

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2024/251. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the annually reviewed and updated Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2024/25 and for its publication on the Council's website and the Home Office's modern slavery statement portal. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority of Community Safety.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Broxtowe Borough Council Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2024/25 be approved.

3. Detail

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery.

Section 54 of the Act imposes a legal duty on commercial organisations, which supply goods and/or services from or to the UK and have a global turnover of more than £36 million, to publish a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year. The Council engages in commercial activities by providing services (some of which are statutory and some discretionary) and its annual turnover is greater than the specified amount.

Modern slavery clauses are included in legal contracts where appropriate and Modern Slavery Policies are requested from third party organisations along with Safeguarding, Equalities, Data Protection Act 2018 (including GDPR) and Environmental / Carbon Impact policies at account meetings. The Council's contract and procurement arrangements require clauses in all contracts which relate to contractors complying with the Council's procurement policy.

Whilst the Modern Slavery Act 2015 does not state that Local Authorities specifically are included in those organisations legally required to publish a statement, many do so as a matter of good practice. It is considered that the Council should be keen to raise awareness of slavery and human trafficking and as a large-scale local employer and provider of services, should make its position of zero tolerance in respect of slavery and trafficking clear and unequivocal.

In 2024 there were 21 individuals from Broxtowe referred to the countywide Slavery and Exploitation Team (SERAC) with cuckooing and financial exploitation being the most prominent (child criminal and sexual exploitation are not included in these figures as these are referred to separate services) with the most prevalent vulnerability factors being Mental Health and Substance Misuse.

In the same year, 21 young people who were victims of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) were managed locally through the Neighbourhood Safeguarding and Disruption (NSD) or the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCEP) Panels compared to 11 in 2023.

The exploitation worker from the Modern Slavery Team attends the monthly Neighbourhood Safeguarding and Disruption meetings and Complex Case Panel meetings to assist in identifying and managing victims and those at risk of being victims of exploitation.

Local Authority Slavery and Human Trafficking Statements are published on Local Authority Websites and through the Home Office's portal.

The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2024/25 is attached at **Appendix 1** and an Equality Impact Assessment at **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with operational costs being contained within existing budgets.

6. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The legal implications are contained within the report, as stated whilst local authorities are not legally required to publish a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement it is considered best practice.

7. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

8. Union Comments

Not applicable.

9. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a new statement an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

12. Background Papers

Nil.