025.	2023/24 review was discussed at SCG in October 2024. The mid-year update relating to the 2024/25 Statement was considered at SCG on 28th April 2025.
Promotion of the Modern Slavery Statement is planned through Stockport Review EXTRA (the council’s regular e-newsletter) in the second half of 2024.	This did not take place.
Further external promotion of the Modern Slavery statement will also take place if required (e.g., involving STAR and the Portfolio Holder).	No additional promotion was deemed necessary.
The council’s Audit and Risk Team will work with managers across the council to develop a deeper understanding of the risks faced by the council around modern slavery. As a first step, the Risk Manager will deliver a workshop to relevant staff across the council during 2024/25.	The Risk Workshop was delivered to relevant parties on 12/02/2025. The management involved are responsible for incorporating Modern Slavery into their area’s Risk Register where appropriate and any identified risk will now be overseen by each service area, as necessary.

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Responsibility: Prevention	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
Continued co-delivery (with GMP) of the 'Understanding Exploitation' course. This covers a range of topics, including modern slavery and human trafficking. The next session is arranged for 3rd December 2024. Further sessions will be scheduled via Learning Pool throughout 2025. The content of the training course is updated ahead of each session to ensure training is relevant and appropriate for staff, referencing recent local learning, case studies and changes to legislation.	Delivery of the Understanding Exploitation course has continued during 2024/25. Two sessions were delivered to delegates from the council, NHS FT, schools and the voluntary sector. Delegates continue to give positive feedback about the course.
Supporting the council's complex safeguarding training offer, and building on previous learning circles held in 2022, three classroom sessions that included material on human trafficking and modern slavery took place (in June 2023, October 2023 and June 2024). A further session is scheduled for December 2024, with additional courses to be arranged in 2025. The sessions will be co-delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Training Manager and the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager and are targeted at multi-agency practitioners and professionals across the borough.	Delivery of the training continued during 2024/25. Four sessions were delivered and a total of 71 people took part in the training. The course was delivered jointly by officers from the council and GMP.
Member training and awareness-raising relating to modern slavery will be introduced. An external provider will be agreed during the autumn of 2024 with a view to the training beginning in early 2025.	Modern Slavery training is now included in the annual member refresher/induction training plan. The first session, which will be held online and last for two hours including time for questions, will be held on 10th December 6pm-8pm. Invitations to the sessions have been sent to all members. An e-learning offer will also be made available for those who are unable to join the scheduled online session.

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Responsibility: Prevention	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
<p>Monitoring delivery of the multi-agency Stockport Safeguarding Partnerships Modern Slavery Strategy through quarterly meetings of the Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group. Escalation and assurance reporting to take place to the One Stockport Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership Executive Boards.</p>	<p>The Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group continues to meet under the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships. Monitoring of actions to date have included ongoing delivery of multi-agency training sessions, and oversight of overseas recruitment risk. Assurance was received during 2024/25 from the local authority on overseas recruitment and the displaced overseas care worker support offer.</p> <p>The Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group approved an updated Modern Slavery Strategy at the meeting in July 2025 and this is now published on the council’s website. The revised strategy builds on work in the previous strategy and continues to promote training and workforce development across the two safeguarding partnerships.</p>
<p>Council-wide contract management training will reference the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) online training around ethical procurement and, in particular, refer to Modern Slavery. Where appropriate, individual contract managers will request to undertake the CIPS training.</p> <p>Council-wide contract management training will reference ethical procurement highlighting Modern Slavery. Where appropriate, individual contract managers can request further learning the Government Commercial College.</p>	<p>The contract management training package for all Local Authority commissioners has been updated and now refers to Modern Slavery. The contract management training is available to book onto (via Learning Pool) and by August 2025, 45 people had taken part.</p> <p>Further training courses have been scheduled during the remainder of 2025.</p>
<p>STAR’s new starters, including temporary staff, will undertake the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply as part of their induction. All STAR staff involved in sourcing activities will complete the course annually.</p>	<p>This is now established ‘business as usual’ for STAR.</p>
<p>STAR will refresh its in-house Modern Slavery training for all staff in 2024/25 – existing staff members as well as new recruits – following implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 and subsequent secondary legislation anticipated in 2024/25. The course will be refreshed once details of the secondary legislation are known and course contents can be designed to reflect it.</p>	<p>Following implementation of the Procurement Act, course content is being prepared and is planned to roll out in late 2025/early 2026.</p>

