

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

Definition

Modern slavery is "a serious crime... where victims are forced, threatened or deceived, into situations of subjugation, degradation and control which undermine their personal identity and sense of self."

Home Office, 2020

Four elements of modern slavery:

Trafficking - movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception with the aim of exploiting them.

Slavery - the attaching and exercising of powers of right of ownership of a person, the person being seen as a commodity.

Servitude - being required to provide a service by use of coercion with no hope that the situation will ever change.

Forced or compulsory labour - being forced to provide a labour or a service under threat or penalty.

Types of slavery include:

- Domestic servitude e.g. working in a private family home for little or no pay, being ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to unbearable conditions/working hours
- Forced labour e.g. work within agriculture /businesses etc. for unacceptably low pay, poor working conditions and/or excessive wage deductions, poorly treated
- Criminal exploitation - exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain
- Sexual exploitation - being groomed/coerced into sex work or sexually abusive

situations

- Debt bondage – debt is created with little to no prospect of ever being able to pay it off as more debt is added for spurious things
- Organ harvesting - living or deceased victims are recruited, transported or transferred, by threat or force for money, for their organs

Signs and indicators include:

Children who are / have:

- not registered with a school or a GP practice.
- no or falsified documents.
- no access to their parents or guardians.
- being seen in inappropriate places - such as brothels or factories.
- possessing money or goods they can't account for.
- limited/sporadic school attendance.
- going missing, being found in different parts of town / city / country.
- spending a lot of time doing household chores, rarely leave the house, have no freedom of movement, no time for playing.
- living apart from their family, often in unregulated private foster care.
- live in substandard accommodation/limited access to hygiene facilities.
- not being sure which country, city or town they're in.
- Giving a seemingly prepared/rehearsed story/explanation.
- unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or personal details.
- Parents are working without pay.

What to do

As with all safeguarding, think about what you are seeing and hearing. If you have concerns, follow your safeguarding procedures and speak to your safeguarding lead. A referral to the National Referral Mechanism may be necessary.