

## **GWYNEDD COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2019/20**

In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Gwynedd Council recognises it has a responsibility as an employer to be aware of the potential for instances of modern slavery and to report such instances or concerns to the relevant bodies.

Instances of modern slavery in Wales, it seems, are increasing as a result of better awareness, with 123 referrals being made in 2017.

Modern slavery can take the following forms :-

- Forced prostitution
- Child trafficking
- Criminal exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced labour
- Organ harvesting
- Sexual exploitation

In July 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved Welsh Government's Code of Practice for ethical employment in supply chains which aims to ensure that all public sector organisations are taking action to eradicate unlawful and unethical employment practices. Please see the Council's Action Plan in relation to the commitments within the Code.

<https://timau/safle/caffael/Prosiectau/CAFFAEL%20CYNALADWY/ETHICAL%20EMPLOYMENT%20I%20SUPPLY%20CHAINS/Dogfennaeth%20Gwynedd/Code%20of%20Practice%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Where appropriate, the Council will, as part of its tendering / contracting process, continue to seek assurances from suppliers and potential suppliers that they have no knowledge of any of the above forms of modern slavery within their organisations or supply chains. The Council will expect that those suppliers take responsibility to seek similar assurances from their own supply chains.

The Council will also ensure that staff involved in procurement and/or recruitment undertake relevant training via Welsh Government's e-learning module.

The North Wales Modern Slavery Group, working with North Wales Police and other specialist organisations, have also developed an e-learning module of their own, aimed at Council staff and front-line public service workers who may be in a position to spot signs of modern slavery as part of their day to day work.

The public and staff, equally, have a responsibility to be aware of potential instances of modern slavery or of a business using forced labour. If you have any such concerns, please contact any of the following bodies :-

|                                           |          |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>North Wales Police</b>                 | <b>:</b> | <b>Telephone 101 (or 999 in an Emergency)</b> |
| <b>Modern Slavery Helpline</b>            | <b>:</b> | <b>Telephone 0800 0121700</b>                 |
| <b>Crimestoppers</b>                      | <b>:</b> | <b>Telephone 0800 555 111</b>                 |
| <b>Senior Housing and Welfare Manager</b> | <b>:</b> | <b>Telephone 01766 771000</b>                 |

### **Corporate contact for Modern Slavery matters**

During the period March 2018 up to March 2019, 3 instances related to potential modern slavery / human trafficking were received in Gwynedd. These were referred to the Strategic Safeguarding Panel who directed them to the relevant bodies for further investigation.