

2017 - 2019

PAN CHESHIRE

SAFEGUARDING TRAFFICKED CHILDREN PROTOCOL

MULTI-AGENCY STRATEGY



I am Not
for SALE

STOP Human Trafficking!

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1. Introduction

This Protocol provides guidance to all professionals and volunteers to safeguarding children who are abused and neglected by adults who are trafficking them within, into and out of the UK in order to exploit them.

Trafficked children are at increased risk of significant harm because they are largely invisible to the professionals and volunteers who would be in a position to assist them. The adults who are trafficking them take trouble to ensure that the children do not come to the attention of the authorities, or disappear from contact with statutory services soon after arrival in the UK, or in a new area within the UK.

2. Definitions

Trafficking and Exploitation

The two most common terms for the illegal movement of people are:

‘Smuggling’, is described when immigrants and asylum seekers pay people to help them enter the country illegally; after which there is no longer a relationship.

‘Trafficking’, Trafficked victims are coerced or deceived by the person arranging their relocation. On arrival in the country of destination the trafficked child or person is denied their human rights and is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered.

The Palermo Protocol establishes children as a special case - any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim - whether or not they have been deceived. This is partly because it is not considered possible for children to give informed consent.

Even when a child understands what has happened they may still appear to submit willingly, to what they believe to be the will of their parents or carers.

Guidance on the National Referral Mechanism published by the Home Office makes clear:

Any child who is recruited, transported or transferred for the purposes of exploitation is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived. Even when a child appears to have submitted willingly to what they believe to be the will of their parents or accompanying adults, it is not considered possible for a child to give informed consent.



3. Principles

The following principles should be adopted by all agencies in relation to identifying and responding to children (and unborn children) at risk of or having been trafficked:

- Trafficking causes significant harm to children in both the short and long term; it constitutes physical and emotional abuse to children;
- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount (i.e. the nationality or immigration status of the child is secondary and should be addressed only after the child's safety is assured);
- Trafficked children must be provided with the same standard and duty of care that is available to any other child in the UK;
- All decisions or plans for the child/ren should be based on good quality assessments and supported by easily accessible multi-agency services; and
- All agencies should work in partnership local communities, to empower individuals and groups to develop support networks and education programmes

4. Why Do People Traffick Children?

Most children are trafficked and exploited for financial gain. This can take the form of payment from the child's parents, and in most cases the trafficker also receives payment from those wanting to exploit the child. Some trafficking is by organised gangs, in other cases individual adults traffick children in and around the UK or into the UK for their own personal gain. Exploitation includes children being used for:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Domestic servitude;
- Sweatshop and restaurant work, drug dealing and credit card fraud;
- Begging or pickpocketing;
- Benefit fraud;
- Looking after drug houses e.g. cannabis growing
- Drug mules or decoys for adult drug traffickers;
- Forced marriage
- Trade in human organs; and in some cases;
- Ritual killings.

Younger children are often trafficked to become beggars and thieves or for benefit fraud. Teenagers are often trafficked for domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

5. The Impact of Trafficking on Children

Trafficked and exploited children are not only deprived of their rights to health and freedom from exploitation and abuse - they are usually also deprived of their right to an education, family life and the life opportunities this brings. Once children have been trafficked and exploited, some examples of what they are vulnerable to are:

5.1 Physical Abuse and Neglect

- Inappropriate chastisement, not receiving routine and emergency medical attention (partly through a lack of care about their welfare and partly because of the need for secrecy surrounding their circumstances);
- Children in the sex industry are open to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and for girls there is the risk of early pregnancy and

possible damage to their reproductive health;

- Some trafficked children are subdued with drugs, which they then become dependent on. They are then effectively trapped within the cycle of exploitation, continuing to work in return for a supply of drugs;

5.2 Psychological Harm

- Children can be isolated from the local community in the UK by being kept away from school and because they cannot speak English;
- Trafficked and exploited children are living in fear both of the adults who have control of them and of the discovery of their illegal immigration status;
- Victims lose their trust in all adults;
- Trafficked and exploited children will all suffer some degree of mental health issues which could take the form of post-traumatic stress relating to their sense of powerlessness and the degree of violence they experienced at the hands of their traffickers, which can be extreme;
- Many trafficked and exploited children develop dependant relationships with their abuser

6. How Are Children Brought To The U.K.?

Children enter the UK in two key ways, accompanied adult/s or as unaccompanied minors.

Accompanied children:

Very little is known about accompanied children, many of whom are brought in by adults either purporting to be their parents or stating that they have the parent's permission to bring the child. There are many legitimate reasons for children being brought to the UK, such as, education, re-unification with family or fleeing a war-torn country.

Unaccompanied children:

More is known about these children because they come to the notice of the authorities when they claim asylum. Although there appear to be some groups of children who do not seek help from the authorities, notably Chinese children who 'disappear' into the Chinese communities in the UK.

Many African children are referred to Children's Social Care after applying for asylum, and even register at school for up to a term, before disappearing again. It is thought

that they are trafficked out of the UK to Europe. However, recent experience is that as checks have improved at the larger ports of entry, traffickers are starting to use the smaller, less well known ports and airports.

6.1 UK Born Children that are trafficked within the UK

In 2013, 450 children were referred to the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as potential victims of trafficking. Of these referrals, 144 claimed trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and a total of 168 claimed trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude or labour exploitation. The remaining 138 claimed trafficking for unknown exploitative purposes.

This picture has increased in the last couple of years and during April to June 2016, 1002 potential victims were referred in to the National Referral Mechanism. Albania, Vietnam and the UK are the most common nationality of potential victims reported. For children, the four most common countries of origin were UK (80 children - of which 71 claimed trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation), Albania (72 children), Vietnam (47 children) Afghanistan (21 children).

