

Slavery Exploitation Team

The Slavery Exploitation team is a local authority-based service which has dedicated officers working to identify, tackle and prevent exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking and establish support for survivors in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Referral consent is not required as it may place the victim at further risk of harm. The team does not have direct contacts with victims but drives a multi-agency approach to support them.

What are Exploitation and Modern Slavery?



Exploitation is the use of an imbalance of power to coerce and manipulate individuals or groups into activity for financial or social gain.
Modern Day Slavery is a specific type of exploitation that is covered by the **Modern-Day Slavery Act 2015**.

Identifying the Need and Service Development

The team developed initially from the National Referral Mechanism pilot. At the end of the pilot, a case was referred in which didn't meet statutory thresholds but where there were significant concerns. Following further investigation, a massive modern slavery operation was uncovered. It was realised that there could be many similar cases so leftover funding was used to develop the Slavery Exploitation Team to investigate these further.

What does the Team Do?

- Carry out low-level investigations and intelligence gathering following a referral
- Liaise with key agencies to manage issues such as mental health, housing, immigration etc and support police investigations
- Assess case for Slavery Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference (monthly multi-agency meeting) and feed into National Referral Mechanism referrals
- Offer co-ordinated multi-agency visits, support for professionals, safety planning, ongoing monitoring and support to return to home country if desired/applicable



Key Learning Points

- Importance of low threshold to investigate and no referral criteria
- Multi-agency working is vital and leads to faster resolution
- Training and raising awareness are key – always brings in new referrals
- Be vigilant and professionally curious
- Identify all vulnerabilities and risks. Rate using Red Amber Green System
- 'No wrong door' policy – if case not appropriate, referred onwards
- Exploitation can happen to anyone – they may not realise they are victims
- Power is so formidable that things can appear consensual when they aren't

Case Study

- Referral received for vulnerable adult with learning disability and substance use challenges
- Concerns about financial exploitation and a number of physical assaults against him by drug dealers and users
- Struggling with mental health and hygiene but substance use preventing him from accessing support
- Slavery Exploitation Team instigated welfare checks by police leading to referrals to:
 - adult social care
 - substance use services
 - counselling
- Multidisciplinary meetings to explore interventions and pathways to support
- Assessments led to diagnosis of cognitive impairment and team able to advocate for him to access mental health specialist supported accommodation.
- Moved in to accommodation 3 months post-referral and engaging in services around substance use, mental health and personal daily routines



Click [here](#) to learn more about modern slavery and exploitation.