

# Modern slavery survey

# **Research Report**

Winter 2021-2022



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# Summary

## Background

This report presents the findings of a Local Government Association (LGA) survey, which was conducted to explore what structures and workstreams councils have put in place to respond to modern slavery, and how councils are currently supporting victims.

On 9 December 2021, an online survey was sent by the LGA, via an email link, to all councils in England (a total of 333 councils). The survey was in the field for two months. A total of 116 councils responded, which is a response rate of 35 per cent. This level of response means that these results should not be taken to be more widely representative of the views of all councils. Rather, they are a snapshot of the views of this particular group of respondents.

## Key findings

- Seven out of 10 councils (72 per cent) said modern slavery was an agreed priority for the council or one of its committees.
- Three-quarters of councils (75 per cent) said they participated in a local modern slavery partnership.
- Just over eight out of 10 councils (81 per cent) said they provided training on modern slavery to staff. Most of the remainder (18 per cent) said that training was planned in the next 12 months.
- Almost all respondents (96 per cent) said their council had an agreed point of contact or pathway for members of staff to raise concerns about possible adult victims of modern slavery.
- Nearly nine out of 10 respondents (88 per cent) said their council had and agreed process or pathway for managing referrals of adult victims of modern slavery into the NRM.
- Nearly seven out of 10 councils (69 per cent) had taken steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential adult victims of modern slavery.
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals made in over seven out of 10 district councils (72 per cent) were collated by a single point of contact or lead officer, significantly higher than in county and single tier councils (48 per cent).
- In seven out of 10 councils (70 per cent), all identified adult victims of modern slavery were automatically referred to adult safeguarding as part of the council's local pathway. District councils were significantly more likely to always refer identified adult victims (82 per cent) than county and single tier councils (62 per cent).

- Nearly eight out of 10 respondents from district and single tier councils (78 per cent) said they were aware of the recent update to the homelessness code of guidance regarding priority status for victims of modern slavery.
- Seven out of 10 district and single tier councils (70 per cent) said they have a specific pathway or point of contact through which potential victims of modern slavery can be referred into housing or homelessness services. Single tier councils were significantly more likely to have such a pathway (80 per cent) than district councils (56 per cent).
- Just over half of district and single tier councils (52 per cent) said they did not have access to any dedicated emergency beds, whether council-run, commissioned or partner-run, specifically intended to accommodate suspected victims of modern slavery.
- Nearly three-quarters of councils (74 per cent) identified victim reluctance to disclose as a key challenge associated with identifying and supporting adult victims of modern slavery, over half (54 per cent) said availability of housing or placements and just over two-fifths (42 per cent) identified information sharing between partners.
- Just over half of councils (53 per cent) said they have a specific pathway for identifying and referring children at risk of slavery.
- Nearly three-fifths of councils (58 per cent) had taken steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential child victims of modern slavery.
- Just under two-thirds of respondents (64 per cent) said NRM referrals concerning children made by the council were collated by a single point of contact or lead officer.
- Seven out of 10 councils (70 per cent) identified victim reluctance to disclose as a key challenge associated with identifying and supporting child victims of modern slavery, just over two-fifths (43 per cent) said information sharing between partners, just over a third (36 per cent) identified availability of housing or placements and just under three out of 10 (29 per cent) said large caseloads.
- County and single tier councils were significantly more likely to already have a Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) statement in place (63 per cent) than district councils (39 per cent).
- Just under three-fifths (57 per cent) of councils said their procurement team carries out modern slavery due diligence on high value contracts.

# Introduction

Modern slavery is a heinous crime, and councils' work to tackle it has developed significantly over the past few years, in terms of both adult and child victims. This report presents the findings of a Local Government Association (LGA) survey, which was conducted to explore what structures and workstreams councils have put in place to respond to modern slavery, and how councils are currently supporting victims.

The intelligence gathered will help us better understand councils' work on this important issue. In addition, the results will help the LGA to target further work to promote best practice approaches to tackling modern slavery and supporting victims, including a refresh of the LGA-Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's council guidance on modern day slavery.

# Methodology

On 9 December 2021, the LGA's Research and Information Team sent an online survey to all councils in England (a total of 333 councils). The survey was in the field for two months. A total of 116 councils responded, which is a response rate of 35 per cent. This level of response means that these results should not be taken to be more widely representative of the views of all councils. Rather, they are a snapshot of the views of this particular group of respondents.

Table 1: Response rate by type of authority				
Type of authority	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate %	
County	24	7	29	
District	181	47	26	
London borough	33	16	48	
Metropolitan district	36	19	53	
Unitary authority	59	27	46	
All councils	333	116	35	
Councils with safeguarding responsibilities	155	69	45	

Table 1 and Table 2 provide a breakdown of responses by authority type and region.

Table 2: Response rate by region					
Region	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate %		
East of England	50	16	32		
East Midlands	39	13	33		
Greater London	33	16	48		
North East	12	4	33		
North West	41	13	32		
South East	70	22	31		
South West	33	11	33		
West Midlands	33	9	27		
Yorkshire and Humber	22	12	55		

### **Technical notes**

- The statistical bases are reported under each table. The description refers to the group of people who were asked the question. The number provided refers to the actual number of respondents who answered each question. Please note that bases vary throughout the survey.
- Throughout the report percentages in figures and tables may add to more than 100 per cent due to rounding.
- Throughout the report the results are grouped by district councils, and county and single tier councils. In the text, differences are only highlighted when they are statistically significant based on column proportion tests. 'Significance' always refers to statistical significance.

# Modern slavery survey

This section contains analysis of the full results from the survey.

