



THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

MODERN SLAVERY AND HOMELESSNESS: SEEING THE DANGER IN COMMUNITY PROJECTS

These notes accompany four videos which you can find on www.theclewerinitiative.org/homeless

Use the videos and questions to reflect and consider what the danger of modern slavery means for your project, and how you will change your behaviour or training as a result.

CHARLIE'S STORY

This is a true story of one man's experience of homelessness and modern slavery. His name has been changed to protect his identity. As you watch the video, try and reflect on the questions below.

Questions to consider:

What made Charlie vulnerable to modern slavery? In what ways are his vulnerabilities similar to people you work with or have worked with?

Does hearing his story help you understand how this could happen to homeless people you know or work with?

Reflect on what you think the long term effects of having had this experience may have had on Charlie. How will his life have changed as a result?

WHY ARE HOMELESS PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO MODERN SLAVERY?

Summary of the video:

Homeless people and rough sleepers are vulnerable to modern slavery because they are already in a precarious situation.

They may have additional vulnerabilities such as a drug or alcohol addiction, or past trauma, which make them vulnerable to grooming and promises of work. They are also likely to be suspicious of law enforcement due to past experiences.

Traffickers and exploiters prey on vulnerable people. They have been observed recruiting directly from places where homeless people are known to congregate, such as night shelters and drop-in centres.

They will promise cash in hand work, and often alcohol, drugs, and accommodation. These promises quickly turn out to be false, but they will use various methods to make sure their victim does not escape, or go to the authorities. These methods include the threat of

violence, to themselves or their families, and physical violence of varying degrees, sometimes extreme. In some cases they may also provide the promised alcohol or drugs, to keep their victims under control and bind them further.

They may also take control of the identification documents of their victims, this makes them more vulnerable, particularly if they are not UK nationals.

Questions to consider:

Had you heard of modern slavery before? Does it surprise or shock you that homeless people may be at risk?

There are several vulnerabilities specific to homeless people, some of which are identified in the video. What are they, and what others can you think of?

Reflect on the homeless people in your community – where do they gather, and therefore where may they have been targeted?

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS THAT A HOMELESS PERSON HAS BEEN EXPLOITED AND WHAT SHOULD I DO?

There are various signs you can use to try and identify whether someone has been exploited. Not all signs will apply to every victim, and some may show none at all, but this video will give you a brief overview.

Summary of the video:

Homeless people tend to be recruited for casual labour like brick laying and hand car washing, as these industries are less well regulated.

Many of the typical signs of modern slavery such as looking unkempt or only having one set of clothes, would generally apply to a typical rough sleeper. Try and look for more subtle signs like their state of mind.

If you're worried about the work someone is doing, try and ask open questions to figure out if you should escalate the situation.

What should you do if you spot the signs? You need to talk to your project coordinator or leader, who should have a clear pathway for dealing with this kind of issue included in their Safeguarding procedures. If you are a project coordinator and you don't know what you would do, please refer to the notes for project coordinators which can be found at www.theclewerinitiative.org/homeless

Questions to consider:

There are several signs to look out for, some of which are identified in the video. What are they, and what others can you think of?

Dan talks about using open questions to try and figure out if someone has been exploited. What examples does he use and can you think of any more?

Thinking about your previous experiences volunteering with rough sleepers, do you think you have ever come across someone who had been exploited? What did you do?

Thinking about your project, what would you do now if you thought someone was being or had been exploited?

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS THAT SOMEONE IS RECRUITING FROM MY PROJECT?

Unfortunately, your project may be seen as a obvious place to recruit from by people looking for rough sleepers to exploit. This video covers what that looks like and how you should respond.

Summary of the video:

Traffickers have been seen targeting rough sleepers at night shelters run by churches and community groups.

They will approach rough sleepers outside the project and may even come inside the building to recruit there.

What should you do if you spot the signs? Don't approach the traffickers. You need to talk to your project coordinator or leader, who should have a clear pathway for this kind of issue included in their Safeguarding procedures. If you are a project coordinator and you don't know what you would do, please refer to the notes for project coordinators which can be found at www.theclewerinitiative.org/homeless

Questions to consider:

There are several signs to look out for, some of which are identified in the video. What are they, and what others can you think of?

Dan talks about speaking with the rough sleepers themselves, and asking them to report if someone is recruiting in the project. Is this something you could implement in your project? How would you do it?

Thinking about your previous experiences volunteering with rough sleepers, do you think you have ever come across someone recruiting from your project? What did you do?

Thinking about your project, what would you do now if you thought there were recruiters there?

WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE?

For more information on how you should respond to the risk of modern slavery in your project, please talk to your project coordinator.

For a wider understanding of what modern slavery is go to The Clewer Initiative's website: www.theclewerinitiative.org

You can call the Modern Slavery Helpline for advice and support or for general enquiries. They are available 24/7. Their number is 08000 121 700 or you can send an enquiry via their website: www.modernslaveryhelpline.org

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