# EVERYBODY DESERVES A LIFE FREE FROM EXPLOITATION

Like many young people, Tim* has been preparing to start college this autumn. He is looking forward to starting his studies and continuing to practice his English. He is also excited to have the opportunity to try out new activities, visit places of interest around his new home and make friends in his local community.

Tim has overcome significant challenges to get where he is. Born in Vietnam, he was trafficked to the UK after finding himself living on the streets after both his parents died. He met a man who offered him work, before trafficking him to the UK. When Tim arrived in England, he was forced to work in a cannabis farm in the North East.

Modern Slavery takes place all over the world – including in the North East of England. In 2019 – 20, 11,342 people were identified as experiencing Modern Slavery national. This is a 51% increase on the previous year. People came from 130 different countries, with the top three being the UK, Albania and Vietnam.

# "AT LAST I FEEL SAFE"

The most common exploitation type recorded for adults and children was labour exploitation, a category which is directly associated with criminal exploitation. This is what Tim experienced.

When the Liberty Project team met Tim, he wasn't sure how old he was. An age assessment has estimated he is about 16 years old so he is now living with a lovely foster family and receives specialist support from the Liberty team.

So far, Tim's support worker has focused on helping him to learn English. They have been very impressed with how intelligent and enthusiastic Tim is, and how quickly he has picked up English. Now that Tim is at college, his support worker will continue to help him develop his language skills further, by supporting him to experience activities, visit places of interest and introduce him to the wider community.

**At Changing Lives, we believe everybody deserves a safe home, a rewarding job, and a life free from exploitation and abuse.**

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