### Governance and partnership working

Councils were asked whether modern slavery was reflected as an agreed priority for their council. Nearly three-fifths of respondents (59 per cent) said it was an agreed priority for the council. In total, 91 per cent of councils said it was an agreed priority, it was a committee priority, or other. Most councils who said 'other' said it was a priority agreed by their community safety partnership.

County and single tier councils, more than two-thirds of whom (67 per cent) said it was an agreed council priority, were significantly more likely to say this than district councils (47 per cent).

Table 3: Is modern slavery reflected as an agreed priority for your council?				
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Yes, it is an agreed priority	47	67	59	
Yes, it is a committee priority	9	16	13	
Other	42	27	33	
No, none of the above	7	9	8	
Don't know	2	0	1	

Base: all respondents (112 councils; 45 districts; 67 county/single tier)

Around half of councils (49 per cent) said they had a formal strategy in place aimed at tackling modern slavery. A further 23 per cent said they didn't have a strategy in place, but that it was either in progress or planned in the next 12 months. The remainder (28 per cent) said they did not have a strategy and one wasn't currently planned.

District councils were significantly more likely to say they were not currently planning a formal strategy (47 per cent) than county and single tier councils (16 per cent). County and single tier councils were significantly more likely to say they had a strategy in progress (22 per cent) than district councils (four per cent).

Councils were asked to specify the board overseeing their strategy. By far the most common answer was the local community safety partnership. A large number of councils also said this was overseen by a safeguarding board (adults', children's or both). Some councils also said there was a dedicated anti-slavery or anti-violence board.

Table 4: Does you council have a formal strategy aimed at tackling modern slavery?				
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Yes, already established	44	51	49	
No, but in progress	4	22	15	
No, but planned in the next 12 months	4	10	8	
No, and not currently planned	47	16	28	
Don't know	0	0	0	

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Over half of councils (54 per cent) said they had a portfolio holder lead or councillor champion for tackling modern slavery. Just under a third (32 per cent) said they did not and that it was not currently planned.

District councils were significantly more likely to say they were not currently planning to have a portfolio holder lead or councillor champion (49 per cent) than county and single tier councils (21 per cent).

Table 5: Does your council have a portfolio holder lead or councillor champion for tackling modern slavery?				
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Yes, already in place	44	61	54	
No, but planned in the next 12 months	2	12	8	
No and not currently planned	49	21	32	
Don't know	4	6	5	

Base: all respondents (112 councils; 45 districts; 67 county/single tier)

More than three quarters of councils (76 per cent) said they had a designated senior officer, equivalent to head of service or above, with responsibility for modern slavery.

Table 6: Does your council have a designated senior officer, equivalent to head of service or above, with responsibility for modern slavery?					
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils		
	% councils	% councils	% councils		
Yes, we have a designated senior officer	73	78	76		
No, planned in the next 12 months	7	3	4		
No, and not currently planned	18	16	17		
Don't know	2	3	3		

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

More than nine out of 10 (91 per cent) councils said they had a single point of contact or lead officer to coordinate modern slavery actions across the council. Of the 103 councils who had a lead officer, 93 per cent said the role was carried out in addition to other responsibilities. Of the 10 councils that said they did not have a lead officer, seven said work was coordinated through a service team (for example community safety, adult social care), two said work was coordinated through a working group and one said 'other' (unspecified).

Table 7: Does your cound	cil have a single po	oint of contact/lead	officer to
coordinate modern slave	ry across the cour	ncil?	

	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes, we have a designated single point of contact or lead officer	91	91	91
No, and not currently planned	7	3	4
No, but planned in the next 12 months	2	6	4
Don't know	0	0	0

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Councils that had a single point of contact or lead officer for modern slavery were then asked in what team they sit. Just over three-fifths (63 per cent) said the officer sits in community safety. In county and single tier councils, which have social care responsibilities, just over a fifth (21 per cent) said the officer sits in adult safeguarding. Over nine out of 10 (93 per cent) said the officer carried out the role in addition to other responsibilities as opposed to full time.

District councils were significantly more likely to say 'other' (22 per cent) than county and single tier councils (five per cent). Other answers specified included some combination of the teams given, partnerships, regulatory services and procurement.

Table 8: Please indicate which of the following best describes the team in which this officer sits.					
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils		
	% councils	% councils	% councils		
Adult safeguarding	7	21	16		
Community safety	61	64	63		
Children's services	0	2	1		
Policy/corporate/chief	10	8	9		
executive's					
Other	22	5	12		
Don't know	0	0	0		

Base: respondents with a single point of contact or lead officer (102 councils; 41 districts; 61 county/single tier)

Three-quarters of councils (75 per cent) said they participated in a local modern slavery partnership. County and single tier councils were significantly more likely to participate in such a partnership (87 per cent) than district councils (58 per cent).

Table 9: Does your council participate in a local modern slavery partnership?					
	Shire district County/single All counce				
	% councils	% councils	% councils		
Yes	58	87	75		
No	40	9	21		
Don't know	2	4	4		

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Councils were asked to indicate which partners they work with to tackle and address modern slavery, whether in terms of potential adult victims, potential child victims or both. Almost all councils (95 per cent) worked with the police. Just over eight out of 10 councils (81 per cent) worked with youth services, and over half of those for both potential adult and child victims. Just over eight out of 10 (81 per cent) also worked with other voluntary and community sector partners, and just under eight out of 10 councils (79 per cent) worked with health services. For the full list over partners, see Table 10, below.

Table 10: Please let us know with which, if any, of the following partners your council is working with to tackle and address modern slavery.

