



Northamptonshire  
**Modern Slavery and  
Human Trafficking Strategy**  
2020-2021

## Contents

Introduction	3
Definition of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	4
Governance and Accountability	4
National Context	5
Local Context	6
Key Strategies	
Prevention	8
Protection	8
Pursue	9
Prepare	9
Partnership and Approach	10
Monitoring and Review	10

## Introduction

This strategy sets out the commitment of the Modern Slavery Working Group to do everything possible to identify, counter and prevent Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response and to support victims of this abuse.

This strategy replaces the previous Northamptonshire Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy 2018-2020.

The strategy aims to tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking under the four main headings of:



An action plan to deliver the key target areas for each of those key strategies will be drafted, progressed and monitored by the Modern Slavery Working Group. It is essential that all partners own and take responsibility for the effectiveness of its outcomes and will measure the difference made in tackling Modern Slavery in Northamptonshire.

In line with national guidance<sup>1</sup>, the Modern Slavery Working Group seeks to develop locally a prevention, protection, pursue and prepare strategy to:

- **prevent individuals becoming vulnerable to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking;**
- **identify those at risk of becoming victims;**
- **take action to safeguard and promote the welfare of individuals who are being, or may be, exploited through Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking; and**
- **take action against those intent on abusing and exploiting individuals in this way.**

The Modern Slavery Working Group acknowledges that its role is strategic rather than operational and partner agencies should develop and embed their own localised operational policies, using this strategy as a framework.

<sup>1</sup>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/383764/ModernSlaveryStrategyFINALDEC2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/383764/ModernSlaveryStrategyFINALDEC2015.pdf)





## Definition of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern slavery is a serious crime. It encompasses slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking.

Modern slavery victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.



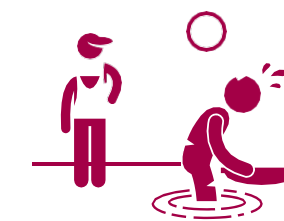
Child abduction



Human cage



Forced prostitution



Forced labour



Forced marriage



Organ theft



Selling baby



People smuggling

A person is trafficked if they are brought to (or moved around) a country by others who threaten, frighten, hurt and force them to do work or other things they don't want to do.

An example of one of the many trafficking issues that continue to exist in the county is exploitation through criminal labour via local and 'County Lines' drug dealing and the subsequent cuckooing of addresses belonging to vulnerable members of the community. The number of county lines operating within Northamptonshire continues to increase and with it the number of children and other vulnerable persons at risk of exploitation.

This is just one of many types of 'Serious Organised Crime' (SOC) and is a real threat that impacts real people. In Northamptonshire a lot of work goes into trying to catch individuals connected to Serious Organised Crime groups (OCGs). Individuals found to be subject to modern slavery and human trafficking are often linked to these groups.

### Governance and accountability

The Modern Slavery Working Group has a responsibility to monitor the incidence of Modern Slavery locally and oversee the response of agencies.

The Modern Slavery Working Group<sup>2</sup> is responsible for meeting the statutory responsibility to challenge and hold to account partners in monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategic and operational multi-agency response to Modern Slavery in Northamptonshire.

<sup>2</sup> TOR for Modern Slavery Working Group



## National Context

The most robust current estimate of the scale of modern slavery in the UK was produced by the Home Office in 2014. The estimate suggested that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2013. The average unit cost of Modern Slavery crime is £328,720. This strategy reflects national guidance and legislation, and recommendations from key reports including:

- Modern slavery and public health: 7 December 2017
- A typology of modern slavery offences in the UK: 17 October 2017
- 2019 UK annual report on modern slavery: October 2019
- Report of the inter-departmental ministerial group on modern slavery 2016: 12 October 2016
- Modern Slavery: an application of multiple systems estimation: 29 November 2014
- HM Government Modern slavery strategy: 29 November 2014
- Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: Published May 2019



## Local Context



The Modern Slavery Working Group seeks to ensure that Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is prevented, identified and challenged across the County.

