

The Children's Society Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2019/2020

The Children's Society is a national charity committed to improving the lives of thousands of children and young people. Through 2019-20 we worked tirelessly to tackle and prevent child exploitation, improve young people's access to mental health and wellbeing support and to help provide a safety net for children and their families facing crippling poverty or in some cases destitution. We worked directly with more than 11,500 young people, significantly exceeding our expected reach.

Our commitment to tackling modern slavery

Modern Slavery is the term commonly used to refer to illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. Sadly, far from being a horror confined to history, slavery and exploitation is an absolute reality of the world today. Child and adult victims of modern slavery will often find themselves trapped in situations of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced marriage, forced criminality, and forced labour. Groups facing poverty, persecution and marginalisation are even more likely to experience these abuses.

The Children's Society's commitment to tackling modern slavery goes well beyond a statutory obligation to report. It is directly rooted in our commitment to human rights and to our practice and policy work with children and young people who are trafficked and exploited both within the UK and from abroad, whether they are British, settled or have any other status or nationality.

The Children's Society is committed to ensuring the charity and its supply chains are free of slavery. The Children's Society acknowledges its responsibility to comply with all principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the "Act"). This statement is made pursuant to section 54 of the Act. It constitutes The Children's Society's slavery and human trafficking statement and policy statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2020. It covers the activities of The Children's Society and its wholly owned subsidiaries: The Children's Society (Trading) Limited and The Children's Society (Services) Limited.

The Children's Society in its direct practice works towards tackling modern slavery from advocacy, advice, training and resources in several sectors. For instance, the Prevention programme is funded by the Home Office through the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner to prevent child exploitation working closely with leads across a range of sectors in the UK including the Modern Slavery Unit and the National County Lines Coordination Centre within policing. The programme uses a variety of delivery methods including training, resource creation and best practice advice and guidance, in order to achieve strategic change and improve safeguarding responses to exploited children and young people. Our work has a particular focus on improving statutory services' use of the National Referral Mechanism and the Modern Slavery Act's disruption powers alongside recognising the interconnection of exploitation types around human trafficking and Modern Slavery. In 2019, the programme worked with Ofsted, National Police Chiefs Council and the Social Care Inspector to co-design bespoke training for the social care sector around hidden harms for those trafficked to the UK. The programme also worked with chains of hotels around contextual safeguarding to spot, detect and alert the authorities on trafficking within those spaces.

The Children's Society continue to work with an e-learning provider with an e-module on trafficking and modern slavery. The short online course was completed by 10,682 learner practitioners in the educational, teaching, sports clubs, leisure centres or social care sector between March 2019 and March 2020.

At The Children's Society, we tackle modern slavery in three core ways:

1. **We support children and families**— through our services we work with victims and potential victims of trafficking, exploitation and abuse and through our advocacy work we campaign for continual improvement in policy and legislation to tackle all forms of modern day slavery
2. **We ensure our own actions as an employer** are robustly, fairly and transparently confronting the risks of modern day slavery
3. **We challenge our suppliers** to demonstrate a shared commitment against slavery and exploitation in their provision of goods and services to us.

This statement highlights the policies and procedures that underpin a commitment to tackling modern slavery across these three areas.

Experiences of modern slavery from our work with young people

Between April 2019 and March 2020, we ran 15 different services that either worked with children who were being/at risk of being exploited or supported systems change in statutory services that impacted young people being exploited. In total these services worked with over 2400 young people directly and over 11,600 professionals through our systems change work. The types of programmes that support young people who experienced instances of exploitation that fall within the scope of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 are explained in Appendix 1 to this statement.

Our Policies and Procedures

The Children's Society has a comprehensive body of policy and procedure guiding its work, its approach to partnership, and to regulate the behaviour of its staff.

- In relation to our own activities as a charity, we assess the risk of slavery, human trafficking or exploitation as relatively **low**, given that the majority of our work is delivered by our directly employed staff, with relatively small-scale supply chains. However, a risk does remain nonetheless and so the policies and procedures outlined below help us mitigate this, to the point that we are satisfied that we are compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- In relation to our thematic focus on tackling issues of exploitation, abuse and trafficking faced by young people, the likelihood of encountering young people with experiences of modern day slavery is extremely **high** (certain). As such, our policies and procedures such as procurement, whistleblowing and recruitment are critical underpinnings of a robust, safe and ethical response.

