

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2025/26****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for the annually reviewed and updated Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2025/26 and for its publication on the Council's website and the Home Office's modern slavery statement portal. This is in line with the Council's vision of a greener, safer, healthier Broxtowe, where everyone prospers and its priorities of healthy and supported communities and a safe place for everyone.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2025/26 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.

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.

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.

In 2025/26 there were twelve individuals from Broxtowe referred to the Slavery and Exploitation Team and discussed at the monthly multi-agency risk assessment conferences (SERAC). Cuckooing and financial exploitation is the most prominent with the most prevalent vulnerability factors being mental health and substance misuse.

Child Criminal Exploitation cases are not included in these figures as these are managed through separate pathways. In the same year, seventeen 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.

Exploitation workers from the Modern Slavery Team attend the monthly local Neighbourhood Safeguarding and Disruption 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 annually on the Local Authorities Website and through the Home Office's portal.

The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2025/26 can be found in the **Appendix**.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with any costs being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

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

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

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

HR support and welcome the review.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Union comments are not required for this report.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. 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.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this not a policy it does not require an equality impact assessment.

13. Background Papers

Nil.