

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. We treat over 87,000 inpatients and over 480,000 outpatients each year, and we deal with around 94,000 attendances each year. We also provide approximately 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 around £370m. Further detail about what we do can be found on our website.

Policies and initiatives

We fully support the Government's objectives 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 all 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.

For procurement and our wider supply chain, we:

- Aim to include modern slavery conditions or criteria in specification and tender documents wherever possible
- Will evaluate specifications and tenders with appropriate weight given to modern slavery points

- Encourage suppliers and contractors to take their own action and understand their obligations under the new requirements
- Ensure that our staff will work with the procurement team when looking to work with new supplier to ensure that appropriate checks are undertaken.

The procurement team will:

- Undertake awareness training where possible
- Aim to check and draft specifications to include a commitment from suppliers to support the requirements of the Act
- Not award contracts where suppliers do not demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in their own business or supply chains.

During the financial year 2020/21, we will:

- Review our terms and conditions of business, including any specific clauses, to ensure that they reflect our obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Upskill the procurement team on the implications of the Act in order that they can support the wider organisation on its implementation
- For those contracts deemed to be of high risk, including the specific Right to Audit against the obligations of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

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 2021.

The Board approved this statement at its meeting on 29 July 2020.



Signed: _____

Silas Nicholls
Chief Executive