Through the effective administration and implementation of a range of policies and procedures, The Children's Society mitigates the risk the Modern Slavery Act. The Trustee Board has reviewed several organisational policies in relation to the Modern Slavery statement. In addition to the commitment made in the statement above, the prevention of Modern Slavery is also referenced through our Safeguarding and

Whistleblowing policies. These policies are updated, reviewed and approved by the governing Board of Trustees on a periodic basis.

A copy of this policy statement, a full copy of the Act and a simplified overview is accessible to all employees electronically on The Children's Society Intranet. If any staff are concerned that modern slavery or human trafficking is taking place in our organisation or supply chains they should raise their concerns to the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services or through the Whistleblowing policy.

This policy statement will be reviewed annually and published accordingly by The Children's Society on its website.

Approval

This policy statement has been approved by the Trustees of The Children's Society and the Boards of Directors of The Children's Society (Services) Limited and The Children's Society (Trading) Limited and signed on their behalf. The Board of Trustees of The Children's Society delegated approval of this statement on its behalf to the relevant signatories at its board meeting on 28 January 2021.



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Mark Russell
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Society



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Elizabeth Walker
Director
The Children's Society
(Trading) Limited



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Alasdair Gillies
Director
The Children's Society
(Services) Limited



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Janet Legrand
Chair of the Trustee Board
The Children's Society

Appendix 1: TCS services working with those at risk of exploitation

TSC Service	Description
Anti-Knife Crime	Group support and raising awareness for young people in Newcastle, Nottingham and Birmingham at risk of being involved in knife crime.
Camden CSE	Support for young people (males and females) aged 12-17 living in Camden who are experiencing, or at risk of sexual exploitation through the provision of 1:1 and group work
CARE Essex	Specialist support to children and young people 8-24 year of age who reside in Essex, are of a medium/high risk of exploitation, or actively being exploited, be that sexually or criminally.
Checkpoint - CSA/E (SARC)	Works with young people and their families in Devon and Torbay who have been affected by issues relating to sexual exploitation and raises awareness of exploitation in local schools.
Disrupting Exploitation	Disrupting criminal and sexual exploitation through intelligence gathering and task-based activities as well as referrals and case work.
FIF Safe in Essex	Providing early intervention support to children and young people aged 8-19 (25 with SEN) across Essex around issues such as risky or challenging behaviour and low-level emotional needs.
Fresh Step	Worked with young women leaving custody or care who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing CSE.
Hand in Hand Yorkshire	One to one support in Yorkshire to help children and young people exit abusive and exploitative relationships or situations and training about child sexual exploitation for groups of professionals.
Lancashire Streetsafe Addaction	Direct support and advocacy to young people in Lancashire who are at risk of exploitation and substance misuse, advice for parents/carers and training for professionals.
Manchester Safer Streets	Supported young people identified as at risk of exploitation through outreach activities, workshops and direct one to one work. Awareness raising within local communities to recognise the signs of exploitation.
Prevention	A national network of officers working to prevent and improve responses to exploitation and abuse across England and Wales. Delivering targeted interventions based on police intelligence to improve responses to CSE/A, CCE, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking across all sectors.
Safe Choices	CSE & CCE specialist support in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire through close working with families and multiagency collaboration,

	keeping children safe and improving the system wide response to child exploitation.
Safe Time	Delivers focused, short to medium term therapy for under 18s in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire at risk of or who have experienced child sexual abuse/exploitation.
SCARPA	Intensive targeted one to one support for young people, aged 10-18, who are at risk of, or affected by exploitation in Newcastle Upon Tyne. Training for professionals to raise awareness of exploitation.
STRIDE	Working with young men in London who have been affected by County Lines exploitation.
Tackling Child Exploitation	Supports local authorities across England to develop effective strategic responses to child exploitation and threats from outside the family home, including CSE and CCE.