

## MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND TRAFFICKING

Cheshire Police has set up an initiative to combat modern day slavery and human trafficking in Warrington.

The Hidden Harm Team (HHT) – named so because those who suffer from these types of crimes are often hiding in plain sight – is dedicated to identifying, safeguarding and supporting victims of forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation and will take robust action against offenders.

HHT are based at the town centre police station and will be working closely with partners including Warrington Borough Council, recruitment agencies, employers and private landlords to identify, prevent, and disrupt and stop modern day slavery.

The team, in an effort to help the public look out for potential victims, has identified six signs and behaviours. These are:

- **Appearance:** Victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt or appear withdrawn.
- **Isolation:** Victims may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control/influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- **Poor living conditions:** Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and may be working at the same address.
- **Few or no personal effects:** Victims may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and wear the same clothes day in, day out. The clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.
- **Unusual travel times:** They may be dropped off/collected for work on a regular basis, either very early in the morning or late at night.
- **Reluctant to seek help:** Victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help and fear of deportation.

Concerns someone is a victim of modern day slavery and human trafficking can be raised with Cheshire Police by calling 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Alternatively HHT's email address is [warrington.hidden.harm.team.@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:warrington.hidden.harm.team.@cheshire.pnn.police.uk)

More information about modern day slavery can be found on <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>