



South Cambridgeshire District Council Modern Slavery Statement 2025-26

Introduction

“Modern slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. Victims are forced, threatened or deceived into situations of subjugation, degradation and control which undermine their personal identity and sense of self.”

– Home Office, 2021

Human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour are all types of modern slavery. Definitions of these terms can be found in the glossary at the back of this document.

This statement sets out the steps South Cambridgeshire District Council has taken and are continuing to take to ensure there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business, including our supply chains. We produce this statement each financial year, in line with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

If you are a **member of the public** and are concerned that slavery might be taking place:

- Call 999 if it is an emergency
- Call 101 for non-emergencies
- Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
- Call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700
- Report using the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) website, or via the free Unseen app.

If you are a **staff member** and are concerned that slavery might be taking place:

- Call 999 if it is an emergency
- Follow the [Safeguarding Procedure](#) detailed on the SCDC staff Intranet
- A list of Safeguarding Officers can be found on the ‘people’ page on our Intranet site. The Safeguarding Lead for the council is Peter Campbell (peter.campbell@scambs.gov.uk)

Our Role in Combatting Modern Day Slavery

The Local Government Association has outlined the following roles for local authorities in tackling modern slavery:

1. Identification and referral of victims

Local Authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of suspected cases of Modern Slavery under the Modern Slavery Act (2015)

2. Supporting victims

This can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing and homelessness services

3. Community safety services and disruption activities

To use our powers of entry and inspection to disrupt the activities of traffickers and criminal networks or where there are modern day slavery concerns.

4. Ensuring that the supply chains councils procure from are free from modern slavery

To ensure there is no modern day slavery or human trafficking in any part of our supply chains

How We Carry Out the Four Roles

1. Identification and Referral of Victims

Communications

We run internal and external communications throughout the year to raise awareness of modern slavery, the signs to look out for and how to report suspected cases. This includes articles in the South Cambs Magazine (sent to all residents); social media posts; staff intranet resources and; distribution of awareness raising materials produced by ourselves and partners.

Training and Resources

In addition to the above communications, training on spotting and reporting human trafficking, modern slavery and safeguarding is available to all staff via our SkillsHub e-learning package.

Additional information can be found via Cambridgeshire County Council [Safeguarding adults and mental capacity | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

We provide 'Concern Cards' for staff who work in the district, so that they can easily record details in cases where they believe residents or households may be at risk and raise this with a safeguarding officer.

All licensed taxi drivers and operators must have completed a safeguarding course (provided by an external body), which includes information about child exploitation, human trafficking, domestic abuse and hate crime.

International Resettlement Schemes

At the start of the 2025-26 financial year, 961 Ukrainian guests had arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and were accommodated by 555 hosts. All hosts are subject to DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) checks and property suitability checks. Guests receive welfare visits and follow-up checks after 6 months. Guests also receive support in their own language, helping to build trust with the authority. If we have any concerns, we undertake extra or more regular visits and we involve the Early Help teams from Cambridgeshire County Council if required.

We are also taking part in other UK Resettlement Schemes and have assisted a number of Syrian and Afghan families. The exact nature of the support available is dependent on the scheme, but generally, support visits are undertaken by other partners. We have employed an additional Housing Adviser whose primary role is to provide housing advice to households arriving in the UK. Where a translator is required, this is arranged through an official service – in accordance with good practice, family members and friends are not routinely asked to interpret to help avoid potential bias.

Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Officers

We have a Safeguarding Lead Officer (Peter Campbell, peter.campbell@scambs.gov.uk) who has overall responsibility for safeguarding for the council.

We also have Departmental Safeguarding Officers, who are available to staff to assist with referrals. A list of Safeguarding Officers can be found on the 'people' page on the Council's Intranet site.

Corporate Safeguarding Group

This group is led by our Safeguarding Lead Officer and attended by representatives from teams who are most likely to come into contact with potential victims of modern slavery. The group meets on a quarterly basis to:

- Promote safeguarding

- Ensure that our policies and processes are up to date and based on good practice
- Ensure that we are providing appropriate training to staff.
- Monitor safeguarding concerns and outcomes
- Distribute information to and from District Safeguarding meetings.

Cambridgeshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

We engage with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to work with partner agencies (including the Police, Cambridgeshire County Council, Fire Service and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System C&P ICS) to take a joined-up approach to safeguarding. This includes working with partners to develop and follow the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Child Exploitation Strategy.

2. Supporting Victims

Safeguarding Policy

This policy sets out our approaches to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk of harm. The policy is aligned with Cambridgeshire County Council's Adult Safeguarding policy guidelines and procedures. This policy was approved in December 2022, published January 2023 and reviewed in June 2025.

It also sets out responsibilities and details of how staff can make referrals, as detailed in the 'Assistance with Making Referrals' section above

Provision of Housing and Welfare Support

We provide housing advice, homelessness support and welfare support to victims of modern slavery.

We have achieved Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation (December 2022) to support victims of Domestic Abuse, which has potential for overlap with Modern Slavery.

Further support for victims and survivors of modern slavery can be found at:

- [Modern Slavery Helpline](https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/) - 08000 121 700
- [The Salvation Army Supporting Survivors Helpline](https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/supporting-survivors-helpline) - 0800 808 3733
- [Modern Slavery Awareness booklet \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Citizens Advice National Adviceline](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) - 0800 144 8848

3. Community Safety Services and Disruption Activities

South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership

We work to promote community safety as a member of the South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). This involves working with Police and Fire Services, Housing Associations, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (C&P ICS), and other councils to protect vulnerable people living in the district, including those who may be exposed to modern slavery and trafficking. Members of the CSP are involved in the serious and organised crime work across Cambridgeshire where Organised Crime Groups are identified. This can include modern slavery and trafficking.

Disruption

Some of our teams, including environmental health, planning enforcement, and housing inspection, have powers of entry and inspection that can be used to disrupt the activities of traffickers and criminal networks.

We work with partner agencies, such as Cambridgeshire Constabulary, to respond to cases of Modern Slavery. For example, in 2019 we responded to a case where five vulnerable workers were living in unacceptable conditions on an agricultural nursery site in the district¹.

4. Ensuring that Supply Chains are Free From Modern Day Slavery

We take a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery within our supply chains. This is communicated at the outset of all business relationships and reinforced thereafter. Our approach to keeping our supply chains free from modern slavery includes:

- Providing procurement training to all staff involved in procurement processes, including awareness of modern slavery and actions to prevent this occurring.
- Ensuring contractors and suppliers have their own policies relating to modern slavery prevention and safeguarding (including training). We request that our suppliers ensure the same of their own supply chains.
- For key contractors and suppliers, we request that regular safeguarding and modern slavery reviews take place, with core findings reported to us.
- Following World Trade Organisation (WTO) tender processes, which require suppliers to confirm that they comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- Ensuring all contractors and suppliers adhere to our Modern Slavery Statement and other related policies.

¹ [Modern slavery operation finds five men at Cambridgeshire nursery - BBC News](#)

- Undertaking detailed review of supply chains in areas that are at higher risk of modern slavery and trafficking.
- Examining, as appropriate, suppliers' past records in respect of their treatment of staff and conduct in relation to modern day slavery and human trafficking.
- Investigating and taking appropriate action where supplier conduct is brought into question in relation to Modern Slavery.

Other Relevant Policies and Practices

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty commenced on 31st January 2023. The Duty places a statutory duty across a range of organisations (including but not limited to local government, youth offending teams, schools, local health boards, and police) to work together to reduce and prevent serious violence in the area.

Whistleblowing Policy

This policy provides guidance to allow our staff, contractors and Councillors to safely highlight concerns about any aspect of the Council's work, including safeguarding and modern slavery.

Equality Scheme

We update our equality scheme each year, setting out how we will promote equality of opportunity through our work. Actions identified in this document can help us to carry out our role in combatting modern slavery. For example, providing easy access to translation and interpretation services.

Pay Policy

We are committed to ensuring that our pay strategy is fair, affordable and easily understood. We use the National Joint Council (NJC) Job Evaluation Scheme to evaluate our staff salaries. This is based on joint ownership, openness, transparency and equality.

