

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 19 July 2022 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

S. Young

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Victoria Begg	Labour
Councillor Laura Bevan	Labour
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Angela McInerney	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Andrea Wall	Labour

Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 511 8059 or e-mail gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 13 September 2022

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

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Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 November 2021
at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors V. Hill (Vice-Chair), Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Carlin, Loftus,
A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh and Baker

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: K. Bendon – National Probation Service

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

SAF13 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice-Chair requested Members to forward topic ideas which they would like to be included for discussion as part of the Board's agenda for next year to either herself or the Lead Officer.

SAF14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF16 PROBATION SERVICE INTEGRATED OFFENDER
MANAGEMENT SCHEME NATIONAL REFRESH

The Board received a presentation from Kerri Bendon, from the National Probation Service, who provided the Board with a presentation on the current arrangements within the Service following a refresh of the Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOM). IOM was introduced in 2009 to bring a cross-agency response to crime and

Action

reoffending threats faced by local communities. The aim was for the most prolific and problematic offenders to be prioritised and jointly managed by the police, probation and other partner agencies.

In February 2020, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) joint inspection found that IOM had 'lost its way'. The report highlighted the potential benefits of greater leadership from the centre, including improving clarity around the cohort focus for IOM and the nature of the work that should be involved. To address this, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Home Office (HO) had undertaken work to review current IOM practice, engaging with operational practitioners and reviewing the evidence base.

From June 2021, probation reform and the creation of Regional Probation Directors would facilitate new ways for the police and probation to work together in this space.

The Board was advised on the current arrangements in Halton to support the National Probation IOM scheme and the activity taking place on a PAN-Cheshire footprint.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the information presented.

SAF17 PROBATION SERVICE NORTH WEST UNPAID WORK SCHEME

The Board received a presentation from Kerri Bendon, from the National Probation Service (NPS), who provided the Board with a presentation on the current arrangements in relation to the unpaid work scheme, known as the 'Community Payback Scheme'. The presentation outlined to Members:

- The different strands of activity across Halton and Cheshire, highlighting how the partnership was meeting its responsibilities;
- An overview of the community payback scheme and the core principles which included: credible punishment, visible to the public, rehabilitation, public involvement (community nominations for projects), it should not replace paid employment; and the safety of staff, public and service user was paramount; and
- The type of community payback work undertaken in Cheshire.

Arising from the discussion around nominations for areas where community payback work could take place, it was agreed that any suggestions should be forwarded to Mike Andrews and he would feedback to the NPS.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation be noted.

SAF18 THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - NATIONAL PREVENTION PROGRAMME

This report was deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 19 July 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or

- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.
- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chair will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	19 July 2022
REPORTING OFFICER:	Operational Director – Community and Environment
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
WARDS:	All

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board in relation to the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That members of the Board consider and comment on any aspect of this report.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Whole Family Response to Domestic Abuse support and service provision.

Executive Board met on the 16th June 2022, a report outlining an overview of a revised approach to delivering specialist domestic abuse support and services in Halton that align with our local whole picture approach received support.

The Board agreed:

- i) To take forward the proposal to ensure a full service offer for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse that is more fit for purpose and will deliver a saving of £39,605 over a two year period.
- ii) To approve the commencement of a procurement exercise for two separate commissions firstly, the Halton Domestic Abuse Specialist Accommodation Service and secondly, a separate Specialist Children and Young Peoples Domestic Abuse Service.
- iii) To approve Community Support provision being brought in house.

The Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2022-24 adopts the SafeLives Whole Picture Approach, considered to best practice when

developing effective domestic abuse service models that respond to the needs of the individual, the family, the community and wider society.

The Domestic Abuse Act places a statutory duty on local authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within refuges and other safe accommodation. The Duty also requires that domestic abuse support will include advocacy, prevention advice, and specialist support for victims with relevant protected characteristics and / or complex needs. Children's domestic abuse support including play therapy and child advocacy; Housing-related support. Counselling and therapy.

Covid-19 has led to an increase in domestic abuse. In Halton more cases have been identified as high risk, Per 10,000 adult female population (16+), Halton had the highest rate of cases discussed at MARAC in Q3 2021/22 (23.23) [20.06 in Q3 20/21] compared to Cheshire (10.44) [10.53 in Q3 20/21]. This follows a national Domestic abuse narrative where cases are escalating in severity more quickly to become complex and serious, with higher levels of physical violence and coercive control.

The Halton Domestic Abuse Service, a whole family provision is currently externally commissioned as a single contract delivered by one provider. This contract comes to a natural conclusion in January 2023.

Domestic abuse affects Halton communities disproportionately, Per 10,000 adult female population (16+), Halton had the highest rate of repeat cases discussed at MARAC (7.06) [9.29 in Q3 20/21] in comparison to Cheshire [2.58 (3.40 in Q3 20/21)]. Halton Borough Council has taken into consideration the impact of Covid as well as the statutory duty and taken a wider look at the corporate response to domestic abuse. Overall, this proposal outlines a blended service model that adheres to the principal of the Whole Picture approach, which is responsive, inclusive and an overall wider service offer which will offer specialist domestic abuse provision to victims, children and challenge the behaviour of those who harm.

Halton domestic abuse accommodation service – Accommodation for individuals and families who are at risk of further harm if they do not move out of their home to and to a place of safety. This is a more diverse and inclusive offer of domestic abuse specialist accommodation and notably will consist of:

- Self-contained units, available to both male and female victims who need short term safe accommodation.
- Community-based accommodation, additional safe spaces.
- The House for Life model will assist those who require longer

- term support to enable them to take over a full tenancy.
- Safe supported accommodation for those previously unable to access support due to financial constraints.

