

SUBJECT:	SAFER LINCOLNSHIRE PARTNERSHIP CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
DIRECTORATE:	HOUSING AND INVESTMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	PAULA BURTON – SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the councils roles and responsibilities relating to Modern Slavery.
- 1.2 To update the committee of the request that we adopt the Modern Slavery Charter proposed by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report sets out the council's commitment to recognising and reducing risk around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking within Lincolnshire and the proposal to adopt the Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

3. Modern Slavery

- 3.1 Modern Slavery is a broad term that can include:
 - Forced labour – any work or services, which people are, forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment.
 - Debt bondage or bonded labour – the world's most widespread form of slavery, when people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.
 - Human trafficking– involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
 - Descent-based slavery – where people are born into slavery because their ancestors were captured and enslaved; they remain in slavery by descent.
 - Child slavery – many people often confuse child slavery with child labour, but it is much worse. Whilst child labour is harmful for children and hinders their education and development, child slavery occurs when a child is exploited for someone else's gain. It can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.

- Forced and early marriage – when someone is married against their will and cannot leave the marriage. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.

3.2 City of Lincoln Councils role in preventing Modern Slavery;

- Ensuring staff have a clear understanding of Modern Slavery and know how to recognise and report signs.
- Ensuring all staff are complying with the Council's training requirements.
- Communicating and promoting materials highlighting Modern Slavery as an issue within Lincolnshire.
- Ensuring our policies and procedures are in line with the Modern Slavery Charter and current guidance.

4. The Charter

4.1 The Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (Appendix A) is asking that all partners within the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership commit to having adequately trained staff and procedures in place to ensure that they commit to tackling the issues of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and also contribute to the wider collective effort to protect communities across Lincolnshire.

4.2 The Charter contains 7 commitments for partners. Officers have reviewed these and the commitments are currently being achieved or they are able to be achieved within existing resources. Appendix B gives reassurance under each commitment of how the commitment is being or will be met.

4.3 The Charter will be formally launched by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership in January 2021.

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Professional, High Performing Service Delivery

This underpins our ability to achieve our strategic priorities.

5.2 Let's Reduce inequality

This Charter will demonstrate that the Council commits to working with other partners across Lincolnshire to provide safer communities for people to live in and work in.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications as a result of this report

6.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report

6.3 Equality & Diversity implications

The potential for any Equality and Diversity issues to arise has been considered and it is concluded that no issues relating to this, nor the Human Rights Act 1988 are relevant.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That the Executive consider formally adopting the Charter.

How many appendices does the report contain? 2

List of Background Papers: Appendix A – Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

Lead Officer: Paula Burton – Safeguarding Officer