

Spotting the Signs of Modern Slavery Remotely

With a reduction of face-to-face services, Covid-19 has created new challenges to identifying potential victims of modern slavery. Whilst speaking to persons on the phone, you may encounter some of the following indicators, which could suggest a person may be in an exploitative situation.

Controlled communication

- When you phone the number on record, the person you expect to answer does not.
- A person insists on translating on the person's behalf and obstructs the use of an independent interpreter.
- A person is in the background who seems to be feeding answers to your questions.
- A person gives the number of someone else.
- A person suggests they do not have a phone or do not know their own phone number.
- You think your call is on loudspeaker and another person is listening into your call.
- Suspicions that the person you are speaking to is not the person you thought.

Other indicators

- A person suggests they do not get their benefits or wages and/or someone else is in control of their money.
- A person suggests they owe someone money for a job, accommodation and/or travel.
- A person is vague/unclear about where they live or work.
- A person suggests they do not have access to their own I.D, bankcard and/or NINO.
- The address given has a history of complaints.
- A number of benefit claims registered to the same address.
- A person suggests they are not registered with the GP.

Get Help

- **Report your concerns to a manager** to discuss an action plan/risk assessment.
- Call the **Police** on **101**, or **999** where you believe a person is in immediate danger.
- Call the **Modern Slavery Helpline** on **08000 121 700** to report your concerns or get advice.

- Always try to use a professional independent interpreter.
- Asking an opening question like 'how are you today?' can help gauge a person's situation.
- Be aware that a controlling influence may be with them.

Visit southyorksmsp.co.uk for more guidance on modern slavery.