



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Stockport Council's Modern Slavery Statement 2023/24

Preventing, Protecting and Detecting  
through Procurement



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

# Introduction

## Scope of the Modern Slavery Statement

Stockport Council's 2023/24 Modern Slavery Statement sets out what the council is doing, and plans to do, to ensure its supply chains do not have connections to modern slavery. The statement does touch on issues such as awareness-raising and how to report suspected modern slavery, but its principal focus is on procurement rather than tackling modern slavery itself. [Stockport Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy](#), sets out local priorities relating to issues such as enforcement and safeguarding victims.

## 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 or 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, people 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.

## Types of Modern Slavery

Modern slavery takes many different forms. The prevalence of different types of modern slavery 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 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. Modern slavery however involves more than poor pay and conditions. 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 however, an offence can be committed even 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 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.

### Criminal exploitation

Criminal exploitation is the exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain. For example, victims may be coerced into shoplifting, pick-pocketing, a sham marriage, benefit fraud, begging or drug cultivation (e.g. cannabis farming). "County lines" cases have become increasingly prevalent since 2020 – this relates to drug gangs in large cities expanding their reach to small towns. Gangs will often exploit young and other vulnerable individuals to transport substances, and mobile phone "lines" are used to communicate drug orders.

Forced removal and trafficking of human organs is another type of modern slavery that occurs globally. As yet, there have been no confirmed cases of organ harvesting 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 in Appendix 2 and, in more detail, on the [Government website](#).

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 also set out in Appendix 2 and council staff should report concerns regarding modern slavery via those processes as well as the NRM.

Section 54 of the Act relates to Modern Slavery Statements. 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 planning to take, to ensure that their business and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery. Though councils and other public sector organisations are not currently required to produce such statements, the government has signalled an intention to extend this requirement to the public sector.

# Current trends relating to modern slavery

## National context

In the second quarter of 2023 (April to June), the latest period for which data is available, the [Home Office National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) received 3,998 referrals of potential victims of modern slavery. This represents a 16% decrease in referrals compared to the previous quarter (4,739) and a 4% decrease from April to June 2022 (4,161). Within these:

- The most commonly-referred nationalities were Albanian (25% of referrals), UK (24%) and Vietnamese (6%).
- Where the age group of the exploited individuals was known, 54% were adults (aged 18+) and 46% were aged 17 or under.
- Whilst most referrals of the non-UK nationals were adults, 77% of referrals relating to UK nationals involved people aged 17 or under, and around half of these involved young people being exploited by criminal gangs in “county lines” activity.

## Stockport context

Stockport continues to record relatively low numbers of modern day slavery offences – 25 offences were recorded by police in 2022 (one more than in 2021). These 25 offences accounted for 4.9% of such offences recorded across Greater Manchester. The 25 Stockport offences related to:

- Arranging or facilitating travel of another person with a view to exploitation (eight offences).
- Holding a person in slavery or servitude (eight offences).
- Requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour (eight offences).
- Undertaking an act prohibited by Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order or a Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Order (one offence).

The predominant theme running through these offences is being forced to deal or deliver drugs (“county lines”). Sexual and other forms of criminal exploitation featured less frequently.

There are no current recorded offences linking modern slavery activity with apparently legitimate businesses, including any linked to the council’s supply chains.

Over the last two years, over 300 Ukrainian and Afghan evacuees and several hundred asylum seekers have been placed in Stockport. They all arrived without a home or work and the latter group had no access to finance and they, in particular, may be vulnerable to unscrupulous organisations or individuals who might seek to exploit them. The council has worked very closely with voluntary agencies, as well as other statutory partners such as NHS providers and Greater Manchester Police, to welcome these new residents and support them with issues relating to, for example, health, general welfare (including clothing and other essentials), education for children and access to community groups and activities.

# Stockport Council's Modern Slavery Statement

## Purpose of the statement

Stockport Council is committed to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from modern slavery and human trafficking. In September 2018, the council publicly signalled this commitment through a council motion, carried with cross-party support, condemning modern slavery, as well as by launching a Modern Slavery Charter, which aimed 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 was 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 published in April 2019 and it has been reviewed and updated annually since then.

This is the fourth iteration of the council's Modern Slavery Statement. It will run from October 2023 to September 2024. It summarises activity undertaken since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 aimed at ensuring council services, businesses and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery. It also and proposes activity for implementation up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to mitigate the risk of such links.

## Stockport Council's responsibilities and related actions

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, amongst others, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Rochdale Councils. The council's main services are listed in Appendix 3.

