

Cabinet 7 March 2018

Recommendation from the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 January 2018

Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance

- 6 The Committee considered a report by the Transformation Lead for Adult and Community Services Forward Together Programme which notified members of the County Council's duty to notify the Government of any potential victims of human trafficking or slavery.

The Community Safety and Drug Action Manager highlighted to members that this was a complex and fast evolving area and that officers had worked with partners to develop a Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance. The document provided guidance for staff on how to fulfil the statutory duty to notify Central Government if they encountered a potential victim of modern slavery. It also set out how partners would organise themselves in the event of a modern slavery operation. The Protocol and Guidance was a working tool for practitioners and would need to be updated regularly by officers to incorporate any changes in legislation or guidance and in light of any practical experience gained whilst using it. Regular updates would also be required to the contacts and services listed in the document.

One member was concerned that the UK Border Force was not included in the list of agencies under a duty to notify the Government of any suspected victims of human trafficking or slavery. The Community Safety and Drug Action Manager advised that Home Office staff within UK Visas and Immigration, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement were required to comply with this duty. They were also engaged in various partnership work to tackle modern slavery. Members felt it was important to mention in the Protocol and Guidance that other agencies, in addition to those referenced in the covering report, needed to make a notification.

The Lead for Safeguarding and Quality – Adults advised members that she was the nominated slavery lead for the Authority and confirmed that the Border Force did sit on the Anti-Slavery Partnership. Following a concern from a member about an issue in his division, the officer undertook to discuss it further outside of the meeting.

In response to a concern about a minor being deported as a result of slavery, the Interim Director for Children's Services advised that if there were young people that were immigrants, they were by definition looked after children and therefore were the responsibility of the local authority, in their role as the Corporate Parent.

Recommended

That the Cabinet be asked to adopt the Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance, with the inclusion that there were other agencies who needed to comply with the duty to notify.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the County Council met its statutory duty to notify central government of any potential victims of modern slavery.