

NHS England and NHS Improvement Board meetings held in common

Paper Title: NHS England and NHS Improvement Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for 2022/23

Agenda item: 8 (Public session)

Report by: Jacqui Rock, Chief Commercial Officer

Paper type: For noting

Organisation Objective:

NHS Mandate from Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statutory item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NHS Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NHS People Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Executive summary:

Section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act (2015) requires commercial organisations operating in the UK with an annual turnover of £36m to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation.

The Act specifies two legal requirements for the statement:

1. Statements must be published on the organisation website with a link in prominent place on the UK homepage
2. Statements should be approved by the board of directors and signed by a director

The Statement has been updated to make it easier for stakeholders to see our alignment and commitment to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and to highlight areas where we are strengthening our commitment to tackling Modern Slavery, such as through our procurement process and updates to NHS Terms and Conditions.

Action required:

The Boards are asked to approve the Slavery and Human Trafficking statement for 2022/23.

Background

1. Modern Slavery is an umbrella term, encompassing human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour.
2. Under the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) an organisation is required to publish a Modern Slavery Statement if:
 - a. It is a 'body corporate' or a partnership, whether incorporated or formed
 - b. It carries on a business, or part of a business in the UK
 - c. It supplies goods or services
 - d. It has an annual turnover of £36 million or more
3. The statement is being made for NHS England and NHS Improvement

Considerations

4. This is the sixth Modern Slavery Statement that has been published by NHS England. The Statement has been reformatted to make it easier for our stakeholders to see our alignment and commitment to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
5. There have been no legal or statutory changes made during 2021/22, therefore changes in content to this year's statement have focused on increasing clarity and transparency regarding NHS England and NHS Improvement's work on Modern Slavery.
6. NHS England and NHS improvement fully support the Government's objectives to eradicate Modern Slavery and human trafficking and recognises the significant role the NHS must play in both combatting it and supporting victims, both directly and through its supply chains.
7. During the past year we have continued to increase the depth and breadth of the work on Modern Slavery, delivering on the improvements we committed to in last year's statement:
 - a. continue to support all NHS staff to understand and respond to Modern Slavery and human trafficking.
 - b. ensure that all NHS staff have access to training
 - c. work with NHS funded organisations to ensure Modern Slavery and human trafficking are taken seriously and feature prominently in safeguarding work plans.
8. We partially completed the following improvement committed to in last year's statement, these will be included in the Modern Slavery strategy being co-developed with NHS Supply Chain:
 - a. review all NHS England safeguarding policies and training programmes
 - b. undertake a risk assessment on transparency in supply chain including an overview of products, services and suppliers procured.
9. The 2022 update to the NHS Terms and Conditions will strengthen our position on Modern Slavery, including increasing supplier obligations and the option to terminate for breaches in social and labour laws.
10. As part of the NHS Net Zero commitment outlined in the 2020 "Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service" report, we have published the [NHS Supplier Roadmap](#). As part of the roadmap, the annual self-assessment (the Sustainable Supplier Assessment) will include Modern Slavery requirements.
11. As of 1st April 2022, all NHS Trusts will be required to adopt central government's Social Value Model (Procurement Policy Note 06/20) which requires a 10% minimum requirement for Net Zero and Social Value in all procurements. Modern Slavery features prominently and specific guidance to NHS organisations on how to apply this to health care settings has been provided.