

SANDWELL ANTI-SLAVERY NEWSLETTER

Shining a Beacon of Hope and Unity Against Modern Slavery



Welcome to the latest edition of the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Newsletter. In this issue, we dive deep into the realities of modern slavery, dispelling common myths that often shroud this pervasive issue. While some might believe that modern slavery is a distant problem or that it only affects certain individuals, our myth-busting series uncovers the truth. Modern slavery is not confined by borders or stereotypes; it's a crime that exists in Sandwell, the Black Country, Birmingham, the West Midlands, the UK, and globally. By exposing these misconceptions, we equip ourselves to combat it more effectively.

In our Collaborative Chats section, we celebrate the power of unity in our relentless pursuit of a slavery-free Sandwell. We've engaged with community navigators, safeguarding teams, and income management professionals, all sharing a common mission – to eradicate modern slavery. Together, we explore how different facets of our community intersect with this issue and how we can collectively work towards prevention and support.

Our blog, "Sandwell's Spotlight on Modern Slavery," continues to shed light on this critical issue with a range of insightful posts. Additionally, we're gearing up for Anti-Slavery Day on October 18th, a day of remembrance and action. We'll share our plans, including an Exploitation Summit and the launch of a guide on adopting a public health approach to combat modern slavery, promising to be a transformative resource in our fight against exploitation.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

[Unmasking the Reality of Modern Slavery](#)

[Collaborative Chats](#)

[Discover the Latest on "Sandwell's Spotlight on Modern Slavery" Blog](#)

[Preparing to Shine a Spotlight on Anti-Slavery Day](#)

[Public Health Approach to Modern Slavery for Local Authorities](#)

Unmasking the Reality of Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is a topic shrouded in misconceptions. It's not something that happens far away, in distant lands or in the pages of a history book. It's not a crime of the past, and it doesn't discriminate based on age, gender, or ethnicity. It doesn't always involve physical chains, and victims don't always want to be rescued. These are just a few of the myths that surround modern slavery, and in this myth-busting series, we're here to unmask the reality. [click the links to read the associated blogs](#)

[Myth 1: Modern Slavery Doesn't Happen Here](#)

Reality: Modern slavery knows no borders. It's not confined to distant lands; it's happening right under our noses. Exploitation seeps into every community, including Sandwell, the Black Country, Birmingham, the West Midlands, the UK, and every corner of the world. Understanding this is crucial to combatting it effectively. It's a crime that thrives in the shadows but can be defeated when brought into the light.

[Myth 2: Victims of Modern Slavery Are Always Physically Restrained](#)

Reality: Chains aren't always visible. Victims can be held captive by threats, coercion, and fear – not just physical force. Exploitation thrives on psychological manipulation as much as it does on physical control. It's the unseen bonds that often keep victims trapped, and understanding this complexity is vital for identifying and assisting them.

[Myth 3: Modern Slavery Only Involves Forced Labour](#)

Reality: Exploitation wears many disguises. It encompasses forced labour, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and more. It's a multi-faceted monster that preys on vulnerability. By pigeonholing it into one category, we risk missing other forms of exploitation that demand our attention.

[Myth 4: It's Easy to Spot a Victim of Modern Slavery](#)

Reality: Identifying victims isn't always straightforward. Exploitation often hides behind closed doors and terrified expressions. It takes a keen eye and a deep understanding to recognise the signs, and even then, victims may not always be willing or able to disclose their plight.

[Myth 5: Victims Always Want to Be Rescued](#)

Reality: The trauma of exploitation runs deep. Victims may have complex relationships with their exploiters, making rescue difficult. Understanding the psychological bonds involved is key to providing the support needed for recovery.

[Myth 6: Modern Slavery Only Affects Certain Types of People](#)

Reality: Exploitation knows no boundaries. It impacts men, women, and children from all walks of life. Vulnerability doesn't discriminate based on gender, age, or ethnicity. Anyone can fall victim to this heinous crime.