People and Organisational Development Strategy

This strategy outlines our approach to recruiting and developing staff in a fair and consistent way that supports equality of opportunity. Our recruitment processes include checks that interview attendees are eligible to work in the UK and request applicant references.

Agency Workers

We only use specified, reputable employment agencies to source labour and always verify the practices of new agencies.

Appendix A - Facts and Figures

National Referral Mechanism Referrals (NRM) from Cambridgeshire-based First Responder Organisations:

First responders work for [designated organisations](#) and help identify and support potential victims of modern slavery.

In 2024 Cambridgeshire made fewer referrals, than the remainder of the UK which saw a continued increase in referrals.

In 2024 82 referrals were made by Cambridgeshire-based first responder organisations.

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
90	55	79	92	82

Of these referrals 45 related to an adult (aged 18 or over)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
35	35	43	50	45

The remaining 37 referrals related to a Child (aged 17 or under)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
44	19	34	33	37

*During 2023 9 referrals were age unknown

Types of Exploitation:

During 2024 Cambridgeshire Constabulary made 63 referrals. This is a break down by type of exploitation.

	2023 (79)	2024 (63)
Criminal	47 (59.49%)	35 (55.55%)
Domestic		2 (3.17%)
Labour	8 (10.13%)	2 (3.17%)
Labour and Criminal	10 (12.66%)	10 (15.87%)
Labour and Domestic	1 (1.27%)	
Not Specified/Unknown	7 (8.86%)	6 (9.52%)
Sexual	3 (3.80%)	5 (7.94%)
Sexual and Criminal		1 (1.59%)
Sexual and Labour	3 (3.80%)	1 (1.59%)
Sexual, Labour and Criminal		1 (1.59%)

	2023 (79)	2024 (63)
Adult Female	17 (21.52%)	11 (17.46%)
Adult Male	32 (40.51%)	30 (47.62%)
Child Female	1 (1.27%)	4 (6.35%)
Child Male	20 (25.32%)	18 (28.57%)
Unspecified Male	9 (1.39%)	

National Referral Mechanism Referrals (NRM) that Cambridgeshire Constabulary are Responsible for Investigating:

159 Referrals were made in 2024 that Cambridgeshire Constabulary are responsible for investigating (including those from non-Cambridgeshire-based first responder organisations)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
124	108	133	184	159

104 related to an adult (18 and over)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
50	54	70	90	104

55 related to a child (17 or under)

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
59	52	54	81	55

Examples of cases of modern slavery in the news:

- [McDonald's and supermarkets failed to spot slavery - BBC News](#)
- [Suspected slaves found locked in Cambridgeshire building in drugs raid - BBC News](#)
- [Huntingdon dessert shop served with closure order due to child sexual exploitation concerns - msn.com](#)
- ['Despicable' modern slavers in Cambridgeshire forced their victim to give up her newborn baby - ITV News Anglia](#)
- [Peterborough car wash owner given slavery court order following concerns over welfare of staff - Cambridgeshire](#)
- [Modern slavery is on the up and experts warn anyone can fall victim - Metro News](#)

Appendix B - Glossary

County lines - a term used to describe drug gangs in large cities expanding their reach to small towns. More information is available on the [National Crime Agency website](#).

Human Trafficking - the coercion or deception of an individual into a situation where they are exploited. It involves three basic components: 1) the action of recruiting, transporting, transferring or receiving an individual; 2) the threat or use of coercion or deception; 3) exploitation or intent to exploit.

This exploitation can include sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and removal of organs.²

Slavery – ‘the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised’³

Servitude – ‘an obligation to provide a service that is imposed by the use coercion’⁴

Forced or Compulsory Labour relates to ‘all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered themselves voluntarily’⁵

² Modern slavery: statutory guidance for England and Wales (under S49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015)

³ The 1926 Slavery Convention

⁴ Modern slavery: statutory guidance for England and Wales (under S49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015)

⁵ Modern slavery: statutory guidance for England and Wales (under S49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015)