	Adult potential victims	Child potential victims	Both adult and child potential victims	Summary: working with partner	Not working with to tackle MS	Don't know
	%	%	%	%	%	%
	councils	councils	councils	councils	councils	councils
Police	2	0	93	95	3	3
Youth services	1	28	52	81	8	11
Other voluntary and community sector	3	3	75	81	7	12
Health services	2	0	77	79	10	11
Local victim care contract provider	13	2	51	66	15	19
Council maintained schools	0	22	28	51	19	31
Academy schools	0	19	25	44	20	35
Other	3	3	67	73	10	17

Base: all respondents (bases vary by partner: police 110; health 101; youth 102; local victim care provider 94; other voluntary and community sector 100; maintained schools 95; academies 93; other 17)

## Training

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Councils were asked a number of questions about what, if any, training was offered to staff in relation to modern slavery.

Just over eight out of 10 councils (81 per cent) said they provided training on modern slavery to staff. Most of the remainder (18 per cent) said that training was planned in the next 12 months.

Table 11: Does your coun modern slavery?	Shire district	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes, we currently provide training	82	79	81
No, we don't currently provide training, but plan to in the next 12 months	16	19	18
No, we don't provide training, and have no plans to	2	1	2
Don't know	0	0	0

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Councils that said they currently provided modern slavery training to staff were then asked to indicate the type of training received by staff in a number of service areas. Taking an average of the percentages of each type of training offered to staff in each service, the most frequently reported types of training were:

- adult social care (on average, 89 per cent of respondents said staff received different types of training), almost all of whom (98 per cent) said staff received training on the warning signs of modern slavery, while 96 per cent said staff received training on types of modern slavery, 92 per cent said staff received training on council responsibilities, 88 per cent said staff received training on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) processes and 71 per cent said the same for cultural diversity
- children's and family services (on average, 88 per cent of respondents said staff received this training), 96 per cent said staff received training on the warning signs, 94 per cent said staff received training on types of modern slavery, 90 per cent said staff received training on council responsibilities, 87 per cent said staff received training on NRM processes and 71 per cent said the same for cultural diversity
- community safety (on average, 84 per cent of respondents said staff received this), 96 per cent said staff received training on types of modern slavery, 93 per cent said staff received training on council responsibilities, 91 per cent said staff received training on warning signs, 83 said staff received training on NRM process and 59 per cent said the same about cultural diversity.

Councils were asked if any other modern slavery training was delivered. Examples given were training on counter-terrorism and extremism, cuckooing (home invasion), contract management and procurement, domestic servitude, and criminal exploitation.

Table 12: Please indicate the type of training staff members receive in each of						
the service ar	eas listed.					
	Council responsibi lities	Types of modern slavery	Warning signs	National Referral Mechanis m process	Cultural diversity	Average (%)
	% councils	% councils	% councils	% councils	% councils	Average % councils
Adult social care	92	96	98	88	71	89
Children's/ family services	90	94	96	87	71	88
Community safety	93	96	91	83	59	84
Housing/ homelessness	86	93	93	79	55	81
Trading standards	87	93	93	72	57	80
Environmental health	84	94	92	69	52	78
Licensing	84	93	91	65	49	77
Public health	79	84	81	63	53	72
Building control and planning enforcement	70	76	76	52	36	62
Average (%)	85	91	90	73	56	-
Other 1	100	91	91	73	64	-
Other 2	100	100	100	100	75	-

Base: respondents who currently provide training (bases vary by service area – not all services are delivered by all types of council: adult social care 51; children's/family 52; community safety 82; housing/homelessness 82; environmental health 79; trading standards 56; licensing 71; public health 53; other [1] 11; other [2] four).

Just over a third of councils (37 per cent) said they delivered training via e-learning modules, just under a third (29 per cent) delivered training in person. A further third of councils (34 per cent) said 'other' and a majority of those said there was a combination of e-learning and in-person training.

Table 13: How is modern slavery training delivered?			
	Shire district	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils
E-learning modules	49	30	37
In-person training	19	35	29
Other (please specify)	32	35	34

Base: respondents who provide training (91 councils; 37 districts; 54 county/single tier)

Three-fifths of councils (60 per cent) said modern slavery training was delivered inhouse, rather than through an external provider.

County and single tier council were significantly more likely to provide training delivered in-house (70 per cent) than district councils (46 per cent). District councils were significantly more likely to have training delivered through an external provider (51 per cent) than county and single tier councils (26 per cent).

Table 14: Is training delivered in-house or through an external provider?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Training is delivered in- house	46	70	60
Training is delivered through an external provider	51	26	36
Don't know	3	4	3

Base: respondents who provide training (91 councils; 37 districts; 54 county/single tier)

## Adult victims of modern slavery

Almost all respondents (96 per cent) said their council had an agreed point of contact or pathway for members of staff to raise concerns about possible adult victims of modern slavery.

Table 15: Does you council have an agreed point of contact/pathway for members of staff to raise concerns about possible adult victims of modern slavery?				
	Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Yes	96	97	96	
No	2	3	3	
Don't know	2	0	1	

Base: all respondents (114 councils; 46 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Nearly nine out of 10 respondents (88 per cent) said their council had an agreed process or pathway for managing referrals of adult victims of modern slavery into the NRM.

In county and single tier councils, 93 per cent had such a process or pathway, significantly higher than in district councils (80 per cent).

Table 16: Does you council have an agreed process/pathway for manging referrals of adult victims into the National Referral Mechanism?			
	Shire district County/single All councils tier		
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	80	93	88
No	13	4	8
Don't know	7	3	4

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

All councils are first responders under the NRM, meaning they are authorised to refer potential victims of modern slavery into the NRM. Nearly seven out of 10 councils (69 per cent) had taken steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential adult victims of modern slavery.

# Table 17: Has your organisation taken any steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential adult victims of modern slavery?

