

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Introduction

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced changes in UK law focused on increasing transparency in supply chains, to ensure our supply chains are free from modern slavery (that is, slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking). As both a local leader in commissioning health care services for the population of Birmingham and Solihull and as an employer, NHS Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board (ICB) provides the following statement in respect of its commitment to, and efforts in, preventing slavery and human trafficking practices in the supply chain and employment practices.

NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB considers human trafficking and slavery to be morally abhorrent, and entirely at odds with the ICB's values, as well as those of the society in which we live and work. The ICB will use the legislative and procedural tools available to us to ensure that the ICB does not support or encourage any person or organisation involved in these practices, and where possible, we will use those tools to ensure that such people and organisations are detected and dealt with by the authorities.

Our Organisation

NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB is a clinically led commissioning organisation in England and we work collaboratively across the health and care system to commission health care services including acute, community, primary care, mental health and learning disability services.

We are responsible for buying health services for 1.3 million people in Birmingham and Solihull and our budget is around £2.9 billion

Our Commitment

The NHS Birmingham and Solihull ICB Board, Executive Management Team, commissioners and all employees are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business activity and, in so far as it is possible, to hold our suppliers to account to do likewise

Our Approach

The ICB recognises safeguarding as a high priority for the organisation. In order to achieve this we ensure that we have arrangements in place to provide strong leadership, vision and direction for safeguarding. We make sure we have clear accessible policies and procedures in line with relevant legislation, statutory guidance and best practice.

All of our contracting and commissioning staff have mandatory safeguarding training which includes awareness on modern slavery.

During 2023-24 as part of our commissioning assurance process we will request evidence via the NHS contract schedule from all our providers regarding their plans and arrangements to prevent

slavery in their activities and supply chain. We will seek similar commitments from non - NHS providers that we commission.

Our Policies and arrangements

Our recruitment processes are robust and adhere to safe recruitment principles. This includes strict requirements in respect of identity checks, work permits and criminal records.

Our policies, such as Safeguarding Adults and Children policies, Dignity at Work (bullying, harassment and discrimination) policy, Parallel Criminal and Disciplinary Investigations protocol, Individual Grievance policy, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) policy and procedure and Whistleblowing policy, provide an additional platform and guidance for our employees to raise concerns about poor and inappropriate working practices.

Monitoring and Assurance

The ICB aims to be as effective as possible in ensuring that modern slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our business or supply chains by:

- Effective interagency working with local authorities, the police and third sector organisations which includes appropriate arrangements for preventing and responding to modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Signing up to the West Midlands multi-agency policy and procedures for the protection of adults with care and support needs and local Safeguarding Partnerships ;
- Continuing to undertake robust NHS employment checks and payroll systems;
- Ensuring good communication through contract management meetings, with our commissioned providers in the supply chain and their understanding of, and compliance with, our expectations in relation to the NHS terms and conditions. These conditions relate to issues including bribery, slavery and other ethical considerations.
- Requiring the ICB's providers to provide the ICB with assurance around safeguarding compliance within the agreed framework

Training

Modern Slavery and human trafficking are part of the organisation's Mandatory Safeguarding Children and Adults training programme