Domestic abuse service for children, young people and families-experiencing domestic abuse to ensure a co-ordinated approach for families offering additional support to children and families affected by domestic abuse. An additional element of therapeutic and counselling for children and young people affected by domestic abuse will enhance this service offer.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Funding

Back in April 2022, The Police and Crime Commissioner, John Dwyer launched a needs assessment of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse services across Cheshire. This was as a direct result of the MoJ announcing an extension of funding for services in communities and providing IDVA and ISVA services. Halton submitted a bid to further improve the local service offer for victims in Halton specifically those who have been subjected to historical domestic abuse that would not be eligible for domestic abuse support within the current commissioned service. A total of £163,200 has been awarded over a three year period.

In addition £20,000 per annum over the next three years has been awarded to support and assist with the recovery toolkit and counselling work.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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There are no policy implications contained within this report.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Domestic abuse has a detrimental impact on employment. Among employed women who suffered domestic abuse in the last year 21% took time off work and a further 2% lost their jobs (Walby and Allen 2004). The impact of Covid linked to unemployment, furlough programs and redundancies and extended periods being locked down in abusive relationships is yet to be understood.

To maximise an individual's potential to increase and manage their income, including access to appropriate, supportive advice services assisting victims to develop better financial management skills and to address debt through appropriate sign posting.

5.3 Children and Young People in Halton

Children and young people in Halton are emotionally, physically and sexually healthy and Children and young people will feel safe at home, in school and in their communities. For example, ensuring homes are healthy safe environments through offering support to parents and providing access for aftercare support for victims of sexual violence whether a child or young person.

5.4 A Safer Halton

To understand and tackle the problem of domestic abuse in all its forms. For example, through ensuring adult victims have access to protective and supportive measures reduces the level of domestic incidents and the subsequent impact on the environment with regards to crime and ASB.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

These are contained within the report.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Domestic Abuse Bill Policy Equality Statement Demonstrating Compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904500/ANNEX_B- Policy_Equality_Statement- Domestic_Abuse_Bill_July- FINAL.pdf

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 19 July 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director, Policy, Planning & Transport

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Emergency Planning

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

2.0 To raise awareness of the role of the Emergency Planning Team and the work undertaken for the period 2021-2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

Risk & Emergency Planning is a team within the Enterprise, Community & Resources Directorate. The team consists of a Principal Emergency Planning Officer and two Emergency Planning Officers.

3.2 STATUTORY DUTIES:

Halton Borough Council, as a Local Authority, has a 'Statutory Duty' to comply with the following Legislation:

- Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (CoMAH) 2015
- Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996

3.2.1 Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004

As part of the duties of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the authority has a duty to ensure the resilience of the Council's response to an emergency situation. Part:1 of the Act is designed to deal with preparations by local responders for localised emergencies, such as risk of serious damage to human welfare or the environment. Part:2 is designed for use in very serious emergencies, which affect a larger geographical area.

The Act divides local responders into 2 categories, imposing a different set of duties on each. Category:1 organisations are at the core of the response to the majority of emergencies (e.g. Emergency Services, Local Authorities, NHS England).

As a Category:1 Responder, Halton Borough Council is subject to a full set of 'civil protection statutory duties' and is required to:

- Assess the 'risk of emergencies' occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
- Put in place Emergency Plans;
- Put in place Business Continuity Management (BCM) arrangements;
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public regarding civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to 'warn, inform and advise' the public in the event of an emergency;
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination;
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency;
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations regarding Business Continuity Management.

Category: 2 organisations (e.g. Health & Safety Executive, Transport and Utility Companies) are 'co-operating bodies' which are less likely to be involved in the heart of planning work, however, will be heavily involved in incidents that affect their sector.

3.3 Planning for Local Risks

As part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the authority has produced a number of Emergency Plans, with the aim to minimise the impact of Major Incidents within the Borough. These plans are produced to reassure the community and limit the consequences. These plans are updated and validated, as part of the Emergency Planning Work Programme.

The CCA identifies two further pieces of Legislation which relates to the Major Accident Hazards at industrial establishments, (Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 and to hazardous pipelines (Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996).

3.4 Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015

COMAH applies mainly to the chemical industry, some storage activities, explosives and nuclear sites and other industries, where a threshold quantity of dangerous substances identified in the Regulations are kept or used. The COMAH Regulations requires the authority to prepare adequate Emergency plans to deal with the off-site consequences of possible major accidents at 'Upper Tier' sites.

The COMAH Regulations 2015, Regulation: 9, places 'nine' industrial sites within Halton as 'Upper Tier' sites. These plans are reviewed and validated as part of the Emergency Planning Work Programme.

'Runcorn Site CoMAH Operators' is the 'umbrella terminology' which is used to capture the six operators, which is based in Weston Point, Runcorn. This name was agreed by the Site, the Competent Authority and Halton Borough Council.

Below is a list of 'Upper Tier COMAH sites' in Halton:

'Upper Tier' - Runcorn sites

Runcorn COMAH Operators include:

- INOVYN ChlorVinyls Ltd
- INEOS Enterprises Ltd
- VYNOVA Runcorn Ltd
- Runcorn Membrane Chlorine Plant (MCP) Ltd
- Packed Chlorine Limited and
- Koura Ltd (Previously Mexichem Fluor Ltd)

'Upper Tier' - Widnes sites

- Univar Ltd, Pickerings Road, Hale bank, Widnes
- ICoNiChem Ltd, Moss Bank Road, Widnes
- Lanxess Ltd, Dans Road, Widnes (Previously Emerald Kalama Chemicals Ltd)

3.5 COMAH Compliance

COMAH Regulations requires all 'Upper Tier' COMAH sites to produce and submit a 'Safety Report' to the Competent Authority and this is reviewed every 5 years by them.

