



Exploiters prey on vulnerable people.

Your clients may be at risk.



Could you spot the signs?

- **Have you seen** people acting suspiciously around your clients, perhaps in a car or van?
- **Have you heard** about offers of work that sound too good to be true?
- **Have you noticed** people disappearing from your service or the streets?

Call the 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700** if you have concerns about someone or need help or advice.



HERTFORDSHIRE
Modern Slavery Partnership

Modern Slavery is where someone's freedom is taken away in order to exploit or take advantage of them. Examples include: **sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, domestic servitude and criminal exploitation.**

Homeless people and rough sleepers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation as a result of substance addictions, mental health issues, no support network, trauma, loneliness and instability.

The Facts:

- Victims who have fled from their exploiters may be destitute, without ID documents, and become rough sleepers who have no recourse to public funds.
- After leaving the support services provided by the government, through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), gaps in services and the availability of longer-term support can lead to adult victims of modern slavery becoming vulnerable and homeless.
- Exploiters are purposely targeting places where vulnerable people tend to congregate. They have been seen trying to recruit homeless people in day centres, night shelters and at soup runs.
- Exploiters will promise cash in hand work, and often alcohol, drugs, and accommodation. These promises quickly turn out to be false, but they will use various methods to make sure their victim does not escape or go to the authorities.
- High risk industries: Construction, car washes, factory work, hospitality and agriculture.

Know the signs. There are a number of signs that could indicate exploitation:

- Is your client displaying fear, anxiety, injuries or poor health?
- Do they appear confused, traumatised or controlled by someone else?
- Are they without ID, or unable to speak English?
- Are they working to pay off debts or for very low wages?

Ask Your Client Questions:

- Have you been exploited or are you being exploited?
- Do you feel safe? Why/why not?
- How was your experience of employment? Were you treated well and paid properly?
- Are you being forced to engage in criminal or sexual activity?

What you should do if you suspect your client is being exploited:

- Always talk to your manager or project leader.
- Suspicions should be reported to the police by calling **101** (request the modern slavery unit).
- Or if you prefer, you can report your concerns to the independent, charity-run 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700**. With translators in 200 languages, your clients can also call this number for help.
- **Always call 999 if someone is in immediate danger.**

Know the signs. There are a number of signs that could indicate an exploiter is targeting your clients:

- Vans/large cars turn up outside day centres/night shelters and people are seen observing the location.
- People who have not been seen using your services before and who are reluctant to engage with staff and volunteers.
- They may not look like a 'typical' rough sleeper, tending to be more well dressed.
- They seem to be very friendly with other clients and may target people who speak the same language.
- They have smartphones.
- They may be seen recruiting people on that day and showing them to a van.
- They may arrange an alternative time and place (for example, a bus stop) for your client to be collected.

What you should do if you suspect an exploiter:

- **NEVER** approach or engage with a suspected exploiter.
- Take down any licence number plates and descriptions of the suspect.
- Always talk to your manager or project leader.
- Call the police on **101** (ask to speak to the modern slavery unit) or **call 999 in an emergency.**

By reporting your concerns, you will be enabling the police to investigate and potentially free someone from exploitation and abuse.

Key Contact Organisations - Victim Support:

Modern Slavery Helpline: (24h advice and support) **08000 121 700**

The Salvation Army: (24h NRM accommodation support and advice – adult victims) **0300 303 8151**

Beacon: **0300 011 5555** (option 3)
referrals@hertfordshirebeacon.org

Herts Help: (Community Navigation Service) **0300 123 4044**
hertshelp@nhs.net

Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority: **0800 432 0804 / 01159 597052**
(intelligence / enforcement)
intelligence@gla.gov.uk (Labour Exploitation)



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For more information, visit www.stopexploitationherts.org.uk

