

Stockport Council's Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22

Introduction

What is modern slavery?

Modern Slavery is a serious and often hidden crime in which people are exploited for criminal gain. The impact can be devastating for the victims. Modern slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. The common factors are that a victim is, or is intended to be, used or exploited for someone else's (usually financial) gain, without respect for their human rights. The perpetrators seeking to take advantage of them could be private individuals, running small businesses or part of a wider organised crime network. For adult victims, there will be some element of coercion involved, such as threats, use of force, deception, or abuse of power. Although this often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of modern slavery within your own country. In 2019, in the UK, for example, the largest victim group by nationality was UK nationals, who accounted for 27% (2,836) of all potential victims reported through the Home Office National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The second most commonly referred nationality was Albanian (16%) followed by Vietnamese (8%)¹.

Types of Modern Slavery

Modern slavery takes many different forms in the UK. The prevalence of different types of modern slavery in the UK will vary by region and change over time, however currently there are four broad ways in which perpetrators may seek to exploit victims. In each case the victim may or may not additionally have been moved (trafficked), either from another country, or within the UK, in order to be exploited.

Labour exploitation

Labour exploitation usually involves unacceptably low pay, poor working conditions or excessive wage deductions, but is not solely about this. In order to constitute modern slavery, there will also be some form of coercion meaning that victims cannot freely leave for other employment or exercise choice over their own situation. Where the perpetrator is taking advantage of a child or vulnerable person, an offence can be committed without the element of coercion.

Domestic servitude

Domestic servitude typically involves victims working in a private family home where they are ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to unbearable conditions or working hours or made to work for little or no pay. The victim could be used in this way by their own family members or partner. Again, it is very difficult for them to leave, for example because of threats, the perpetrator holding their passport, or using a position of power over the victim.

Sexual exploitation

Victims are coerced into sex work or sexually abusive situations. This includes child sexual exploitation. Victims may be brought to the UK on the promise of legitimate employment and they may be moved around the UK to be sexually exploited. In some cases, they may know they will be involved in sex work but are forced into a type or frequency they did not agree to. Victims are usually female but can also be male.

¹ National Referral Mechanism Statistics: UK End of Year Summary 2019 (Home Office Statistical bulletin 08/20)

Criminal exploitation

Criminal exploitation is the exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain. For example, victims could be coerced into shoplifting, pick-pocketing, a sham marriage, benefit fraud, begging or drug cultivation such as cannabis farming. Forced removal and trafficking of human organs is an additional category of modern slavery that occurs globally, however there have been no confirmed cases in the UK.

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Under UK legislation, all modern slavery offences are punishable by a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Section 52 of the Act imposes a duty on several public authorities, including councils, to notify the Home Office of any individuals they encounter that they believe may be victims of slavery or human trafficking. Notification methods, including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), are explained on the Government website².

Existing safeguarding processes however should still be followed alongside such a notification, as a "duty to notify" referral should not be relied upon to safeguard victims. Current local reporting mechanisms are set out in Appendix 1 and council staff should report concerns regarding modern slavery via those processes. Notification to the Home Office, as well as other agencies such as the police, will follow receipt of appropriate reports via local mechanisms.

The element of the legislation relating to Modern Slavery Statements is Section 54 of the Act. This requires commercial organisations with an annual turnover of £36m or more to produce and review annual Modern Slavery Statements that set out the steps they are taking, or plan to take, to ensure that their business and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery. Councils and other public sector organisations are not currently required to produce such statements. In 2021 however, the Government is proposing to update the legislation to include local authorities. The Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research is therefore currently undertaking work³ to develop a series of recommendations for local authorities and others to help meet such requirements. This work will culminate in a workshop in January 2021, outcomes of which will be formulated into a set of stakeholder-owned recommendations to help inform UK modern slavery policy going into 2021 and beyond.

Purpose of Stockport Council's Modern Slavery Statement

Stockport Council is absolutely committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. The council has publicly signalled this commitment through a council motion, carried with cross-party support, that condemned the practice of modern slavery, as well as by launching its Modern Slavery Charter (based on the Co-operative Party's model charter on modern slavery) which aims to ensure that the council has robust procedures in place to guard against supporting modern slavery. One of the commitments set out in the charter is to produce a Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement and to review it annually to ensure it remains current. The council's first Modern Slavery Statement was therefore published in April 2019.

