

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Annual Statement for 2023/24

Background

The Modern Slavery Act was passed into UK law on 26th March 2015. The Act introduces offences relating to holding another person in slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and about human trafficking. It also makes provision for the protection of victims.

Organisations such as Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust, that supply goods or services, and have a total turnover of £36m or more are required under Part 6, (Transparency in supply chains), to publish an annual statement setting out the steps that they have taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking do not exist in their business OR their supply chains.

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust

Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust provides community health services from well over 50 bases within Shropshire and the West Midlands.

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our activity and where possible, to requiring our suppliers to subscribe to a similar ethos. Any incidence will be acted upon immediately, and any required local or national reporting carried out.

All consumable goods and most contracts are purchased through Shropshire Healthcare Procurement Service (SHPS), a consortium of Shropshire healthcare providers, hosted by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust.

Estates maintenance services are provided by Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust for Trust properties, with the exception of some larger properties shared with multiple healthcare providers which are managed by NHS Property Services.

Arrangements in place

Procurement: All contracts established by SHPS use either NHS Framework Agreements for the Supply of Goods and Services, the NHS Terms and Conditions for Supply of Goods, or the NHS Terms for Supply of services. All have Anti-Slavery clauses, which require providers/contractors to comply with Law and Guidance, use Industry Good Practice and to notify the authority if they become aware of any actual or suspected incident of slavery or human trafficking.

In addition to the above SHPS will investigate any concern raised with the service. This could be by national or local media publicity, through supply chain contacts or by individuals.

Estates: Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, our provider of estates services, have produced a statement regarding slavery setting out measures they have in place to ensure that slavery and trafficking do not exist in their activity.

Employment: As an NHS Employer we are required to comply with the NHS employment check standard for all directly recruited staff.

The six checks which make up the NHS Employment Check Standards are:

1. Verification of identity checks
2. Right to work checks
3. Professional registration and qualification checks
4. Employment history and reference checks
5. Criminal record checks
6. Occupational health checks

No individual is permitted to commence employment with the Trust without these checks having been completed. The checks are carried out centrally by the recruitment team and recorded on the Trust workforce information system (ESR).

All recruiting managers are trained in safer recruitment practices. Where other staffing methods (e.g agency) are used, contracts include a requirement to comply with the NHS employment check standard.

Training and Awareness: All SHPS staff have, or are working towards, professional purchasing qualifications.

The issues relating to Modern Slavery have been raised through articles in the Trust staff Communications to Inform and by other briefing mechanisms. These will be repeated periodically. If staff have concerns about the supply chain or any other suspicions related to modern slavery they will be encouraged to raise these concerns through line management and report the issues to appropriate agencies. This will be raised particularly with clinical staff that may be in contact with vulnerable people.

Conclusion

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 2024.

Signed.....



Position.....Acting Chair..... Chief Executive

Date.....2 May 2024.....