

## **Modern Slavery Statement**

CARESCO is committed to treating all people with dignity and respect, and to ensuring the organisations we work with meet our ethical standards. Slavery and human trafficking are fundamentally opposed to our values and we are committed to ensuring that our organisation and those we work with are free of modern slavery and human trafficking. As such, we recognise and take seriously our responsibility to comply with all principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

## **What is Modern Slavery?**

Modern slavery is an umbrella term which encompasses human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour. Simply put, modern slavery describes a situation where someone is made to do something, and another person gains from this.

Modern slavery is not new or a phenomenon that can be removed from our everyday lives. Modern slavery and exploitation are happening here, in our neighbourhoods and communities. Exploiters use deception or coercion to control people, including threats to lives, debt bondage or abuse of power and vulnerability.

Exploitation can include:

- Forced labour – being made to work for little or no money
- Sexual exploitation – coerced or forced into selling sex
- Domestic servitude – forced to work within a home environment for little or no pay
- Criminal exploitation – forced to break the law for someone else, such as begging or selling drugs
- Forced / sham marriage – forced to marry someone without consent
- Organ harvesting – organ removal for financial gain

## **Who is affected?**

Modern slavery can happen anywhere in any situation and can affect anybody regardless of age, gender or ethnicity. Children are particularly vulnerable to modern slavery; if a child is exploited through modern slavery, it is child abuse.

Modern slavery is often hidden in plain sight. Those impacted may be unable to escape for many reasons, for example, fear for their lives or the lives of their family. It can be confusing for victims to know where to seek help or who they can trust.

## **Signs of Slavery**

There are several common signs to look out for; someone who is experiencing modern slavery may:

- be forced or coerced to carry out specific activities
- have their movements or interactions controlled by someone else
- seem to be in debt bondage, being paid very little or nothing, or having money deducted from their salary
- have little or no contact with family or loved ones

- be distrustful or worried about interaction with authorities
- show signs of physical or psychological abuse or have untreated medical conditions
- have threats made against themselves, family members or loved ones
- not have their own legal documents
- live in poor accommodation and/or have little or no personal possessions

However, each case is different, and may not fit the stereotype of groups of people being forced to work in fields or on fishing boats. Therefore, the signs of forced labour, and criminal or sexual exploitation can be very different. Victims might look helpless and afraid, but they can also seem to accept their situation, be completely unaware of it, or even defend the people who are exploiting them.

***Our Response***

CARESCO will support local councils, partner agencies, community groups, and residents to pass on information and offer support so that individuals who seek help do not fall through the gaps. At times, a survivor of modern slavery will encounter dozens of different agencies. As with safeguarding in general, each agency may hold a piece of the puzzle, and by responding appropriately and working together, we can ensure that the right help is offered at all times.

***How to Report any Suspicions***

If you think modern slavery is happening, tell someone as soon as you think it is safe to. This could be about a victim, a suspect, or a particular business or place. You will always be taken seriously, and protection and support are available.

- Report incidents of concern by calling 999 in an emergency or 101 in a non-emergency.
- Seek 24-hour advice from the [Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline](#) on 08000 121 700.
- You can report information regarding modern slavery to Cambridgeshire Police via their website: [www.cambs.police.uk](http://www.cambs.police.uk)
- If you want to remain anonymous you can contact [Crimestoppers](#) on [0800 555 111](tel:0800555111).

***Approved by the CARESCO Trustees on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023***

to be reviewed every three years

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

Date .....