

Modern Slavery Act Statement 2026/27

In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust makes the following statement:

We are committed to having effective practices to prevent slavery and human trafficking in all parts of our organisation and supply chains. Our policies, procedures and procurement practices are designed to reduce the risk of modern slavery and to support early identification, escalation and appropriate action where concerns arise. We provide healthcare services to residents across Wirral. Our services are predominantly local and community based, delivered from around 60 sites across Wirral, including our main clinical bases at St Catherine's Health Centre in Birkenhead and Victoria Central Health Centre in Wallasey. We are also commissioned to deliver some community services in West Cheshire and provide children's and young people's services in Cheshire East, Knowsley and St Helens, including health visiting, school nursing, family nurse partnership and breastfeeding support services.

We have inpatient beds within our Community Integrated Care Centre, providing a rehabilitation pathway for patients discharged from hospital. We also provide in-reach support to the local acute trust and to residential and nursing homes across Wirral.

In support of this commitment, the Trust will:

- Comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the National Health Service (Procurement, Slavery and Human Trafficking) Regulations 2025 and associated NHS guidance;
- Take a risk-based and proportionate approach to identifying, assessing and managing modern slavery risks in the procurement of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England;
- Consider modern slavery risks when designing procurements, evaluating suppliers, setting contractual requirements and managing contracts throughout their lifecycle;
- Make suppliers and service providers aware of our expectations and require them to act lawfully, transparently and responsibly within their operations and supply chains;
- Promote workforce awareness through safeguarding and procurement processes, training and reporting routes; and
- Escalate and respond appropriately to any actual or suspected incidents or indicators of slavery or human trafficking.

The Trust has robust recruitment policies and procedures which are aligned with NHS Employment Check Standards and Care Quality Commission requirements. Controls are in place to support compliance with employment legislation, with regular audit, oversight and review through relevant Trust governance arrangements.

Modern slavery is reflected within the Trust's safeguarding policies and mandatory training arrangements. Relevant staff receive training through safeguarding programmes, including e-learning, and additional training is provided where roles

involve work with children, young people or vulnerable adults. Compliance is monitored through local governance processes and overseen by the Trust Board.

The Trust incorporates modern slavery considerations into its procurement and contract management activity. In line with the National Health Service (Procurement, Slavery and Human Trafficking) Regulations 2025, the Trust will assess modern slavery risk in procurements for goods and services used for the purposes of the health service in England and will take reasonable and proportionate steps to mitigate identified risks throughout the commercial lifecycle.

Where appropriate, this includes setting clear supplier expectations, using contractual provisions and due diligence processes, and keeping risks under review during contract delivery. Suppliers are expected to comply with all applicable law and guidance, to act promptly where risks are identified within their supply chains, and to notify the Trust without delay of any actual or suspected incidents of slavery or human trafficking relevant to the goods or services supplied.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and reflects the Trust's approach to meeting the requirements of the National Health Service (Procurement, Slavery and Human Trafficking) Regulations 2025.

It constitutes the Trust's slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2027.

The Group Board approved this statement at its meeting on 3 June 2026.

Steve Igoe

Joint Chair

Janelle Holmes

Joint Chief Executive Officer