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Responsibility: Prevention	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
STAR will provide a refresher course (or similar) to its staff by end of December 2024 on requirements around obtaining a Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement for all contracts over £25,000, regardless of route to market.	Following implementation of the Procurement Act, course content is being prepared and is planned to roll out in late 2025/early 2026
STAR will undertake stakeholder mapping across the council, on an ongoing basis, to identify the need for 'Back to Basics' training (which covers Modern Slavery issues and awareness). STAR will also provide such training as and when necessary. As with the in-house training, this exercise has been delayed as the Procurement Bill secondary legislation is still awaited.	Stakeholder mapping has taken place across all partners – this is updated on an ongoing basis. Following implementation of the Procurement Act, course content is being prepared and is planned to roll out in late 2025/early 2026.
Relevant modern slavery aspects will be incorporated into STAR's 'Meet the Buyer' events. One such event has already been scheduled for 3 rd October 2024 and relevant information and awareness-raising material has been included within the course content.	A 'Meet the Buyer' event was successfully delivered on 3 rd October 2024. This included input from partners relating to the Real Living Wage and the GM Good Employment Charter. Presentations included material on modern slavery in supply chains. A Meet the Buyer event is scheduled for January 2026, which delegates from a range of agencies are expected to attend. The event will include a presentation on modern slavery. There is also an intention to further develop the material relating to modern slavery in supply chains for 2027.

Responsibility: Detection	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
The council's Strategic Commissioning and Contract Performance Manager and its Strategic Commissioning Group will develop Contract Management training, including an element on ethical procurement (which covers modern slavery). This training will be delivered to all commissioners and contract managers across the council.	Contract management training material (' <i>Contract Management: The Basics</i> ') has been developed and is now being rolled out to council via Microsoft Teams.

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Responsibility: Response	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
STAR will refer any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery for investigation via the National Referral Mechanism. This process will be enhanced via additional staff training and through the Champion Against Modern Slavery function.	No contractors were identified during the year, but a robust plan, documentation and training have been developed for all STAR staff for deployment should such issues be identified.
STAR will develop a Modern Slavery Toolkit to better support services if modern slavery is identified within their supply chain.	The workstream has begun and a toolkit is now in development.

Responsibility: Evaluation	
Actions in 2024/25 statement	Activity undertaken since September 2024
The Internal Audit team carried out a review between July and September 2024. The findings from the audit have been shared with the relevant managers, and an action plan will be agreed based on the recommendations of the audit.	<p>An action plan was agreed following the audit in 2024, with actions in place for both council and STAR colleagues.</p> <p>A brief follow-up will take in late 2025, as is standard Internal Audit procedure, to ensure agreed actions are in progress.</p>

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Activity for 2025/26

As well as identifying progress with activity set out the Modern Slavery Statement, responsible officers were asked to identify activity within the 2024/25 iteration of the statement that needed to be carried over into 2025/26 and to identify any additional activities to be undertaken.

The tables below sets out activity that Stockport Council and STAR Procurement will undertake up to the end of September 2026 aimed at improving their ability to identify and address issues relating to modern slavery and human trafficking, particularly regarding its supply chains. This is summarised below, by the broad areas of activity. Some of the actions from 2024/25 that have become embedded into everyday activity will be excluded from future action plans as they are now 'business as usual'.

