

## Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking 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 one of the largest providers of Further Education in 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 of England from Berwick upon Tweed through the Tees Valley. We employ approximately 916 employees and had an income of £53.2 million for the year ending 31 July 2023.

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 are contacting the suppliers within these Supply Chains and our subcontractors to ask them to confirm that they are compliant with the Act.

We are contacting our key suppliers and subcontractors to request confirmation that they too are compliant with the Act.

We also intend to:

- Introduce a “supplier Code of Conduct” and ask all existing and new suppliers to confirm their compliance
- Add 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 designated Safeguarding leads.

*Signature on file*

Ellen Thinnesen  
Chief Executive

Date:

This Statement has been approved by the Board of the Corporation on 19 March 2024 and will be reviewed at least once annually.