

## **Modern Slavery Submission**

### **Adult Social Care**

#### **The Interface between Modern Slavery, Adult Social Care (ASC) duties and Safeguarding**

##### **Context**

Modern Slavery, although present in our society and a local risk to be alert to, has a very limited presence in ASC work. This is due to the primary role of ASC in supporting people with needs of care and support arising from a disability or illness. As Modern Slavery is most commonly linked to people who are able to work, including younger people, there is a relatively limited interface between people requiring ASC support and people at risk of Modern Slavery.

That said, it is understood that people with care and support needs may be at risk of exploitation and abuse via Modern Slavery and there have been some high-profile incidents.<sup>i</sup> A report on the interface between Modern Slavery and safeguarding adults work has been published.<sup>ii</sup>

It should be noted that data is limited; Modern Slavery is captured as a category of abuse in a safeguarding context but it is not a 'primary client type' – therefore it is not captured more widely in ASC records. Operational intelligence is that this is a very limited presenting issue.

##### **The role of Adult Social Care**

The primary contribution of ASC in addressing concerns about Modern Slavery can be summarised as:

- The provision of Advice, Information and Guidance.
- Ensuring staff are aware of Modern Slavery and are alert to any signs.
- Ensuring people with care and support needs, who may experience or be at risk of Modern Slavery, are supported and concerns appropriately investigated (safeguarding).
- Participating in partnership work as appropriate.

##### **Advice, Information and Guidance**

Many people approach ASC, sometimes without a clear understanding of the role and remit of the statutory provision. Approximately one third of people who contact us do not have an identified need for ASC support. Of those contacts recorded as a potential need for support, 70% of people are then supported with advice, information and guidance, including being signposted to other services. A significant

proportion of contacts are made by a third party (i.e. not the individual requiring support). Therefore, the role of ASC in providing advice, information and guidance is important.

Whilst it is a rarely presented issue, staff are trained in identifying Modern Slavery and would signpost people to appropriate support including the National Referral Mechanism. Where another professional may be referring, the conversation would establish whether the person had any need for care and support, indicating safeguarding procedures should be followed. As there is no data about these contacts relation to Modern Slavery (as noted above), operational intelligence is that this is a very limited presenting issue. This is supported by the data that we do have, in relation to safeguarding concerns.

### **Ensuring Staff Awareness**

Staff training is covered within the mandatory ASC safeguarding training, both the Learning Pool Mandatory Training on Safeguarding Adults (for all staff) in terms of signs and indicators and it is further covered in the face to face 1 day course aimed at social workers and social care practitioners.

### **Ensuring People with Care and Support Needs are Safeguarded**

The statutory guidance for Adult Safeguarding includes Modern Slavery as a category of abuse. It is further specified in the Care Act 2014 guidance:

#### **14.2 The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:**

- **has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and**
- **is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and**
- **as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect**

#### **14.7 Modern slavery encompasses:**

- **slavery**
- **human trafficking**
- **forced labour and domestic servitude.**
- **traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment**

There are shared Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adult Procedures across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. These guide practice, where we might identify Modern Slavery risks for a person with care and support needs. An alert (initial concern) may be logged and if it meets the threshold for safeguarding, an enquiry (investigation) will be commenced. An enquiry can be categorised against one or more forms of abuse.

In 2023 / 24, there were 2 recorded enquiries which included Modern Slavery as a category of abuse. Reviewing the data for this report, it was identified that one was incorrectly categorised. The second was not found to involve Modern Slavery, upon investigation. Both were more correctly categorised as financial abuse, as there was no 'slavery' element to the reported concern.

### **Participating in Partnership Work**

The primary partnership is the Leicester City Safeguarding Adults Board, and its subgroups, that work across LLR. This includes the Performance Subgroup, where data is reviewed, including the prevalence of Modern Slavery in safeguarding incidents. The picture in Leicester is replicated in Leicestershire and Rutland.

In June this year the Police and Crime Commissioner co-ordinated a Round Table discussion which led to re-establishing the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Modern Slavery Action Group.

Adult Social Care participates in the group, intended to promote collaborative working between the agencies involved in identifying and addressing issues of Modern Slavery, human trafficking and exploitation.

### **Ruth Lake**

#### **Director, ASC and Safeguarding**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-25642431>  
[Lithuanian gangmasters jailed in modern slavery and trafficking case | Immigration and asylum | The Guardian](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [Modern slavery – the adult safeguarding interface](#)