



Introduction

The Irwell Valley Group is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking across all our activities and to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that our activities and those of our supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

This statement sets out the actions of the Irwell Valley Group to understand the modern slavery potential risks relating to our business and to take steps to prevent slavery or human trafficking across our business and supply chains.

Organisation

Irwell Valley Homes (IVH) is the parent organisation for the Irwell Valley Group (IVG), which comprises of the following organisations:

Irwell Valley Housing Association Ltd. – Registered as a Community Benefit Society with the FCA. Registration number: 20684R. Also registered with the RSH – L0061
Irwell Valley Developments Ltd (IVDL) – Company Number: 03923984

The Registered Office for both organisations is First Floor, The Soapworks, Colgate Lane, Salford, M5 3LZ

A registered provider of social housing since 1973, Irwell Valley Housing Association (IVHA) owns and provides housing management related services to around 7,700 homes across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. The Association has an annual turnover of £37m and employs around 280 people.

The Groups business is primarily centred around the following services:

- Housing and tenancy management services (to a variety of tenure types including general needs, over 50s, supported, shared ownership, affordable and market rent)
- The letting of properties
- The development of new homes
- Repair and maintenance of our housing stock and neighbourhoods
- Rent and financial inclusion advice
- Tenancy sustainment support
- Supporting vulnerable client groups (which includes but is not limited to those with mental or physical disabilities, those suffering from domestic abuse and those in younger age groups).

IVDL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Irwell Valley Housing Association Ltd. IVDL is a non-asset holding entity – established to construct and develop new properties on behalf of the parent.

Responsibility

This statement is approved by the Board of IVHA.



The Strategic Leadership Team is responsible for overseeing our anti-slavery activities, led by the Chief Executive and the Company Secretary.

Individual Managers are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Associations' policies and procedures, ensuring that their teams are aware of their responsibilities in making our activities against slavery and human trafficking effective.

The prevention, detection and reporting of any instances or concerns of modern slavery is the responsibility of all colleagues.

All colleagues are encouraged to raise any concerns at the earliest possible stage.

Risk Management

The Irwell Valley Group manages risk according to its Risk Management Framework. Risks are managed on an ongoing basis – with risks being reviewed on a Quarterly basis by the Audit Committee and the Board six monthly.

Our Risk Management is subject to external review and scrutiny – including our Internal Auditors. Our risks are also externally reviewed to ensure that they are appropriate to the work of the Association and are in line with the expectations of our Regulator.

Currently, there are no areas of the Associations business that are considered to represent a high level of risk of slavery and human trafficking.

Expectations of Suppliers and our Supply Chain

The Irwell Valley Group is committed to ensuring that our contractors, suppliers and supply chain follow our high standards and expectations and that there shall be no modern slavery or human trafficking associated within our supply chain.

Irwell Valley homes is opposed to slavery and human trafficking and we want to do what we can to combat such abuses across our business and supply chains. We will always act ethically and with the highest standards of integrity, quality, probity, openness and accountability in all our business operations and relationships. We will develop, implement and enforce processes and controls that seek to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place within our business or in our supply chains. We will not engage with any business knowingly involved in slavery or human trafficking.

Irwell Valley Homes is committed to:

- Raising awareness of this issue amongst our suppliers and making sure they take appropriate steps to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in their business or supply chains.
- Asking new and existing suppliers to declare that they are not involved in slavery or human trafficking and are fully compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- Monitoring our business and our supply chains to ensure we are free from slavery and human trafficking.



- Acting promptly where a compliance breach has been identified and feeding back lessons learnt.

What we expect from our supply chain:

1. To be aware of their responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>
2. To establish clear lines of responsibility for detection, recording and reporting slavery and human trafficking concerns.
3. To ensure that their staff receive training on the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to help them identify, record, report and act upon any instances or suspicions.
4. To declare that they are not involved in slavery or human trafficking and are fully compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015

Due diligence is undertaken when taking on new suppliers or contractors. We regularly review the performance and rating of our approved contractors and suppliers.

Reporting Concerns

The Irwell Valley Group requires all colleagues and contractors acting on our behalf to raise any concerns or suspicions of incidents of modern slavery or human trafficking. In line with our Safeguarding Policy and procedures, colleagues are able to register any concerns with management for further investigation and review.

In the event of a serious concern requiring an immediate emergency response, colleagues may also contact the Police direct by calling 999. They may also contact the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121700 or Crimestoppers on 0800555111.

Colleagues may also raise any concerns direct with the Chief Executive, any member of the Strategic Leadership Team or the Company Secretary.

No concerns or incidences of modern slavery or human trafficking were reported during 2021/22.

Training and Awareness

All colleagues are required to complete mandatory Safeguarding training to ensure that they are aware of signs of modern slavery and human trafficking and what to do if they suspect this may be happening.

Additional refresher awareness raising sessions are also held with front facing colleagues.

Future Actions

Our aims for 2021/22 are:

1. Raising awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking across our business areas.
We will do this by:



- Ensuring all colleagues complete relevant e-learning and training
- Reviewing processes and procedures for the reporting of concerns
- Adding modern slavery to the schedule of colleague communications

2. Reviewing and strengthening our supply chain procedures

Relevant Policies

The following policies support our activities in reducing the risk of slavery and human trafficking:

- Recruitment & Selection Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Integrity Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Contractor Management Policy
- Procurement Strategy

Declaration

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the Irwell Valley Homes Group for the financial year 2021. This statement will be reviewed and published annually.

Signed on behalf of Irwell Valley Homes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Wilcox".

Paul Wilcox
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sasha Deepwell".

Sasha Deepwell
Chief Executive Officer