

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2021/22

In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Gwynedd Council recognises it has a responsibility as an employer to be aware of the potential for instances of modern slavery and to report such instances or concerns to the relevant bodies.

Instances of potential modern slavery in Wales, it seems, are increasing as a result of better awareness, with 251 referrals being made in 2018.

Modern slavery can take the following forms :-

- Forced prostitution
- Child trafficking
- Criminal exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced labour
- Organ harvesting
- Sexual exploitation

In July 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved Welsh Government's Code of Practice for ethical employment in supply chains which aims to ensure that all public sector organisations are taking action to eradicate unlawful and unethical employment practices. Please see the Council's updated Action Plan in relation to the commitments within the Code.

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Modern-slavery/Code-of-Practice-Action-Plan.pdf>

Since our 2019 Modern Slavery Statement, the Council now seeks assurances from potential suppliers that they have no knowledge of any of the above forms of modern slavery within their organisations or supply chains, as part of its tendering / contracting process. The Council expects that its suppliers take responsibility to seek similar assurances from their own supply chains.

In addition, relevant terms in relation to modern slavery and ethical employment have been incorporated into the Council's Standard Terms & Conditions.

Key Procurement, Category and Human Resources staff within the Council have completed Welsh Government's e-learning module in relation to the Code of Practice for ethical employment in supply chains.

To further support this important agenda, a number of the Council's frontline staff who may be in a position to spot signs of modern slavery as part of their day to day work, have completed the North Wales Modern Slavery Group module. This e-learning module was developed in collaboration with North Wales Police and other specialist organisations.

The public and staff, equally, have a responsibility to be aware of potential instances of modern slavery or of a business using forced labour. If you have any such concerns, please contact any of the following bodies :-

North Wales Police : **Telephone 101 (or 999 in an Emergency)**

Modern Slavery Helpline : **Telephone 0800 0121700**

Crimestoppers : **Telephone 0800 555 111**

Senior Housing and Welfare Manager : **Telephone 01766 771000**

Corporate contact for Modern Slavery matters

During the period March 2020 to March 2021, 5 instances related to potential modern slavery / human trafficking were identified in Gwynedd via the National Referral Mechanism which were directed to the relevant bodies for further investigation.