

MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY 2021 - 2023



Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery is one of the thematic areas within the joint Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership/Stockport Safeguarding Adult Board (SSCP/SSAB) Strategic Plan for 2021 – 23.

Our approach focuses on having an all-age approach to the reduction of criminal exploitation including human trafficking and modern slavery.



DEFINITION OF MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Modern Slavery is where victims are exploited by other people for personal or commercial gain. The UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 encompasses slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. It involves the use of force, deception or coercion to exploit a person to obtain some type of labour, crime or sex act.

There are several broad categories of exploitation which are encompassed within Modern Slavery:

- Labour exploitation
- Sexual exploitation; including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Domestic servitude
- Criminal exploitation - forced begging, illegal drug cultivation, organised theft, related benefit frauds etc.
- Organ Harvesting
- Forced or sham marriage

Modern Slavery can affect anyone and includes both adult and child victims. Traffickers look out for potential victims who are susceptible for a range of

reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability or economic hardship. Victims rarely come forward to seek help because of threats, fear, language barriers, fear of criminalisation and many other reasons. The trauma caused by the perpetrators to victims means that many victims will not identify themselves as such, or ask for help and support, even in the most public of settings. This means modern slavery remains a hidden crime which often takes place in plain sight.

The internationally recognised definition for human trafficking is referred to as the “Palermo Protocol”. It means “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power, or a position of vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation”.

Traditionally, we think of human trafficking as crossing borders however, it can take place within a country and does not require the victim to be moved across borders just simply moved for the purpose of exploitation.

SCALE AND SCOPE OF MODERN SLAVERY



40+ million global victims of slavery globally

Annual trade value of around \$150 Billion

Source: Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, International Labour Office & Walk Free Foundation

In 2020 the Office of National Statistics published a report which outlined the challenges of producing an accurate measure of prevalence of modern slavery in the UK. This is due, in part, to the hidden nature of the crime.

Stockport Council has published 2 Modern Slavery Statements which sets out the Local Authority's position regarding corporate supply chains.



In 2020, **10,613** potential victims were referred to National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

48% of referrals were for adults

74% of referrals were for male potential victims

Criminal exploitation was the most common type of exploitation reported for child victims (**51%**)

Labour exploitation was the most common type reported for adult victims (**32%**)

Source: 2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery 2021

The SSCP and SSAB Complex Safeguarding Sub Group is responsible for monitoring local prevalence and activity regarding Modern Slavery alongside other issues relating to Complex Safeguarding.



OUR PRIORITIES

Promotion, Prevention and Early Resolution

Aim – To prevent and reduce harm caused by modern slavery

- Raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery and associated processes within the partnership and in communities
- Work in partnership with statutory organisations, communities, and voluntary and organisations to gather intelligence and increase reporting
- Develop partnership intelligence mechanisms to drive prevention and early resolution
- Identify those at risk to prevent and reduce harm

PRIORITIES CONTINUED

High Challenge

Aim – To challenge and enforce, holding perpetrators to account, ensuring potential victims are safeguarded

- Raise awareness of the consequences relating to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by promoting successful investigations
- Through partnership Intelligence engage key risk areas to promote ethical responsibility
- Ensure suitable partnership mechanisms are in place to safeguard potential victims

Partnership Awareness

Aim – To develop intelligence led partnership problem solving

- Work in partnership to ensure approaches are victim focused for all ages
- Work collaboratively throughout Stockport to ensure best practice
- Ensure both the SSCP/SSAB are effective and accountable
- Training will be delivered across the partnership

EVALUATE & REVIEW

This strategy is a 3-year document that will be reviewed annually and which links with other local strategies, projects and initiatives. The strategy and action plan will respond to the changing local, national and international scene and reflect the impact of this on our communities and subsequent service provision.

Performance will be monitored through regular scrutiny updates to the SSCP/SSAB and our communities. All partners will contribute to the review process by providing qualitative and quantitative data to ensure success can be measured, as well as taking responsibility for the completion of actions under their name and organisation.

OUR PRIORITY ACTIONS

Priority	Why	How	Proposed Outcome
Promotion, Prevention and Early Resolution	To prevent and reduce harm caused by modern slavery	Public Awareness, Staff Awareness and pro-active police work	Prevention and early intervention of modern slavery
High Challenge	To challenge and enforce, ensuring potential victims are safeguarded	GMP operations	Using intelligence and knowledge to act on those perpetrating modern slavery to protect potential victims
Partnership Awareness	To develop intelligence led partnership problem solving To be responsive and adaptive to changing regional, national and international contexts	Information sharing between relevant agencies. Use of complex safeguarding subgroup to disseminate information. Lunch and Learn sessions and webinars to raise awareness and share local activity updates.	Agencies being aware of local risks and ensuring relevant information/intelligence is shared with GMP to inform investigations and protect vulnerable people
Evaluate and Review	To measure progress, ensuring the strategy remains current	Annual review of the strategy which reports back to the complex safeguarding sub-group	An up-to-date and relevant strategy

REPORTING CONCERNS AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

If you have suspicions regarding modern slavery or trafficking you can report them to us:

For **concerns involving children or young people (aged 18 or under)** in any way, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) using the online reporting form: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh> or by phoning **0161 217 6028**.

You must also make a referral to Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service by phoning **0800 043 4303**.

If your **concerns relate to the exploitation of adults**, you should contact the Adult Social Care Team by phoning

0161 217 6029.

Should someone be in immediate danger always alert the police by phoning 999.

Support is available and there are leaflets in multiple languages available on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-victims-of-human-trafficking#history>

Free confidential support and advice for victims is available from Greater Manchester Victims Services by calling

0161 200 1950 or visiting www.gmvictims.org.uk

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REFERRAL?

If you have suspicions regarding modern slavery or trafficking you can report them to us:

- For **concerns involving children or young people (aged 18 or under)** consideration will be given to a Social Work Child and Family Assessment being completed. If so a Social Worker will be allocated and the Aspire Complex Safeguarding Service will be referred to. Social Care will work with partner agencies, the child and their family to ensure their safety.
- **Concerns relating to the exploitation of adults**, will be screened by the Adult Social Care Team. Where there are Care Act Needs the adult will be offered a Community Care Act assessment. If there are no eligible Care

Act Needs the team will refer the adult to the MAARS panel (Multi-Agency Adults at Risk) for consideration of support from relevant agencies. A Team Around the Adult meeting can also be considered. If the adult is a Stockport Homes tenant they will be referred to the Exploitation Officer

For those in immediate danger where police are alerted – GMP will follow their procedures and act to protect any victim of modern slavery

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



The **Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP)** has identified modern slavery as one of its key priority areas as part of the Complex Safeguarding response. Modern Slavery sits within the *Protecting Vulnerable People* workstream of the Safer Stockport Partnership's strategic plan.

Progress against the priority areas within the strategic plan are monitored through regular SSP Board Meetings, chaired by the Local Authority's Deputy Chief Executive.

More information can be found on <http://www.saferstockport.org.uk/>