

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Act 2015 Policy Statement

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires all organisations to set out the steps taken to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any part of its business.

This statement sets out actions taken by Somerset NHS Foundation Trust to understand all potential modern slavery and human trafficking risks and to implement effective systems and controls.

The Trust is committed to ensuring no modern slavery or human trafficking takes place in any part of our business or supply chain. We are committed to improving our practices to combat slavery and human trafficking. We are fully aware of our responsibilities towards patients, employees and the local community. We have robust ethical values which we use as guidance for our commercial activities. We also expect all suppliers to the Trust to follow the same ethical principles.

Policy on Slavery and Human Trafficking

We are committed to ensuring there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business and, in addition require that our suppliers hold similar ethos.

We have robust multi agency safeguarding vulnerable adults and safeguarding children policies in place and all staff receive mandatory safeguarding training which includes guidance on how to identify and report any concerns relating to modern slavery and human trafficking.

We follow employment checks and standards which include the right to work and depend on receiving suitable references.

We are committed to social and environmental responsibility and have zero tolerance of modern slavery and human trafficking. Any identified concerns regarding modern slavery and human trafficking would be escalated as part of the organisational safeguarding processes in conjunction with partner agencies.

We will:

- comply with legislation and regulatory requirements;
- ensure suppliers and service providers are aware we promote the requirements of the legislation;
- develop awareness of modern slavery issues;
- include modern slavery conditions or criteria in specifications and tender documents within the supplementary terms and conditions;
- encourage suppliers and contractors to take their own action and understand their obligations about these new requirements;
- expect supply chain/framework providers to demonstrate compliance with their obligations in their processes.

Trust staff must contact and work with the procurement department when looking to work with new suppliers so appropriate checks can be undertaken.

Procurement staff will:

- check draft specifications include a commitment from suppliers to support the requirements of the Act;
- not award contracts where suppliers do not demonstrate their commitment to ensuring slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in their own business or supply chains;
- communicate clear expectations to our suppliers through a supplier code of conduct;
- work with the procurement department to monitor compliance by suppliers with the requirements of the Act.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this document is accurate.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lewis', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

PETER LEWIS
Chief Executive

Dated: 21 July 2020