This is the second iteration of the council's Modern Slavery Statement. It will run from January 2021 to the end of March 2022. It summarises activity undertaken since April 2019 aimed at ensuring that council services, businesses and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery and proposes activity for implementation up to 31st March 2022 to mitigate the risk of such links.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>

³ https://tiscreport.org/sites/default/files/tiscreport_paccs_report_-_progress_and_challenges_in_tackling_modern_slavery_in_local_government_supply_chains_161120.pdf

Stockport Council

This statement covers the activities of Stockport Council, which is a unitary authority providing all local government services within the borough of Stockport. The council manages a wide range of services, delivered both directly by the council and through external contractors, with a large and diverse supply chain. A key partner in this work is STAR Procurement, the shared procurement service for Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Rochdale Councils. The council's main services are listed in Appendix 2.

Countries of operation and supply

Stockport Council only operates within the United Kingdom. Whilst the risk of slavery and human trafficking is considered low, the council remains vigilant and will take all steps available to manage the risks that are presented.

Responsibility

The council (working with STAR Procurement where appropriate), has responsibilities relating to modern slavery that within the following broad areas of activity:

- **Defining and outlining** the risks in the supply chain, in our role as coordinators of public services in the joint aim of safeguarding the community.
- **Prevention:** training staff and other public services/community groups, issuing communications, ensuring senior management and member buy-in, issuing statements and getting suppliers to sign up to anti-slavery statements.
- **Detection:** of non-compliance through due diligence, audit and monitoring.
- **Response:** investigating allegations and following the pathway.
- **Evaluation:** through learning from investigations, and the annual updated statement and refreshed commitment.

Review of activity set out in 2019/20 Modern Slavery Statement

As well as setting out activity that had already been undertaken relating to modern slavery, the previous (first) iteration of the council's Modern Slavery Statement set out additional activities to be undertaken to ensure the council's supply chains were not associated with modern slavery.

In order to develop of the second iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement, consultation was undertaken with the "action owners" responsible for delivering the actions set out in the statement and to seek their views on future activity that they felt needed to take place. Activity proposed in the 2019/20 statement, and activity undertaken since April 2019, is set out in the following tables, by the areas of activity identified above.

Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
<p>To accompany the launch and publication of Stockport Council's Modern Slavery Statement, the Marketing and Communications Team will undertake an exercise to raise awareness of Modern Slavery issues amongst council staff (for example through the Connect newsletter). This will include reference to internal training opportunities for staff relating to modern slavery (see Training section below).</p>	<p>An article on the publication of the Modern Slavery Statement was published in the "Stockport Connect" e-bulletin for council staff in April 2019.</p>
<p>Press and media work to coincide with the adoption of the Modern Slavery Statement, involving STAR and with input from the relevant Portfolio Holder.</p>	<p>The publication of the statement was publicised by media releases and articles on the council's website (the statement itself was also published on the website).</p>
<p>A Complex Safeguarding Strategy 2018-2020 is currently being drafted. It will include activity relating to modern slavery such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a Modern Slavery and Trafficking Task & Finish Group. It will develop a work programme on the issue and will report to a Joint Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group which will oversee and support work relating to a range of complex safeguarding categories. • Awareness raising across Children's and Adults' Services. • Development of a Training Strategy and programme on complex safeguarding that includes modules on modern slavery that will be incorporated into the Modern Slavery Training Matrix referenced in the Awareness section above. 	<p>Safeguarding and ASPIRE staff attended a GM "Train the Trainer" session for the new "Understanding Exploitation" course, which will replace the current Child Sexual Exploitation course. It covered a range of topics, including modern slavery. Delivery of the course was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is likely to restart in late 2020 or early 2021.</p> <p>Modern Slavery has been added to the to the wider Safeguarding Training Matrix.</p> <p>"Understanding Exploitation" training sessions took place via MS Teams on 3rd and 6th November 2020. These included Modern Day Slavery. Further courses on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and so-called Honour-Based Violence and Abuse (HBV) took place in late November/early December 2020.</p> <p>A task and finish group will be established in late 2020 (see page 9 below).</p>