[Myth 7: Modern Slavery is a Thing of the Past](#)

Reality: Far from it. Modern slavery is a thriving industry, adapting to the times. It's powered by the dark corners of the digital world, exploiting online platforms for recruitment and control. To combat it effectively, we must recognise its evolving nature and stay vigilant.

This myth-busting series is more than just dispelling misconceptions; it's a call to action. Armed with knowledge, we can confront modern slavery head-on. By understanding its true face, we empower ourselves to be part of the solution. Together, we can unmask the reality, protect the vulnerable, and bring an end to this abhorrent crime.

[Read the myth busting blogs](#)



Collaborative Chats

In our relentless pursuit of a slavery-free Sandwell, collaboration is our most potent weapon. We firmly believe that together, we are stronger. Over the past month, we've embarked on a series of collaborative chats with various teams and organisations, all sharing a common goal – to combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

Meeting the Community Navigators



Strengthening Our Community: Collaborative Chat with Sandwel...

In the heart of Sandwell, a profound commitment to the well-being of our...

 [blogspot.com](#)

Our community navigators, a partnership of local organisations, play a crucial role in delivering wellbeing support services across Sandwell. Their mission extends to all residents aged 18 and over, including those with disabilities, mental health conditions, learning disabilities, and dementia, as well as carers. During our collaborative chat with them, we explored the intersection of their work with modern slavery.

Empowering Safeguarding Teams

Our next collaborative chat took us to the safeguarding adult teams. These dedicated professionals are on the front lines, working tirelessly to protect those most at risk. Our conversation focused on broadening the scope of safeguarding to encompass victims of modern slavery.



Collaborative Chat: Widening the Scope of Safeguarding for Mode...

The ongoing series of collaborative chats continues to foster insightful discussion...

 [blogspot.com](#)

Collaborating with Income Management

Lastly, we engaged with our income management team. Their role in managing financial matters intersects with modern slavery in various ways. During our chat, we delved into several key areas of concern. These included:

- **Identifying Vulnerable Customers:** Exploring methods to identify customers at a higher risk of falling victim to modern slavery. Vulnerability assessment tools could be integrated into their processes.
- **Unexplained Debt Accumulation:** Addressing the potential for recognising debt that accumulates without a reasonable explanation, which could be an indicator of forced debt.
- **Language and Communication Indicators:** Discussing how unusual language or signs of distress during communications with customers could be indicative of someone who is being coerced or controlled.
- **Record-Keeping and Documentation:** Emphasising the importance of thorough record-keeping, which can aid in identifying patterns over time.



Spotlight on Collaborative Chat: Exploring Modern Slavery...

At the heart of our commitment to combatting modern slavery lies...

 [blogspot.com](#)

Discover the Latest on "Sandwell's Spotlight on Modern Slavery" Blog

In our ongoing mission to raise awareness, empower action, and build a united front against modern slavery, "Sandwell's Spotlight on Modern Slavery" continues to shine its brilliant light on this critical issue. This month, our blog has been buzzing with insightful posts that deepen our understanding and fuel our determination to eradicate exploitation.



Navigating the Health and Care Worker Visa in the UK: A Step-by-Step Guide

Over the last 12 months, the healthcare and care sector in the UK has seen a surge in health care workers. This has led to a significant increase in the number of health care workers applying for visas. This blog post provides a step-by-step guide to navigating the health care visa process.

[blogspot.com](#)



Hidden in Plain Sight: Unveiling the Reality of Modern Slavery

In a sobering reminder of the insidious nature of modern slavery, a recent news report highlighted the hidden reality of modern slavery in plain sight. This blog post explores the hidden reality of modern slavery and provides insights into how it can be identified and addressed.

[blogspot.com](#)



The Reality of Modern Slavery Claims: Navigating Complex Terrain

Recent reports highlighting a significant drop in the number of successful modern slavery claims. This blog post explores the complex terrain of modern slavery claims and provides insights into how to navigate this complex terrain.

[blogspot.com](#)



Spotlight on Collaborative Chat: Exploring Modern Slavery...

At the heart of our commitment to combatting modern slavery lies our collaborative chat. This blog post explores the collaborative chat and provides insights into how it can be used to combat modern slavery.

