

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

April 2017 - March 2018

Onward is a leading provider of quality, affordable homes for rent and sale in the North West. We own and manage over 35,000 homes across the region. But we do more than just provide a roof over our customers' heads. Our vision is to make a positive difference in the communities we serve. We offer help and support to vulnerable people facing a range of challenges, and create strong and vibrant communities that our customers can be proud to be a part of.

We are pleased to be publishing our third Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement covering April 2017 – March 2018.

Onward is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking within our business and our neighbourhoods. This Statement sets out the steps we've taken to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in our business, and the actions we intend to take in the coming year to prevent modern slavery from occurring.

Over the last year:


- We raised awareness of Modern Slavery with our procurement consortia, who now include a requirement in their specification to have a modern slavery statement
- Over 600 colleagues completed a Modern Slavery e-learning training module
- We relaunched a Modern Slavery presentation with all Onward contractors
- Modern Slavery is now championed by our internal Safeguarding forum and we widened our monitoring and reporting of safeguarding cases to the Board, to include reports of suspected modern slavery within our communities
- We developed a Vigilance guide for colleagues to help keep our tenants safe, which sets out standards expected of them in respect of safeguarding, domestic abuse and modern slavery
- We have added a question about modern slavery within all our tender and quotation opportunities
- We have written a new Procurement strategy, which includes a requirement to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- We continue to hold the Living Wage Foundation accreditation, ensuring that contractors we work with comply with the requirements of the Foundation

In the coming year we will:

- Mark Anti -Slavery Day to raise colleagues' and customers' awareness of the issue and we will continue to raise awareness of the issue throughout the year
- Update and re-issue an e-learning module on Modern Slavery to colleagues
- Procure a new employment agency framework which will address Modern Slavery Act requirements.

This statement was approved by Onward's Board in September 2018.

Onward's Chair: Dr. Neil Goodwin

Signed: 

Date **19/9/18**