Area of activity	Actions proposed for October 2025 to September 2026
Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2025/26 iteration of <i>Stockport Council's Modern Slavery statement - Preventing, Protecting and Detecting through Procurement</i> will be published on the council's website and promoted on the intranet when Cabinet (scheduled for 4 November 2025) has approved it. The review of the 2024/25 iteration of the statement and the draft 2025/26 statement will be discussed at the Strategic Commissioning Group meeting on 27 October 2025. The group will maintain oversight of the delivery of the refreshed statement's action plan, including a mid-year progress report in spring 2026.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued co-delivery (with GMP) of the 'Understanding Exploitation' course during 2025/26. This covers a range of topics, including modern slavery and human trafficking. Content of the training course is updated ahead of each session to ensure the training is relevant and appropriate for staff, referencing recent local learning, case studies and changes to legislation. Content relating to human trafficking and modern slavery will continue to be a key part of the council's complex safeguarding training offer during 2025/26. Course material continues to develop based on learning from previous sessions. Training will be co-delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Training Manager and the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager and is targeted at multi-agency practitioners and professionals across the borough. The first training sessions for elected members relating to modern slavery will be delivered online on 10th December 2025. An e-learning option is also being developed for those who are unable to attend the scheduled session. Monitoring delivery of the multi-agency Stockport Safeguarding Partnerships Modern Slavery Strategy through quarterly meetings of the Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group. Escalation and assurance reporting to the One Stockport Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership Executive Boards will take place as and when necessary.

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Area of activity	Actions proposed for October 2025 to September 2026
<p>Prevention (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR's new starters, including temporary staff, will undertake the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply as part of their induction. All STAR staff involved in sourcing activities will complete the course annually. • STAR will refresh its in-house Modern Slavery training for all staff in 2025/26 – existing staff members as well as new recruits. Following implementation of the Procurement Act, course content is being prepared and the training is planned to roll out in late 2025/early 2026. • STAR will undertake stakeholder mapping across the council, on an ongoing basis, to identify the need for 'Back to Basics' training (which covers modern slavery issues and awareness). STAR will also provide such training as and when necessary. Course content is being prepared and the training is planned to roll out in late 2025/early 2026. • Relevant modern slavery aspects will be incorporated into STAR's 'Meet the Buyer' events. One such session has already been scheduled for January 2026 and material on modern slavery will be included within a presentation aimed at a mixed audience.
<p>Detection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council's Strategic Commissioning and Contract Performance Manager and its Strategic Commissioning Group will develop and deliver Contract Management training, including an element on ethical procurement (which covers modern slavery). The focus for 2025/26 will be to make the contract management training mandatory for all commissioning and contract manager staff across the council.
<p>Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR will refer any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery for investigation via the National Referral Mechanism. This process will be enhanced via additional staff training and through the Champion Against Modern Slavery function. • STAR will develop a Modern Slavery Toolkit to better support services if modern slavery is identified within their supply chain.
<p>Evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per standard Internal Audit procedure, a member of the Internal Audit team will follow up on the 2024 Modern Slavery Audit in 2025. This is to ensure that the actions, agreed by management, are in progress.

Review process

This sixth iteration of Stockport's Modern Slavery Statement will be reviewed in summer/autumn 2026 (and annually thereafter). The council's Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee will monitor this review process through annual reports to Corporate Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee.



Cllr Mark Roberts
Leader of Stockport Council



Michael Cullen
Chief Executive, Stockport Council

Appendix 1: Potential indicators of modern slavery

Practical Guidance

In the course of employment with the council, staff may come across situations and people that cause concern. This section gives practical guidance to assist with deciding if someone may have been trafficked or is the victim of modern slavery.

Victims are trafficked worldwide, including to and within the UK. They can be forced to work in the sex trade, domestic service, forced labour, criminal activity or have their organs removed to be sold (though there has been no evidence of this having occurred to date in the UK). There is no typical victim - sometimes victims do not understand they are being exploited and they are entitled to help. Victims are often trafficked to a country where they cannot speak the language, have travel and identity documents removed and are told that if they try to attempt an escape they or their families will be harmed.

Key indicators of modern slavery or trafficking include:

- Is the person in possession of his or her own passport, identification or travel documents or are these documents in possession of someone else?
- Does the person act as if they were instructed or coached by someone else?
- Do they allow others to speak for them when spoken to directly?
- Was the person recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Have transport costs been paid for by facilitators, who they must pay back through working or providing services?
- Do they receive little or no payment for their work? Is someone else in control of their wages?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement? Are they dropped off and collected from work?
- Is the person withdrawn or do they appear frightened?
- Has the person or their family been threatened with harm if they attempt to escape?
- Is the person under the impression they are bonded by debt, or in a situation of dependence?
- Has the person been physically or emotionally harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family? Do they have limited social interaction or contact with people outside their immediate environment?