[blogspot.com](#)

Collaborative Chat Focus

Our collaborative chats have been a highlight of our efforts. These interactive sessions unite professionals and stakeholders, fostering dialogue and action against modern slavery. Stay tuned for updates on our collaborative chat focus in this month's newsletter.



Myth Busting Series

Dispelling myths surrounding modern slavery is essential to addressing the issue effectively. Our myth-busting series corrects misconceptions and provides accurate information, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of this complex problem. From debunking the idea that victims always want to be rescued to dispelling the myth that modern slavery only affects certain types of people, we're setting the record straight.

We invite you to explore these enlightening blog posts, share them with your network, and join us in the fight against modern slavery. Together, we are a beacon of hope and unity, working tirelessly to create a safer, brighter future for all.

Preparing to Shine a Spotlight on Anti-Slavery Day

Every year on the 18th of October, we unite as a community to mark Anti-Slavery Day. It's a day when we turn our collective focus towards a pressing issue that affects countless lives – human trafficking and modern slavery. This day serves as a reminder of our commitment to eradicate this heinous crime from our society. At the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, we're gearing up for a week of impactful events and initiatives to mark this significant day.

Why Anti-Slavery Day Matters:

Anti-Slavery Day is not just a date on the calendar; it's a rallying call to action. It's a day when we amplify our efforts to raise awareness about the horrors of modern slavery and human trafficking. It's a day when we encourage governments, local authorities, companies, charities, and individuals to come together and do their part in addressing this grave problem.

Our Upcoming Initiatives:

We're excited to announce that we have a series of events planned for Anti-Slavery Day and the surrounding week. These events are designed to engage our community, educate, and inspire action:

Partner Walkabout in West Bromwich: Our team will take to the streets of West Bromwich town centre to engage with the public and local businesses. We'll have conversations about modern slavery, distribute informational materials, and encourage everyone to be vigilant and aware.

Exploitation Summit 18th October 10 - 4pm

In collaboration with Adult and Children's Social Care, we'll host an Exploitation Summit with a focus on transitions. This is a crucial aspect of our work as it addresses the vulnerabilities of those moving through different life stages.

Book your place here

Join us at Sandwell's first Exploitation Summit - we can learn together

If you are a frontline practitioner, partner or senior manager, this event is for you.

We will be joined by Steve Baguley from NWG.

- What are we doing well?
- Collaborative Chats
- Victims Voices
- Preparing for adulthood
- What can we do differently?
- Recovery models



The poster features logos for Sandwell Children's Trust, Slavery Free Sandwell, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, and Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board. The title is 'Exploitation Summit highlights'.

10am	Welcome	Deb Ward
10:10am	Introduction	Steve Baguley
Celebrating the local picture		
10:40am	Sandwell Children's Trust	Andy Turvey
-1:00pm	Transitions, young adults and transforming care	Daleep Achall and Rachel Lee
	Transition networks and information guides	Claire Mawby
	Criminal exploitation and the care network	Wendy Sims
Free buffet lunch!		
Regional context - hear from Rachel Swain, Solihull!		
Working together, workshops and action planning		
Come along to listen, learn and have your say!		

To book your place on the summit, visit: <https://training.sandwellscb.org.uk/>

**EXPLOITATION SUMMIT
BOOK NOW**

A Public Health Approach to Modern Slavery for Local Authorities

We are thrilled to introduce a powerful resource that promises to transform our collective fight against modern slavery. Today, we launch our comprehensive guide on adopting a public health approach to tackle this pressing issue.

Why a Public Health Approach?

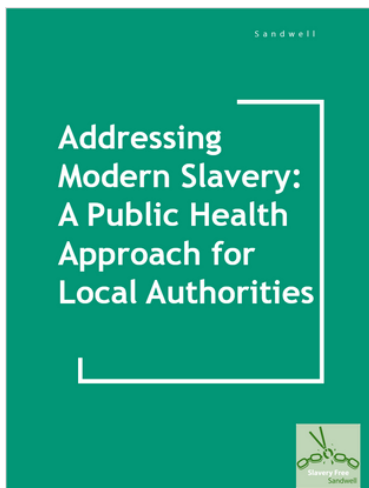
Modern slavery is not just a criminal concern; it's a deeply rooted social problem with wide-ranging consequences. Vulnerable individuals and communities are affected, making it essential to address the issue from a public health perspective. Our guide illuminates this approach, providing actionable insights for local authorities.

