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Modern Day Slavery - Your Duty to Identify and Protect Victims

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Working regularly with majority of councils across London to set up best practice

i.e. set up slavery task and finish groups to create training programmes, awareness raising days, create formal pathways and protocols, review slavery cases, set up best practice supply chains within councils, create support for victims pre and post NRM etc.

Creation of a best practice pathway and protocol for frontline staff in local authorities

Creation of the statutory Slavery Champions/Single Point of Contact (SPoCs) directory

A pan-London anti-trafficking network – The London Working Group (LWG)

Has over hundred members including NGOs, lawyers, diaspora groups and pan-London statutory organisations such as Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, NHS England, Home Office, UKVI, IASC, Gangmasters Labour and Abuse authority etc.

Creation of the only targeted local authorities slavery newsletter

A new Modern Slavery leads Council group

PROTOCOL FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

<https://www.humantraffickingfoundation.org/modern-slavery-protocol>

Together with the London Working Group, the Foundation has produced several resources to help Local Authorities improve their response to human trafficking and modern slavery, in particular the identification and support offered to adult survivors. The protocol includes:

- * - [Definitions and Indicators](#): how to identify a victim of human trafficking or modern slavery
- * - [Statutory Duties and Powers](#): The NRM and a Local Authority's statutory duties to identify and support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery
- * - [Referral Pathway for adult victims](#) and [NRM Process Guide](#)

NRM and Modern Slavery Act – useful toolbox

- * The creation of a new statutory defence for slavery or trafficking victims compelled to commit criminal offences
- * The provision of child trafficking advocates
- * The introduction of two new civil orders to enable the courts to place restrictions on those convicted of modern slavery offences, or those involved in such offences but not yet convicted
- * The provision of mechanisms for seizing traffickers' assets and channelling some of that money towards victims for compensation payments
- * Legal aid access
- * Life sentences for traffickers
- * Support/housing under the NRM as an adult

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Approach

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Communication – explaining what is happening, that they are safe, monitor own language, manage expectation, give timescales and work at their pace

Assessment and Planning- Multiagency risk assessment and safety planning. Review assessment as risks etc. will change

Approach - Agency– give them choices, relationship building, what you can offer, give tools for future risk, and education around exploitation, Trauma informed/contextual; Prioritise vulnerability over criminality

Safe and appropriate accommodation and environment – Consider statutory duties re housing. Trained foster carers, Create support network and new circles

Risk - Understand risk and triggers; Balancing risks and rights (avoid repeating traffickers behavior, timecales, technology)

Intel gathering Make sure you are sharing information with stakeholders and gathering info:
- who, what, where, when and how

Missing episodes - treat missing as high risk, return interview, risk assessment, info sharing Strategy meeting,

Lack of support when exiting Government safe houses :

After adult victims of trafficking finish receiving the Government provided statutory “45 days” of care, there is very little or often nothing in place in local authorities to provide any specialist support for victims of trafficking, even when they have recourse to public funds, and so many get lost in a tragic and repetitive cycle of exploitation.

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R (AK) v Bristol City Council³

CO/1574/2015

- * The claimant was a victim of trafficking. As a non-working EEA national awaiting a leave to remain decision, she was not eligible for housing or welfare support and could provide for her most basic needs only by engaging in prostitution.
- * She claimed that her situation was inhuman, degrading and contrary to the UK's duties under Directive 2011/36/ EU (Anti-Trafficking Directive) art 11 and Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings art 12, as well as ECHR art 3 or art 4.
- * She applied to the council for accommodation. They refused to provide her with accommodation or with subsistence level financial support.
- * In April 2015, on a claim for judicial review, she was granted an interim injunction requiring the council to pay her £50 a week and accommodate her pending trial. On the eve of that trial, the council accepted that, until the claimant could find her own accommodation, it was responsible for providing her with support and assistance.

What next?

- * **Setting up a task and finish group on slavery with representatives from children's and adults services and safeguarding teams, housing, licensing, custody, health etc.**
- * **Map what is taking place in your borough**
- * **Develop a local referral pathway and protocol for staff working with potentially trafficked young people**
- * **Ensure all frontline staff are trained so they know all the indicators of human trafficking, know best practice and have a trauma-informed approach understanding survivors' rights and entitlements and how to fill in the NRM form**
- * **Create Champions/Single points of contact**
- * **Is there a way to record this crime in your systems?**
- * **Is this crime flagged up in your MASH and MARAC systems?**
- * **Have you created a multiagency response as part of your pathway?**
- * **Need to map local specialist services available to potential victims**

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