## Responsibility

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

- **Defining and outlining** the risks in the supply chain, in its role as coordinator of public services, in the joint aim of safeguarding the community.
- **Prevention:** training commissioners, contract managers, staff and other public services/ community groups, issuing communications, ensuring senior management and member buy-in, issuing statements and encouraging suppliers to adopt anti-slavery statements.
- **Detection:** of non-compliance through due diligence, audit and monitoring.
- **Response:** investigating allegations and following the reporting pathway.
- **Evaluation:** through learning from investigations and the annually-updated statement.

**Review of activity set out in 2022/23 Modern Slavery Statement**

In order to develop this fourth iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement, consultation was undertaken with the “action owners” responsible for delivering the actions set out in the 2022/23 statement to review progress with those actions and to seek their views on future activity that they felt needed to take place. Activity undertaken since the adoption of the 2022/23 statement is set out in the following tables, by the areas of activity identified above.

<b>Responsibility: Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
The 2022/23 iteration of Stockport Council’s Modern Slavery statement will be published on the council’s website promoted on the intranet when Cabinet (scheduled for June 2022) has approved it.	The 2022/23 iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement was published on the council’s website in July 2022.
Further external promotion of the Modern Slavery statement will also take place if required (e.g., involving STAR and the Portfolio Holder).	No such activity was required.

<b>Responsibility: Prevention</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
Continuation of the “Understanding Exploitation” course (covering a range of topics, including modern slavery).  Three sessions are scheduled so far in 2022/23 and more can be added should there be sufficient demand	The programme of multi-agency learning circles to raise awareness of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking has continued to be delivered by the Safeguarding Partnership.  Four sessions have been delivered since June 2022, the latest one on 28th June 2023.  The training package has been redesigned to delivered by jointly by council safeguarding staff and GMP’s Modern Slavery Coordinator.  The next session has been arranged for October 2023.
As part of the council’s complex safeguarding training offer, three webinars are scheduled to take place (in July 2022, October 2022 and January 2023). These will include material on modern slavery. The sessions will be co-delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Training Manager, the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager and local authority Workforce Development. All sessions will be targeted at multi-agency practitioners and professionals across the borough.	The three online learning circles took place and were attended by 43 delegates from the Stockport Family, Adult Social Care, Domestic Abuse services, NHS Stockport Foundation Trust and Youth Justice.  There are plans to continue to deliver this learning circle with refreshed content throughout 2023/24.

<b>Responsibility: Prevention</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
<p>A Manager Dashboard, which incorporates the ability for managers to check that staff required to undertake modern slavery training have done so, is to be launched in May 2022.</p>	<p>The manager dashboard was being rolled out through Adult Social Care in June/July 2023. Mandatory training requirements regarding Modern Slavery will be outlined on the dashboard the level of compliance with these requirements will be reported to management.</p> <p>Following this roll-out in ASC an evaluation period will be undertaken and options to roll the dashboard out further across the council will be considered.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Activity and progress against this action is captured in the above learning circles. This is to ensure that all learning and development opportunities in this area are coordinated and complement each other.</p>
<p>Ensure all stakeholders are sighted on final Safeguarding Partnership Modern Slavery Strategy (and its associated delivery plan), and that the strategy is embedded as part of the Stockport Safeguarding Children Partnership &amp; Stockport Safeguarding Adults Partnership Multi-Agency Training Programme. Impact of the strategy and associated training will be monitored and scrutinised by the Safeguarding Partnerships’ Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group and Training and Workforce Development Sub-Group. Priorities will include working to identify those at risk of modern slavery to prevent and reduce harm, including British citizens as well as those arriving from other countries, such as evacuees and refugees who have recently arrived from Afghanistan and Ukraine.</p>	<p>The final <a href="#">Stockport Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy</a> was approved at the Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group on 17th May 2022. An implementation and action plan has been developed to support the Strategy; this plan is reviewed regularly by the Sub-Group and will continue to be monitored by the Sub-Group.</p>
<p>Share the Modern Slavery Strategy with Safer Stockport Partnership and seek assurance on the Local Authority’s action around the Modern Slavery Statement.</p>	<p>The Strategy was presented to the Safer Stockport Partnership on 23rd June 2022. Future assurance reporting on progress made against strategy delivery will be captured under the above action.</p>
<p>All of STAR’s new starters, including temporary staff, will continue to undertake the Chartered Institute of Procurement &amp; Supply (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply as part of their induction. Also, all STAR staff with involvement in sourcing activities will complete course annually.</p>	<p>This is now part of STAR’s “business as usual”.</p>