	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	76	64	69
No	17	24	21
Don't know	7	12	10

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 46 districts; 67 county/single tier)

In nearly three-fifths of councils (58 per cent) NRM referrals concerning adults made by the council were collated by a single point of contact or lead officer.

NRM referrals made in over seven out of 10 district councils (72 per cent) were collated by a single point of contact or lead officer, significantly higher than in county and single tier councils (48 per cent).

Table 18: Are NRM referrals concerning adults made by the council collated by
a single point of contact/lead officer?

	Shire district County/single tier		All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	72	48	58
No	17	45	34
Don't know	11	7	9

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 46 districts; 67 county/single tier)

Under a quarter of councils (23 per cent) had made an assessment of the likely number of adult victims of modern slavery in their area. However, this was significantly more common in county and single tier councils, where a third (34 per cent) had made such an assessment, compared to district councils (seven per cent).

# Table 19: Has your council made an assessment of the likely number of adult victims of modern slavery in your area (including those that haven't been identified as cases)?

	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	7	34	23
No	76	54	63
Don't know	17	12	14

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 46 districts; 67 county/single tier)

A third of councils (33 per cent) said they received requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning adults.

Just under half of county and single tier councils (48 per cent) said they received such requests, which was significantly higher than in district councils (11 per cent). County and single tier councils were also significantly more likely to say "don't know" to this question (22 per cent), compared to district councils (four per cent).

Table 20: Do you receive requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning adults?			
Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	11	48	33
No	85	30	52
Don't know	4	22	15

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 46 districts; 67 county/single tier)

Councils who said they received requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning adults were then asked which organisations made these requests. Nearly two-fifths of councils (38 per cent) received requests from the voluntary and community sector, 16 per cent from health services and 14 per cent from the police.

Table 21: From which organisations do you receive requests for NRM referrals concerning adults?				
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Voluntary and community sector	60	34	38	
Health services	0	19	16	
Police	20	13	14	
Government agencies	0	0	0	
Other (please specify below)	20	31	30	
Don't know	0	3	3	

Base: respondents who received referral requests (37 councils; five districts; 32 county/single tier)

## Adult safeguarding

In seven out of 10 councils (70 per cent), all identified adult victims of modern slavery were automatically referred to adult safeguarding as part of the council's local pathway. Twelve per cent of councils said they didn't know whether this was the case or not.

District councils were significantly more likely to answer 'yes' to this question (82 per cent) than county and single tier councils (62 per cent).

Councils that answered 'no' to this question were asked in what circumstances adult victims would not be referred to safeguarding. The most common response was that victims would not be referred if there were no care and support needs, for example, if the critera for the Care Act were not met. One council said as an example a 'cuckooed' tenant (a victim of home invasion) would not necessarily meet unmet care and support criteria.

Table 22: Are all adult victims of modern slavery identified by your council automatically referred to adult safeguarding as part of your local pathway?				
	Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils % councils % councils			
Yes	82	62	70	
No	9	25	19	
Don't know	9	13	12	

Base: all respondents (113 councils; 45 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Councils were asked if and how often they receive adult safeguarding referrals from their partners. Nearly a quarter of councils (24 per cent) said they regularly receive referrals from partners. Nearly a third (29 per cent) said they occasionally receive such referrals, 16 per cent said they rarely receive these referrals and 21 per cent said they never receive them.

County and single tier councils were significantly more likely to say they regularly receive adult safeguarding referrals from partners (37 per cent), compared to district councils (five per cent), but this is expected since district councils do not have social care responsibilities. Districts were also significantly more likely to say they never receive referral requests (52 per cent) than county and single tier councils (one per cent).

Table 23: Does your council receive adult safeguarding referrals from otherpartners?				
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils	
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
The council regularly receives referrals from partners	5	37	24	
The council occasionally receives referrals from partners	25	32	29	
The council rarely receives referrals from partners	18	15	16	
The council never receives referrals from partners	52	1	21	
Don't know	0	15	9	

Base: all respondents (112 councils; 44 districts; 68 county/single tier)

Councils were asked whether they had a specific approach regarding suspected victims under adult safeguarding. Just under a quarter (23 per cent) said all identified potential victims were treated as having care and support needs and nearly three-fifths (58 per cent) said support needs were assessed individually in line with normal criteria.

Table 24: Does your council have a specific approach regarding suspected   victims under adult safeguarding?		
	County/single tier	
	% councils	
Yes, all identified potential victims are treated as having care and support needs	18	
No, support needs are assessed individually in line with normal criteria	66	
Other (please specify)	6	
Don't know	10	

Base: county and single tier respondents (68 councils;)

## Housing and homelessness

This section excludes county councils, who do not have responsibility for housing and homelessness.

Nearly eight out of 10 respondents (78 per cent) said their council was aware of the recent update to the homelessness code of guidance regarding priority status for victims of modern slavery.

Table 25: Is your council aware of the recent update to the homelessness code of guidance regarding priority status for victims of modern slavery?			
	Shire district Single tier All councils		
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	78	79	78
No	0	2	1
Don't know	22	20	21

Base: district and single tier respondents (106 councils; 45 districts; 61 single tier)

A quarter of councils (25 per cent) said they intend to make changes to policy, procedures or training in light of the update to the code of guidance, a fifth (20 per cent) said no changes were needed and just over two fifths (42 per cent) said they were yet to explore the impact of the update on their policy, procedures and training.

Table 26: Does your council intend to make any changes to its policy, procedures or training in light of the update?			
	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	26	25	25
No, updates are not needed	26	17	20
Don't know	11	13	12
We are yet to explore the impact of the update on our policy, procedures and training	37	46	42

Base: district and single tier respondents who were aware of the guidance updates (83 councils; 35 districts; 48 single tier)

Seven out of 10 councils (70 per cent) said they have a specific pathway or point of contact through which potential victims of modern slavery can be referred into housing or homelessness services.

