

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Telford & Wrekin Transparency Statement 2018/19

This statement sets out Telford & Wrekin Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and, its supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

As part of Local Government, the Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by:

1. Officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through established training; increased promotion of E-Learning modules around Anti-Slavery day on 18th October and face to face events throughout the year will ensure all officers will have opportunity to understand this crime and the actions to take to prevent and report it where applicable.
2. Officers understanding the National Referral Mechanism and working with partners when this is indicated.
3. Officers will use a risk based approach to work with existing suppliers to review and assure that their supply chain is free from modern slavery, reporting this action in the Contracts Register which is published bi-annually on the 'open council' web page
4. When procuring goods or services, officers will ensure that as part of tender evaluation and ongoing contract management, they will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery through a clear understanding of the supplier's:
 - Structure, business and supply chains;
 - Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
 - Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
 - Business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
 - Effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate; and
 - Training available to all staff to support the identification of slavery and human trafficking

5. When bidding for potential business, council officers will validate their submissions with a declaration as to how, as a supplier, they assure the buyer that we, the council, are free from modern slavery in our supply chain.
6. From April 18, carrying out a specific pilot project with 30 suppliers/providers to explore with them the opportunities for modern slavery in their supply chain and together establishing actions that can be taken to eradicate them.

The Council's Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement has been approved by the Council's Senior Management Team and by the Cabinet Member for Children & Family Services. It should be read in conjunction with the Modern slavery Act 2015 ¹ and the National Referral Mechanism². This Statement will be reviewed and updated annually.

For further information please see http://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20236/open_council

Signed

Signed

Date

Date

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

² <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>