

Modern Slavery Statement 2025

This statement is made on behalf of the Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and the Humber CIO. It sets out YWU Y&H actions for the financial year ended 31 March 2025 to understand the potential modern slavery risks related to its activities and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our own business - and that in so far as possible, our suppliers hold the same ethos.

At the Youth Work Unit Yorkshire and the Humber CIO, we value diversity, champion equality and actively challenge discrimination. We're committed to treating all people with dignity and respect, and to ensuring the organisations we work with meet our ethical standards. Slavery and human trafficking are fundamentally opposed to our values, and we are committed to ensuring that our organisation and those we work with are free of modern slavery and human trafficking. As such, we recognise and take seriously our responsibility to comply with all principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Our Organisation: We are an infrastructure organisation working in partnership with the Youth Work Sector, working across Yorkshire and the Humber to support the delivery of high-quality youth work provision and provide channels for the voices of young people.

We have 7 employees and around 20 volunteers at the YWUY&H, and we are satisfied from our own due diligence and robust processes that there is no evidence of any slavery or human trafficking within the organisation. Our commitment to young people and their wellbeing, requires us to also look outside our organisation and raise any concerns, including Child Criminal Exploitation. We ensure that our staff and volunteers understand what modern slavery and human trafficking are, and that they are alert to the key warning signs in adults and children. We work with young people to help them understand whether they or someone they know may have been a victim of human trafficking, to signpost them to specialist support organisations, and we explain what might happen if they make a police report. Our approach is reinforced by a framework of complementary policies including Safeguarding, Whistleblowing policy, Recruitment and Selection policy, Grievance policy and Equality and Inclusion policy.

Our Supply Chain: We work with a wide range of partners and youth work providers, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone shares in our high standards and that there is no slavery or human trafficking in our wider work.

We expect all our major suppliers to be compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained within section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act. Our procurement policy and contract guidance require contractors to adhere to the relevant sections of our safeguarding, health and safety, equal opportunities, and anti-discrimination policies. Should any of our suppliers or sub-contractors fail to meet these standards, we will take action to review and, if necessary, terminate our relationship with them.

Looking Ahead: We will continue to review our policies and processes to ensure that they have appropriate and relevant references to modern slavery, and include modern slavery conditions in our tender documents, new supplier forms and other procurement documentation.

We will continue to work with other organisations, particularly other charities to share ideas and best practice on how to combat modern slavery and to explore opportunities to collaborate to help do this.

This statement is made voluntarily, in support of the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It has been approved by the YWU Y&H trustee board.