These sites are also responsible for producing a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP), which focuses on major accident hazards and details the Safety Management System, which will include the quantities of dangerous substances which are present or likely to be present.

All 'Upper Tier' COMAH sites are required to produce both an 'Internal' and 'External' Emergency COMAH Plan. The 'Internal' Plan is produced by the operator and the 'External' Plan is produced in partnership between Halton Borough Council and the Operator(s). All External Plans have been updated within the past 12 months to reflect changes at the site(s) and/or in line with the new Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) COMAH Template. The Competent Authority (HSE and the Environment Agency) schedules an annual compliancy meeting with Halton, the aim to review the External COMAH Planning work. All nine sites within the Borough, are compliant.

3.6 Exercises / Validation

Due to the complexity and interconnectivity of the six operators at the Runcorn COMAH site, the External COMAH Plan is tested/validated on an annual basis. This is a recommendation by the Competent Authority and has been implemented for a number of years.

Univar Ltd, Widnes, ICoNiChem, Widnes and Lanxess Ltd, 'External COMAH Plans' are tested / validated every three years. This is in line and in agreement with the Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) 3-year cycle.

3.7 Further Local Risks

Halton have a number of further risks within the Borough such as the Mersey Gateway, Severe Weather, Flooding and Cross Border Risks, such as Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Merseyside's COMAH site, Vertellus Specialities UK Ltd. Halton work with partner agencies to produce Emergency Plans and validation exercises.

3.8 Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996

The Pipeline Regulations 1996 governs all high pressure natural gas supply transmission and distribution network within the Borough of Halton. These substances are known collectively as dangerous fluids, as defined in Schedule: 2 of the Major Accident Pipeline Safety Regulations (1996).

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Emergency means an occurrence i.e. an explosion, fire or breach of a Major Accident Hazard Pipeline. This is further defined as a Mobile Cloudburst - an incident involving a release of chemicals or toxic substances at any location (usually during transportation) i.e. highways, railways, ships and pipelines and not relating to a specific site i.e. COMAH site.

Halton Borough Council, as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to work with the pipeline operators who have MAHP infrastructure in the area and partners to produce a MAHP Multi-Agency Plan. As part of the update and review of the plan, consultation takes place between the pipeline operators, Emergency Services, NHS England, Public Health England and the HSE.

As part of the Regulations there is no specific duty placed upon Local Authorities to test the plan. However, multi-agency table top exercises are conducted to validate the MAHP template, which is used to produce the Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan for each Local Authority.

3.9 Public Reassurance

The 'Community' / Public Information Zone (PIZ) are consulted regarding a COMAH site which is in close proximity to their home / business. This consultation process includes a 'Safety Letter' and 'Information Card' which is circulated, at least every 5 years, and includes actions to be taken in the event of a major incident. This information is also posted via the HBC website.

As part of the community reassurance, the team have worked with the local parish councils and schools, where appropriate, with the aim of raising awareness regarding a COMAH Site in their area.

3.11 Local Authority Emergency Centres

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, Halton has two Local Authority Emergency Centres (LAEC), one based at Municipal Building and the Runcorn Town Hall. All equipment and plans are checked and updated on a monthly basis.

3.12 Emergency Survivor Reception Centres

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, a Survivor Reception Centre may be activated in response to the incident. Within the borough there are approximately 50 designated centres, which are made up of Church Halls, Social Clubs and Hotels. These buildings are used as a secure area where people affected by an Emergency will be taken for short-term shelter. People attending this centre will not require acute hospital treatment, however, may require first aid.

3.13 Emergency Rest Centres

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, a Rest Centre may be activated in response to the incident. Within the borough there are a total of 10 designed Rest Centres, which are made up of Leisure Centres and Community Centres. These buildings are used as temporary accommodation, a place of safety for displaced people who have been affected by the incident. Two of the 10 designated establishments are care homes, aimed to be used to move vulnerable people, who have been involved in an emergency evacuation. All designated establishments has an Emergency Rest Centre box, which is checked on a quarterly basis.

3.14 Working with Partners

Halton continues to work with partner agencies as part of exercise planning, training and validation exercises, both within Cheshire and Cross-Border. For example, Halton attend and umpire COMAH Exercises. Also, attending cross border exercises in Merseyside. Halton is also a member of the Liverpool John Lennon Airport Emergency Planning Group.

3.15 Working with Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF)

Halton is an active member of the Cheshire Resilience Forum. The forum works with partner agencies, such as Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service, NWAS and Health Organisations. The aim and objectives of the Cheshire Resilience is to prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergency. The forum brings together local emergency services, NHS and local authorities, plus other agencies that can help to prepare and respond to any event. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 every part of the United Kingdom is required to establish a Local Resilience Forum, which is a multi-agency group covering a policing area that share information and resources, and respond together to an incident. Cheshire Resilience will not offer immediate information in the event of an emergency. The aim is to work together to protect the community and make Cheshire the best prepared place for any emergency.

3.16 Internal Resilience

Emergency Planning continues to develop the Emergency Planning Portal via the intranet, with the aim to ensure emergency planning documents, Business Continuity Plans, Training Programmes and dates are easily accessible for Emergency Responders.

3.17 Training

Emergency Planning Team scheduled training and exercises internally, for example, First Responder Training, Rest Centre Training, Business Continuity Exercises and Elected Members Training.

Halton work in partnership with Cheshire Resilience Forum, leading on training which involves external partners, for example, Introduction to Emergency Planning, Recovery, Briefing and Awareness Days and Strategic Exercises.