<b>Responsibility: Prevention</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
STAR will refresh the in-house Modern Slavery training for all staff – existing staff members as well as new recruits.	Due to the Procurement Reform Green Paper in early 2022 and then the Procurement Bill introduced into the Houses of Parliament in mid-2022, it was decided to pause this refresh until after the Bill becomes an Act, and any relevant secondary legislation is produced. This way we can make sure any refresh considers any changes appropriately.
Relevant modern slavery aspects will be incorporated into STAR’s “Meet the Buyer” events.	STAR held a “Meet the Buyer” event in late 2022. Various presentations and workshops were held, including responsible procurement – which covered Modern Slavery
STAR will undertake stakeholder mapping across the council, on an ongoing basis, to identify the need for “Back to Basics” training (which covers Modern Slavery issues and awareness). STAR will also provide such training as and when necessary.	This is an ongoing activity promoted by the council’s Strategic Commissioning Group

<b>Responsibility: Detection</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
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.	No support has been requested in the last year, but if support were needed, Internal Audit would endeavour to provide it.
STAR will complete the Contract Procedure Rules review and ensure that the council’s Procurement Handbook is updated to provide clearer guidance on the actions required from services for procurements less than £25,000 in value, where STAR is not involved. This update is scheduled to have taken place by July 2022.	Review was undertaken and the necessary amendments to the handbook were made.



<b>Responsibility: Response</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
STAR will update the Procurement Handbook to provide clearer guidance to councils on Modern Slavery, on the procurement process and on review and investigation activity (and whether this should fall under contract management responsibility). The handbook will be updated by July 2022.	Review was undertaken and the necessary amendments to the handbook were made.
STAR Procurement will review the Procurement Handbook, by July 2022, to incorporate an explanation of employees' responsibilities relating to modern slavery and contract management.	Review was undertaken and the necessary amendments to the handbook were made.
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 STAR's "Champion Against Modern Slavery" function.	No such contractors have been identified in the past 12 months. This activity is now part of STAR's "business as usual".
STAR will continue to implement its Local Investment Project and Responsible Procurement Strategy to maximise the proportion of spend in STAR's partner organisations and maximise the % social value on all procurement activity over £25,000 to drive local benefits from its partners suppliers. Statistics on 2021/22 trends are due for publication in the summer of 2022.	This work has been ongoing and is now part of "business as usual".

<b>Responsibility: Evaluation</b>	
<b>Activity proposed in 2022/23 Statement</b>	<b>Activity undertaken since June 2022</b>
The council has undertaken to conduct an Internal Audit of delivery of actions in the Modern Slavery Statement every three years. The next audit is therefore scheduled for autumn 2023. Preparatory work however will be undertaken in advance of the audit exercise.	No action necessary to date. The audit exercise is now scheduled to be undertaken early in the 2024/25 audit cycle.

**Activity for 2023/24**

As well as identifying progress with activity set out the Modern Slavery Statement, responsible officers were asked to identify activity within the 2022/23 iteration of the statement that needed to be carried over into 2023/24 and to identify any additional activities to be undertaken.

The tables below set out activity that Stockport Council and STAR Procurement will undertake up to the end of September 2024 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.

Area of Activity	Additional Activity Proposed to September 2024
<p><b>Defining and outlining risks relating to modern slavery</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2023/24 iteration of Stockport Council’s Modern Slavery statement - Preventing, Protecting and Detecting through Procurement will be published on the council’s website and promoted on the intranet when Cabinet (scheduled for September 2023) has approved it.</li> <li>• It will also be shared with the Strategic Commissioning Group, Category Management Teams and commissioners and contract managers.</li> <li>• Further external promotion of the Modern Slavery statement - Preventing, Protecting and Detecting through Procurement will also take place if required (e.g., involving STAR and the Portfolio Holder).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of the “Understanding Exploitation” course (covering a range of topics, including modern slavery). Another session is scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and more can be added should there be sufficient demand.</li> <li>• To support the council’s complex safeguarding training offer, and building on previous learning circles held in 2022, two classroom sessions were scheduled – one took place in June 2023 and another is planned for October 2023. These include material on human trafficking and modern slavery. The sessions will be co-delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Training Manager and the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager. The sessions are targeted at multi-agency practitioners and professionals across the borough.</li> <li>• Training in relation to Modern Slavery, the Modern Slavery Charter and the council’s Modern Slavery Statement will be added to the council’s Member Training Programme.</li> <li>• A new Manager Dashboard (which includes a facility for managers to check that staff required to undertake modern slavery training have done so) was trialled in Adult Social Care in June-July 2023. It will be evaluated and options for rolling it out across the council will be considered.</li> <li>• Monitoring delivery of the multi-agency <a href="#">Stockport Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy</a> through quarterly meetings of the Complex Safeguarding Sub-Group. Escalation and assurance reporting to take place to the One Stockport Safety Partnership and Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership Executive Boards.</li> </ul>

