

Supporting victims of modern slavery who are homeless during COVID19

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Sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and forced labour will not stop during COVID 19 outbreak. Also, people will not stop trying to escape their exploiters.

Supporting victims of modern slavery who are homeless:

As any client, the potential victim will be triaged and if displaying symptoms, they will have to follow your charity contingency plan. Only when a client has been cleared can they be assessed on modern slavery indicators.

All cases should be supported on a case-by-case basis. Emergency bedding until the client moves to a safe house is still a priority.

The steps to follow are:

1. Provide primary services as necessary (referral to nurse and to mental health worker are advised).
2. Arrange emergency accommodation asap. This is done in collaboration with local authorities using their emergency bedding protocol or their mental health respite beds.
3. Send a safeguarding referral to your local authority Adult Social Care.
4. Organise multi-agency case conferences (these can be video conferences). Please contact me if you need further information.
5. Get a First Responder to your charity or call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700 or report it online: <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report>.
6. Refer the client to the Salvation Army for transfer to a safe house: 0300 3038151.

NOTE: referrals to respite beds and emergency bedding will 'depend on the demand and how the whole situation develops. As those are shared accommodations, potential outbreaks of COVID and its containment in such provisions is a concern' (Central and Northwest NHS Trust).

NOTE: some hostels cannot provide food. The clients in these types of bedding will need to take food packages with them.

NOTE: The Salvation Army 'phone assessments are asking more questions to highlight if a victim may be at risk from / have the virus and following government advice where a concern has been highlighted' (Salvation Army Modern Slavery Unit Manager).

For more information on supporting victims of modern slavery who are homeless, including the list of First Responders and important phone numbers:

<https://passage.org.uk/publications/the-passage-modern-slavery-handbook-2019/>

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