

Management Committee

6 March 2018

Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance

For Decision

Briefholder

Cllr Francis Drake

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

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Report Author:

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Statutory Authority

Modern Slavery Act 2015

Purpose of Report

- 1 To ensure that the Council meets its statutory requirements under Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

Recommendations

- 2 That the Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance be considered and adopted by your committee.

Reason for Decision

- 3 To ensure the Local Authority meets its statutory duty to notify central government of any potential victims of modern slavery.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4 Section 52 of The Modern Slavery Act 2015, places a duty on all local authorities and the police to notify the government if they believe a person may be a victim of human trafficking or slavery.
- 5 The duty to notify is mandatory even if the victim wishes to remain anonymous and does not want to access specialist support.
- 6 Officers have worked with partners, including the district, borough and county council, to write a Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance document for use in the Dorset County area (see appendix A).

- 7 The document provides guidance for staff on how to fulfil the statutory duty to notify central government if they encounter a potential victim of modern slavery. It also sets out how partners will organise themselves in the event of a modern slavery operation.
- 8 The intention is that the Protocol and Guidance will be adopted by all the local authorities in the Dorset County area.
- 9 As the Protocol and Guidance is a working document, it will 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 will also be required to the contacts and services listed in the document.
- 10 The Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance is based on central government requirements, including notification and referral processes.
- 11 The protocol and guidance has been compiled with the help of relevant partners, including the district, borough and County councils, Dorset Police, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and organisations from the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 12 The protocol and guidance has been approved by Dorset County Council by their Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the County Council is now asking district and borough councils approval across rural Dorset to provide a consistent approach.

Implications

Financial

- 12 Once the Protocol and Guidance has been adopted, it will be important for the Council to raise awareness amongst staff of the statutory duty to notify and provide appropriate training.
- 13 The aim is to provide training jointly across the Dorset local authorities and in conjunction with other relevant partners to minimise costs.

Equalities

- 14 An EqIA screening assessment was undertaken by DCC on the Protocol and Guidance using evidence from the following publications:
 - A Typology of Modern Slavery Offences in the UK – Research Report 93’ (Home Office, October 2017)
 - Modern Slavery and Public Health’ (Public Health England, December 2017)
- 15 The screening highlighted the Protocol and Guidance had a positive impact in the following categories:
 - Age – Younger people
 - Disability
 - Sex

- Other socially excluded groups

16 In addition to the EqIA screening, members of the DCC Corporate Inequalities Group were consulted on the draft Protocol and Guidance

Consultation and Engagement

17 Consultation has taken place with other relevant partners, including the district, borough and County councils, Dorset Police, Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and organisations from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Appendices

A - Modern Slavery Protocol and Guidance

B – Modern Slavery Protocol Chart

Background Papers

Government Guidance and Leaflets:

How to Report –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-report-modern-slavery/how-to-report-modern-slavery>

Support for Victims of Modern Slavery –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-victims-of-human-trafficking>

Dorset County Council Safeguarding and Overview Scrutiny Committee, 30 January 2018, Agenda Item 6 and minutes

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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