Area of Activity	Additional Activity Proposed to September 2024
<b>Prevention (continued)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STAR’s new starters, including temporary staff, will undertake the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply as part of their induction. All STAR staff involved in sourcing activities will complete the course annually.</li> <li>• Council contract managers should also undertake the CIPS online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply annually.</li> <li>• STAR will refresh the in-house Modern Slavery training for all staff in 2024/ 2025 – existing staff members as well as new recruits – following enactment of the Procurement Bill and subsequent secondary legislation in 2023-2024.</li> <li>• Relevant modern slavery aspects will be incorporated into STAR’s “Meet the Buyer” events.</li> <li>• STAR will undertake stakeholder mapping across the council, on an ongoing basis, to identify the need for “Back to Basics” training (which covers Modern Slavery issues and awareness). STAR will also provide such training as and when necessary.</li> <li>• The Strategic Commissioning Group will make recommendations for contract management training to include ongoing vigilance by contract managers to identify suppliers and supply chains that may be at risk of modern slavery practices and liaise with STAR to report for investigation via the National Referral Mechanism.</li> </ul>
<b>Detection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council has undertaken to audit delivery of actions in the Modern Slavery Statement Preventing, Protecting and Detecting through Procurement on a regular basis. The Internal Audit team will liaise with management to undertake an audit early in the 2024/25 audit cycle, though some preparatory work may be done in 2023/24.</li> </ul>

**Review process**

This fourth iteration of Stockport’s Modern Slavery Statement will be reviewed in summer/ autumn 2024 (and annually thereafter). The council’s Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee will monitor this review process through annual reports to Scrutiny.

**Cllr Mark Hunter,  
Leader of Stockport Council**

**Caroline Simpson,  
Chief Executive, Stockport Council**

## Appendix 1: Potential indicators of modern slavery

### 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 (though to date there has been no evidence of organ harvesting in the UK). 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?
- Do they receive little or no payment for their work? Is someone else in control of their wages?
- 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.

## Appendix 2: Reporting processes

This appendix sets out how professionals (including council officers) and members of the public can report suspicions regarding modern slavery or trafficking. Note that as well as the local referral processes set out below, a range of professionals (including council officers) should also make a referral into the Home Office National Referral Mechanism (described later in this appendix).

### Child safeguarding

If 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 processes available on the “Contacting the MASSH” page on the council’s website, accessible via the link below. This includes separate processes for members of the public and professionals to follow.

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

### Adult safeguarding

If no children or young people are involved and concerns relate to the exploitation of adults, you should alert the Adult Social Care Team via one of the numbers on the link below, on the council’s website. This also includes separate processes for members of the public and professionals.

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

### Stockport Council Confidential Reporting (“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/Pages/DGW-Introduction.aspx>**

### 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 your usual STAR contact, who will liaise with their Modern Slavery Champion as appropriate. If you are unsure who to contact at STAR, please contact the organisation via one of the methods suggested on its “Contact Us” page:

