

1

### What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term covering human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Modern slavery occurs when someone is forced or coerced to do something, and another person gains from this. The most common ways people are exploited are through forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and criminal exploitation.

# Modern Slavery in the Care Sector

## 7 Minute Briefing



7

### How should professionals respond?

If you encounter anyone who could be a victim of modern slavery, or an agency that raises your suspicions, call the **police** directly or the **Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline** on **08000 121 700**.

The **Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)** aim to protect vulnerable and exploited workers and can also be contacted on **0800 432 0804**.

2

### How are people in modern slavery forced and controlled?

- The use of violence or threats of violence against them or their loved ones
- Having their movements controlled
- Having their documentation held
- Using power imbalances i.e. disabilities
- Debt bondage
- [Find out more here](#)



6

### What are the responsibilities of care providers?

- Have appropriate policies and procedures in place, including whistleblowing
- Complete checks to ensure agency staff are recruited appropriately (references/DBS checks)
- Ensure agency staff are inducted, trained and supervised
- Check professional registration
- Report concerns to the police when they arise

3

### What are the current concerns about modern slavery in the care sector?

There are significant staff shortages in the care sector across the UK. As a result, workers are coming to the UK from overseas on Health and Care Worker visas. Unfortunately, workers coming to the UK from other countries are being exploited for labour in care settings.

4

### What can professionals look out for to spot exploitation in the care sector?

- Excessive fees charged to workers for recruitment/accommodation/transport
- Debt bondage
- Workers' rights violations (i.e. excessive working hours/limited access to earnings)
- Restricted freedom of movement
- Poor living conditions linked to employment

5

### What does the data say?

The charity Unseen reported their helpline saw most potential victims of exploitation in the care sector as adult females, with 48% of the cases (where nationality was known) being Indian nationals, 15% Zimbabwean nationals and 8% Nigerian nationals. [Find out more here.](#)