3.18 Major Incidents in Halton Borough Council

The team have responded to a number of 'Major Incidents / Major Incident Standbys' over the last 12 months. To ensure there is resilience when planning, responding and recovering from incidents, Cheshire use Resilience Direct as an 'emergency planning platform.' To ensure learning is captured following all incidents, a structured debrief will take place, where areas of good practice, areas of development and actions generated from the incident are recorded. A report is produced which incorporates this information, with the aim to improve future responses to incidents.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton -

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Safer Halton' priority.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Halton's Urban Renewal' policy.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

No full risk assessment is required.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

9.0 KEY DECISIONS ON THE FORWARD PLAN

These proposals do not constitute a key decision and are not included in the Forward Plan.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

February 2017	Introduction to the Emergency Planning Service
February 2018	Annual Emergency Planning Service update
February 2019	Annual Emergency Planning Service update
February 2020	Annual Emergency Planning Service update
February 2021	Annual Emergency Planning Service update
June 2022	Annual Emergency Planning Service update

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	19 th July 2022
REPORTING OFFICER:	Operational Director – Community and Environment
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Halton's Modern Slavery Toolkit
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Board that colleagues are developing a new toolkit for practioners to deal with issues of modern slavery and human trafficking in Halton.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The Board note the work being undertaken to develop this toolkit and that the main responsibilities for victim support sits within Safeguarding.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Halton is working collectively across Pan-Cheshire on an All Age Exploitation Strategy, however it was felt that a more localised toolkit was needed to sit underneath the strategy, to ensure front line colleagues knew what support was available and how they could escalate issues and to whom.

- 3.2 The toolkit will also help colleagues meet their statutory duties under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

- 3.3 There is a small working group that is developing this toolkit and they are now ready to take this to the Safeguarding Adults Board for final signoff. They have asked that it also be brought to the Safer Halton PPB so that Elected Members are given an opportunity to comment.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications from this draft toolkit.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is the potential for an increased number of victims to be identified and thus need more support from Council services, however this is difficult to quantify.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

It should be noted that County Lines sit within the Modern Slavery Act 2015, so the development of this toolkit will help colleagues know when they should be submitting National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify forms.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None Identified at this stage,

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None Identified at this stage.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None Identified at this stage.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None Identified at this stage.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 None Identified at this stage.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 None Identified at this stage.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None Identified



Modern Slavery Toolkit

November 2021

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Policy Summary

Document name	Modern Slavery Toolkit
Version	v.1
Publication date	TBC
Review due date	TBC
Approved by	TBC
Status	Mandatory (all named staff must adhere to guidance)
Author	Katy Rushworth, Safeguarding & Dignity Officer
Contributors	Dean Tierney, Principal Manager Integrated Adult Safeguarding Unit
Service area	Safeguarding
Target audience	Adult Social Care and partners who deal with safeguarding
Distribution	Adult Social Care; HSAB members; Partnership Forum members
Related document(s)	North West Safeguarding Adults Policy 2020 HBC Safeguarding Adults in Halton: Procedures, 2020 HBC Criteria for Reporting Adult Safeguarding and Provider Led Concerns, 2020
Superseded document(s)	Not Applicable
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Applicable

This Modern Slavery Toolkit has been based on the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership Modern Slavery Toolkit. We would like to acknowledge the use of this document in producing the Halton Modern Slavery Toolkit.

Introduction

This document aims to explain what Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are and how everyone in the borough can help tackle this complex and hidden crime. We may not be able to eradicate it completely, but we can make it more difficult for criminals who exploit others for their own personal gain.

We want everyone to know how to recognise Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and have the confidence to report it, to ensure the victims are supported and criminals are brought to justice.

This toolkit should be used in conjunction with Halton's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, which can be found on the following link:

<https://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/professionals/>

1. What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery is illegal and encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

A person commits an offence if:

❖ The person holds another person in slavery or servitude and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is held in slavery servitude

Or

❖ The person requires another person to perform forced or compulsory labour and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is being required to perform forced or compulsory labour

The following section provides a pathway and detailed guidance of what to do in the event you have a disclosure of modern slavery or you recognise someone may be a victim of modern slavery.

Please note, the HBC Suspected Modern Slavery & National Referral Mechanism Process Map is also included in the Appendices section of this toolkit for ease of reference.



Suspected Modern Slavery & National Referral Mechanism Process Map based on the Newham Modern Slavery Model

Referral Pathway for Victims of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

1. Any person has reasonable grounds to suspect a person may be the victim of Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking

2. Is there an immediate risk or danger

Yes – Call 999

NO

4. YES

3. Is the person under (or appears to be under) 18 years of age

5. NO

Refer immediately to your own agencies Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and inform your Safeguarding Lead

And/Or

Refer to your local Children's Social Care/SPOC

CSC/SPOC to complete NRM

And/Or

Refer to your local Adult Social Care/Adult Safeguarding Team

ASC to complete NRM

5a. Under the Care Act 2014 Does the person have:

- a. Care and Support Needs
- b. Are at risk of or suffering abuse or neglect, and
- c. They cannot protect themselves

YES

Safeguarding procedures will apply. Refer immediately to your own agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures and inform your Safeguarding Lead/Team

Contact the Modern Slavery Helpline

08000 121 700

Your involvement may end here unless:

You are able to speak to the potential victim safely or you observe that identified in 5a.

