

Healthwatch North Tyneside policies and procedures

Statement on modern slavery and human trafficking

April 2024

1. Introduction

This statement sets out Healthwatch North Tyneside's (HWNT) response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

It records HWNT's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our business and the measures taken to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own business and supply chains.

HWNT is a registered charity and champions the experiences, views and needs of local people in order to positively affect health and social care services in North Tyneside. Everything we say and do is informed by our connections to local people. Our focus is to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people of all ages who use services and to speak out on their behalf. Our role is to ensure that local decision makers and health and care services put the experiences of people at the heart of their agenda.

2. Organisational structure and supply chains

HWNT operates throughout North Tyneside. Our national umbrella organisation is Healthwatch England. HWNT is commissioned by North Tyneside Council and is subject to monitoring inspections and complies with good policy and practice.

Our supply chains include the recruitment of employees and the purchase of goods and services.

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business.

We undertake recruitment checks for each candidate that we are looking to employ, or deal with through third party agency suppliers, and remain alert for signs of potential trafficking.

We ensure that:

- Each person has a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check from the UK.
- The candidate has the Right to Work in the UK, and that the documents provided to us are legitimate. This includes documents with proof of address. They must also have a bank account in their own name to be paid.
- Two references are obtained.

HWNT has a Whistleblower (Public Interest Disclosure) Policy, and should any evidence of slavery or human trafficking become apparent to us, we will do all in our power, following our policy, to protect whistleblowers and to protect those who may find themselves victims of slavery or human trafficking. If HWNT uses an organisation which is identified as engaging in modern slavery or human trafficking, we will immediately suspend our use of that organisation and provide relevant details to the relevant authorities.

All staff and volunteers receive Safeguarding training and are aware of modern slavery and human trafficking. Should a member of the Healthwatch team have any concerns about a member of the public, these will be taken through our safeguarding approach. More guidance on recognising and responding to modern slavery and trafficking can be found at [Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

3. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every three years unless the Board deems an earlier update necessary.

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Document category		Policy introduced	December 2016
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