

## **Modern Slavery Act (2015) Statement 2017/18**

As both a local leader in commissioning health care services for the population of Newcastle and Gateshead and as an employer, Newcastle Gateshead 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.

### **Definition of Offences**

#### **Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour**

A person commits an offence if;

- The person holds another person in slavery or servitude and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is held in slavery or servitude, or;
- The person requires another person to perform forced or compulsory labour and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is being required to perform forced or compulsory labour

### **Human Trafficking**

A person commits an offence if;

- The person arranges or facilitates the travel of another person (victim) with a view to being exploited.
- It is irrelevant whether the victim consents to travel and whether or not the victim is an adult or a child

### **Exploitation**

A person is exploited if one or more of the following issues are identified in relation to the victim;

- Slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour.
- Sexual exploitation
- Removal of organs
- Securing services by force, threats and deception
- Securing services from children, young people and vulnerable persons

### **Our Organisation**

As an authorised statutory body, the CCG is the lead commissioner for health care services (including acute, community, mental health and primary care) in the Newcastle and Gateshead areas – covering a population in excess of just under half

a million. We are an NHS organisation with over 139 employees and a budget in 2017/18 of in excess of approx. £720 million.

### **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 best practice in the fields of contracting and employment.

### **Our plans and arrangements**

Our internal recruitment processes are highly mature and adhere to safe recruitment principles. This includes strict requirements in respect of identity checks, work permits and criminal records. Our pay structure is derived from national collective agreements and is based on equal pay principles with rates of pay that are nationally determined.

Contracting with providers is a core function of the CCG. All of our contracting and commissioning staff are suitably qualified and experienced in managing healthcare contracts and will receive appropriate briefing on the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the Act). During 2017/18 we will write to all providers requesting 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<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Chris Piercy

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Newcastle Gateshead CCG**