Single tier councils were significantly more likely to have such a pathway (80 per cent) than district councils (56 per cent).

Table 27: Does your council have a specific pathway/point of contact throughwhich potential victims of modern slavery can be referred intohousing/homelessness services?

	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	56	80	70
No	24	10	16
Don't know	20	10	14

Base: district and single tier respondents (106 councils; 45 districts; 61 single tier)

Just over half of councils (52 per cent) said they did not have access to any dedicated emergency beds, whether council-run, commissioned or partner-run, specifically intended to accommodate suspected victims of modern slavery.

Nearly a third (32 per cent) answered 'don't know' to this question, although there was a significantly higher proportion in district councils (45 per cent), compared to single tier councils (23 per cent). See Table 28.

The 16 councils that said they had access to dedicated emergency beds for suspected victims of modern slavery were asked how these beds were funded. Some examples given were:

- Housing Benefit or Adult Services
- emergency housing stock by the council based per need
- provision through YMCA, if available more beds can be provided
- Ministry of Justice grant
- funded by each housing authority
- commissioned service by the local authority
- general homelessness funding and provision
- funded jointly by housing and social care.

Table 28: Does your council have access to any dedicated emergency beds(council-run, commissioned or partner-run) specifically intended toaccommodate suspected victims of modern slavery when they are identified?

	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	9	20	15
No	45	57	52
Don't know	45	23	32

Base: district and single tier respondents (105 councils; 44 districts; 61 single tier)

One-third of councils (33 per cent) said they had internal protocols relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery. Just over a third (37 per cent) said they did not have any protocols and just under a third (30 per cent) said they didn't know.

Table 29: Does your council have any internal protocols relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery?				
	Shire district Single tier All councils			
	% councils % councils % councils			
Yes	30	36	33	
No	34	39	37	
Don't know	36	25	30	

Base: district and single tier respondents (105 councils; 44 districts; 61 single tier)

Councils that said they had internal protocols relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery were asked what these protocols covered. Nearly eight out of 10 (88 per cent/30 respondents) said they covered assessment of the suitability of any accommodation provided to victims of modern slavery and nearly two fifths (38 per cent/13 respondents) said they covered out of area placements.

Table 30: Which, if any, of the following elements to these protocols cover?			
	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Assessment of the suitability of any accommodation provided to victims of modern slavery	77	95	88
Out of area placements of victims of modern slavery	31	43	38
Other (please specify below)	15	14	15
None of these	0	0	0
Don't know	8	0	3

Base: district and single tier respondents who had internal accommodation protocols (34 councils; 13 districts; 21 single tier)

Just over half of councils (53 per cent) said they did not have any reciprocal agreements/protocols with other authorities or agencies relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery.

One-third (33 per cent) answered 'don't know' to this question, although there was a significantly higher proportion in district councils (48 per cent), compared to single tier councils (23 per cent).

Table 31: Does your council have any reciprocal agreements/protocols with other authorities or agencies relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery?

	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	9	16	13
No	43	61	53
Don't know	48	23	33

Base: district and single tier respondents (105 councils; 44 districts; 61 single tier)

Councils were asked what they felt were the key challenges associated with identifying and supporting adult victims of modern slavery. Nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) identified victim reluctance to disclose as a key challenge, over half (54 per cent) said availability of housing or placements and just over two-fifths (42 per cent) identified information sharing between partners.

Table 32: What, if any, would you say are the key challenges associated with identifying and supporting adult victims of modern slavery?			
	Shire district	Single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
victim reluctance to disclose	71	75	74
availability of housing or placements	50	56	54
Information sharing between partners	33	47	42
large caseloads	10	19	15
Other (please specify below)	10	21	16
Don't know	7	1	4

Base: district and single tier respondents (103 councils; 42 districts; 61 single tier)

## Child victims of modern slavery

Just over half of councils (53 per cent) said they have a specific pathway for identifying and referring children at risk of slavery.

District councils were significantly more likely to say they did not have a specific pathway and that those at risk were treated like all vulnerable children (59 per cent), compared to county and single tier councils (30 per cent). This difference is expected since district councils do not have children's social care responsibilities and are more likely to refer to the county council.

Table 33: Does your council have a specific pathway for identifying and referring children at risk of slavery?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes, specific pathway	41	61	53
No, treated like all vulnerable children	59	30	41
Other (please specify)	0	0	0
Don't know	0	9	5

Base: all respondents (111 councils; 44 districts; 67 county/single tier)

County and single tier councils were asked whether they had a dedicated team of children's social workers dealing with child victims of modern slavery. A third (33 per cent) said they had a dedicated team.

Table 34: Does your council have a dedicated team of children's social workers dealing with child victims of modern slavery?		
	County/single tier	
	% councils	
Yes	33	
No, all children's social workers can work with victims of modern slavery	57	
Don't know	10	

Base: county and single tier councils (67 councils)

All councils are first responders under the NRM, meaning they are authorised to refer potential victims of modern slavery into the NRM. Nearly three-fifths of councils (58 per cent) had taken steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential child victims of modern slavery.

District councils were significantly more likely to say they hadn't taken such steps (40 per cent), compared to council and single tier councils (18 per cent). This difference is expected since district councils do not have children's social care responsibilities and district councils are more likely to refer to the county council. However, county and single tier councils were significantly more likely to say they did not know (21 per cent), compared to district councils (seven per cent).

Table 35: Has your organisation taken any steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential child victims of modern slavery?

