Modern slavery

What is Modern Slavery

“The recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.”

The 2016 Global Slavery Index estimated almost 12,000 people in the UK were living in modern slavery. Victims have been found in brothels or saunas, farms, in factories, nail bars, car washes, hotels and restaurants and involved with cannabis cultivation. Criminal exploitation can involve young people as drug carriers, begging and pick-pocketing. Often victims of modern slavery may be trafficked into, out of or within the UK.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 gives law enforcement agencies the tools to fight modern slavery, ensure perpetrators can receive suitably severe punishments and enhance support and protection for victims.

Types of Modern Slavery
• Sexual exploitation
• Forced labour (for example agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, services)
• Domestic servitude
• Organ harvesting
• Child related crimes such as child sexual exploitation, forced begging, organised theft,
• Forced marriage and illegal adoption
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill#related-documents

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process is a ‘victim identification and support process’ for all the different agencies that may be involved such as the police, local authorities and voluntary organisations. NRM forms and associated guidance are available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms

Modern slavery in Hampshire
• The Modern Slavery Partnership for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is a multi-agency partnership working together to fight slavery and support victims of slavery.

For example in 2014 five people were jailed for trafficking more than 60 Hungarian women into the country to work as prostitutes who used Hampshire hotels to ply their trade.
http://www.modernslaverypartnership.org.uk/partnership/

• HHFT has a Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (April 2017)
Children and Modern Slavery

Children are not considered able to give 'informed consent' to their own exploitation (including criminal exploitation). Exploitation is seen as child abuse which requires a child protection response and all children, irrespective of their immigration status, are entitled to protection under the law.

The Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) provides free guidance and training to professionals concerned that a child or young person has been or is about to be trafficked into or out of the UK. https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/services-for-children-and-families/child-trafficking-advice-centre-ctac/

The health consequences of modern slavery and trafficking

Modern slavery has a range of serious health consequences for both the individual and the public health. Physically demanding forced labour combined with long working hours often results in high incidence of physical injury and sexual exploitation brings with it high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections.

Trafficked people are likely to experience multiple physical and mental health risks prior to, during, and after their trafficking experiences. Many suffer acute and long-term health problems that may include injuries, physical pain and illnesses, sexual health problems and mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, psychosis and post-traumatic stress disorder.


Other useful links

Modern slavery collection
Brings together documents related to the government’s work to end modern slavery, including promotional materials to raise awareness that slavery exists in the UK. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery

Modern Slavery Pocket Guide
This guide has been developed to help nurses and midwives identify victims of slavery and help people find the assistance and support they need. https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-005984

Roving British photo exhibition casts light on 'invisible' modern slavery
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prjq-oWFdJ8&feature=youtu.be

Heading back to harm: A study on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK.