

Briefing: Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking

Modern slavery is a serious and brutal crime in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced provisions extending existing support and protection for victims of human trafficking to victims of slavery, servitude and forced and compulsory labour.

Since November 2015, specified statutory authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have a **statutory 'Duty to Notify'** the Secretary of State of any individual encountered in Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

This duty can be discharged by completing a **National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** form, which is a victim identification and support process. Only designated First Responders can refer cases to the NRM.

First Responders are the specified statutory authorities and NGOs who have a responsibility to identify potential victims and refer these cases to the NRM. In Gwent the key organisations are:

- Local Authority
- Police
- BAWSO
- Barnardo's
- New Pathways
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority
- Salvation Army

Training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for frontline staff is available via:

South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board

- Specialist module under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence National Training Framework

Workforce Development Teams

Policy Guidance: The **All Wales Child Protection Procedures** are currently under review. Two supplementary Guidance relating to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are being developed and will be released in due course:

- Procedures for children at risk of Human Trafficking
- Procedures for children at risk of Criminal Exploitation

The All Wales **Modern Slavery Policy Briefing** is available in the web link below and contains hyperlinks to key reference documents; and includes the agreed Wales Victim Response Pathway.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Modern%20Slavery%20Policy%20Briefing%20March%202018%20-%20English.pdf>

Please find below the links to the Safeguarding Board websites for children and adults:

<http://www.sewsc.org.uk>

<http://www.gwasb.org.uk>