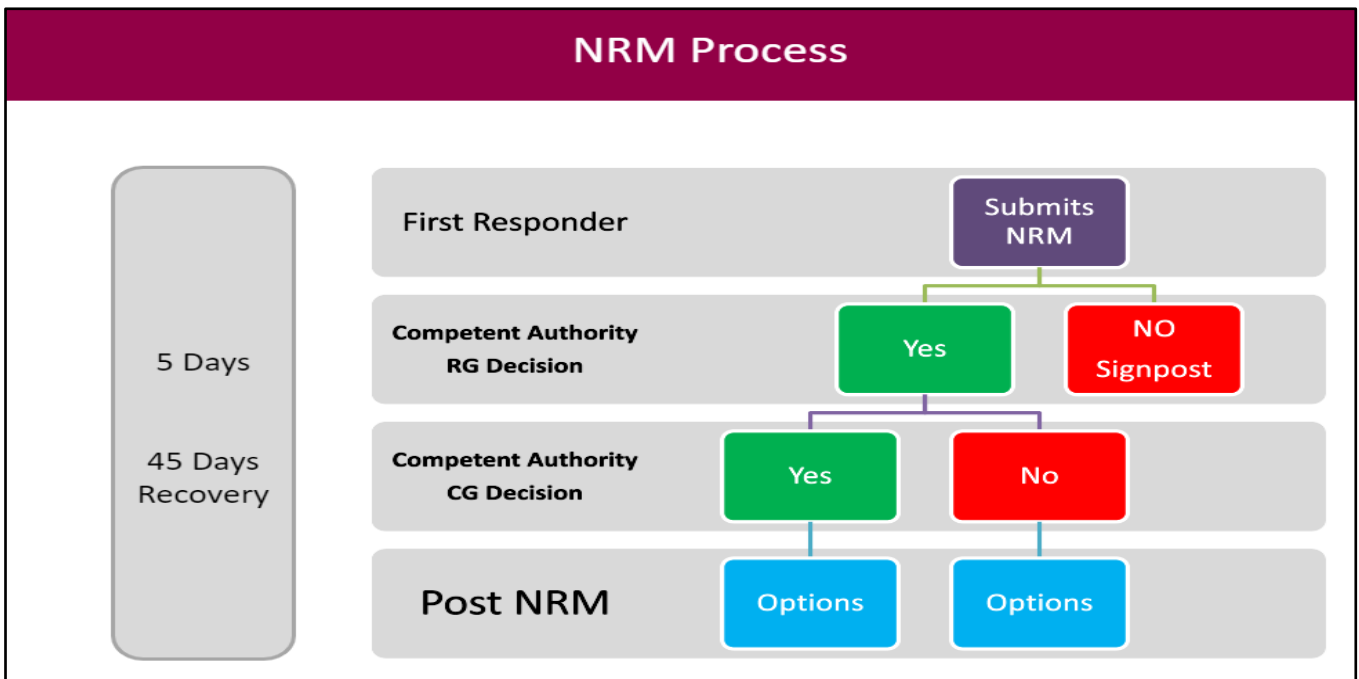
**<https://www.star-procurement.gov.uk/contact-us.aspx>**

National Referral Mechanism

Several organisations (known “First Responders”), including councils, have a duty to notify the Home Office of any people they think may be victims of slavery or human trafficking via a referral process known as the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Council officers should therefore make a referral into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as soon as they have any concerns or suspicions of modern slavery. At that point, the officer should make it clear whether or not the individual has consented to the referral and whether they agree to access any support which would follow on from the referral.

Existing safeguarding processes however (such as those outlined above) should still be followed alongside NRM referrals, as a “duty to notify” referral should not be relied upon to safeguard victims.

The diagram below summarises the process, journey and timescales regarding referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. This is taken from a training presentation used in “learning circles” organised by Stockport’s Safeguarding Adults Partnership. A Reasonable Grounds decision (RG) is made by the Home Office based on the initial information provided, which can lead to immediate help and support. This then moves to a more detailed investigation which leads to a Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision which would enable further support including 45 days move on support for the victim.



Note that only organisations designated as “First Responders” are eligible to make NRM referrals. Members of the public, or others who are not from “First Responder” organisations can report concerns to the Home Office via the Modern Slavery helpline (but not the NRM) and should also follow the processes set out above to alert the relevant safeguarding team.

- Local authorities
- Police forces
- Certain parts of the Home Office
- UK Visas and Immigration
- Border Force
- Immigration Enforcement

- National Crime Agency
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- Salvation Army
- Migrant Help
- Medaille Trust
- Kalayaan
- Barnardo's
- Unseen
- NSPCC (Child Trafficking Advice Centre)
- Bawso
- New Pathways
- Refugee Council

The referral form can be accessed [here](#).

Further guidance on the NRM process can be found [here](#).

## Appendix 3: 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 and Public Protection
- Strategic Housing.

### Children's Services

- Adoption.
- Family Help and Integration
- Children's Social Care.
- Early Years and Neighbourhoods
- Safeguarding and Learning.
- School Effectiveness.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion.
- Virtual School for Children in Care.

### Adult Social Services

- Adult Social Care Commissioning
- Enablement and Recovery.
- Practice Quality and Workforce Strategy.
- Prevention and Customer Engagement.
- Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism.
- Active Recovery Communities & Home (ARCH)

### Public Health

- Health Protection.
- Behaviour Change Commissioning.
- Healthy Communities.
- Physical Activity.
- Public Health Intelligence and Early Intervention/Prevention.
- Infection Control
- Fair and Inclusive Stockport

### Corporate Support Services

- Business Intelligence.
- Business Support (Operational).
- Citizens Services.
- Strategic Commissioning and Contracts.
- Communications.
- Electoral Services.
- Financial and Management Accountancy.



- Human Resources and Occupational Development.
- Internal Audit, Risk and Insurance.
- IT.
- Legal Services.
- Revenues and Benefits.
- Strategy and Transformation.