

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 has introduced changes in UK law focused on increasing transparency in supply chains, to ensure our supply chains are free from modern slavery (that is, slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking). As both a local leader in commissioning health care services for the population of Walsall and as an employer, NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) provides the following statement in respect of its commitment to, and efforts in, preventing slavery and human trafficking practices in the supply chain and employment practices.

Walsall CCG considers human trafficking and slavery to be morally abhorrent, and entirely at odds with the CCG's values, as well as those of the society in which we live and work. The CCG will use the legislative and procedural tools available to us to ensure that the CCG does not support or encourage any person or organisation involved in these practices, and where possible, we will use those tools to ensure that such people and organisations are detected and dealt with by the authorities.

Our Organisation

As an authorised statutory body, the CCG is the lead commissioner for healthcare services (including acute, community, mental health) in the Walsall area – covering approximately a population of 274,000.

Our Vision

Walsall CCG is committed to working in partnership to achieve health and wellbeing improvements and reduce health inequality for the people of Walsall

Our Values

Respect and Value people
Listen to local people
Clinical leadership
Clear accountability and transparency
Innovation
Prevention
Partnership

Our commitment to prevent slavery and human trafficking

The Governing Body, Senior Management Team and all employees are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business activity and in so far as is possible to holding our suppliers to account to do likewise.

Our approach

Our overall approach will be governed by compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and the maintenance and development of good practice in the fields of contracting and employment.

Our policies and arrangements

Our recruitment processes are highly mature – requiring practices that adhere to safe recruitment principles. This includes strict requirements in respect of identity checks, work permits and criminal records.

Our policies such as Bullying and Harassment at Work policy, Dignity at Work policy, Equality and Diversity policy and Whistleblowing policy provide an additional platform for our employees to raise concerns about poor working practices

Our procurement approach follows the Crown Commercial Service standard.

When procuring goods and services, we apply NHS Terms and Conditions (for non-clinical procurement) and the NHS Standard Contract (for clinical procurement). Both require suppliers to comply with relevant legislation.

During 2019/20, we will continue to raise awareness of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 internally and as part of all procurement processes we will request all providers to set out evidence of their plans and arrangements to prevent slavery in their activities and supply chain.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2020.