Prevention	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
Ensuring that council staff know how to report concerns relating to modern slavery to the relevant parties within the council and that a clear process for doing so exists (see Appendix 1). This will include reporting concerns about modern slavery in our supply chains, as well as where concerns about individuals are identified. This will be incorporated in communications, training, the council's Whistleblowing Policy and in the council's Employee Handbook in relation to procurement and contract management.	A Modern Slavery section was added to the Employee Handbook in October 2019 and a section added into procurement information in the Managers Handbook at the same time. Both state that the council's Whistleblowing Policy can be used to report any concerns.
Reviewing and updating the current Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e-learning module to include issues relating to procurement and supply chains, as well as local mechanisms for reporting and logging concerns regarding modern slavery. A specific training package on "complex safeguarding", will include a module on modern slavery.	The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking e-learning module was updated to include the latest available material. Guidance was also added to the e-learning and classroom training pages regarding who should attend additional classroom training in addition to the e-learning.
Development of a "Modern Slavery Training Matrix" setting out council employees required (or recommended to) undertake training.	This will now be undertaken in 2021/22 (see page 10 below).
Ensure those responsible for sourcing and contract management in STAR Procurement develop an understanding of modern slavery through undertaking the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.	All STAR staff, Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) members as well as non-members, have completed the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply. New starters and temporary staff complete the course as part of their induction.
STAR Procurement will include clauses in relevant standard documentation that highlights to suppliers that their contracted workers should be free to join a trade union and should not be treated unfairly for belonging to one. Likewise, including clauses in relevant standard documentation that set out a requirement for its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy that enables their staff to report any suspected examples of modern slavery.	The Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement also includes clauses relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bidders' contracted workers being free to join a trade union and not being treated unfairly for belonging to one. • Bidders being required to adopt a whistleblowing policy that enables their staff to report any suspected examples of modern slavery within three months of signing the contract.

Prevention	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
<p>Where the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 apply, include clauses in relevant documentation which set out that contract termination is a potential sanction for non-compliance</p>	<p>Bidders of any size (not just those where the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 apply) for all council contracts tendered by STAR are required to sign up to a Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement. Part of which makes clear that termination for non-compliance may be a potential sanction. This statement is included in standard STAR documentation (Request for Quotation (RfQ), Supplier Selection Questionnaire (SSQs), and as a standalone statement. Failure by a bidder to sign this Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement should result in automatic rejection of the bidder's quotation / tender response by the council. The statement forms part of the standard terms and conditions within contracts with suppliers and becomes legally binding when the contract is signed.</p> <p>Where a contract is to be awarded without competition (e.g. call-off contract from a pre-existing framework agreement), the identified company is required to sign the Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement before awarding the contract. Failure to do so, should result in alternative routes to market being identified and followed.</p> <p>The Procurement Handbook contains guidance for Services when undertaking their own procurement exercises (below £25,000), that a Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement is required to be signed by all bidders.</p> <p>Council services running their own procurements (contracts below £25,000) are encouraged to use STAR's standard RfQ (on to the STAR website) to ensure that the Modern Slavery & Responsible Procurement Statement is included and signed by bidders.</p> <p>A standalone version of the Modern Slavery and Responsible Procurement Statement is provided on the STAR website for council services to use, should they not wish to use the STAR standard RfQ.</p>

Detection	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
STAR Procurement to introduce appropriate staff training and identify a dedicated Modern Slavery Champion to enhance the process of highlighting identified risks concerning modern slavery to its suppliers and, where necessary, referring them to the relevant agencies to address such risks.	STAR appointed a member of the team as their Champion Against Modern Slavery in late 2018 and created a deputy in mid-2020. All STAR staff involved in sourcing activity received internal training in early 2019 on Modern Slavery provided by their Champion (in addition to the CIPS Ethics Test). This internal training is due to be refreshed in early 2021, and subsequently, at least every two years. Back to Basics training was rolled out across the council by STAR representatives in 2020 - this covers Modern Slavery considerations and awareness.
Development and implementation of a procedure for each council service area to undertake a risk assessment relating to modern slavery and human trafficking whenever they procure goods or services. Once this risk assessment procedure has been developed and introduced, compliance will be reviewed as part of the annual internal audit plan.	The council's Internal Audit and Risk Service has provided guidance on the template format for the risk assessment and advice on risk considerations on an ongoing basis.
STAR Procurement to continue to challenge abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely on the potential contractor practising modern slavery. Also review, and if necessary, update the Procurement Handbook to ensure the process for doing this is sufficiently clear.	Abnormally low-cost tenders are routinely challenged to ensure they do not rely on potential contractors practising modern slavery. The Procurement Handbook and STAR Quality Management System were updated in 2019 with appropriate guidance and new processes for both STAR-led and council service led procurement activity.