The vision of the Working Group is:

- To understand the prevalence of Modern Slavery in Northamptonshire;
- To ensure that there is clear data and evidence supporting effective responses to the risk to individuals as a result of Modern Slavery;
- To ensure Northamptonshire has effective responses to tackling Modern Slavery by meeting the aims and objectives set out in this strategy.

## Key Strategies

The Modern Slavery Working Group and partner agencies, including the voluntary sector, aim to deliver an effective system and infrastructure to address Modern Slavery, underpinned by the following key strategies:

### Prevention

#### Preventing people from engaging in Modern Slavery

The aim is to prevent individuals from becoming victims of Modern Slavery.

We will:

- Collect data to analyse prevalence and hot-spots
- Raise awareness with the public and professionals
- Increase activities to engage communities and partners
- Develop a multi-agency media/ communication strategy to ensure consistent and accurate messages are shared with all, in support of public awareness and improved confidence in delivery.

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### Protection

#### Strengthening safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness of and resilience against this crime

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of victims and those at risk of modern slavery and human trafficking depends on an effective joint working between different agencies and professionals

We will:

- Raise awareness with the workforce to be able to detect and respond to signs of Modern Slavery
- When visiting businesses and properties will seek to identify potential victims of Modern Slavery
- Develop a robust and effective information sharing process
- Ensure single and multi-agency processes and procedures are effective, efficient and fit for purpose to support the safeguarding of victims from the risks and impact of Modern Slavery
- Establish a programme of targeted preventative support for high risk groups of victims including building trust to report incidents of Modern Slavery

### Pursue

#### Prosecuting and disrupting individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery

Working together to bring offenders to justice and disrupt behaviour. Identifying them early, targeting them via multi-agency disruption plans and securing justice for victims by obtaining convictions.

We will:

- Pro-actively identify and disrupt places of Modern Slavery activity
- Identify any links to properties and landlords with a focus on Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO's)
- To develop regional investigative approaches to Modern Slavery
- To work in partnership to ensure robust investigations are conducted to bring perpetrators are brought to justice

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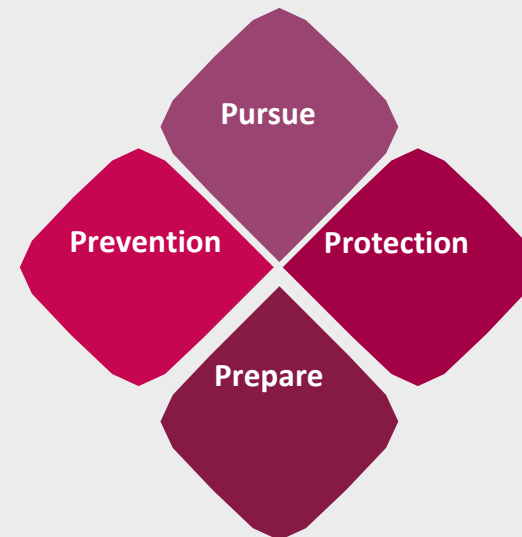
### Prepare

#### Reducing the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enhanced support

Identifying them early, targeting them via multi-agency disruption plans and securing justice for victims by obtaining convictions.

We will:

- Provide a framework enabling access to specialist advice to assist management of victims, witnesses, investigations and prosecutions.





## Partnership Approach

To achieve these aims, all agencies including the voluntary sector, will need to work in partnership with:

- Victims of Modern Slavery to promote full participation and engagement;
- Communities and organisations to engage in detection; protection; disruption and prevention; and

The Modern Slavery Working Group will work in partnership regionally and nationally to share learning, and to ensure practice is in line with current research, including taking opportunities to share good practice.

## Monitoring and Review

The implementation of this strategy will be overseen by the Modern Slavery Working Group.

The strategy will be reviewed annually by the Modern Slavery Working Group, or more frequently if required, to ensure it is making a difference to the victims of Modern Slavery in Northamptonshire.





