

## Standard 5: Engaging with Informed Partners to Provide Holistic Support and Help End Modern Slavery

### 5.1 Criteria:

The organisation:

1. **Independence:** Provides support to survivors that is needs-led and person-centred, ensuring that services are not dictated by available resources or partner priorities, but truly tailored to individual requirements. This includes the organisational provision of a survivor discretionary fund to meet immediate needs and build trust. Proactive measures to assure survivors of independence should be clearly outlined e.g. role and limits of VN role – not taking statements, not having warrants nor handling evidence; providing independent contact details,
2. **Wraparound Support:** Provides support to survivors that is clearly defined in Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that set out the necessity for each partner organisation to deliver individual and pathway outcomes for the benefit of each survivor.
3. **Formal Relationships with Key Partners:** Maintains MoUs with all National Referral Mechanism First Responders, Victim Care Contract/Support Victims of Modern Slavery (SVMS) contract providers, and other essential partners to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.
4. **Integrated Support for Pathway Outcomes:** Works collaboratively with all partners to support survivors' progression along recovery pathways, ensuring coordinated and seamless support.
5. **Engagement with Local Safeguarding Practice:** Actively participates in local safeguarding practices to optimise the safety and wellbeing of survivors.
6. **Wider Community Response:** Demonstrates engagement with the wider community—including reception centres, NHS, social services, Reach-In Hubs, the voluntary sector, and 'by and for' organisations—ensuring that key knowledge is defined and utilised for effective support.
7. **Information Sharing:** Ensures effective information-sharing agreements are in place with all partners to facilitate effective and lawful sharing of relevant data.
8. **Needs of Children:** Ensures the needs of children are reflected in the support plans for parents (as VNs do not work directly with children) and actively engages with Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) or equivalent bodies where appropriate.
9. **Awareness Raising of Modern Slavery:** Takes an active role in raising awareness of modern slavery risks and responses through its partnerships and outreach.
10. **Stakeholder Feedback:** Stakeholder feedback must be systematically requested, recorded, and acted upon at least annually to improve service delivery. This must include perceptions of independence from the police.
11. **Accommodation, Outreach, and Material Assistance:** Provision of accommodation, outreach, and material assistance (including via SVMS) must be timely, appropriate, and in line with minimum standards.

## 5.2 Sample Evidence Table:

Criterion	Evidence
Independence	Support plans demonstrating needs-led and person-centred approaches; service user feedback confirming support is not resource/partner driven. Sample discretionary fund receipts provided.
Wraparound Support	Signed MoUs detailing support expectations; records of pathway outcome achievement; individual support plans.
Formal Relationships with Key Partners	Copies of MoUs with NRM first responders, VCC/SVMS providers, and other partners; partnership meeting minutes.
Integrated Support for Pathway Outcomes	Multi-agency meeting records; joint action plans; documented examples of coordinated support.
Engagement with Local Safeguarding Practice	Records of participation in safeguarding meetings; safeguarding policy documents; evidence of referrals to local safeguarding teams.
Wider Community Response	Partnership agreements; records of joint initiatives with community organisations; documentation of knowledge-sharing activities.
Information Sharing	Signed information-sharing agreements; evidence of compliant data-sharing practices; audit reports on information sharing.
Needs of Children	Support plans for parents detailing child-related needs; records of engagement with MASH or equivalent; feedback from parents.
Awareness Raising of Modern Slavery	Reports on awareness-raising activities; partnership communications; feedback from awareness events.
Stakeholder Feedback	Copies of feedback forms and surveys; records of changes made in response to feedback; review reports referencing stakeholder input. Survivor and wider stakeholder views on VN independence from the police is temperature checked annually, at a minimum.
Accommodation, Outreach, and Material Assistance	Records of accommodation placements and outreach activities; documentation showing alignment with SVMS and minimum standards; service user feedback on material assistance received.

