

Modern Slavery Act Statement 2017/18

Introduction

The Advance Group provides housing, support and other services to people with mental health and learning disabilities. We want to enable people of all ages, with a disability or a mental health issue, to realise their potential as valued citizens.

We believe everyone:

- Must be valued and treated with respect
- Has the right to live as independently as they can
- Has the right to be private
- Has the right to live in good quality, local housing
- Should have the opportunity to be active and productive through work, learning and leisure
- Should be able to use services in their local area
- Can enjoy a life made richer by a wide circle of friendships and relationships.

We operate solely in the United Kingdom.

Commitment and Accountability

We are committed to understanding the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking and ensuring we do all we can to ensure these are recognized and mitigated in our organisation and in organisations with which we do business.

The commitments to anti slavery initiatives are approved by the Board with specific accountability for monitoring and implementation being given to the Directors of HR and of Resources.

Policies

We have a number of key policies and practices which support our belief in the importance treating everyone with respect and are directly relevant to our approach to combating modern slavery. These are, our:

- Code of Conduct
- Whistleblowing Policy

- Recruitment and Selection practice and policy
- Diversity and equality practice and policy.

These practices and policies are regularly reviewed and the avoidance of modern slavery will be considered as an integral part of reviewing and updating these and other relevant policies.

Due Diligence and Supply Chains

We expect our suppliers and other companies we engage with to ensure their goods; materials and labour-related supply chains fully comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. In 2017/18 we will review our supply chain to identify any areas of particular risk and assess our procurement and contract management practices to ensure they identify, monitor and mitigate any modern slavery risks in the supply chain.

Training and Awareness Raising

We are developing awareness building and training initiatives that support and develop our approach to combating modern slavery. These will include;

- The basic principles of the Modern Slavery act 2015
- How modern slavery is identified and prevented
- How staff can raise concerns, both internally and externally.

Key performance indicators

We are reviewing our performance indicators to ensure we can effectively monitor our progress and performance in delivering our commitment to combating modern slavery.

Signed:

Chief Executive

