

Modern Slavery Act Statement

Introduction

This statement is a statement of the City of Sunderland College, trading as Education Partnership North East (which includes Sunderland College, Hartlepool Sixth Form College and Northumberland College). These colleges will be referred to as “the College” throughout this statement.

In agreement with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the College is committed to preventing acts of modern slavery i.e. human trafficking and slavery within both its business and supply chain. Following this, the College imposes those high standards on its suppliers and subcontractors.

The College is fully aware of the responsibilities it bears towards students, employees and the local community and as such, we have a strict set of ethical values that we use as guidance with regard to commercial activities. We are committed to improving our practice to combat slavery and human trafficking.

Organisational structure

The College is a significant provider of Further and Higher Education in England and the largest Further Education College Group situated entirely in the North East of England with over 14,000 students enrolled on full or part time programmes. We are a high performing organisation with a track record of success serving the North East from Berwick upon Tweed to Hartlepool. We employ approximately 872 employees and had an income of £47.2 million for the year ending 31 July 2022.

The College is an exempt charity under part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 with a main business to deliver education and training to students from the age of 16 through a wide range of vocational and academic programmes including Higher Education.

Further information about the College can be found by visiting:

<https://www.educationpartnershipne.ac.uk/>

Our supply chains

In compliance with the consolidation of offences relating to trafficking and slavery within the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the College is currently reviewing its supply chains with a view to confirming that such actions are not taking place.

To date we have reviewed our supply chain and identified general potential areas of risk including:

- Provision of Food
- Construction
- Cleaning
- Clothing (Work Wear)

Our policies and due diligence processes on slavery and human trafficking

All employees within the College have a responsibility to consider issues regarding modern slavery and incorporate their understanding of these issues into their day to day practice as provided in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Our Procurement Policy helps us to consider issues around modern slavery and human trafficking within our supply chain.

We have policies and procedures in place to encourage and respond to public interest disclosures and to protect whistle blowers.

We routinely confirm the suppliers within these Supply Chains and our subcontractors are compliant with the Act. We routinely confirm with our key suppliers and subcontractors that they too are compliant with the Act.

We also have:

- Introduced a “Supplier Code of Conduct” and ask all existing and new suppliers to confirm their compliance
- Added evidence gathering questions into our tendering procedures.

Training

Advice and training about slavery and human trafficking will need to be provided to the Procurement team by the Safeguarding lead.

Signature on file

Ellen Thinnesen
Chief Executive

This Statement has been approved by the Board of the Corporation on 14 February 2023 and will be reviewed at least once annually.