Modern Slavery Statement

Introduction

This Statement sets out what steps Chilton Town Council has taken and what steps it will take in future to ensure that it will never knowingly allow modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of the Council's business.

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment (HM Government Modern Slavery Strategy, 2014).

According to the Local Government Association (LGA), the term 'Modern Slavery' includes a range of different types of exploitations, that may or may not occur together. The different types of exploitations include but are not limited to:

- sexual exploitation
- domestic servitude
- forced labour
- child exploitation
- criminal exploitation
- other forms of exploitation, such as: organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption

The Role of Local Authorities

Within their Tackling Modern Slavery: A Council Guide (2017) document, the LGA highlight the following roles of local authorities in tackling modern slavery:

1. Identification and referral of victims

2. Supporting victims – this can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing/homelessness services

3. Community safety services and disruption activities

4. Making best that the supply chains councils procure from are free from modern slavery.

Existing Policies and Procedures

Chilton Town Council has a range of policies, processes, procedures and practices which help to ensure that we are acting ethically and with integrity to prevent slavery and human trafficking, including the following:

• Safeguarding Policy

• Whistleblowing Policy

• Equality and Diversity Policy

• Code of Conduct

Due Diligence Processes

- Procurement

Chilton Town Council will, through its procurement procedures, use its best endeavours to ensure that suppliers of goods and services share its commitment to prevent modern slavery.

Safeguarding Training: This will include how to spot the signs of modern slavery and how to make a referral.

Reporting for Council employees:

Any Chilton Town Council employee affected by modern slavery, or who suspect someone may be at risk are advised to contact the Safeguarding Officer – joanne.dickinson@chiltondurham-tc.gov.uk

Reporting for residents and communities: The advice to anyone affected by slavery, or who may suspect someone is at risk, is to:

• Call 999 if it is an emergency

• Call 101 for non-emergencies

• Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

• Call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700

• Report online via the Modern Slavery Helpline