

GWYNEDD COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2024/25



Introduction

Gwynedd Council delivers a wide range of public services provided both directly through our workforce and through a large number of suppliers and contractors.

In July 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved Welsh Government's Code of Practice for ethical employment in supply chains which aims to ensure that all public sector organisations are taking action to eradicate unlawful and unethical employment practices, including modern slavery and human rights abuses. Gwynedd Council continues to be committed to doing all we can to eradicate illegal, unfair practices from our supply chains.

For further information about the Welsh Governments Code of Practice please visit:

<https://gov.wales/ethical-employment-supply-chains-code-practice>

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It can take the following forms:

- Forced prostitution
- Child trafficking
- Criminal exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced labour
- Organ harvesting
- Sexual exploitation

The Council recognises it has a responsibility as an employer to be aware of the potential for instances of modern slavery and to report such instances or concerns to the relevant bodies.

Between January and December 2023, 114 instances relating to potential victimisation / modern slavery / human trafficking were received by North Wales Police forces via the National Referral Mechanism for further investigation, 16 of which were from within Gwynedd. Via the Duty to Notify mechanism, North Wales Police received 21 over this period, with 5 of these from within Gwynedd.

Progress to date:

Gwynedd Council has successfully completed a number of the commitments to the code. Please find our progress in the link below:

[Code-of-Practice-Progress-and-Action-Plan-2023-24.pdf \(llyw.cymru\)](#)

Moving forward, the Council will continue its commitment to the Code of Practice and will develop further safeguarding measures during the year to try and ensure we ethically source goods and services.

Signposting

The public and staff, equally, have a responsibility to be aware of potential instances of modern slavery or of a business using forced labour. If you have any such concerns, please contact any of the following bodies :-

North Wales Police : **Telephone 101 (or 999 in an Emergency)**

Modern Slavery Helpline : **Telephone 0800 0121700**

Crimestoppers : **Telephone 0800 555 111**

Senior Manager Safeguarding, Quality : **Telephone 01766 771000**

Assurance & Mental Health, Gwynedd Council