

Modern Day Slavery & County Lines Statement

Modern slavery - Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Domestic Servitude - Domestic servitude typically involves victims working in a private family home where they are ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to unbearable conditions or working hours or made to work for little or no pay. The victim could be used in this way by their own family members or partner. Again, it is very difficult for them to leave, for example because of threats, the perpetrator holding their passport, or using a position of power over the victim.

Sexual Exploitation - Victims are coerced into sex work or sexually abusive situations. This includes child sexual exploitation. Victims may be brought to the UK on the promise of legitimate employment or moved around the UK to be sexually exploited. In some cases they may know they will be involved in sex work, but are forced into a type or frequency they did not agree to. Victims are more commonly female but can also be male.

Criminal Exploitation - Criminal exploitation is the exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain. For example victims could be coerced into shoplifting, pick-pocketing, entering into a sham marriage, benefit fraud, begging or drug cultivation such as cannabis farming. Forced removal and trafficking of human organs is an additional category of modern slavery that occurs globally, however there have been no confirmed cases in the UK.

County Lines Criminal Activity – For the purpose of this document, “**County Lines Criminal Activity**” refers to drug networks or gangs grooming and exploiting children to carry drugs and money from urban areas to suburban areas and market and seaside towns.

Staff will be made aware if children with missing episodes who may have been trafficked for the purpose of transporting drugs. Staff members who suspect a child may be vulnerable to or involved in this activity will immediately report all concerns to the LDSO.

The LDSO will consider referral to the National Referral Mechanism on a case by case basis. Indicators that a pupil may be involved in County Lines activity include the following:

- Persistently going missing or being found out of their usual area
- Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
- Relationships with controlling or older individuals in the groups
- Leaving home without explanations
- Evidence of physical injury or assault that cannot be explained
- Carrying weapons
- Sudden decline in school results
- Becoming isolated from peers or social networks
- Self-harm or significant changes in mental state
- Parental reports of concern

Reporting Processes

All cases of suspected modern-day slavery are reported via the Aspire Education Academy safeguarding processes.

The LDSO will then liaise with the appropriate professionals and contact where necessary the Modern-Day Slavery Helpline to discuss non-emergency cases. The number for this is 08000 121 700.