

**Modern Slavery Draft Scope**

<p><b>Title:</b></p> <p><b>Modern Slavery In Bucks</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the County Council taking all the steps it can to ensure it is fully compliant with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015?</li> <li>2. How can the Council and Key Partners/Stakeholders establish a more accurate picture of the extent of Modern Slavery in Bucks?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Author</b></p>	<p>Kama Wager Committee and Governance Adviser</p>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p>17/10/17 - To be formally agreed by the Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> October.</p>
<p><b>Inquiry Group Membership (To be confirmed on 31st October)</b></p>	<p>Inquiry Chairman – Mr S Lambert          Membership: Mr D Carroll (Committee Chairman), Mrs A Macpherson, Mr P Martin, Mrs L Clarke, Mr S Bowles</p>
<p><b>Why look at the issue?</b></p>	<p>Modern Slavery has increasingly become recognised as a significant issue at a national level with the UK being one of the most reported nationalities for victims. Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, local authorities have a key role to play, alongside other partners, to address Modern Slavery, and identify and support victims of this crime.</p> <p>The Committee held an Inquiry fact finding session at its meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> September to build their understanding around the work that is currently taking place in Buckinghamshire; to identify the key issues and challenges; and consider areas for improvement, with a view to help define the scope of further inquiry work.</p> <p><b>At the meeting the following areas were covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The definition of Modern Slavery (BCC Community Safety)</li> <li>• The Council’s duties under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (BCC Community Safety).</li> <li>• The Council’s current approach to addressing Modern Slavery - the Adult Exploitation Strategy and steps it has taken to meet its responsibilities.</li> <li>• Current data available and issues with understanding prevalence (Community Safety, Thames Valley Police and Reading victim support service - Rahab).</li> <li>• Recent Police Activity (TVP) – Operations targeting Modern Slavery.</li> <li>• The partnership approach, through the Anti – Exploitation Network (TVP/Network coordinator).</li> <li>• The importance of effective victim services – best practice pilot victim services supported through Police and Crime Commissioner (Reading’s Victim Service RAHAB).</li> </ul>

	<p><b>The key issues highlighted within this session were:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current lack of a dedicated victim service in Buckinghamshire (awaiting the outcome of a bid for a dedicated victim service).</li> <li>• The lack of understanding around the true extent/prevalence of Modern Slavery in Buckinghamshire.</li> <li>• A lack of widespread awareness of the issue both internally across the organisation, and amongst the public and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>All the above issues are intrinsically linked. Training and awareness are needed to help improve identification of potential victims, which will help build a truer picture of prevalence and also potentially increase demand for victim support services. It will also demonstrate the need/potential demand for services.</p>
<p><b>Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?</b></p>	<p>Yes within its remit as the dedicated Crime and Disorder Committee and Communities portfolio.</p>
<p><b>Possible Outcomes (To be discussed at committee and developed/confirmed further).</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council is fully compliant with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015?</li> <li>• There is a shared understanding about potential victim numbers to inform the level of, and demand for, victim services and future funding bids.</li> <li>• There are agreed methods/approaches (e.g. develop surveys) for the ongoing collection and sharing of information and data across all key stakeholders on potential victims across Buckinghamshire (building an understanding of prevalence).</li> <li>• The Adult Exploitation Strategy and Action plan (includes Modern Slavery), is capable of being updated with this Committee's findings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Further Evidence required/Key lines of Inquiry</b></p> <p><b>Key Line of Inquiry 1</b></p>	<p>The following key lines of inquiry arose out of the Committee item on the 12<sup>th</sup> September which highlighted key issues to focus on within this inquiry. The key questions Members want to answer and the lines of inquiry to do so are:</p> <p><b><u>What steps should the County Council take to ensure it fully complies with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015?</u></b></p> <p><b>Governance, Strategies and Plans:</b> To assess how effectively the Council is complying with its duty and responsibilities under the Act and how dedicated the Council is to addressing this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is Modern Slavery addressed within the Council's Adult Exploitation Strategy and does the action plan exploit all key opportunities to address the crime, identify and support victims and raise awareness and training.</li> <li>• Is the membership of the Anti-Exploitation/Slavery network representative all the key organisations who have a role to play in identifying and supporting victims?</li> <li>• What are the governance and strategic ownership arrangements,</li> </ul>

who is responsible and accountable?

- Is Modern Slavery addressed within service plans of key service areas - identifying the possible risks within their area of work/clients and how these will be addressed?
- What is the role of Safeguarding Boards in relation to Modern Slavery (children and adults)? What is the process and criteria for support/intervention and what happens to those who do not meet the criteria?
- How do the Safeguarding Boards, the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board and the Anti Exploitation Network coordinate activity and responsibility in relation to Modern Slavery?
- What is the best practice across other Councils and Partners for Modern Slavery Statements within the procurement contracts (s54 of the act requires us to do this).

**Training and awareness:** To assess the Council's level of understanding of Modern Slavery and how to identify and report/notify victims in order to identify opportunities for improvement which may help to build a truer picture of the extent of Modern Slavery within Buckinghamshire.

- What is the level of understanding and awareness across the organisation of Modern Slavery; the responsibilities of the Council and its staff, how to identify victims, and how to report/notify through the National Referral Mechanism (as first responders)?
- What is the level of understanding of Modern Slavery across other organisations within Bucks who come into contact with vulnerable people?
- Is there a clear strategy/approach for the training of BCC staff and partners/stakeholders?
- Who has been trained so far? How many people within BCC, what service areas, what partner/stakeholders?
- How/where can staff and the public find information on Modern Slavery, how to identify victims, report/refer and support available?
- What can we learn from other areas as to who should be trained, to help identify victims and offenders?
- Is the Council engaging with local communities to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of any suspicious activity?

