



YOUNG SOMERSET

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

This statement is provided on behalf Young Somerset and is made pursuant to section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ('the Act'). It constitutes Young Somerset's statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

Introduction

Young Somerset considers modern slavery and human trafficking extremely serious crimes, grave violations of human rights and contrary to the ethical standards and values we hold dear. As a charity we have a zero-tolerance approach to such abuses. We are committed to preventing modern slavery in our organisation and ensuring that our supply chain is as equally free of both modern slavery and human trafficking (within the reasonable bounds of our influence and control to ensure compliance with the Act by our supply chain and/or assure ourselves of their compliance).

Our Organisation

Young Somerset is the largest youth work charity in Somerset and our mission is to put young people first.

Our aim is to work with young people, encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves and become actively involved in shaping the communities in which they live. Young Somerset works to achieve social and economic outcomes with young people, through the delivery of measurable outputs and outcomes.

Young Somerset seeks to develop a youth work relationship that is open, honest, respectful, trusting and led by the young person.

Young Somerset employ over 100 staff, and benefits from the support of a number of volunteers.

The majority of our staff are employed directly by Young Somerset and are not of an employment status generally considered to be vulnerable to modern slavery in this country. We are not complacent and have robust policies and procedures in place. Our focus, however, is on ensuring that our supply chain complies with the Act, relevant Young Somerset policies and procedures, and our ethical standards.

Our Supply Chain

Young Somerset is committed to improving our practices to identify and eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains, and to act ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships.

Our supply chains comprise of over 250 suppliers and contractors. Young Somerset use the products and services we purchase from these suppliers to:

- Support our charitable aims and objectives
- Enable staff to support children and young people within Somerset
- Provide products for sale in our shop and cafe

Supply Chain Due Diligence

Young Somerset aims to work with only those suppliers that demonstrate high levels of commitment to monitoring and reducing the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking taking place within their organisations or supply chains. As a pre-condition to supplying Young Somerset, all suppliers will be sent a purchase order with a statement “by providing these goods or services you are confirming your company’s compliance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015”. Should a supplier fail to agree this Young Somerset will take appropriate action, which may include not entering into a relationship or terminating the relationship.

Policies and Training

Young Somerset endeavours to raise awareness among all employees of the identification, prevention and eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking. This is referenced in key policies e.g., safeguarding, and procedures are in place to ensure that they can do so.

Specific Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking training on Young Somerset’s training portal (TLC) informs staff of the signs/indicators of modern slavery and how to report.

Young Somerset’s safeguarding training recognises modern slavery as a form of abuse where there is a concern about a child (under 18 years) or an adult (18 or over) who needs care and support. Young Somerset, via the Designated Safeguarding Lead, will report to the appropriate authorities.

Plans for 2023/24

In the 2023/24 financial year Young Somerset plans to take further steps to improve staff knowledge of modern slavery and human trafficking, and requirements under the Act by specifically referencing this in the November 2023 update of the Young Somerset Safeguarding Policy.

We will look to develop our procurement process to develop our plans and controls in this area.

This statement is made pursuant to Part 6, section 54 of the Act and constitutes Young Somerset’s anti-slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 and has been approved by Young Somerset’s Board of Trustees on behalf of Young Somerset.