7. No

Do they give consent to receive support through the NRM

7b. Yes

7a. No

8. Are you identified as a First Responder (see guidance)

Inform victim of other services available – see guidance. Complete DTN form and send to the Home Office and Cheshire Constabulary

9. Yes

10. No

Complete NRM and support through this process

Refer to No. 10 in guidance

2. Guidance to the Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Pathway

1.	Trust your instinct – you only have to have reason to believe someone may be a victim, you don't have to prove it
2.	Risk Assessment – In emergency cases and there is an immediate threat or emergency medical treatment is needed or the victim is still in the place of exploitation please call 999
3.	Does the victim say they are (or appears to be under) 18 years of age then follow step 4, if not, follow step 5
4.	<p>Organisations will have their own safeguarding procedures to follow.</p> <p>In the first instance, contact your Safeguarding Lead/Team who will take details and refer to Children's Social Care.</p> <p>If you are not a member of an organisation then you need to contact Children's Social Care directly and immediately, giving as much information as you can.</p> <p>Children's Social Care will complete the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and ensure the child/young person is protected from further abuse</p> <p>Children Social Care: 0151 907 8305 Emergency Duty Team: 0345 050 0148</p>
5.	<p>If you are unable to speak to the potential victim contact the Modern Slavery Helpline and report your suspicions with as much detail as possible on 08000 121 700</p> <p><i>At this point this may be the end of your involvement unless you can speak to the person or identify anything as outlined in 5a:</i></p> <p>If it is safe to do so, have a conversation with the person. Use an approved interpreter/language line – do not use anyone accompanying them</p>
5a.	<p>The Care Act 2014 is quite clear about the criteria to be met for adult safeguarding and many victims of modern slavery do not have care and support needs* (e.g. they are able to care for themselves despite the situation they are in). Victims are also able to make decisions for themselves under the Mental Capacity Act even though exploitation involves coercion and control.</p> <p>However, if through conversation and/or from observation the potential victim does appear to have care and support needs or lacks the mental capacity to make an informed decision themselves then follow step 6, otherwise, follow step 7 onwards.</p> <p>*People who are in need of practical support to enable them to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have</p>

6.	<p>Organisations will have their own safeguarding procedures to follow. In the first instance, contact your Safeguarding Lead/Team who will take details and refer to Adult Social Care.</p> <p>If you are not a member of an organisation, then you need to contact Adult Social care immediately and give as much information as you can.</p> <p>Adult Social Care will complete the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and ensure the adult is protected from further abuse by working with adult and support services via an initial risk assessment and a safeguarding strategy discussion meeting. is this right for Halton?</p> <p>Adult Social Care: 0151 907 8306 Emergency Duty Team: 0345 050 0148</p>
7.	<p>Victims of modern slavery are potentially victims of crime but they still have to give consent to receive support through the NRM and you must obtain consent to refer them for that support.</p>
7a.	<p>If the potential victim does not give consent to have their details given to the NRM, inform them there are other services that can support them. They or you can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline in the first instance: 0800 121 700</p> <p>Inform the victim that by contacting the helpline they will receive support through services who can assist in housing, immigration, benefits, health care etc. (often victims can then be supported into the NRM process).</p> <p>All staff in statutory and non-statutory settings are requested to complete the Duty to Notify Form with as much information as possible (this must not contain the personal victims details if they do not wish them to be used) and send to:</p> <p>The Home Office: dutytonotify@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk Do we send a copy to Cheshire Police and if so what email address??</p> <p>Alternatively if your organisation has a Safeguarding Lead/Team please inform them and they may complete this on your behalf – refer to your own internal procedures. Do we want this in?</p> <p>The Duty to Notify Form is included in the Appendices of this document</p>
7b.	<p>If the potential victim is willing to receive support this opportunity is through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) following consent. See Steps 8 & 9.</p>
8. & 9.	<p>Firstly consider are you identified as a First Responder as only members of the following organisations can refer potential victims of Modern Slavery to the NRM:</p>

	First Responders	Contact Number (where applicable)
	Cheshire Constabulary	Report non-urgent cases on 101
	UK Border Agency	Immigration Enforcement: 0300 123 7000 Home Office General Enquiries: 020 7035 4848
	Immigration and Visas	0300 123 2241
	Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)	0345 602 5020 (General Enquiries)
	Local Authorities (this only applies to Social Care professionals)	Adult Social Care: 0151 907 8306 Children's Social Care: 0151 907 8305 Emergency Duty Team: 0345 050 0148
	Salvation Army	0300 303 8151 (24 hour helpline)
	Barnados	0208 550 8822 (General Enquiries)
	Unseen	0303 040 2888 (General Enquiries)
	NSPCC (Child Trafficking Advice Centre)	0808 800 5000
	Refugee Council	0207 3466 700 (General Enquiries)
	Medaille Trust	0161 817 2260
	NRM forms should be sent to: nrm@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk	
8. & 10.	<p>If you are not a first responder but you have a Safeguarding Lead/Team in your agency, please contact them in the first instance immediately.</p> <p>If you do not have a Safeguarding Lead/Team you can contact any of the First Responders above but we recommend you contact the Modern Slavery Helpline in the first instance: 08000 121 700</p>	

3. Modern Slavery Legislation

There are many different characteristics that distinguish slavery from other human rights violations, however, only one needs to be present for slavery to exist.

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- ❖ **Forced to work – through mental or physical threat**
- ❖ **Owned or controlled by an ‘employer’, usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse**
- ❖ **Dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as ‘property’**
- ❖ **Physically constrained or has restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement**
- ❖ **Human trafficking**

Contemporary slavery takes various forms and affects people of all ages, gender and races. Adults who are enslaved are not always subject to human trafficking. Recent court cases have found homeless adults, promised paid work opportunities enslaved and forced to work and live in dehumanised conditions, and adults with learning difficulties restricted in their movements and threatened to hand over their finances and work for no gains.

Human trafficking is the movement of a person from one place to another, using methods of deception, coercion, the abuse of power or of someone’s vulnerability and for the purposes of exploitation. It is possible to be a victim of trafficking even if their consent has been given to being moved. Human trafficking may occur across international borders or take place within one country.

