

# MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

August 2020



Plymouth City Council and its group of companies support the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and is committed to eliminating practices and conditions which may foster modern slavery to occur.

In September 2018 Plymouth City Council unanimously agreed a Motion on Notice to tackle modern slavery through procurement and the provision of a Charter to embed this in local practices. In March 2020 the UK government also followed suit and published a modern slavery statement setting out the action they are going to take to prevent modern slavery within their supply chains. We welcome the Modern Slavery Act's approach in consolidating slavery and trafficking offences, tougher penalties and sentencing rules for perpetrators and more support for victims.

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.
- Child trafficking; young people (under 18) are moved internationally or domestically so they can be exploited.
- Organ Harvesting; where persons are trafficked in order to sell their body parts and organs for transplants – includes eggs, kidneys and eyes.

Plymouth City Council expects our wholly owned group of companies, joint venture partnerships, contractors, suppliers and its staff falling in scope of this legislation to be aware of and comply with the requirements of the Act.

We are committed to encouraging fair pay and working conditions in our own operations as well as within our wider supply chain and to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking.

With this in mind Plymouth City Council is part of the Anti-Slavery Partnership [https://www.aspartnership.org.uk/devon-and-Plymouth City](https://www.aspartnership.org.uk/devon-and-Plymouth-City) working with partners and agencies across the South West Peninsula to develop a collaborative approach to tackling the issue of modern slavery.

To further support this, the Council will:

- Implement communication and education programmes which will highlight the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.
- Provide specific training and awareness for staff in high risk areas in Plymouth City Council.
- Promote clear referral mechanisms for staff, suppliers and those in our communities for reporting any concerns around modern slavery.
- Complete referrals into the National Referral Mechanism which is the framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensures they receive appropriate support and protection.

- Through our wider responsibilities, Plymouth City Council will work together with our group of companies proactively to consider the impact of the Act's requirements and to take positive actions beyond communication and education programmes to ensure there is no modern slavery in its business or in its supply chain.
- Take account of ethical and modern slavery considerations in our procurement processes and our contractual arrangements.

We will work proactively with our suppliers and partners to help understand our collective responsibilities in relation to modern slavery and will require our supply chain to ensure they fulfil their obligations as set out under the Modern Slavery Act.

### **Reporting concerns**

If you suspect that someone is in immediate danger always contact Devon and Cornwall Police on telephone 999.

Further advice and key contacts on Tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking can be found in the National Referral Mechanism Toolkit – Plymouth Approach see:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/TacklingModernSlaveryHumanTrafficking.pdf>

### **Further information**

Further information, help and assistance can be found here:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/TacklingModernSlaveryHumanTrafficking.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transparency-in-supply-chains-a-practical-guide>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery>

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12\\_Modern\\_slavery\\_WEB%20.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12_Modern_slavery_WEB%20.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>

<https://www.aspartnership.org.uk/devon-and-Plymouth-City>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/649906/Transparency\\_in\\_Supply\\_Chains\\_A\\_Practical\\_Guide\\_2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/649906/Transparency_in_Supply_Chains_A_Practical_Guide_2017.pdf)

Modern Slavery Act: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>