	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	53	61	58
No	40	18	27
Don't know	7	21	16

Base: all respondents (109 councils; 43 districts; 66 county/single tier)

Just under two-thirds of respondents (64 per cent) said NRM referrals concerning children made by the council were collated by a single point of contact or lead officer.

Table 36: Are NRM referrals concerning children made by the council collated by a single point of contact/lead officer?			
Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	72	58	64
No	16	28	23
Don't know	12	14	13

Base: all respondents (108 councils; 43 districts; 65 county/single tier)

Just under three out of 10 (28 per cent) of councils said they received requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning children.

This was significantly higher in county and single tier councils (43 per cent), compared to district councils (five per cent). This difference is expected since district councils do not have children's social care responsibilities and organisations are more likely to refer directly to the county council. County and single tier councils were also significantly more likely to say 'don't know' to this question (35 per cent), compared to district councils (11 per cent).

Table 37: Do you re referrals concerning	ceive requests from oth g children?	er organisations to	o make NRM	
	Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils	
Yes	5	43	28	
No	84	22	47	
Don't know	11	35	26	

Base: all respondents (109 councils; 44 districts; 65 county/single tier)

Councils that said they received requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning children were then asked which organisations made these requests. Over three-fifths of councils said they received such requests from health services (63 per cent), voluntary and community sector (63 per cent) and three-fifths of councils received such requests from police (60 per cent).

Table 38: From which organisations do you receive requests for NRM referrals concerning children?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Voluntary and community sector	50	64	63
Health services	0	68	63
Government agencies	0	18	17
Police	50	61	60
Other	50	14	17

Base: respondents who received referral requests (30 councils; two districts; 28 county/single tier)

Just under two thirds of councils (63 per cent) said they had mechanisms in place for parents to work with multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to help them manage risk.

Understandably, district councils were significantly more likely to not have such mechanisms in place (17 per cent), compared with county and single tier councils (two per cent), and were significantly more likely to answer that they did not know (43 per cent), compared with 22 per cent in county and single tier councils.

Table 39: Are mechanisms in place for parents to work with multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to help them manage risk?			
Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	40	77	63
No	17	2	7
Don't know	43	22	30

Base: all respondents (107 councils; 42 districts; 65 county/single tier)

Two-thirds of councils (67 per cent) said they have strategies in place concerned with reducing episodes of children going missing, nearly three-fifths (59 per cent) with improving support to child victims and nearly three-fifths (58 per cent) with disrupting perpetrators.

Each of these strategies were significantly more likely in county and single tier councils.

Table 40: Does your council have strategies in place to deal with the followingissues or not?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Disrupting perpetrators	41	69	58
Reducing episodes of children going missing	29	89	67
Improving support to child victims	26	78	59

Base: all respondents (104 councils; 39 districts; 65 county/single tier)

Councils were asked what they felt were the key challenges associated with identifying and supporting child victims of modern slavery. Seven out of 10 councils (70 per cent) identified victim reluctance to disclose as a key challenge, just over two-fifths (43 per cent) said information sharing between partners, just over a third (36 per cent) identified availability of housing or placements and just under three out of 10 (29 per cent) said large caseloads.

County and single tier councils were significantly more likely to identify victim reluctance to disclose (78 per cent) than district councils (55 per cent). County and single tier councils were also more likely to identify large caseloads as a barrier (39 per cent compared to 13 per cent). See Table 41.

Table 41: What, if any, would you say are the key challenges associated with identifying and supporting child victims of modern slavery?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Victim reluctance to disclose	55	78	70
Information sharing between partners	37	47	43
Availability of housing or placements	29	41	36
Large caseloads	13	39	29
Other (please specify below)	8	13	11
Don't know	21	11	15

Base: district and single tier respondents (102 councils; 28 districts; 64 single tier)

## Transparency in supply chains

The Transparency in Supply Chains Provision (TISC, Section 54) of the <u>Modern</u> <u>Slavery Act 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)</u> requires commercial entities with an annual turnover of £36m or more to report annually on their actions to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery in their supply chain.

Councils are currently under no legal obligation to publish statements in compliance with the Section 54 provision but this is due to change with the Government's announcement that public sector organisations, including local authorities and Fire and Rescue Services with a budget of £36m and above, will be included in the new provisions of the Act when it is updated. This section reports councils' responses to questions about transparency in their supply chains.

Just over half of councils (55 per cent) said they had a TISC statement, a figure reflecting the number of statements the LGA was aware of and has shared on our TISC statement portal. Just under a fifth (17 per cent) said they did not have a TISC statement, but that one was in progress, and the remaining 28 per cent said they did not have a they did not have a statement, but that one was planned in the next 12 months.

These findings relate to all councils, rather than only those likely to be in scope due to the £36m threshold. Other work by the LGA suggests that around two third of in scope councils already have a transparency statement ahead of the legal requirement to do so being introduced. This is reflected in the survey's findings that county and single tier councils were significantly more likely to already have a TISC statement in place (63 per cent) than district councils (39 per cent).

Table 42: Do you have a Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) statement, or not?			
	Shire district	County/single tier	All councils
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes, already in place	39	63	55
No, but in progress	18	17	17
No, but planned in the next 12 months	43	20	28

Base: all respondents (98 councils; 35 districts; 63 county/single tier)

Just under three-fifths (57 per cent) of councils said their procurement team carries out modern slavery due diligence on high value contracts.

Table 43: Does your procurement team currently carry out modern slavery due diligence on high value contracts?			
Shire district County/single All councils tier			
	% councils	% councils	% councils
Yes	51	61	57
No	10	9	9
Don't know	39	30	33

Base: all respondents (108 councils; 41 districts; 67 county/single tier)

# Annex A - Questionnaire

Q1 Please amend the details we have on record if necessary. This is the contact we currently have listed as the main point of contact for modern slavery in your council.

