

18 Oct 2024: GMHC attended the *Tackling Modern Slavery and Exploitation in Greater Manchester: An introduction with local experts* event on the 18th of October 2024. The event was part of the Anti-Slavery Week of events and was organised by the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor's office.

The focus of the event was to raise awareness about modern slavery and ask businesses, organisations and individuals in Manchester to recognise signs of exploitation. The panel discussion also highlighted what the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's approach is towards addressing this complex organised crime.

The panel included;

Kate Green [Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities](#) (Greater Manchester Combined Authority),
Angela Hughes, ESG Manager [Speedy Hire](#),
Amy Bond CEO [Causeway](#),
Dr Jon Davies, [University of Manchester](#)

Panel members relayed the importance of spotting the signs of modern slavery but also stressed the importance of having company policies and looking within businesses and their supply chains to identify potential exploitation. Common industries both here and overseas include; the tech industry, fishing, sex work, gig economy, agricultural work, call centres as well as activities associated with organised crime.



Some examples of signs of a potential victim of modern slavery may include:

- malnourished and tired, scruffy and unwashed
- don't speak much English and lack personal possessions
- unsuitable clothing for the work and weather
- under the control of someone else and reluctant to interact with others
- reluctant to make eye contact or talk to people
- work excessively long hours and seldom, if ever, have days off
- appear fearful, uneasy, or anxious and distrustful of authorities
- may have untreated injuries
- others answer questions put to them and limited social contact
- confined to their workplace and there may be signs that they also sleep there
- frequently dropped off or picked up at unsociable hours

- never seem to have any or much money, despite working long hours



Signs that a house, flat or other dwelling could be a base for modern slavery include; the property seems too small for the numbers of people that live there and people appear to be bundled in and out of the property by others, often during darkness. Other signs include bars on the windows and/or the curtains are permanently drawn or boarded up, the letterbox has been sealed over and strong smells along with visible CCTV. None of these indicators in isolation or combination can give you complete certainty, sometimes it will be a case of acting on your instinct that something is not right. You do not need to be certain to report your concerns.

The GMP response – The Challenger Programme

The Modern Slavery Unit was launched as part of the [Challenger programme](#) in 2015. It supports GMP and partners in identifying, investigating, charging, and convicting offenders while providing safeguarding to victims and survivors. The unit has a specialist investigative team that supports complex modern slavery cases, in addition to an embedded Justice and Care Victim Navigator who works with partners to provide the highest level of care and support to survivors.

Watch the Causeway video on modern slavery [here on YouTube](#).

Report it and get support

If you think modern slavery is happening, tell someone as soon as you think it's safe to. This could be about a victim, a suspect, or a particular business or place. You will always be taken seriously, and protection and support is available.

You can report modern slavery to us using our [online crime reporting service](#).

Or call us on [101](#) at any time. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service on 18001 101.

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call [999](#) now.

To report a suspicion or get advice you can contact the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) confidentially on [08000 121 700](#).

If you want to remain anonymous you can contact [Crimestoppers](#) on [0800 555 111](#).

[The Salvation Army](#) provides specialist support for all adult survivors of modern slavery in England and Wales.