This list is not exhaustive. Remember, even if person displays a one or more of the indicators of trafficking set out above, they may not necessarily be a victim of trafficking. Often however, you may build up a picture of the person's circumstances that suggest something is not quite right – so if you have suspicions, report them.

Appendix 2: Reporting processes

This appendix sets out how professionals (including council officers) and members of the public can report suspicions regarding modern slavery or trafficking. Note that as well as the local referral processes set out below, a range of professionals (including council officers) should also make a referral into the Home Office National Referral Mechanism (described later in this appendix).

Child safeguarding

If concerns involve children or young people (aged 18 or under) in any way, please report these concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) using the online reporting processes available on the 'Contacting the MASSH' page on the council's website, accessible via the link below. This includes separate processes for members of the public and professionals to follow.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh>

Adult safeguarding

If no children or young people are involved and concerns relate to the exploitation of adults, you should alert the Adult Social Care Team via one of the numbers on the link below on the council's website. This also includes separate processes for members of the public and professionals.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/report-suspected-abuse-or-neglect>

Stockport Council Confidential Reporting ('Whistleblowing') Policy

Council staff may use the council's Confidential Reporting Policy (also known as the 'Whistleblowing' Policy) to report their concerns. Council staff can access the policy and reporting form through the link below on the council intranet:

<https://stockportcouncil.sharepoint.com/kb/Pages/DGW-Introduction.aspx>

Contracts and supply chains

If you are managing a contract on behalf of the council and you have any suspicions regarding modern slavery that relate to any organisation providing goods or services to the council (or further along the supply chain), you should report these concerns to STAR Procurement through your usual STAR contact, who will liaise with their Modern Slavery Champion as appropriate. If you are unsure who to contact at STAR, please contact the organisation via one of the methods suggested on its 'Contact Us' page:

<https://www.star-procurement.gov.uk/contact-us.aspx>

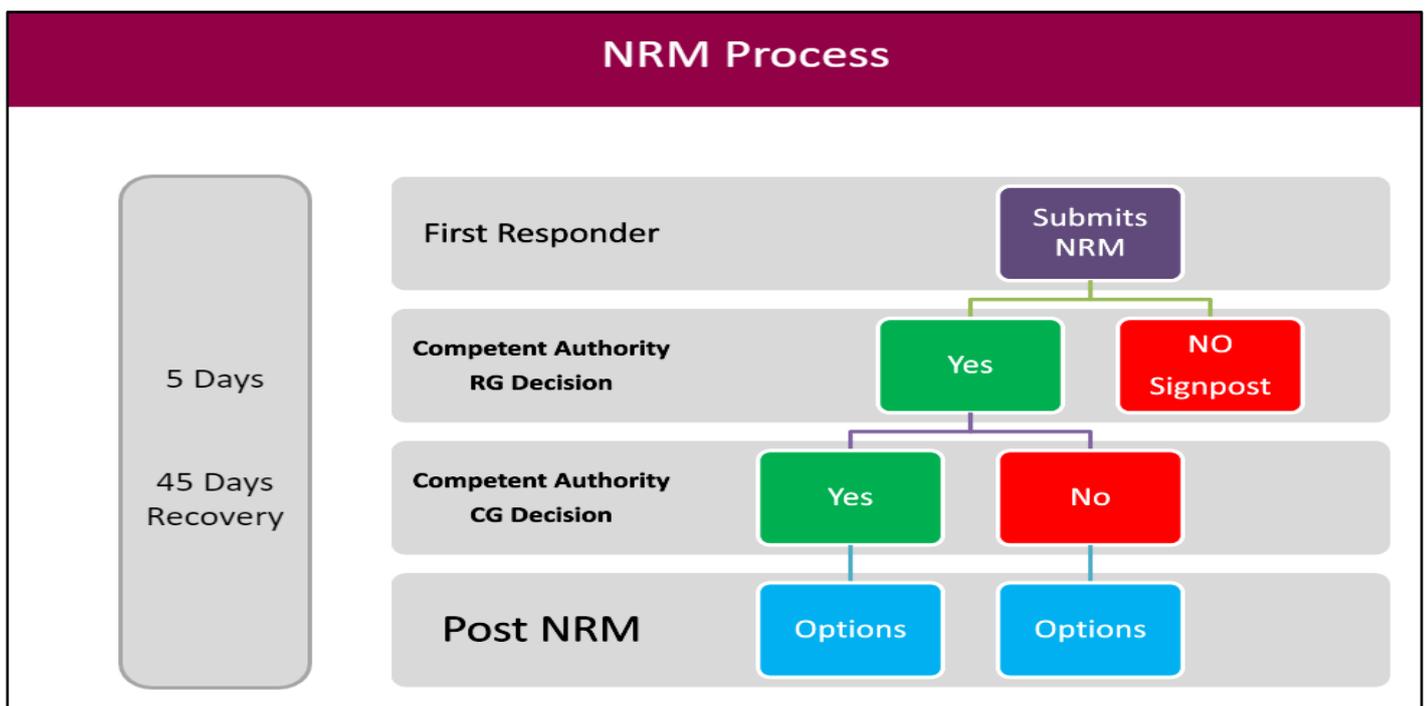
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National Referral Mechanism