Name	
Authority	_
Job title	-
Email address	
Notes	

End of Block: Demographics question

**Start of Block: Block 3** 

Q2 Is modern slavery reflected as an agreed priority for your council? *Tick all that apply* 

- □ Yes, it is an agreed priority
- □ Yes, it is a committee priority
- □ Other (please specify below)

 $\square \bigotimes No$ , none of the above

Don't know

Q3 Does you council have a formal strategy aimed at tackling modern slavery

Yes, already established No, but in progress No, but planned in the next 12 months No, and not currently planned Don't know

Q5 Which partnership board(s) are responsible for overseeing this strategy? *Please write in* 

Q7 Does your council have a portfolio holder lead or councillor champion for tackling modern slavery?

Yes, already in place No, but planned in the next 12 months No and not currently planned Don't know

-----

Q8 Does your council have a designated senior officer, equivalent to head of service or above, with responsibility for modern slavery?

Yes, we have a designated senior officer No, planned in the next 12 months No, and not currently planned Don't know

Q9 Does your council have a single point of contact/lead officer to coordinate modern slavery across the council?

Yes, we have a designated single point of contact or lead officer

No, but planned in the next 12 months

No, and not currently planned

Don't know

Display This Question:

*If Q9 = Yes, we have a designated single point of contact or lead officer* 

Q8 Is this the officer's only role or is it carried out in addition to other responsibilities?

Only role In addition to other responsibilities Don't know

Display This Question:

*If Q9 = Yes, we have a designated single point of contact or lead officer* 

Q10 Please indicate which of the following best describes the team in which this officer sits

Policy/corporate/chief executive's Adult safeguarding Children's services Community safety Other (please specify below)

Don't know

Display This Question:

If Q9 = No, and not currently planned

Or Q9 = No, but planned in the next 12 months

Q11 You said your council does not have a single point of contact/lead officer.

How is activity in relation to modern slavery coordinated across the council?

Work is coordinated through a working group

Work is coordinated through a service team (for example community safety, adult social care) (please specify which team below)

Other (please specify below)

Q12 Does you council participate in a local modern slavery partnership?

Yes

No

Don't know

-----

Q13 Please let us know with which, if any, of the following partners your council is working with to tackle and address modern slavery.

	Adult potential victims	Child potential victims	Both adult and child potential victims	Not working with to tackle MS	Don't know
Police					
Health services					
Youth services					
Local victim care contract provider					
Other voluntary and community sector					
Council maintained schools					
Academy schools					
Other (please specify)					

End of Block: Block 3

Start of Block: Block 4

# Q14 Training

Q15 Does your council make provision for training members of staff on modern slavery?

Yes, we currently provide training No, we don't currently provide training, but plan to in the next 12 months No, we don't provide training, and have no plans to Don't know

Display This Question:

*If Q15 = Yes, we currently provide training* 

Q16 Please indicate the type of training staff members receive in each of the service areas listed.

	Council responsibiliti es	Types of moder n slaver y	Warnin gs signs	National Referral Mechanis m process	Cultur al diversit y	Non e of thes e
Community safety						
Environmental health						
Trading standards						
Licensing						
Adult social care						
Children's/family services						
Housing/homelessn ess						
Building control and planning enforcement						
Public health						
Other (please specify)						

Other 2 (please specify)				
	I			

Q17 Do staff members receive any other modern slavery training that has not been indicated above? *Please write in* 

Display This Question:

*If Q15 = Yes, we currently provide training* 

Q20 How is modern slavery training delivered?

E-learning modules

In-person training

Other (please specify)

Don't know

42

Q21 Is training delivered in-house or through an external provider?

Training is delivered in-house Training is delivered through an external provider Don't know

Q22 Which external provider delivered modern day slavery training? *Please write in* 

End of Block: Block 4

Start of Block: Block 5

#### Q24 Adult victims of modern slavery

\_\_\_\_\_

Q25 Does you council have an agreed point of contact/pathway for members of staff to raise concerns about possible *adult* victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No

Q26 Does you council have an agreed process/pathway for managing referrals of adult victims into the National Referral Mechanism?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q27 All council officers are first responders under NRM.

Has your organisation taken any steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals for potential adult victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q28 Are NRM referrals concerning adults made by the council collated by a single point of contact/lead officer?

Yes

No

Q30 Has your council made an assessment of the likely number of adult victims of modern slavery in your area (including those that haven't been identified as cases)?

Yes

No

Don't know

-----

Q31 Do you receive requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning adults?

Yes

No

Don't know

Display This Question: If Q31 = Yes

Q32 From which organisations do you receive requests to make NRM referrals concerning adults? *Tick all that apply* 

Voluntary and community sector

Health services

Government agencies

Police

Other (please specify below)

Don't know

End of Block: Block 5

**Start of Block: Block 6** 

## Q33 Adult safeguarding

Q34 Are all adult victims of modern slavery identified by your council automatically referred to adult safeguarding as part of your local pathway? Yes No Don't know Q35 In what circumstances would adult victims not be referred to adult safeguarding? Please write in

Q36 Does your council receive adult safeguarding referrals from other partners? *Please select the statement that most closely reflects the situation in your area* 

The council regularly receives referrals from partners The council occasionally receives referrals from partners The council rarely receives referrals from partners The council never receives referrals from partners Don't know

Q37 Does your council have a specific approach regarding suspected victims under adult safeguarding?

