Vision Support Barrow & District
Charity Registration Number: 1051674

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement
October 2025. To be reviewed annually or on changes in UK Law.

1. Introduction

Vision Support Barrow & District ("the Charity") is committed to acting ethically, with integrity, and in full compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We oppose all forms of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking. Although we are a small charitable organisation, we recognise our responsibility to prevent exploitation in our own activities and to promote fair and safe working conditions throughout our supply chains and partnerships.

2. About Vision Support Barrow & District

Vision Support Barrow & District is a registered charity based in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Our mission is to support people who are visually impaired by providing advice, social activities, equipment, and community services to promote independence and inclusion. We operate primarily within the local area, employing a number of staff and working with volunteers, local suppliers, venues, and service providers to deliver community-based projects and fundraising events.

3. Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our operations or supply chains. Our approach is based on the following principles:

- Acting ethically and with integrity in all business relationships.
- Implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls.
- Raising awareness among staff, trustees, and volunteers.
- Working only with suppliers and partners who share our values and commitment.

4. Our Activities and Supply Chains

Our supply chains are mainly UK-based and involve:

- Local community venues and halls.
- Small suppliers for catering, print, IT, and office materials.
- Contractors providing cleaning, maintenance, or event services.
- Professional advisers such as accountants and insurance providers.

We consider the overall risk of modern slavery in our supply chain to be low, but we remain alert to potential issues, especially where subcontracting, relief workers, or imported goods are involved.

5. Policies and Procedures

We maintain implementing the following policies that help to prevent modern slavery and promote ethical practice:

- Safeguarding Policy – to protect vulnerable people and ensure welfare is prioritised.
- Whistleblowing Policy – to encourage reporting of concerns or wrongdoing.
- Procurement and Supplier Code of Conduct – to include compliance with UK employment law, anti-slavery, and ethical standards.
- Volunteer and Staff Code of Conduct – requiring fairness, dignity, and respect in all dealings.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy – to promote non-discriminatory practices.

6. Due Diligence and Supplier Standards

Before engaging suppliers or contractors, we will:

- Request confirmation of compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (where applicable).
- Consider the supplier's reputation, location, and labour practices.
- Avoid working with any organisation that fails to demonstrate adequate safeguards.

Ongoing, we will monitor our relationships and take appropriate action if we identify any breaches or concerns.

7. Training and Awareness

We provide guidance and training to trustees, staff, and volunteers to ensure understanding of:

- The risks of modern slavery and human trafficking.
- How to identify signs of exploitation.
- How to report concerns safely.

Our safeguarding and induction training includes awareness of exploitation and reporting mechanisms.

8. Reporting Concerns

Anyone who suspects that modern slavery or exploitation may be occurring—within our organisation or in our supply chain—should report it immediately to the CEO or Safeguarding Lead. We will take all reports seriously and act in line with our whistleblowing and safeguarding procedures. If a serious concern arises, we will also

notify relevant authorities, such as the police, the Charity Commission, or the Modern Slavery Helpline (08000 121 700).

9. Continuous Improvement

We will continue to review our policies, supplier practices, and staff training annually to strengthen our approach to preventing modern slavery. We will also seek feedback from trustees and partners to ensure our procedures remain effective and proportionate to our size and risk profile.

10. Approval

This statement has been approved by the CEO of Vision Support Barrow & District, 1st October 2025 and will be reviewed and updated annually.

Signed: _____

Name: Craig Renton

Position: CEO

Date: 1st October 2025

Reference

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the charity's modern slavery and human trafficking statement.