



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

NOTES FOR PROJECT COORDINATORS TO ACCOMPANY THE MODERN SLAVERY AND HOMELESSNESS RESOURCE

WHY WE CREATED THIS RESOURCE

There is a growing awareness of modern slavery in the UK, but there are still low levels of understanding of the issue. One aspect that is less commonly known about is the risk of modern slavery amongst homeless people. This manifests in two ways: victims of modern slavery become homeless after the system of government support ends, and homeless people are particularly targeted by traffickers who exploit their vulnerability.

With this resource we are aiming to increase awareness of modern slavery amongst those who work or volunteer in projects with homeless people, so they know what to do should this situation occur. This is especially important because modern slavery is a criminal offence and you have a legal obligation to pass on confidential information if a crime has been or may have been committed.

THIS RESOURCE COVERS:

- Why homeless people are vulnerable to modern slavery
- What signs you can look out for if you think someone might have been exploited
- How to tell if someone is recruiting from your project
- What to do if you are worried about exploitation or recruitment

WHAT DOES THE RESOURCE CONSIST OF?

The main body of the resource consists of 4 videos, which are aimed at volunteers working in a project. It is designed to be accessible and digestible, with each video being less than 5 minutes long.

The videos have accompanying volunteer notes (in addition to these notes for project coordinators), which summarise the content and include several questions to reflect on and consider.

You can find all the resources at www.theclewerinitiative.org/homeless

HOW SHOULD THE RESOURCE BE USED?

The resource can be used in two ways:

1. As a group. If there is time available, it would be beneficial to go through the resources as a group, watching the videos and then discussing the questions in pairs or small groups. This will aid understanding and make sure everyone has the same understanding of the issue. It would also give you the opportunity to explain your own safeguarding procedures and pathways should modern slavery be suspected, and how you want people to act should this issue come up.

2. As individuals. If you don't have time to cover the content in your group training, then you can send the link to the resources to your group electronically, asking them to watch the videos in their own time and answer the questions. Make sure to say they should get in touch with you if they have any further questions or concerns. If you do check in meetings with your volunteers, then you could make sure to include a section for feeding back what they learnt in those sessions.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU DO THE TRAINING

Make sure you know exactly what you would want your volunteers to do if they came across the signs of modern slavery in your project, whether it is someone who has been exploited, or a concern that traffickers may be recruiting from your project.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself before you do the training. We would also recommend speaking to your Parish and/or Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, and forming links with the Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Team in your local authority:

Is the risk of modern slavery included in your risk assessment?

Is modern slavery included in your Safeguarding guidelines?

Is there a local Anti-Slavery partnership you could join or liaise with?

If someone came to you with a concern about modern slavery, what would you do?

If you have a suspicion that someone is recruiting at your project, where will you record key information like their license plate numbers or a physical description?

If you have a suspicion that one of your clients is a victim of modern slavery, where will you record conversations you have had with them to pass on to the relevant authority?

Remember, you have a legal obligation to pass on confidential information when a child or vulnerable adult either is at risk of significant harm to themselves or others, or if a crime has been or may have been committed.

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES

It has become clear through our conversations with practitioners that homeless people who have experienced modern slavery are very reluctant to report their abuse to the police. If you find this to be the case with your guests, we would encourage you to still report their experiences to the Modern Slavery Helpline (08000 121 700) or your local police and to your relevant local authority contact, anonymising the story if necessary.

Currently there is little firm knowledge of the exact intersections between homelessness and modern slavery. The more we share stories and case studies, the more likely it is that we can begin to find long term solutions to this problem.

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WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE?

Further guidance can be found in the following places:

For a wider understanding of what modern slavery is go to The Clewer Initiative's website:

www.theclewerinitiative.org

Detailed information about modern slavery and homelessness can be found on the Homeless Link website in a document called 'Trafficking and Forced Labour Guidance':

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/trafficking-and-forced-labour>

You can call the Modern Slavery Helpline for advice and support with a specific case, or for general enquiries. They are available 24/7. The number is 08000 121 700 or you can send an enquiry via their website: <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

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