

DRAFT Thurrock Council Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

April 2021- March 2022

This statement is made in accordance with s.54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and recognises the role that Thurrock Council has in tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. Thurrock Council opposes modern slavery and human trafficking and is committed to ensuring that such practices have no place within our business supply chains or other activities. Modern slavery is a term used to encapsulate both offences in the Modern Slavery Act: slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour; and human trafficking. The offences are set out in section 1 and section 2 of the Actⁱ

Thurrock is a local council situated in the county of Essex, located on the north side of the river Thames, immediately to the east of London. The population is estimated to be 174,300ⁱⁱ. Thurrock Council is a unitary council. It has responsibility to deliver all local government services within a district. Examples of these services include, but are not limited to: education, libraries, roads, social care, environmental services, public protection, planning and development and housing.

Local authorities are central to the fight against modern slavery. Modern slavery intersects with many different areas that councils are involved with and a number of different officers might come across it while going about their everyday activities. Examples where officers might come across victims include housing and homelessness services, community safety work, trading standards, licensing services, social services and customer services.

Due diligence and risk management

As part of its procurement processes, Thurrock Council expects that all suppliers of goods and services comply with all applicable laws, statutes, regulations and codes including the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Suppliers are also expected to have their own anti-slavery policy and to publish their own Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (where applicable). Contract terms and conditions set out the requirements of contractors and subcontractors in relation to ensuring there is no slavery or human trafficking in their business. Should any provider of services to the Council be found to have knowingly participated in modern slavery steps will immediately be taken to terminate the contract.

The Council requires its contractors and subcontractors engaged in 'regulated activity' for children and adults at risk to have safeguarding policies, procedures and training in place and to comply with the reporting procedures in the SET (Southend, Essex, Thurrock) Safeguarding policies.

The Council's Whistleblowing Policy is intended to make it easier to disclose information without fear of discrimination and victimisationⁱⁱⁱ

What we will achieve this year

1. Section 52 of the Act imposes a duty on public authorities, including local authorities, to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking.

Thurrock Council will build upon the proactive awareness raising already carried out in 2020. The existing training is primarily for frontline practitioners and is delivered online by an external organisation due to national covid-19 restrictions. The training not only raises awareness of the duty, but also how to identify, refer and support victims.

2. We will continue to review internal documentation to ensure it reflects modern slavery and human trafficking awareness and signposting where appropriate.
3. We will progress the modern slavery actions within the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy in partnership with Essex Police and third sector colleagues. The VAWG is inclusive of men and boys
4. We will continue to explore collaborative communication opportunities with our colleagues and partners across Essex on modern slavery and human trafficking, aiming to provide consistency messaging and response across Thurrock and wider Essex.

This statement will be updated annually: Next statement due April 2022

ⁱ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157204/report.aspx#tabrespop>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/documents/whistleblowing-201901-web-v02.pdf>

Documents used to inform this statement

[Transparency in Supply Chains etc. A practical guide](#)

[LGA Transparency Statement on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#)