

Curiosity Counts...

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery is a hidden crime, which affects an estimated 136,000 people across the UK (Global Slavery Index 2016). Adults and children in South Yorkshire are exploited for financial gain through several means, including:

- **Sexual Exploitation:** victims are deceived, coerced and/or forced to take part in sexual activity.
- **Labour Exploitation:** coerced victims work for little or no pay under threat of penalty.
- **Criminal Exploitation:** victims are coerced/deceived into committing criminal acts under the threat of penalty.
- **Domestic Servitude:** victims live and work in private households and are forced to work long hours undertaking a variety of domestic tasks for very little or no pay.

Exploiters use tactics such as threats, violence, deception and debt bondage to control their victims. Sometimes a person may not understand their rights or identify as a victim.

Who is at Risk?

Anyone can be at risk of exploitation. Although there are several factors that may make a person more at risk including debt, poverty, homelessness and mental health. Housing also plays an important role in facilitating exploitation.



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During lockdown, there has been a reduction of face-to-face services leaving fewer opportunities to intervene in potentially exploitative situations. It is important that everyone working in, and with the community is curious about the signs of Modern Slavery.

✓ Do

- ✓ Be aware of the signs of Modern Slavery when you are in the community.
- ✓ Trust your instinct. If you spot something that does not feel right, it might not be.
- ✓ Visit southyorksmsp.co.uk for more information and guidance.

✗ Don't

- ✗ Put yourself or any potential victims in danger. Instead, report your concerns.
- ✗ Think you are alone. Get advice from a manager or the Modern Slavery Helpline.
- ✗ Think anything is too small to report.

Spotting the Signs

Indicators you may see include people that:

- Suggest they owe another person money
- Appear to have their movement and/or communication controlled
- Are unclear about where they live
- Display changes in their behaviour such as disengaging with services.

House that have:

- Several people living there often in cramped and dirty conditions
- Frequent turnover of people
- Multiple cars parked for short periods
- Windows which appear blacked out
- Bins that are either overflowing (for a small household) or consistently not used
- A smell of cannabis or signs of drug use
- Blocked up letterboxes.

Report Your Concerns to:

- A Safeguarding or Modern Slavery Lead
- The [Modern Slavery Helpline](https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/) 08000 121 700
- The [Police](https://www.police.uk/) on 101 or 999 in an emergency.