Priority: Response	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
Continuing to refer any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery for investigation via the NRM and enhancing this process via additional staff training and the Modern Slavery Champion function.	To date, no such concerns have been identified.

Priority: Evaluation	
Activity proposed in 2019/20 Statement	Activity undertaken since April 2019
<p>Enhancing processes for regular review of contractual spending to identify potential issues with modern slavery. For example, by including risk analysis regarding modern slavery, with appropriate vetting and auditing of suppliers, and due diligence being undertaken in a planned and proportionate manner pre-contract award and mid-contract as necessary.</p>	<p>STAR has implemented a programme of review relating to contractual spending. This has involved reviewing the council's Contract Register and assessed the risk of potential issues with Modern Slavery for each contract. A RAG rating has been applied, with the "red" issues being prioritised for review.</p> <p>Each STAR Category Manager has agreed a prioritisation plan for the next four years with the STAR Champion Against Modern Slavery, committing to begin reviews of at least one area of spend per year. This activity has been stalled due to Covid-19, and the prioritisation programme has been pushed back by a year.</p>
<p>STAR Procurement is looking into aspects of Contract Management. This includes reviewing options for working with partner authorities to improve contract management practice and developing training for council staff on contract management.</p>	<p>STAR Procurement piloted a Commercial Contract Management programme within the council in 2019. STAR is now working with council colleagues to agree roles and responsibilities based on the findings of the pilot.</p>
<p>The council is currently working with STAR Procurement to develop a Strategic Commissioning approach that will consolidate commissioning activity across its services and Directorates (and potentially alongside a range of local partners). This will be a four-year strategy operating from 1st April 2019. One element of this work, which links to the council's work on inclusive growth, focuses on the potential for maximising retention of wealth within the borough by commissioning from local providers whenever it is feasible and sufficiently cost-effective to do so. The approach will also emphasise the council's commitment to ensuring its supply chains do not have links to modern slavery and will incorporate guidance and actions aimed at facilitating delivery of that commitment.</p>	<p>The council's Internal Audit Service undertook a review of the council's compliance with the Modern Slavery Statement in late summer/early autumn of 2020 and findings will be reported to key stakeholders, including the council's Corporate Leadership Team and Audit Committee during the latter part of 2020/21.</p> <p>Through STAR's Local Investment project and Responsible Procurement Strategy, STAR works to ensure that spend is retained in the STAR partners' boroughs wherever possible. Across the partnership, suppliers within GM made up 69.6% of all suppliers. STAR also achieved an average of 20% social value on all procurement activity over £25,000, driving local benefits from its partners suppliers. In the financial year 2019/20, for Stockport Council alone, local spend sat at 59.8% of Stockport Council contracts having been awarded to locally based businesses.</p>

Additional activity relating to modern slavery

As well as identifying progress with activity set out the Modern Slavery Statement, its action owners were asked to identify activity within the first iteration of the statement that needed to be carried over into the next iteration and to identify additional activities to be undertaken.

As well as this consultation, the council's Internal Audit & Risk service undertook an audit of the implementation of activity set out in the statement. The audit aimed to ensure that adequate and effective controls were in place to minimise business risks. It focussed on how the council:

- Ensures staff are adequately trained and equipped to comply with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Statement.
- Ensures that suppliers are aware of and comply with expectations outlined in the Modern Slavery Statement.
- Complies with statutory regulations to notify the Home Office of any suspicions in relation to Modern Slavery.

The audit found a “substantial level” of assurance that the actions set out in the first iteration of the Statement had been implemented. It concluded that good progress had been made since the council published its first Modern Slavery Statement, and that there is substantial oversight of the process involved, up to executive level. It also found however that the Covid-19 pandemic had delayed implementation of some parts of the plan, and that work was needed to ensure that the objectives of the Modern Slavery Statement are met in 2020 and beyond.

