

Responding to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Merton

Human

Trafficking

Foundation

Background on the Human Trafficking Foundation

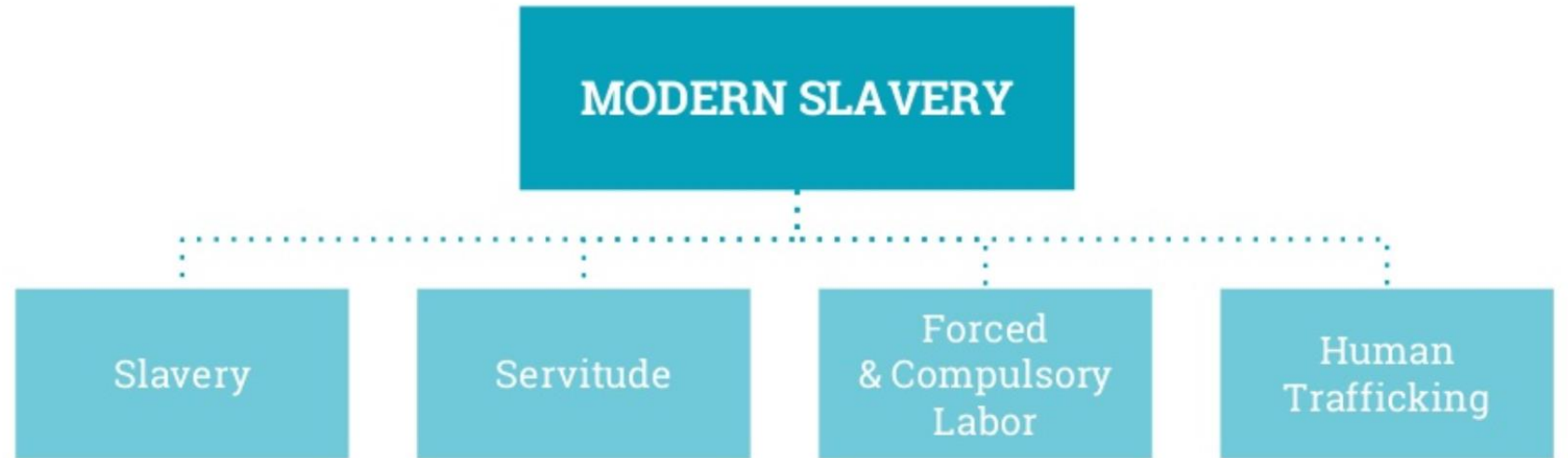
- How did we come about?
- What are our objectives?
- What do we do?

Modern Slavery Definition

(Means)

(Purpose)

Deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation.



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Types of exploitation



- Sexual Exploitation

- Labour Exploitation

- Criminal Exploitation



- Domestic Servitude

- Forced/ Sham Marriage



- Organ Harvesting

Smuggling vs. Trafficking

	TRAFFICKING	SMUGGLING
CRIME	against individual	against state
RELATIONSHIP	exploited as commodity	provides service
LENGTH	longer-term exploitative	voluntary short-term
PROFIT	ongoing appropriation	one-off payment
BORDERS	can be internal	always across borders

Potential indicators

- Fearful, anxious or distrustful of authorities
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of trauma (physical/psychological)
- Suffers injuries that may be the result of controlling measures or that have been left untreated
- Has a story that sounds rehearsed
- Unfamiliar with local language/context
- Do not know their home or work address
- Dependency & presence of a controller
- Believe they have debt to pay off
- Separated from their ID documents
- Do not have any days off or unable to leave work
- Has limited/no social interaction
- Threats have been made against them or their family.

