South Liverpool Homes

Modern Slavery Statement

2026-27

This statement is published in line with section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

South Liverpool Homes

About us

We are a registered provider of social housing (a society under the co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014).

We are the parent company of Avela Services Limited (Avela), SLH Developments, Avela Home Service (AHS), and Avela Developments. We predominately operate in the Speke and Garston areas of South Liverpool.

We are based in the heart of the community we serve. It's our superpower. We believe in great homes, strong communities and bright futures. We believe in making better places for people to live, working in a way that protects our planet and provides value for money for our customers.

We are committed, as both an employer and as a landlord, to running our business responsibly. This statement sets out our commitment to recognising and preventing slavery and human trafficking in all our business activities and within our supply chains. It outlines the steps we have taken to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA) and minimise the risks of any association with practices which undermine the principles of safety and dignity for our customers and staff, particularly with respect to people from vulnerable groups.

The Government has introduced measures to strengthen the MSA 2015 and ensure that large businesses and public bodies tackle modern slavery risks in supply chains. It is a requirement for organisations with a turnover of £36 million or more in all sectors to publish their modern slavery statements on a new digital government reporting service. Whilst our turnover is below this threshold, this statement has been developed to demonstrate our commitment to comply with the MSA.

Supply chain and procurement

Our procurement policy sets out the rules and principles governing how we procure goods and services, all colleagues engaged in managing or leading contracts must comply with it and our procurement procedures. We have controls in place to ensure that goods and services are procured in compliance with modern slavery legislation, with both above and below threshold procurement activity requiring bidders to provide confirmation of, and information relating to, their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

In 2024/25 we reviewed and updated our procurement policy and procedures to align with the Procurement Act 2023, which went live on 24 February 2025. Colleagues involved in procurement and contract management receive appropriate guidance and training to support ethical procurement practices and the identification and escalation of modern slavery risks.

We work with procurement advisors to embed compliant and consistent practices in line with our policies and procedures. We continue to review and strengthen our approach by learning from sector best practice and emerging guidance to ensure our procurement arrangements remain robust and effective.

Safeguarding

Our adult and children safeguarding policies and training include reference to modern slavery as a type or pattern of behaviour which constitutes abuse of a person at risk. All our employees are required to complete regular training on safeguarding adults and children, which includes modern slavery. Effective procedures are in place to recognise, record and report any safeguarding risks.

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Tenants

We visit all households on a rolling 18-month cycle. During these visits, officers look for issues and signs to ensure that the property is not used for illegal purposes.

We have a planned programme of communication around safeguarding which includes sending a number of external and internal bulletins to tenants and staff, on a bi-annual basis, to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking including the signs to look out for and how to report any concerns.

People

We are committed to dignity at work and fair treatment of all colleagues. We have a Speak Up policy, to encourage people to speak up in the public interest if they are aware of wrongdoing and have adopted the National Housing Federation's 2022 Code of Conduct, which is included alongside the starter packs for all new employees.

Policies and procedures

Our policies and procedures are kept under review to make sure that they reflect the Group's evolution and its regulatory and statutory obligations. A number of policies and procedures are in place, to support and protect both colleagues and tenants and to prevent modern slavey from occurring.

Recruitment

As an equal opportunities' employer, we are committed to creating and ensuring an inclusive and respectful working environment for all its colleagues. An environment where everyone can feel confident to expose any wrongdoing without risk or detriment to themselves.

Our recruitment and people management processes are designed to ensure that all prospective colleagues are legally entitled to work in the UK and safeguard colleagues from any abuse or coercion.

Governance

Responsibility for compliance with the MSA rests with the executive leadership team and board, with responsibility for the statement assigned to the company secretary. Specific responsibilities have been delegated to the heads of service which are identified as key risk areas:

- Supply chain
- Vulnerable clients
- People services

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Due diligence

We achieve this through our due diligence processes by:

- Publishing this statement on our website.
- Having in place a contract management framework to ensure we only engage with suppliers and contractors who confirm their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- Being aware of high-risk areas of our business where we might encounter slavery and human trafficking and ensure the contracts have clauses and suppliers comply with legislation activities linked to housebuilding, property maintenance, estate services, care and support, IT, and temporary staff
- Incorporating modern slavery and human trafficking in our risk management framework.
- Raising awareness and providing learning opportunities to ensure colleagues develop clear understanding of what modern slavery is, what it looks like, and how to prevent it from occurring in our business and supply chains.
- Reviewing and applying our policies and practices such as recruitment, procurement, safeguarding, pre-employment and code of conduct.

This statement has been approved by our executive leadership team and group board and is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

This statement is reviewed and approved on an annual basis.

South Liverpool Homes

Great homes | Strong communities | Bright futures