



PRACTITIONERS GUIDE



What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is a form of organised crime in which individuals including children, young people and vulnerable adults are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. Traffickers and slave drivers trick, force and/or persuade vulnerable adults to leave their homes. Grooming methods are used to gain the trust of a vulnerable adult, e.g. the promise of a better life, which results in a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Modern slavery is identified as abuse which requires a safeguarding response. It is an abuse of human rights.

Vulnerable adults are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. Vulnerable Adults may be exploited by parents, carers or family members, and often will not realise that family members are involved in the exploitation.

The Challenge

Vulnerable adults who are trafficked outside of the UK may be linked to the immigration system. Practitioners should be aware of the risk of harm if their immigration status cannot be confirmed. To avoid a potential trafficking/modern slavery situation being misconstrued as an 'immigration matter', it is important that plans for the victims long term safety are linked to their immigration status and any potential modern slavery investigation.

Modern slavery is often hidden in nature, and goes unnoticed in our communities, with under-reporting a major concern. Practitioners have the challenge of reaching out to a vulnerable and an 'invisible' set of people. As well as assessing the significant harm to the victim, there will need to be consideration for other areas such as Police, working with UK Visas and Immigration, foreign authorities and the National Crime Agency.

The types of Modern Slavery?

The term Modern Slavery captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to:

Sexual exploitation – This includes but is not limited to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, forced prostitution and the abuse of Vulnerable Adults for the production of pornographic material.

Domestic servitude – This involves a victim being forced to work in predominantly private households, usually performing domestic chores and childcare duties. Their freedom may be restricted and they may work long hours often for little or no pay, often sleeping where they work.

Forced labour – Victims may be forced to work long hours for little or no pay in poor conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. It can happen in various industries, including construction, manufacturing, laying driveways, hospitality, food packaging, agriculture, maritime and beauty (nail bars).

Criminal exploitation – This can be understood as the exploitation of a person to commit a crime, such as pick-pocketing, shop-lifting, cannabis cultivation, drug trafficking and other similar activities that are subject to penalties and imply financial gain for the trafficker.

Other forms of exploitation – Organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

What should I do?

If you are concerned a person is a victim of Modern Slavery a referral should be made to Safeguarding Adults Services and Northamptonshire Police immediately.

In addition, as of November 2015, some agencies have a duty to notify the Home Office of any potential Modern Slavery via the National Referral Mechanism further information can be found [here](#).