The tables below set out activity that Stockport Council and STAR Procurement will undertake up to the end of March 2022 aimed at improving their ability to identify and address issues relating to modern slavery and human trafficking, particularly regarding its supply chains. This is summarised below, by the broad areas of activity. Actions identified within the Audit exercise are in ***bold italics*** – all other actions were identified through consultation with action owners.

Area of Activity	Additional Activity Proposed to March 2022
Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The revised version of the Modern Slavery statement will be re-promoted on the intranet when the it has been approved by Cabinet. Further external promotion of the Modern Slavery statement will also take place if required (e.g. involving STAR and the Portfolio Holder).• <i>A task and finish group will be set up following the Complex Safeguarding sub-group meeting in October 2020. This group will determine and agree the individual actions to be taken. This will be shared with Internal Audit once agreed.</i>

Area of Activity	Additional Activity Proposed to March 2022
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the new “Understanding Exploitation” course (covering a range of topics, including modern slavery) was suspended in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Delivery of the course will restart, probably in late 2020 or early 2021. • Modern slavery aspects will be further embedded within the council’s complex safeguarding training offer. Attendance will be monitored, and material evaluated, on an ongoing basis to ensure it is fit for purpose and effectively engages participants. • <i>Clear guidelines will be produced outlining which council job roles require modern slavery training. These will be disseminated to managers and added to the intranet and the new mandatory training matrix (currently in development). The Manager Dashboard (also currently being developed) will allow managers to view the completion rates of their staff.</i> • All of STAR’s new starters, including temporary staff, will continue to undertake the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply as part of their induction. • All STAR staff with involvement in sourcing activities will complete the CIPS online course each year. • In early 2021, the STAR Champion Against Modern Slavery will refresh the in-house Modern Slavery training for all staff (new and old). • STAR will kick-start and re-invigorate its review and supplier engagement programme that was postponed due to Covid-19. • STAR will continue to monitor the need to further the roll out of “Back to Basics” training (which covers Modern Slavery issues and awareness) across the council.
Detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council’s Internal Audit and Risk Service will continue to provide guidance on the template format for the risk assessment and advice on risk considerations on an ongoing basis. • STAR Champion Against Modern Slavery will seek to build relationships with GMP’s Modern Slavery lead to build collaboration between the two on identifying issues/risks and high-risk suppliers. • The council’s Procurement Handbook is being updated to provide clearer guidance on the actions required from services for procurements less than £25,000 in value, where STAR is not involved.

Area of Activity	Additional Activity Proposed to March 2022
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council’s Whistleblowing Policy will be amended to reference modern slavery. The following will be added to the list of examples of potential areas of concern that the Whistleblowing policy can cover: <i>“Activities within the council or its supply chain which may support slavery and/or human trafficking”.</i> • STAR will refresh the Procurement Handbook and provide clearer guidance to council services on Modern Slavery, on the procurement process and on review and investigation activity. • STAR Procurement will review the Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) section of the council’s constitution to incorporate an explanation of employees’ responsibilities relating to modern slavery and contract management. • STAR will refer any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery for investigation via the National Referral Mechanism. This process will be enhanced via additional staff training and by the Champion Against Modern Slavery function. To date, STAR has not encountered any suppliers that gave such cause for concern. • STAR will continue to implement its Local Investment Project and Responsible Procurement Strategy to maximise the proportion of spend in STAR’s partner boroughs and maximise the % social value on all procurement activity over £25,000 to drive local benefits from its partners suppliers.
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of the audit of the implementation on the activity set out in the first iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement (undertaken by Internal Audit in summer/autumn 2020) will be reported by way of a formal report and summary to CLT and Audit Committee. • The Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research is currently undertaking work on tackling modern slavery in local government supply chains. It expects to publish a set of stakeholder-owned recommendations, following a workshop to be held in January 2021, to help inform UK modern slavery policy. The council will consider these recommendations and any additional activity it needs to undertake to address them.

Review process

This second iteration of Stockport’s Modern Slavery Statement will be reviewed in the spring of 2022 (and annually thereafter). The council’s Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee will monitor this review process through annual reports to Committee after the end of each financial year.

