

MODERN SLAVERY

Stevenage Borough Council

Implementation of the Modern Slavery Charter



The government published a Modern Slavery Strategy in 2014 based on the “four Ps” structure, which the Home Office also uses to tackle terrorism and serious & organised crime;

- **Pursue:** Prosecuting and disrupting individuals and groups responsible for modern slavery
- **Prevent:** Preventing people from engaging in modern slavery
- **Protect:** Strengthening safeguards against modern slavery by protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and increasing awareness of and resilience against this crime
- **Prepare:** Reducing the harm caused by modern slavery through improved victim identification and enhanced support

Since becoming a signatory for the Co-operative Party’s Charter Against Modern Slavery, Stevenage Borough Council and its delivery partners have worked co-operatively to support victims and eliminate the opportunity for slavery to occur within local supply chains.

Under the referral process, potential victims of Modern Slavery are referred by first responders within the council's community safety team, who provide the necessary support and liaison with relevant agencies.

Since the Implementation of the Charter we have;

- Held a Modern Slavery conference for local stakeholders across the town.
- Introduced iLearn (e-learning tool) as mandatory for all new employees, this is now being rolled out to our councillors.
- Worked with council contractors through the procurement process to ensure contractors understand why it is important that they fully comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- Introduced a Modern Slavery Service, with one-to-one support for victims.
- Introduced a rolling programme of awareness training for frontline staff through team meetings and "tool box talks".

The charter has improved the handling of local cases relating to modern slavery and outcomes for victims. The introduction of the Charter has helped to improve the lives of those who are the most vulnerable and become more effective in our co-operative approach.

For further information contact:

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