Yes, all identified potential victims are treated as having care and support needs No, support needs are assessed individually in line with normal criteria Other (please specify)

Don't know

End of Block: Block 6

Start of Block: Block 7

### Q38 Housing and homelessness

\_\_\_\_\_

Q39 Is your council aware of the recent update to the homelessness code of guidance regarding priority status for victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No

Don't know

Display This Question: If Q39 = Yes

Q40 Does your council intend to make any changes to its policy, procedures or training in light of the update?

Yes

No, updates are not needed

We are yet to explore the impact of the update on our policy, procedures and training

Don't know

\_\_\_\_\_

Q41 Does your council have a specific pathway/point of contact through which potential victims of modern slavery can be referred into housing/homelessness services?

Yes

No

Q44 Does your council have access to any dedicated emergency beds (council-run, commissioned or partner-run) specifically intended to accommodate suspected victims of modern slavery when they are identified?

Yes

No

Don't know

Display This Question: If Q44 = Yes

Q45 How many such beds are available?

Display This Question: If Q44 = Yes

Q46 Please tell us how these beds are funded *Please write in* 

Q47 Does your council have any internal protocols relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No

Don't know

Display This Question:	
lf Q47 = Yes	

Q47A Which, if any, of the following elements do these protocols cover?

□ Assessment of the suitability of any accommodation provided to victims of modern slavery

□ Out of area placements of victims of modern slavery

□ Other (please specify below)

 $\Box$   $\bigotimes$  None of these

Don't know

Q48 Does your council have any reciprocal agreements/protocols <u>with other</u> <u>authorities or agencies</u> relating to accommodation for victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No

Don't know

Display This Question:

*If Q48 = Yes* 

Q48A Which, if any, of the following elements do these protocols cover?

□ Assessment of the suitability of any accommodation provided to victims of modern slavery

□ Out of area placements of victims of modern slavery

□ Other (please specify below)

□ ⊗None of these	
🗅 🚫 Don't know	

-----

Q49A What, if any, would you say are the key challenges are associated with identifying and supporting adult victims of modern slavery? *Tick all that apply* 

- □ Information sharing between partners
- □ large caseloads
- victim reluctance to disclose
- availability of housing or placements
- □ Other (please specify below)
- Don't know

Q49B What steps, if any, could help to reduce the barriers to providing effective support that safeguards adult victims from further exploitation?

End of Block: Block 7

Start of Block: Block 8

# Qi Child victims of modern slavery

Q51 Does your council have a specific pathway for identifying and referring children

Yes, specific pathway No, treated like all vulnerable children Other (please specify)

Don't know

at risk of slavery?

Q52 Does your council have a dedicated team of children's social workers dealing with child victims of modern slavery?

Yes

No, all children's social workers can work with victims of modern slavery Don't know

Q53 All council officers are first responders under NRM.

Has your organisation taken any steps to identify specific individuals or roles authorised to make referrals?

Yes

No

Don't know

-----

Q58 Are NRM referrals concerning children made by the council collated by a single point of contact/lead officer?

Yes

No

Don't know

-----

Q61 Do you receive requests from other organisations to make NRM referrals concerning children?

Yes

No

Q62 From which organisations do you receive requests for NRM referrals concerning children?

Tick all that apply

- □ Voluntary and community sector
- □ Health services
- Government agencies
- Police
- □ Other (please specify)

Q64 Are mechanisms in place for parents to work with multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to help them manage risk?

Yes

No

Q65 Does your council have strategies in place to deal with the following issues or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Disrupting perpetrators			
Reducing episodes of children going missing			
Improving support to child victims			
Other (please specify)			

Q66 What, if any, would you say are the key challenges associated with identifying and supporting child victims of modern slavery? *Tick all that apply* 

- □ Information sharing between partners
- □ large caseloads
- victim reluctance to disclose
- □ availability of housing or placements
- □ Other (please specify below)
- □ ⊗Don't know

Q67 What steps, if any, could help to reduce the barriers to providing effective support that safeguards child victims from further exploitation?

nd of Block: Block 8		

**Start of Block: Block 9** 

#### Qi2 Transparency in supply chains

Local government has the opportunity to use its extensive buying power to help mitigate the risks of it occurring in its supply chain by adopting new processes and procedures, in both procurement and supplier management. The Transparency in Supply Chains Provision (TISC, s.54) of the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) requires commercial entities with an annual turnover of £36m or more to report annually on their actions to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery in their supply chain.

Councils are currently under no legal obligation to publish statements in compliance with the Section 54 provision but this is due to change with the Government's announcement that public sector organisations, including local authorities and Fire and Rescue Services with a budget of £36m and above, will be included in the new provisions of the Modern Slavery Act when it is updated.

Q68 Do you have a Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) statement, or not?

<u>Slavery and human trafficking in supply chains: guidance for businesses - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

Yes, already in place

No, but in progress

No, but planned in the next 12 months

Q69 Please provide a link to your transparency in supply chains statement

Q73 Does your procurement team currently carry out modern slavery due diligence on high value contracts?

Yes

No

Don't know

End of Block: Block 9

Start of Block: Block 10

Q79 And finally...

Q80 What support and/or training would you like, if any, in relation to modern slavery from the LGA and others? *Tick all that apply* 

	Adult victims of modern slavery	Housing and homelessness	Child victims of modern slavery	Transparency in supply chains
Webinars				
Regional workshops				
Guidance				
Other (please specify)				

Q82 If you have any good practice that would like to share, please use the space below to let us know.

End of Block: Block 10

Start of Block: Survey end and privacy statement text

Q83 Once you press the 'Next' button below, you will have completed the survey.

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. You are in control of any personal data that you have provided to us in your response. You can contact us at all times to have your information changed or deleted. You can find our full privacy policy here: <u>click here to see our privacy policy</u>

End of Block: Survey end and privacy statement text



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