Specified public authorities have a duty to notify the Secretary of State of any individual identified in England or Wales, as a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking under [Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#).

Halton Borough Council promotes that all those who meet a potential victim, complete the Duty to Notify Form (if the victim is unwilling to be supported through the National Referral Mechanism).

There are three components to human trafficking:

The Act (or action)	Recruitment, transfer, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons
----------------------------	---

<p>The Means</p>	<p>Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, giving or receiving of payments or benefits used to control a person</p>
<p>The Purpose (exploitation)</p>	<p>To exploit a person through prostitution, other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, forced criminality, slavery, servitude or removal of organs from a person</p>



4. How can you identify victims of modern slavery?

Identifying Victims

- ❖ Is the victim in possession of a passport, identification or travel documents? Are these documents in the possession of someone else?
- ❖ Does the victim act as if they were instructed, or coached by someone else?

Sexual Exploitation

Please be aware that ordinary residential houses/hotels are being used more and more as brothels. People forced into sexual exploitation may:

- ❖ Be moved between brothels, sometimes from city to city
- ❖ Sleeping on work premises
- ❖ Display a limited amount of clothing, of which a large proportion is sexual
- ❖ Display substance misuse
- ❖ Be forced, intimidated or coerced into provided sexual services
- ❖ Be subjected to abduction, assault or rape
- ❖ Be unable to travel freely e.g. picked up and dropped off at work location by another person
- ❖ Have money for their services provided collected by another person



Forced Labour

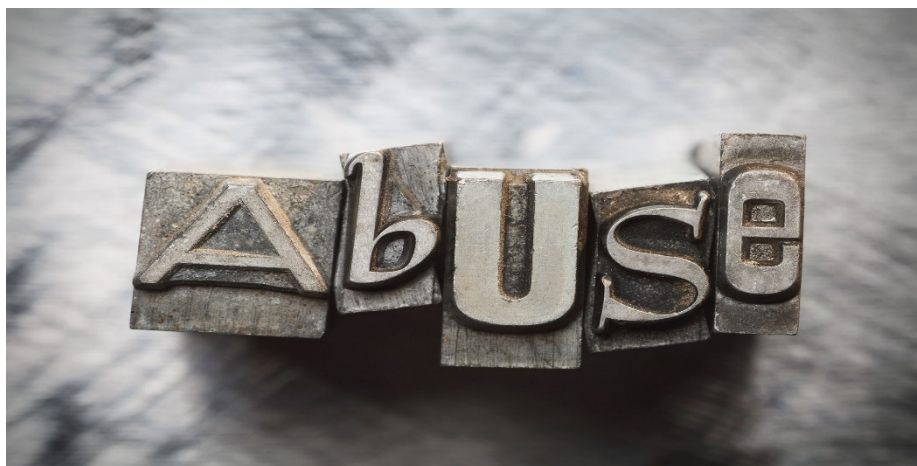
Where all the work is done under the menace of a penalty or the person has not offered themselves voluntarily and is now unable to leave. They may experience:

- ❖ Threat or actual physical harm
- ❖ Restriction of movement or confinement
- ❖ Debt bondage i.e. working to pay off a debt or loan, often the victim is paid very little or nothing at all for their services because of deductions
- ❖ Withholding of wages or excessive wage deductions
- ❖ Withholding of documents e.g. passport/security card
- ❖ Threat of revealing to authorities an irregular immigration status
- ❖ Their employer is unable to produce documents required
- ❖ Poor or non-existent health and safety standards
- ❖ Requirement to pay for tools or food
- ❖ Imposed place of accommodation (and deductions made for it)
- ❖ Pay that is less than minimum wage
- ❖ Dependence on employer for services
- ❖ No access to labour contract
- ❖ Excessive work hours/few breaks

Child Abuse/Exploitation

You may notice that a child/young person that is:

- ❖ Often going missing/truanting
- ❖ Secretive
- ❖ Has unexplained money/presents
- ❖ Experimenting with drugs/alcohol
- ❖ Associated with/being groomed by older people (not in normal networks)
- ❖ In relationships with significantly older people
- ❖ Taking part in social activities with no plausible explanation
- ❖ Seen entering or leaving vehicles with unknown adults
- ❖ Showing evidence of physical/sexual assault (including Sexual Transmitted Infections)



Criminal Activities

The person is recruited and forced/deceived into conducting some form of criminal activity such as pick pocketing, begging, cannabis cultivation and benefit fraud.

Same indicators as forced labour but for cannabis cultivation you may also notice:

- ❖ Windows of a property are permanently covered from the inside
- ❖ Visits to the property at unusual times
- ❖ Property may be residential
- ❖ Unusual premises coming from the property e.g. machinery
- ❖ Pungent smells coming from the property

Domestic Servitude

A particularly serious form of denial of freedom; this includes the obligation to provide certain services and the obligation to live in another person's property without the possibility of changing those circumstances. They may:

- ❖ Be living and working for a family in a private home
- ❖ Not be eating with the rest of the family
- ❖ Have no bedroom or proper sleeping space
- ❖ Have no private space
- ❖ Be forced to work excessive hours ; "on-call" 24 hours a day
- ❖ Never leave the house without the employer
- ❖ Be malnourished
- ❖ Be reported as missing or accused of a crime by their "employer" if they try to escape

Homelessness and Modern Slavery

To be homeless or rough sleeping makes a young person or an adult, vulnerable when exposed to organised crime gangs and exploiters. They may approach the homeless community at soup kitchens, local rough sleeping spots and offer employment, accommodation, wages, a place to sleep and even drugs or alcohol.

