

Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement 2016/17

Camden Council understands the risk that all forms of modern slavery pose both to its own residents and visitors and internationally through the global nature of modern supply chains. The Council is committed to the opposition of modern slavery and recognises the role it can play as a public sector organisation and with its partners in its identification and disruption. The Council is fully committed to using all avenues open to it to tackle modern slavery by using its statutory powers, its role as a public procurer and through utilising the strengths of all its partnerships with the Police, the NHS and other organisations and through wider awareness raising.

Camden Council has a zero tolerance approach to any form of modern slavery. We are committed to acting in an ethical manner, with integrity and transparency in all business dealings.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and explains the steps that Camden Council has undertaken to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking within the organisation, its sub-contractors, partners or supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. It also sets out the plans for improvements in the next year.

Our organisation

Camden Council is a London local authority with a jurisdiction of approximately 8.5 square miles and a population of 230,000. Camden Council spends approximately £460 million per year on external goods, services and works varying from construction of new buildings and facilities management, to cleaning, to supply of IT equipment, clothing, and foods, to care services and a wide range of other support, professional and people based services. These goods, services and works are procured from a wide variety of local, national and international organisations, businesses and voluntary sector organisations. Each supplier in turn may have its own supply chain. The challenge for Camden is to ensure compliance and best practice within not only the organisation and its own suppliers but from the supply chains that serve them.

Our policies

We pride ourselves on clear and rigorous HR policies and procedures and high standards for employees that minimise the risk of any form of modern slavery existing within the organisation and its suppliers.

Recruitment:

We have a robust and transparent recruitment and selection process and ensure that all new workers recruited into a post at Camden, whether full or part time employees, agency employees, or contractors/consultants have the requisite checks, which includes identification and right to live and work in the UK. Our offer of employment is subject to the following rigorous process:

- Acceptance of the terms and conditions contained within the contract of employment.

- The receipt of satisfactory references.
- Evidence of any required professional qualifications (eg social work qualification) and essential requirements, such as a clean driving licence.
- Any necessary Disclosure and Barring Service checks, where applicable.
- The receipt of eligibility to work in the UK.
- Identification check

Agency staff:

Camden council ensures that all workers including agency employees, contractors and consultants go through the same checks as Camden employees. We ensure that all agencies in our supply chain comply with our rigorous process and adhere to the Camden way minimising the risk of unscrupulous employment practices.

Pay:

The Council has invested in implementing the London Living Wage (LLW) and improving conditions for all our workers. Camden became a Living Wage Employer in February 2012, since then 314 contracts in excess of £100K (for the term of the contract) have been awarded, 310 of these were awarded inclusive of LLW. This has included contracts for care homes which are an identified high risk area for modern slavery.

Code of Conduct:

Camden employees must behave honestly and follow Camden's policies and procedures. Our code of conduct makes it clear that staff must not behave in a manner inside and outside working hours which could damage the council's reputation. All employees are expected to keep within the law during their employment at all times.

Our suppliers

We are committed to creating effective systems and controls to safeguard against any form of modern slavery taking place within the business or our supply chain.

Steps already taken:

- We have included a question in our standard selection questionnaire used to shortlist suppliers for tender asking organisations whether they are required to produce a Modern Slavery Statement and provide a link to the statement on their website. This information is to allow us to verify those within our supply chain this applies too
- We have included a question in our standard selection questionnaire asking whether suppliers or persons in control of or representing them have been found guilty of using child labour or guilty of any other form of human trafficking, and if they have been they are excluded from the tender process.

Steps to be taken in 2017- 2018:

- Include reference to Camden's Modern Slavery statement in our guidance to suppliers "Being a Camden Supplier",
- Review standard terms and conditions to include terms to reduce risk of slavery and penalise use of human trafficking in delivery by Suppliers or through their supply chain.
- Include within supplier monitoring a requirement for annual submission of policy statements and proof of compliance. Improve our Supplier due diligence practices to include assessment of the impact, and requirement to engage and monitor
- Investigate affiliation with monitoring bodies which screen practices in large supplier organisation and their supply chains, to provide additional intelligence to support risk assessment
- Map our supply chains of impacted contracts, identifying areas for further investigation, support, monitoring and awareness
- Revise procurement practices to include an assessment of risk and strengthening of alignment with ethical values

Training

The Council has developed training courses covering specific aspects of modern slavery are available to Camden staff to increase their understanding of all forms of modern slavery and to enable them to provide effective support to victims and to reduce the risks they experience. Modern slavery is also covered in safeguarding courses undertaken by staff who work directly with the public. An additional series of training sessions for key staff who might encounter victims of modern slavery to improve identification of the crime and awareness raising sessions for key finance personnel to spot the risks is planned to take place in 2017-18. We also make training on modern slavery available to our partner agencies.

Approval for this statement

This statement was approved by Cabinet on 18 October 2017

Name **Councillor Georgia Gould, Leader of the Council**

Signature 

Date **30 October 2017**