

Response to Buckinghamshire Select Committee Inquiry

Select Committee Inquiry Title: What steps should the Council take to ensure it fully meets the responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act?

Inquiry Chairman: Steven Lambert

Date report submitted for response:

Lead BCC Cabinet Member (where response required from BCC Cabinet) and Lead Officer: Noel Brown and Cath Marriott

Select Committee Support Officer / Advisor (Extension): Kama Wager (2615)

Suggested frequency of future updates (e.g. 6 & 12 months): 6 and 12 months.

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Responsible Officer	Action by date
1. That the Council prepares a statement on anti-slavery and human trafficking which should be published on the Council's website and reviewed annually.	Yes	<p>The Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board is the body that is responsible for oversight and development of responses to modern slavery across the partnership.</p> <p>A statement will be drafted for the County Council and following Cabinet Member approval will be published on the Council website</p> <p>While this is not a statutory duty for BCC, it would be best practice to do so. LGA guidance (published in Dec 2017) recommends that council's demonstrate their commitment to tackle Modern Slavery in this way. Other Councils have already done so, and more will follow.</p>	Cllr Noel Brown	Faye Blunstone	April 2018
2. That Business Unit Plans should explicitly identify any potential risk of slavery and human trafficking and the steps that will be taken to manage that risk.	Partially	<p>The business plan template for CHASC and Children's services will be changed for 2018/19. A section on safeguarding will be amended to specifically include reference to human trafficking and the steps to manage that risk.</p> <p>Background for Cabinet: This is a mechanism by which BCC is responding to its duty under the Crime & Disorder Act to do all it can to tackle crime in its decision making (Section 17, CDA).</p>	Cllr Lin Hazell	Claire Hawkes	October 2018
3. That the Council should develop a training strategy for modern	Partially	The Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board in conjunction with the Safeguarding Boards will be asked	Cllr Noel Brown	Faye Blunstone	October 2018

<p>slavery and roll out training across the organisation. The strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify who should be trained, for whom training should be mandatory and what the training needs are (e.g. first responder, frontline staff) • Prioritise training for frontline staff in safeguarding teams and first responders. • Identify the best approach to training (e.g. face to face, online, e-learning, awareness campaigns). • Identify other key stakeholders/partners who should receive the training (the Committee's further inquiry work may inform this). 		<p>to lead on the development of a training plan with engagement from partners across the wider system.</p> <p>The plan will identify first priority training (including First Response, the Swan Unit and social workers in both children and adults services).</p> <p>Aspiration will be to complete all first priority training face to face and enable e-learning as a mechanism for reaching other frontline staff and decision makers.</p> <p>Bucks Adults Safeguarding Board has drafted an e-learning package which will be available to BCC staff and partners.</p> <p>Training to partners will include district front line staff (e.g. housing, environmental health, licensing etc), NHS staff, police and other enforcement bodies, and relevant voluntary groups (e.g. Street Angels, homelessness services, foodbanks, faith groups)</p> <p>By the end of April 2018, over 600 people will have received face to face training, with staff ranging from local authority, NHS, voluntary groups, housing authorities and outreach / support agencies)</p>			
<p>4. That an internal awareness raising campaign for all Members and Council staff be initiated imminently, using resources available to local authorities on the government website.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Community Safety remained engaged with Thames Valley Police and other regional and national Modern Slavery networks to ensure that the same messages are being utilised locally and regionally.</p> <p>The Community Safety Team will work with the Communications Team to develop an internal campaign that will utilise the existing regional and national campaigns and materials.</p> <p>With reference to Recommendation 5 (below), the BCC web pages will contain relevant guidance and documents to support staff with their role in Modern Slavery and Exploitation.</p>	<p>Cllr Noel Brown</p>	<p>Faye Blunstone</p>	<p>July 2018</p>

<p>5. That the Council should introduce a clear process and guidance for completing the national referral mechanism form and notification of potential victims of modern slavery form MS1. This guidance and links to the referral forms should be accessible on the Council's website.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Council will work with Thames Valley Police and Rahab (Victim service) to ensure the process is clear for all agencies involved. The training strategy will include specific training on how to refer and complete the relevant documents.</p> <p>As per Recommendation 4 (above) all relevant information will be available on BCC web pages.</p> <p>Background for Cabinet: This is a mechanism by which BCC is responding to its duty as a First Responder under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.</p>	<p>Cllr Noel Brown</p>	<p>Faye Blunstone</p>	<p>June 2018</p>
<p>6. We recommend that the Council should agree an appropriate approach to designated single points of contact for modern slavery and first responders across the whole of the Council. First responders should receive mandatory training on their role and the process for completing the NRM referral process.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Priority for this will sit with Safeguarding Adults and Children teams.</p> <p>First responders will come through First Response for all children (under 18). First Response staff will all be designated Single Points Of Contact.</p> <p>Adults designated SPOCs will be primarily those in the MASH.</p> <p>Background for Cabinet: This is a mechanism by which BCC is responding to its duty as a First Responder under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.</p>	<p>Cllr Lin Hazell</p>	<p>Julie Puddephatt & Head of First Response</p>	<p>June 2018</p>
<p>7. We recommend that an agreed data collection process should be introduced to record internally, the referrals made to and by the Council. Dedicated lead officers/first responders should be responsible for collecting this data, which should be collated centrally by adults safeguarding.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Modern Slavery is now a drop down option on AIS (adults database) so reporting which will mean data collection is now possible and monitored.</p> <p>Whilst Modern Slavery is not an option on LCS (children's database) there will be a review of the system's capacity to include this report. Processes will need to be in place that guard against 'double counting' i.e. AIS to be used for referrals 18 years and over and for LCS to be used for referrals under 18 years.</p>	<p>Cllr Lin Hazell</p>	<p>Julie Puddephatt & Head of First Response</p>	<p>October 2018</p>

<p>8. We recommend that the pilot Victim Support service should be evaluated at 6 and 12 months and a report presented to the TEC Select Committee on the progress and outcomes of the pilot service as part of the recommendation monitoring.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Community Safety Team will work with the PCC and Rahab to review the learning that comes from the pilot service. This will be done at 6 and 12 months and a highlight report produced for review.</p> <p>That learning will aim to inform partners about prevalence in Buckinghamshire and help to identify risk, demand and level of service required going forward. Any recommendations will need to be deliverable within existing resources.</p>	<p>Cllr Noel Brown</p>	<p>Faye Blunstone</p>	<p>October 2018</p>
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