



**Prosperous Communities  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 10th September  
2019**

**Subject: Modern Slavery Statement**

Report by:	Executive Director for Economic and Commercial Growth
Contact Officer:	Rachel Parkin Home Choices Team Manager  rachel.parkin@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To implement a Modern Slavery statement across all working practices of the Authority.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Members of Prosperous Communities support the Modern Slavery Statement and recommend that it proceed to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for formal adoption across all operations of West Lindsey District Council.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Resources to make minor housekeeping amendments to the policy in future, in consultation with the Chairman of the Corporate Policy & Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee (JSCC).

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal: None**

**Financial : FIN/65/20**

No financial implications as a direct result of report.

**Staffing : None**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

**Data Protection Implications :**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

**Health Implications:**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

None.

**Risk Assessment :**

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**x**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

**x**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Modern slavery is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.
- 1.2 In March 2015 the Modern Slavery Act gained royal assent which enabled enforcement agencies to pursue allegations of modern slavery under one piece of legislation instead of several different complicated ones. It gave prominence to the offence and meant statutory guidance was issued in how to identify victims and the type of services to be offered to victims.
- 1.3 October 2019 will see the publication of the Serious Adult Review (SAR) into Modern Slavery across Lincolnshire. This will include the involvement of West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) during the criminal prosecutions related to Operation Pottery, which included offences relating to activities on the Drinsey Nook site within West Lindsey as well as further involvement of all agencies across the broader term of modern slavery across Lincolnshire.
- 1.4 As a result of this SAR a list of recommendations will be published to ensure future learning is taken on board within agencies who may come into contact with modern slavery. Part of the recommendations will be a modern slavery charter which is in a draft version at Appendix 2. The modern slavery statement will form part of this charter and ensure that West Lindsey District Council is committed to identifying and working with partners to prevent and stop practices of modern slavery.

## **2. Current practice and monitoring**

- 2.1 All appropriate members of staff have either undertaken or are planning to undertake training on spotting signs of modern slavery.
- 2.2 The statement ensures that all services operated, and all policies initiated by the Authority have reference to understanding any potential risks to the Authority in regards to practices of “modern slavery”. It ensures that there is a formal commitment by West Lindsey District Council to acknowledge the crime and impact of modern slavery within the District, whilst ensuring that the Authority does not unwittingly support or further any acts of modern slavery by employing persons or companies who commit such acts.
- 2.3 It outlines who has responsibility for updating the statement and ensures the Authority adheres to any changes in legislation or emerging risks.
- 2.4 The statement allows the Authority to have a set procedure in terms of governance and outlines the key areas where there is a need to be aware of risks.

### **3. Future actions**

- 3.1 To ensure the statement is embedded across all new and existing Authority practices including the Sure Staff Recruitment Agency.
- 3.2 To ensure the statement is kept up to date and is relevant. This will be the responsibility of the Safeguarding Coordinator.

### **Appendix 1**

Modern Slavery Statement

### **Appendix 2**

Draft Modern Slavery Charter