Many homeless people already have substance misuse as additional vulnerabilities as well as mental health, learning disabilities and no family contact.

5. Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

Children under the age of 18 cannot consent to be trafficked or exploited and child protection procedures will apply.

Adult at Risk as defined by the Care Act 2014 must be referred using adult safeguarding/protection procedures:

Where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) and that adult:

- ❖ Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) **and**
- ❖ is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, **and**
- ❖ as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

If a victim is identified as having care and support needs, or is a child under 18 years of age, local social care/safeguarding teams will carry out a risk assessment and strategy meetings may be held with multi-agency partners. The urgency of this will depend on the current risks to the child/adult as per safeguarding policy and procedures or through the NRM (what is the risk to an adult to return to their exploiters). **Should we add anything to this for Halton just to clarify the process for how we deal with it locally?**

Use of Interpreters

It is recommended that only official/approved interpreters are used and that the interpreter is aware of the sensitive nature of the situation. However, we also recommend:

- ❖ **It is best practice not to leave the interpreter alone with a victim, especially in waiting rooms or reception areas**
- ❖ **The interpreter should not have any other communication with the victim other than that intended**
- ❖ **The interpreter should not leave with the victim**

- ❖ **If a victim looks distressed when an interpreter is being used, cease the session immediately**

Trauma Informed Code of Conduct for Professionals

This guidance is designed to enable professionals in all fields of discipline to:

- ❖ **Establish and maintain a mutual relationship of trust with survivors in any working context or environment**
- ❖ **Impart a consistent sense of calm, security and safety throughout the course of their work**
- ❖ **Increase the confidence of survivors and minimise the risks of causing distress and re-traumatisation**
- ❖ **Remain safe and well in the course of their work, avoiding secondary traumatisation and professional “burn out”**

The full version of this guidance can be accessed from the Helen Bamber Foundation website using the following link:

[**Trauma Informed Code of Conduct for Professionals**](#)

6. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

This is the framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and to ensure they receive the appropriate protection and support. This may include:

- ❖ Accommodation
- ❖ Protection
- ❖ Access to legal advice
- ❖ Emotional and practical help

Adults must give their consent for their information to be shared for referral to the NRM as it is a voluntary process and if they do, only a First Responder can do this.

Consent includes explaining what the NRM is, what support is available through it and what the possible outcomes are for an individual being referred.

It does **not** provide them with leave to remain, or that the referral would automatically result in a positive decision (and potentially the right to receive ongoing support).

For those people who do not work for an organisation or have a Safeguarding Lead/Team or are not First Responders, please contact the Modern Slavery

Helpline to enable to victim to receive the support they need as quickly as possible.

Please find below an example of the pathway following an NRM referral:

1.	<p>The First Responder will complete the NRM online form: https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start?hof-cookie-check</p> <p>This takes about an hour and once completed the First Responder will be sent a link to download a copy.</p> <p>The Single Competent Authority (SCA) will aim to make a reasonable grounds decision within 5 working days wherever possible</p>
2.	<p>The Local Authority will adhere to duty of care processes. If the victim has no recourse to public funding and there is no duty to provide housing/support under safeguarding/human rights legislation, the First Responder should contact the Salvation Army for accommodation and/or outreach support: 0300 303 8151</p>
3.	<p>If the victim remains in the borough a plan should be developed around safety, housing, mental/physical wellbeing, legal advice, immigration option, work options, social/cultural needs.</p> <p>An advocate/key worker from whichever support service the victim is working with should remain in contact with them until the result of the NRM is known.</p>
4.	<p>There is a minimum 45 day recovery and reflection period currently for the NRM.</p> <p>Within the NRM outreach support people should receive: safe accommodation, translation and interpretation services, assistance accessing compensation, access to vocational training and employment opportunities, subsistence, access to relevant medical and legal services, assistance for safe repatriation and return.</p> <p>What people won't automatically receive is: leave to remain in the UK or right to work in the UK (unless they already have this or have been granted it through legal means during the NRM period). This support ends 14 days after a decision is made (or 45 days under the new Home Office recommendations) if positive, or 48 hours if negative but extensions can be applied for in particularly vulnerable cases.</p>
5.	<p>Alternatives to NRM support, may just be claiming treaty rights for EU, seeking legal advice re: asylum (which should be covered by Legal Aid) or other applications for leave to remain?</p>

NRM Outcomes

(Please note these explanations are extremely condensed)

The Single Competent Authority (SCA) will aim to make a reasonable grounds decision within 5 working days wherever possible. There is a detailed process that is undertaken following referral to the NRM and this guidance does not intend to set this out in full, however, there follows a short explanation of possible outcomes following referral to the NRM.

The ‘Reasonable Grounds’ Decision

To establish whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking two decisions **have** to be made. This may involve seeking additional information from the first responder or from specialist Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or social services. The threshold at Reasonable Grounds stage for the trained decision makers is; “from the information available so far I suspect but cannot prove” that the individual is a potential victim of slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour.

The ‘Conclusive Grounds’ Decision

The conclusive grounds decision is made as soon as possible after the minimum recovery and reflection period. This is based on the ‘balance of probabilities’ in that there are sufficient grounds to decide that the individual being considered, is a victim of human trafficking or slavery, and forced or compulsory labour.

What is the decision is negative?

If the SCA decides that there are not reasonable or conclusive grounds to accept the person is a potential victim of modern slavery, they will not offer support for a recovery and reflection period.

There is a process for appeal against a ‘reasonable grounds’ decision or ‘conclusive grounds’ decision, which is believed to be incorrect. Individuals can challenge this by way of a Judicial Review or it may be appropriate to ask the SCA to reconsider the decision.

