

Modern Slavery and Exploitation Prompt Sheet for BFC Practitioners



Definition: Modern slavery is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men using force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation (NHS England, 2020)

Victims of modern slavery may be unable to leave their situation of exploitation and may be controlled by threats, violence, coercion and deception. Many do not realise that they are victims and there can be several barriers to disclosure e.g. fear, shame



Criminal Exploitation: victims are forced to carry out crimes such as shoplifting or gang-related criminal activity e.g. 'cuckooing'/drug-dealing



Labour Exploitation: victims are forced to work in jobs where they are not paid or illegally underpaid e.g. construction



Domestic Servitude: victims are forced to do household chores or undertake childcare for extended hours with limited or no pay and may be confined to the location



Sexual Exploitation: victims are exploited to undertake forced sex work and may be groomed beforehand and transported to other locations

Signs to spot:

- 1. Physical appearance:** Malnourished or unkempt/ anxious/agitated/neglected/wearing the same clothes/ appear withdrawn/untreated injuries.
- 2. Isolation:** Rarely allowed to travel on their own/seem under the control of others/rarely interact/appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- 3. Control:** Have few personal possessions/no longer have their travel documents (confiscated).
- 4. Accommodation:** Living in dirty/cramped/overcrowded accommodation and working at the same address.
- 5. Work:** Long hours/little or no pay/few or no days off/ inappropriate clothing and/or equipment for the job.

Suggested questions to ask:

- Is your life how you want it to be?
- Do you know where your passport is? Can you get it if you need to?
- Could you leave your job if you wanted to? Will someone stop you or say you can't?
- Has someone threatened you or your family? Do you have to do as they say?
- Can you contact and visit family and friends if you wish to?
- Do you have freedom to do what you want?

Referral Pathway for Practitioners:

Suspected child victim?

- Refer to the MASH immediately on 01344 352005 to determine if the case reaches children's social care thresholds
- If not, the following steps need to be taken:
 - If you feel a crime may be taking place, call police on 999 if an emergency or 101 if a non-emergency. You can also report online at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime
 - Seek free specialist support for the victim/family/practitioner from the Thames Valley Partnership Victims First Hub by completing an online referral form at victims-first.org.uk or call their freephone number on 0300 1234 148. They can help with referring a child victim to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and can provide specialist support to the victim, their family and practitioners
 - Refer to appropriate multi-agency group/hold a professional's meeting/strat as appropriate

Suspected adult victim?

- Refer to Adult Services immediately on 01344 351500 or adult.services@bracknell-forest.gov.uk to determine if the person has care and support needs
- If they do not, the following steps need to be taken:
 - If you feel a crime may be taking place, call police on 999 if an emergency or 101 if a non-emergency. You can also report online: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime
 - Seek free specialist support for the victim/family/practitioner from the Thames Valley Partnership Victims First Hub by completing an online referral form at victims-first.org.uk or call their freephone number on 0300 1234 148. They can help with referring an adult victim to the NRM and can provide specialist support to the victim, their family and practitioners
 - Complete a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Tool and refer to appropriate multi-agency group/hold a professional's meeting as appropriate
 - If the adult did not consent to a NRM referral, complete and submit a Duty to Notify form (DtN) form

NRM and DtN forms can be accessed and completed digitally here: [NRM and DtN Forms](#)