#### **Data Recording**

- Does the Council have a recording process for referrals made and those who do not consent to the NRM process to build a picture across the Council of the number of potential victims?
- How is the Council encouraging the sharing of information between partners to identify victims and support victims of Modern Slavery?

#### **How can the Council and key partners/stakeholders establish a more accurate picture of the extent of Modern Slavery in Bucks?**

**Prevalence and data collection:** To identify opportunities to better understand the true extent of Modern Slavery in Bucks to help inform the level of victim service required/future demand.

- What are the challenges with data collection and the discrepancies between official data (police/ NRM data) and data/information available from other services/stakeholders? (Case studies from

**Key Line of Inquiry  
Two**

	<p>victims services).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the recording and data collection processes of partners for potential victims who do not consent to the NRM?</li> <li>• What approaches/methods could be used to develop and build an understanding of prevalence in Bucks?</li> <li>• Who are the key organisations, partners and stakeholders who may come into contact with potential victims and/or have information on potential victims?</li> <li>• What is the level of understanding of Modern Slavery across other organisations within Bucks who come into contact with vulnerable people?</li> </ul> <p><b>Victim Support Services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the outcomes for victims? What are the key issues, challenges and opportunities – victim perspective?</li> <li>• What was the outcome of the Police Innovation Fund bid?</li> <li>• What level of service will be offered?</li> <li>• How sustainable is the service?</li> <li>• How can victims access support services and where can they find information about services?</li> <li>• What are the risks, challenges of not meeting demand and opportunities of expanding the service to meet demand if it grows?</li> <li>• Best practice – What should the service offer? Is it adequate, how does it compare to neighbouring authorities?</li> </ul> <p><b>Best Practice:</b> To identify best practice that will help ensure that Buckinghamshire effectively fulfil its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act, and identifies and supports victims of this crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What approaches are used in other local authorities and Modern Slavery Partnerships, who do they involve and how do they address the issues?</li> <li>• How do others identify victims of Modern Slavery – and/or understand the true extent of the issue?</li> <li>• How do other organisations/areas identify and support victims?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Out of Scope (To be discussed and developed)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of the inquiry will be on; the responsibilities of the Council as first responders and duty to notify; training and awareness; and understanding prevalence of Modern Slavery in Buckinghamshire to inform the need/demand for victim support services.</li> <li>• We will not be focussing on the broader issues of targeting and bringing to justice offenders (the Police and PCC are responsible for and doing lots of work on this area).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Is the topic of relevance to the work of BCC?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes – Modern Slavery Act 2015: Section 52 of the Act places a duty upon public authorities to notify the Secretary of State should they have suspicions that an individual may be a victim of human trafficking or Modern Slavery. The Council should refer victims through the NRM as a ‘first responder’ agency.</li> <li>• It is a key priority area in the Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Plan – ratified by Cabinet.</li> <li>• Council Strategic Priority to “Safeguard Our Vulnerable”</li> </ul>
<p><b>Potential Key Stakeholders &amp; Witnesses (To be developed as</b></p>	<p><b>BCC:</b> Cabinet Member for Communities Community Safety Team leading Modern Slavery Strategy. Carol Douch – BCC children’s safeguarding - transitions and joint working</p>

<b>planning progresses)</b>	<p>across Services          Julie Puddefoot – Adult Safeguarding          Procurement/Contracts/Legal (Modern Slavery statement)          Managing Directors of each Business Unit (BU plans – addressing Modern Slavery?)</p> <p><b>Police/Partnerships:</b>          Police – Vicky Butler, April McCoig ( Modern Slavery Leads)          Shona Morrison representing the PCC for Thames Valley          Housing and Housing Associations          Drug and Action Alcohol Teams          Environmental Health          Trading Standards          Homelessness Groups</p> <p><b>Modern Slavery Support/Victim Services/Perspectives</b>          Nicola Bell and Tamsin Jewell from Pilot Victim services in Reading and Oxford.          Hope for Justice (Charity organisation) – providing training on Modern Slavery.          Salvation Army          Bristol Modern Slavery Partnership          Food Banks          Church Groups</p> <p><b>Expert Witness/s</b> on key issues around Modern slavery and identifying best practices, recommendations for improvement. – Ways to understand prevalence.          Academic Experts          Devon and Cornwall strategic leads – Best practice.          Evidence from Parliamentary Inquiry on Modern Slavery.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbal evidence sessions with key stakeholders identified above (internal officers and stakeholder round table discussion?)</li> <li>• Visits to organisations/stakeholders.</li> <li>• Survey of staff – awareness</li> <li>• Public survey – awareness</li> <li>• Survey to stakeholders – to identify possible victim numbers?</li> <li>• Call for evidence? Public – service providers? Set questions?</li> <li>• Victim interviews/case studies.</li> <li>• Press releases.</li> </ul>

### Suggested Outline Inquiry Project Plan (Draft)

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry proposal Agreed by Select Committee	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Evidence-gathering Stage one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary evidence gathering/planning</li> <li>• Developing Ambition/Focus of inquiry – where it can make a difference, have impact.</li> </ul>	September
Evidence Gathering stage two	Developing detailed scope	October
	Evidence gathering – review carried out	November- Jan
Stage 1 Key line of Inquiry 1 – Council duty.	TBC Stage 1 report to Cabinet to report Council specific recommendations on compliance with its responsibilities.	Dec

Reporting Stage 2 (TBC)	Wash up session – Key findings	Jan
	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed (signed-off by SC Chairman)	Feb/March
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	March
	Cabinet/Partner considers recommendations	April

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