Duty to Notify and/or No Consent to NRM

If consent is **not** given to refer to the National Referral Mechanism, then a Duty to Notify Form (DTN form) should be completed. Please see Appendix 3 for a link to the form.

This can be completed without the victim’s consent but **Section C** which contains details about the victim, their name, address etc. must be omitted. Adult victims who do not consent to the NRM may still give consent for their details to be given in the DTN form but a signature must be obtained for current data protection purposes to be fulfilled.

The NRM form is different to the Duty to Notify (MS1) Form and MS1 forms are only used when the victim wishes to remain anonymous.



7. Support for Victims

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 has been criticised for failing to establish a statutory framework for care services and for providing victims with a limited period of care on a non-statutory basis whilst awaiting a NRM outcome. The result is that victims of modern slavery are at risk of falling through gaps in the system and being re-trafficked.

Support that helps victims of modern slavery towards long-term safety, stability and wellbeing increases the likelihood that they will be able to give a full account of their trafficking or slavery background; that they will disclose intelligence about networks of criminal exploitation; and that they will cooperate with the authorities. It also helps prevent victims from returning to their exploiters where they had previously been reliant on them for accommodation or money. This has clear benefits for the victims themselves, but also assists those responsible for prosecuting alleged perpetrators of modern slavery or defending individuals who are suspected to be victims of exploitation.

How much support do victim currently receive?

The Home Office guidance accompanying the Modern Slavery Act 2015 states that support is offered to individuals who engage with the National Referral Mechanism and who are awaiting an official determination of their status as a victim of modern slavery. Following a positive reasonable grounds decision, adults are guaranteed support and assistance for a period of at least 45 calendar days. After a positive conclusive grounds decision, victims are guaranteed a further 45 days of “move-on” support. Those who are assessed as not being victims of modern slavery receive just 9 working days of move-on support.

Although the Home Office has said that these timeframes are not a cut-off point and this support will only to come to an end where there is no longer an identified recovery need, a number of organisations working with modern slavery victims have described the end of the move-on period as a “cliff-edge”, with some individuals experiencing an abrupt cut off of financial and welfare support. The impact of this has in several cases been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

What is the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) bill?

The Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill is draft legislation which proposes to amend and strengthen the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by requiring the Secretary of State to provide a much longer period of assistance and support to those going through the NRM process. Victims would be entitled to support services for the entire duration of their wait for reasonable or conclusive grounds decisions. The assistance and support would include accommodation, legal advice and representation; and help with repatriation. Following a positive conclusive grounds decision, a victim would be entitled to 12months support or longer, depending on their circumstances

In addition, the current starting point of the Home Office's Immigration Policy in respect of modern slavery victims is that an NRM-confirmed victim will not qualify for discretionary leave automatically; they must also satisfy one of three criteria, either that:

- ❖ **Leave is necessary owing to their personal circumstances, or**
- ❖ **That it is necessary to enable them to pursue compensation, or**
- ❖ **They are helping police with their enquiries**

The Victim Support Bill would further entitle any person who is receiving 12 months support following a positive conclusive grounds decision to leave, to remain in the UK for the duration of that support period. Exceptions may apply to sexual or violent offenders and individuals posing a genuine, present and serious risk to the public.

The Victim Support Bill also seeks to amend the Children Act 1989 to require local authorities to protect children in care who have been trafficked from the risk of re-trafficking, including by ensuring the child has accommodation that is suitable to their particular needs.

The Victim Support Bill was first introduced as a Private Members Bill in 2018. It had its first reading in the House of Lords in January 2020 and is still awaiting its second reading to be scheduled, in which Members of the House of Lords would debate its contents.

(The information for this section has taken from 2harecourt.com)

8. Additional Information on Victim Support Services

Until the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill comes in statute, any of the organisations listed below can offer support to assist victims. In particular, those who do not consent to the NRM process and/or wish to be repatriated to their own country who will need support to do so.

British Red Cross (North West)	0151 702 5088	https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/modern-slavery-and-trafficking
Emotional Health and Wellbeing		https://hubofhope.co.uk/
Salvation Army	0300 303 8151	https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery
Hope for Justice	0300 008 8000	https://hopeforjustice.org/
Migrant Help	0808 8000 630	https://www.migranthelpuk.org/contact
City Hearts	0151 709 9599	https://cityhearts.global/

Housing Support for Victims of Modern Slavery

The Localism Act 2011 Section 1 gives Councils special powers to provide accommodation/support even when there is no recourse to public funds. Section 5.3 states that where a person does not have eligible care and support needs and the local authority has decided not to use Section 19(1) of the Care Act 2014 to meet non-eligible needs, it will need to consider whether to use its general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act, 2011. This gives the Local Authority a power to do anything that an individual generally may do, and may exercise this power in any way, including for benefit of residents.



9. Training Resources **is there anything we can add in about training locally in Halton?**

The following links are for specific resources and training courses which are available nationally:

Modern Slavery Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655504/6.3920_HO_Modern_Slavery_Awareness_Booklet_web.pdf

Identifying and Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery for Health Staff

<https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/modern-slavery/>

Promotional Materials

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-closer-than-you-think>

Modern Slavery is closer than you think – you tube video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv1H_fAoOG4

Appendices

Appendix no.	Name	Attachment
1	Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance	 modern-slavery-statutory-guidance_ew
2	Halton Modern Slavery Pathway	 MDS Pathway.pptx
3	Duty to Notify Form	https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start
4	Duty to Notify Guidance	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales
5	Duty to Notify Factsheet	 6.2286_HO_LL_factsheet_duty_to_notify
6	Glossary (taken from Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance)	 Glossary of terms in relation to Modern :