

## **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 takes our duties seriously and imposes high standards on its business, 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 118000 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 1000 employees and had an income of £65 million for the year ending 31 July 2025.

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.educationpartnershipsne.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 continually reviews its supply chains with a view to confirming that such actions are not taking place.

To date we have reviewed our supply chain and continue to monitor 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 whistleblowers.

We have contacted suppliers within these Supply Chains and our subcontractors to ask them to confirm that they are compliance with the Act.

We have also contacted our key suppliers and subcontractors to confirm that they too are compliant with the Act.

We have

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

### **Training**

The Procurement team have been provided with training, by the designated Safeguarding leads, and an ongoing 3 year programme of refresher training is available, where required.

Toni Rhodes

Chief Executive

Date: 30/06/26

This statement has been approved by the Board of the Corporation on and will be reviewed at least once annually.