



Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2023

Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54, Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps that Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place within its supply chains or in any part of its business. This statement covers the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. Dorset LEP is absolutely committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities, and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

Organisational Structure and Supply Chains

This statement covers the activities of Dorset LEP and all programmes funded by Dorset LEP. Based in Bournemouth, Dorset LEP is a company limited by guarantee. With a non-executive board of 15 and a staff team of 10 people, we work closely with local authorities and local businesses to drive growth and enterprise across Dorset.

Relevant Policies & Processes

Dorset LEP operates the following policies that describe its approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and steps to be taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its operations:

- Whistleblowing Policy – the organisation encourages all its workers, customers, and other business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities, or the supply chains of, the organisation. This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. The organisation's whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for workers to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation.
- Code of Conduct Policy – our policies on conduct standards make clear to employees and board members the actions and behaviour expected of them when representing the organisation. The organisation strives to maintain the highest standards of employee and board member conduct and ethical behaviour when operating abroad and managing its supply chain.
- Legal Employment Processes – Dorset LEP ensures appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the people it employs are working legally and to ensure the organisation is working within the law. Checks are carried out on all applicants employed to confirm they are legally allowed to work in the UK, with checks on appearance of the individuals, dates supplied and genuine documentation.