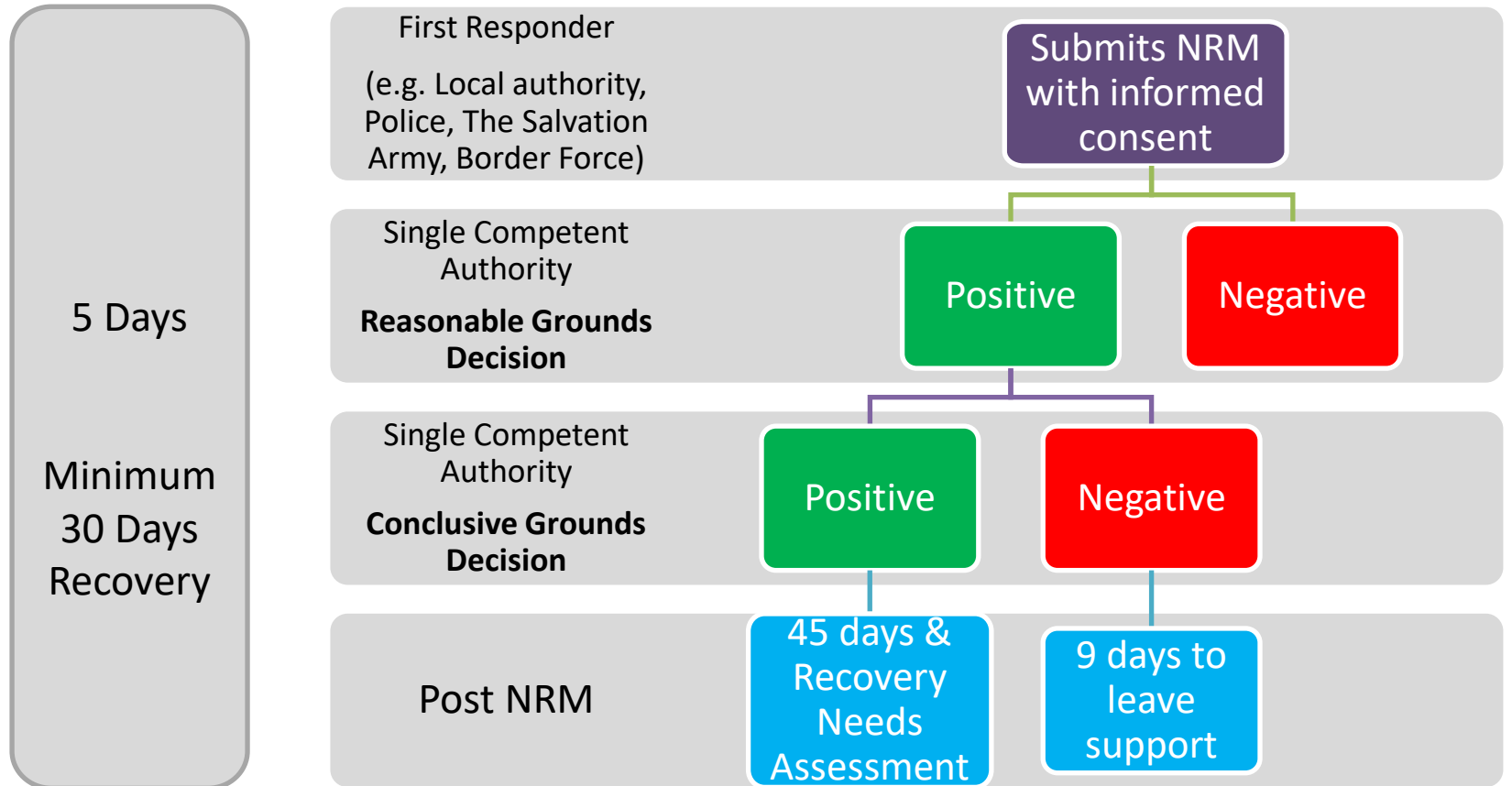
Barriers to disclosure

- Fear of the exploiter
- Fear of being sent home
- Loyalty bonds with the exploiter
- Language barriers
- Lack of trust, suspicion of authority
- Do not recognise themselves as being exploited
- Religious/cultural beliefs, such as 'it is normal in my country'
- Juju
- Debt bondage
- Shame at their situation
- Perception of the UK and expected treatment
- Hopelessness/isolation
- Poverty
- Fear for the lives of their family.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

- Introduced 2009 under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- Provides adults with access to a safe house or outreach support; material assistance; a support worker; legal aid; counselling; health care and at least 30 days when they cannot be removed.
- Only a 'First Responder' can make a referral (e.g. police, local authority, Border Force, Home Office, The Salvation Army)
- If an adult does not consent to the NRM, an anonymous 'Duty to Notify' should be used instead.

NRM Process



Modern
slavery data in
Merton
Aug 2022-
July 2023

Number of Modern Slavery offences	48
Number of NRM referrals made	25
Highest Nationality of Victim/Most common type of exploitation	Albania/Labour Exploitation
Number of male victims	34
Number of female victims	14
Number of child victims	18

Illegal Migration Act

- Anyone who enters the country via irregular means, will be detained and removed from the country and will not have access to modern slavery support.
- The Bill places a duty on the Home Secretary to arrange for the removal of anyone arriving irregularly, and while there is an exception for unaccompanied children, it is important to note the Home Secretary retains a power to remove them.

Help & Advice

In an emergency call 999.

- 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline: 0800 0121 700
- Report Labour Abuse: GLAA 0800 432 0804
- Destitute: The Salvation Army 0800 808 3733
- Child victim – contact Children's Services

HTF resources and support we can offer

- [London Directory of Support Services](#)
- [London Single Points of Contact Directory](#)
- [Lived Experience Advisory Panel](#)
- [Newsletter](#)

Thank you

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