**Cllr Elise Wilson,
Leader of Stockport Council**

**Pam Smith
Chief Executive, Stockport Council**

Appendix 1: Potential Indicators of Modern Slavery and reporting processes

Practical Guidance

In the course of employment with the council, staff may come across situations and people that cause concern. This section gives practical guidance to assist with deciding if someone may have been trafficked or is the victim of modern slavery.

Victims are trafficked all over the world, including to and within the UK. They can be forced to work in the sex trade, domestic service, forced labour, criminal activity or have their organs removed to be sold. There is no typical victim and sometimes victims do not understand that they are being exploited and they are entitled to help. Victims are often trafficked to a country where they cannot speak the language, have their travel and identity documents removed and are told that if they try to attempt an escape they or their families will be harmed.

Key indicators of modern slavery or trafficking include:

- Is the person in possession of his or her own passport, identification or travel documents or are these documents in possession of someone else?
- Does the person act as if they were instructed or coached by someone else?
- Do they allow others to speak for them when spoken to directly?
- Was the person recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Have transport costs been paid for by facilitators, whom they must pay back through working or providing services?
- Does the person receive little or no payment for their work? Is someone else in control of his or her earnings?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement? Are they dropped off and collected from work?
- Is the person withdrawn or do they appear frightened?
- Has the person or their family been threatened with harm if they attempt to escape?
- Is the person under the impression they are bonded by debt, or in a situation of dependence?
- Has the person been physically or emotionally harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family? Do they have limited social interaction or contact with people outside their immediate environment?

This list is not exhaustive. Remember, even if person displays a one or more of the indicators of trafficking set out above, they may not necessarily be a victim of trafficking. Often however, you may build up a picture of the person's circumstances that suggest something is not quite right – so if you have suspicions, report them.

Reporting processes

If you have suspicions regarding modern slavery or trafficking you can report your concerns via the methods below:

Child safeguarding

If your concerns involve children or young people (aged 18 or under) in any way, please report these concerns to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding and Support Hub (MASSH) using the online reporting form available on the “Contacting the MASSH” page on the council’s website, accessible via the link below:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/contacting-the-massh>

Adult safeguarding

If no children or young people are involved and your concerns relate to the exploitation of adults, you should alert the Adult Social Care Team via one of the numbers on the link below, again on the council’s website:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/report-suspected-abuse-or-neglect>

Whistleblowing Policy

Council staff may use the council’s Confidential Reporting Policy (also known as the Whistleblowing Policy) to report their concerns. The policy and reporting form can be accessed through the link below on the council intranet:

https://stockportcouncil.sharepoint.com/kb/Documents/Finance%20and%20Ordering/Fraud/Confidential_Reporting_Policy.pdf#search=whistleblowing

Contracts and supply chains

If you are managing a contract on behalf of the council and you have any suspicions regarding modern slavery that relate to any organisation providing goods or services to the council (or further along the supply chain), you should report these concerns to STAR Procurement through their Champion Against Modern Slavery via the “general enquiries” email address below. STAR Procurement will engage with the appropriate Category Manager and address your enquiry.

procurement@star-procurement.gov.uk

Appendix 2: Stockport Council Services

The Services that Stockport Council provides are summarised below, by Directorate.

Place

- Culture and Leisure.
- Development and Regeneration.
- Economy, Work and Skills.
- Estates and Asset Management.
- Highways and Transport.
- Neighbourhoods
- Public Protection.
- Strategic Housing.

Children's Services

- Adoption.
- Integrated Services.
- Parenting Services.
- Partners in Practice and Innovation.
- Safeguarding and Learning.
- School Effectiveness.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion.
- Virtual School for Children in Care.

Adult Social Services

- Behaviour Change Commissioning.
- Commissioning and Infrastructure.
- Enablement and Recovery.
- Health Protection.
- Healthy Communities.
- Physical Activity.
- Practice Quality and Workforce Strategy.
- Prevention and Customer Engagement.
- Public Health Intelligence and Early Intervention/Prevention.
- Support and Care Management (including Neighbourhoods, Mental Health and Learning Disability).

Corporate Support Services

- Business Intelligence.
- Business Support (Operational).
- Citizens Services.
- Commissioning and Contracts.
- Communications.
- Electoral Services.
- Financial Accountancy.
- Human Resources and Occupational Development.
- Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance.
- IT.

- Legal Services.
- Management Accountancy.
- Revenues and Benefits.
- Strategy and Design.