

Slavery and human trafficking statement

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS FT (“WWL”) is an NHS foundation trust, providing acute hospital and community care to the population of Wigan Borough and beyond. Each year we treat over 87,000 inpatients and over 480,000 outpatients and we deal with around 94,000 Emergency Department attendances. We also provide around 44,000 walk-in centre appointments and deal with over 177,000 referrals from GPs. We employ over 6,000 members of staff and have an annual turnover of c.£397m. Further detail about what we do can be found on our website.

Policies and initiatives

We fully support the Government’s objective to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking and recognise the significant role that the NHS has to play in combatting it and in supporting victims.

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business and, insofar as possible, we require our suppliers to adopt a similar approach. We are also committed to using our role as a healthcare provider and a key organisation in the borough to ensure that our staff and patients are able to access all available support and, as such, we are committed to the sharing of information and raising awareness.

At WWL, we:

- Comply with legislation and regulatory requirements
- Make suppliers and service providers aware that we promote the requirements of the legislation
- Consider modern slavery factors when making procurement decisions
- Develop awareness of modern slavery issues

For our workforce, we:

- Confirm the identities of all new employees and their right to work in the United Kingdom, and pay our employees in line with national terms and conditions, such as Agenda for Change
- Have dedicated policies in relation to grievances and raising concerns and we have a good working relationship with our staff side partners which gives our employees an outlet to raise any concerns about poor working practices
- Have an independent Freedom to Speak Up Guardian that colleagues can contact in person, by telephone or email to raise concerns about their own circumstances or those of others

For procurement and our wider supply chain, we:

- Encourage suppliers and contractors to take their own action and understand their obligations under the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Act 2015
- Ensure that due diligence is carried out prior to selecting new suppliers to work with us
- Provide information and support to suppliers who have been identified as not following this best practice
- Reserve the right to end business relationships where suppliers have failed to meet their obligations and/or meet our ethical standards

The procurement team will:

- Wherever possible, include the use of selection and award criteria with an appropriate weighting given to modern slavery criteria in tenders
- Aim to check and draft specifications to include a commitment from suppliers to support the requirements of the Act
- Will not award contracts where suppliers will not commit to complying with the Act
- Continue to support the use of regional and national public sector frameworks which incorporate selection and award criteria to support goals of the Act

During the financial year 2021/2022, we will:

- Ensure that all procurement staff undertake modern slavery and human trafficking training to raise awareness of this important issue within the team and the wider organisation
- Not award contracts where suppliers cannot commit to complying with the Act
- Review our terms and conditions of business to ensure that they reflect our obligations under the Act
- Undertake an audit of our supply chain with the aim of ensuring that all suppliers meet the obligations of the Act and to identify high-risk categories within our supply chain so that we can work with the suppliers who provide these goods and/or services to ensure they have robust processes in place

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

The Board approved this statement at its meeting on 31 March 2021.

Signed:



Silas Nicholls
Chief Executive