A Beacon of Hope and Unity

By adopting a public health approach, we can turn the tide against modern slavery. Together, we become a beacon of hope and unity for survivors, advocating for their rights, supporting their recovery, and working tirelessly to prevent further exploitation.

Join Us in the Fight

We invite you to download the guide and explore its contents. Share it with your colleagues, fellow local authorities, and partners. Let's work together to create a safer, more resilient society where modern slavery is an anomaly, not a reality.



[Download the new guidance](#)

Recent blogs on a public health approach to modern slavery



Uniting for Change: Embracing a Public Health Approach to...

In the warm embrace of a community...

redefiningslavery.blogspot.com

Whats in the guide?

Understanding Modern Slavery: Gain a deep understanding of modern slavery, including its various forms, impact on public health, and the social determinants that increase vulnerability.

Prevention and Awareness: Implement practical measures to reduce the risk of individuals falling victim to exploitation within your jurisdiction

Protection and Support: Discover strategies for providing comprehensive support to survivors, covering healthcare, counselling, legal assistance, and reintegration into society.

Collaborative Approach: Explore the benefits of fostering collaboration between local authorities, public health agencies, law enforcement, community organisations, and survivors themselves.

Case Studies: Gain insights from real-world case studies that demonstrate successful implementations of a public health approach in the fight against modern slavery.

Resources: Access a collection of resources, including toolkits, research papers, and contact information for relevant organisations, to enhance your efforts.

Building a Safer Society: Understand the critical role local authorities play in creating a safer, more resilient society where modern slavery is an anomaly, not a reality.

Join the Fight:

[Access the Guide](#) to access and explore the full guide. Share it with your colleagues, partners, and fellow local authorities to join the fight against modern slavery.

Key dates

Anti Slavery Partnership

We are pleased to inform you about our upcoming Anti-Slavery Partnership quarterly meeting. This regular gathering is a crucial opportunity for us to come together, share updates, and strengthen our collaborative efforts in the fight against modern slavery.

Meeting Details:

- Date: September 26th
- Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

As we work collectively to combat modern slavery and its various forms, your participation and insights are invaluable. This meeting will provide a platform for open discussions, knowledge sharing, and strategic planning to further our mission.

If you would like to attend the quarterly meeting or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk.

Your active engagement in these discussions will contribute to our ongoing efforts to prevent and address modern slavery effectively.

Thank you for your commitment to this important cause. Together, we can make a significant impact and create a safer environment for all.

Your Input Matters!

We value your input and ideas to make our newsletter even more informative and impactful. If you have any suggestions or topics you'd like us to cover in our next edition, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Your insights are invaluable in helping us create content that truly resonates with our community.

Feel free to reach out to us at modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk with your thoughts, suggestions, or contributions. Together, we can continue to raise awareness, drive change, and make a difference in the fight against modern slavery.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Let's keep working together to build a safer and more inclusive future for all.

Your Ideas Matter:

We believe that the strength of our initiatives lies in our collaborative approach. We invite all members of our organisation/community to contribute their ideas for Anti-Slavery Day. Whether it's a workshop, seminar, awareness campaign, art exhibition, or any other creative concept, your input is invaluable.

Share Your Ideas:

If you have any ideas or suggestions for meaningful activities, events, or campaigns that can help us mark Anti-Slavery Day, please email them to us at modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk.

Your contributions will play a vital role in shaping our plans and ensuring that our efforts have a lasting impact.

We are excited to see the innovative ideas that our community members bring to the table. Together, we can make Anti-Slavery Day a powerful platform for education, advocacy, and action against modern slavery.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Let's work together to create a future where no one is trapped in the chains of exploitation.