



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 March 2021

Report of: Councillor Annie Mason

Cabinet Member for Communities



Modern Slavery Charter

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership's Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking commits organisations to proactively take steps internally to tackle the issue whilst, at the same time, ensuring that they are contributing to the wider collective effort to protect communities across Lincolnshire.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Administrative	Administrative	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Paul Stokes, Head of Corporate Operations	5 February 2021
Approved by:	Ken Lyon, Assistant Chief Executive	8 February 2021
Signed off by:	Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities	11 February 2021

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

- 1. Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report and comment on the appended Charter and related actions proposed.**
- 2. The Committee is asked to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Communities the Council's adoption of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership's Modern Slavery Charter**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is asking all its partners to adopt its Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Charter, which was formally launched by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership in January 2021, can be found at Appendix A and requires the Council to commit to having adequately trained staff and procedures in place to ensure we can effectively tackle the issues of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and also contribute to the wider collective effort to protect communities across Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 This report sets out South Kesteven District Council's commitment to recognising and reducing risk around Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking within Lincolnshire and the proposal to adopt the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership's Charter against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- 1.3 Modern Slavery is a broad term that can include:
- Forced labour – any work or services, which people are, forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment.
 - Debt bondage or bonded labour – the world's most widespread form of slavery, when people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.
 - Human trafficking– involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
 - Descent-based slavery – where people are born into slavery because their ancestors were captured and enslaved; they remain in slavery by descent.
 - Child slavery – many people often confuse child slavery with child labour, but it is much worse. Whilst child labour is harmful for children and hinders their education and development, child slavery occurs when a child is exploited for someone else's gain. It can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.
 - Forced and early marriage – when someone is married against their will and cannot leave the marriage. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.
- 1.4 South Kesteven District Council's role in preventing Modern Slavery includes:
- Ensuring staff and elected Members have a clear understanding of Modern Slavery and know how to recognise and report concerns.
 - Ensuring all staff and elected Members are complying with the Council's training requirements for the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals.
 - Communicating and promoting materials highlighting Modern Slavery as an issue within Lincolnshire.
 - Ensuring our policies and procedures are in line with the Modern Slavery Charter and current guidance.
- 1.5 The Charter contains seven commitments. Officers have reviewed these and the commitments are currently being achieved or are able to be achieved within existing resources. All actions are a collective responsibility across the Authority ensuring we further embed the ethos that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- 1.6 Appendix B provides reassurance of how each commitment is being, or will be, met.

- 1.7 Members are asked to review, and comment on, the attached appendices and recommend to the Cabinet Member for Communities that South Kesteven District Council joins with other Lincolnshire Authorities and adopts the Modern Slavery Charter.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place across the collective partners of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership in order to develop a Charter that is meaningful and achievable. Feedback received from Members of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be shared with the Cabinet Member for Communities in order for an informed decision to be made relating to the adoption of the Modern Slavery Charter by South Kesteven District Council.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 No other options were considered as part of this process.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 N/A

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 Modern Slavery forms part of the Council's responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable individuals from harm. In adopting this Charter the Council is committing to working in collaboration with other Authorities in Lincolnshire to tackle Modern Slavery in all its forms.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 Once recommendations have been made by the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Cabinet Member for Communities will adopt the Charter on behalf of the Council and it will be incorporated into our Safeguarding policy and procedures and its actions reported on in subsequent annual reports on Safeguarding and Equalities.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Head of Finance

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 The charter and the Council's input to delivering its objectives fit with the council's safeguarding obligations and is to be welcomed.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Shahin Ismail Director of Law and Governance

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 The formal adoption of this Charter will complement existing policies and procedures and ensure the Council has a strong, collaborative, foundation to safeguard vulnerable individuals and ensure equitable service.

10 Risk and Mitigation

- 10.1 No significant risks identified in relation to this report.

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 The Council will continue to work with partner agencies to meet all community safety requirements resulting from incidents of modern slavery with appropriate referrals being made to law enforcement, safeguarding and the national referral mechanism when concerns are identified.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

12.1 Not applicable to this report

13 Other Implications (where significant)

13.1 None

14 Background Papers

14.1 None

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A – Modern Slavery Charter

15.2 Appendix B – Response Table

Report Timeline:	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required) N/A	Not applicable
	Previously Considered by:	Not applicable
	Final Decision date N/A	Not applicable