Several organisations (known 'First Responders'), including councils, have a duty to notify the Home Office of any people they think may be victims of slavery or human trafficking via a referral process known as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Council officers should therefore make a referral into the NRM as soon as they have any concerns or suspicions of modern slavery. At that point, the officer should make it clear whether or not the individual has consented to the referral and whether they agree to access any support which would follow on from the referral.

Existing safeguarding processes however (such as those outlined above) should still be followed alongside NRM referrals, as a 'duty to notify' referral should not be relied upon to safeguard victims.

The diagram below summarises the process, journey and timescales regarding referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. This is taken from a training presentation used in 'learning circles' organised by Stockport's Safeguarding Adults Partnership. A Reasonable Grounds decision (RG) is made by the Home Office based on the initial information provided, which can lead to immediate help and support. This then moves to a more detailed investigation which leads to a Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision which would enable further support including 45 days move on support for the victim.



Note that only organisations designated as 'First Responders' are eligible to make NRM referrals. These are set out below.

- Local authorities.
- Police forces.
- Certain parts of the Home Office.
- UK Visas and Immigration.
- Border Force.
- Immigration Enforcement.
- National Crime Agency.

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- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).
- Salvation Army.
- Migrant Help.
- Medaille Trust.
- Kalayaan.
- Barnardo's.
- Unseen.
- NSPCC (Child Trafficking Advice Centre).
- Bawso.
- New Pathways.
- Refugee Council.

The referral form can be accessed [here](#).

Further guidance on the NRM process can be found [here](#).

Though members of the public and organisations which are not designated 'First Responders' cannot make NRM referrals, they can report concerns to the Home Office via the Modern Slavery helpline (0800 0121 700) and should also follow the local processes set out above to alert the relevant safeguarding team.

Appendix 3: Stockport Council services

The services that Stockport Council provides are summarised below, by directorate.

Place

- Culture and Leisure.
- Development and Regeneration.
- Economy, Work and Skills.
- Estates and Asset Management.
- Highways and Transport.
- Neighbourhoods and Public Protection.
- Strategic Housing.

Children's Services

- Adoption.
- Family Help and Integration.
- Children's Social Care.
- Early Years and Neighbourhoods.
- Safeguarding and Learning.
- School Effectiveness.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion.
- Virtual School for Children in Care.

Adult Social Services

- Adult Social Care Commissioning.
- Enablement and Recovery.
- Practice Quality and Workforce Strategy.
- Prevention and Customer Engagement.
- Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism.
- Active Recovery Communities & Home (ARCH).

Public Health

- Health Protection.
- Behaviour Change Commissioning.
- Healthy Communities.
- Physical Activity.
- Public Health Intelligence and Early Intervention/Prevention.
- Infection Control.
- Fair and Inclusive Stockport.

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Corporate Support Services

- Business Intelligence.
- Business Support (Operational).
- Citizens Services.
- Strategic Commissioning and Contracts.
- Communications.
- Electoral Services.
- Financial and Management Accountancy.
- Human Resources and Occupational Development.
- Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance.
- IT.
- Legal Services.
- Revenues and Benefits.
- Strategy and Transformation.