The National Crime Agency points out that the number of referrals is not a measure of trafficking in the UK. Agencies working with trafficked young people share this view, emphasising that the number of NRM referrals is not an accurate reflection of the extent of child trafficking as many victims are hidden and remain undetected.

Within Cheshire there has been an increase in the numbers of suspected victims of trafficking locally that are involved in criminal and sexual exploitation that are predominantly more difficult to spot than other types of trafficking. It is important for practitioners to be aware of this when looking to identify a potential victim.

Examples within Cheshire are a white British girl transported across the same town for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Teenagers that are being used illegally for forced labour within Cannabis farms and for criminal activity.

www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking

7. Procedures for Children Already in the United Kingdom

Responsibilities

7.1 Community Groups, Neighbours and the Public

Trafficked and exploited children often come to the notice of any agency only when it is too late. Some are enrolled at school and concerns are only raised when they leave unexpectedly, and there is no trace of them or their 'family' at their home address. Others are never registered at school or with a GP. These children do not come into contact with the statutory services who could raise concerns about their welfare. Younger children may be known to local Housing or benefits services. However, most internationally trafficked children are invisible. Protecting them and promoting their welfare depends on the awareness and co-operation of community groups, neighbours and the public. This has implications for awareness raising campaigns.

7.2 Private Fostering

Private fostering is defined in the Children Act 1989 as occurring when a child under 16 years (or under 18 if disabled) is placed for more than 28 days in the care of someone who is not a close relative, guardian or someone with Parental Responsibility (close relatives are defined by the Act as parents, step-parents, siblings, siblings of a parent and grandparents).

As the current systems relies on the parents and the foster carers to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement (preferably before, but certainly within 48 hours, of the child arriving to stay), only a very small proportion of placements are notified. There are a number of reasons why only a small proportion of private fostering arrangements are notified to the local authority and this is ideal for people who traffick children as they would more likely be detected if there were robust recognition and notification of these arrangements.

Staff or volunteers in an agency who have concerns that a child may be trafficked and privately fostered should contact LA Children's Social Care, who can investigate under their regulatory duties in relation to private fostering (Children Acts 1989 & 2004). These duties are: to identify private fostering arrangements, inspect the home and assess the suitability of the arrangement in terms of the child's welfare, visit the child regularly, and monitor and keep records of the placement.

There is also a new requirement on local authorities to raise awareness of the notification requirements within local communities (section 7a of the Children Act 2004) and to ensure that staff or volunteers in all agencies encourage notification.

7.3 All Agencies

Wherever staff or volunteers in an agency come into contact with a child who has arrived unaccompanied in the country and is not in contact with Children's Social Care or a child who is accompanied, but for whom they have concerns regarding their welfare or safety, they should consult and follow one of the following:

- The actions indicated in this protocol
- The relevant single agency Child Protection Procedures

All these procedures will ultimately guide practitioners and volunteers to contact their local Children's Social Care if they are concerned that a child has been, is being or could be abused through trafficking.



7.4 Local Authority Children's Social Care

LA Children's Social Care have responsibility for assisting all unaccompanied children and children who have come to the UK with their parents for whom there are concerns regarding their welfare and safety. See Referrals Regarding Possible Trafficking and Exploitation of a Child and S.47 Enquiry below for LA Children's Social Care duties to undertake an assessment and, where appropriate, a S.47 enquiry.

7.5 Health Services

Trafficked children who need healthcare are more likely to be seen at Accident and Emergency services, Walk-in Centres, minor injury units or Sexual Health Clinics or Genito urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics, than by primary care services. All staff, including reception staff need to be alert to inconsistencies in addresses, deliberate vagueness and children or carers being unable to give details of next of kin, names telephone numbers etc.

When children or their carers give addresses in other countries, with the information that the child is resident outside of the UK, reception staff should always record the current holiday address as well as the home address in the other country. Staff need to be alert to 'local holiday' addresses in case patterns emerge that would suggest large numbers of children moving in and out of one address. Health professionals such as Health Visitors, School Nurses and Senior Nurses who may follow up visits to Accident and Emergency and Walk-in Centres, should also be alert to the moving in and out and rapid turnover of different children to any one address.

7.6 Education Services

Children trafficked into the country may be registered at a nursery, school or college for a term or so, before being moved to another part of the UK or abroad again. Education settings therefore need to be alert to this pattern of registration and de-registration. This pattern has been identified in education settings near ports, however it could happen anywhere in the UK. There is general agreement that children who have experienced certain life events are more at risk of going missing from education.

Education settings need therefore to be alert to the possibility that a child who goes missing, may be, or have been, a trafficked child, who is living with or is running away from an exploitative situation.

7.7 Police

Cheshire Constabulary Public Protection Directorate (PPD) specialise in safeguarding children issues and will investigate specific trafficking and migration offences, as well as providing an advisory service to teams on child trafficking issues. The PPD is also responsible for recording and collating intelligence both on children at risk of being trafficked and also on suspected perpetrators of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

7.8 Local Safeguarding Children Boards

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) should have a multi-agency strategy and protocols in place for the early identification and notification to the relevant agencies of potential victims as they arrive in the country.

LSCBs should offer training to improve:

- The identification, assessment of risk and safety planning for children who are trafficked and exploited

LSCBs should maintain close links with community groups and have a strategy in place for raising awareness within the local community of the possibility that children are trafficked and exploited, and how to raise a concern.

8. Referrals Regarding Possible Trafficking and Exploitation of a Child Already in the UK

An agency or individual practitioner or volunteer who has a concern regarding possible trafficking and exploitation of a child to LA Children's Social Care, should contact the duty officer for the local authority.

8.1 Referral and Information Gathering

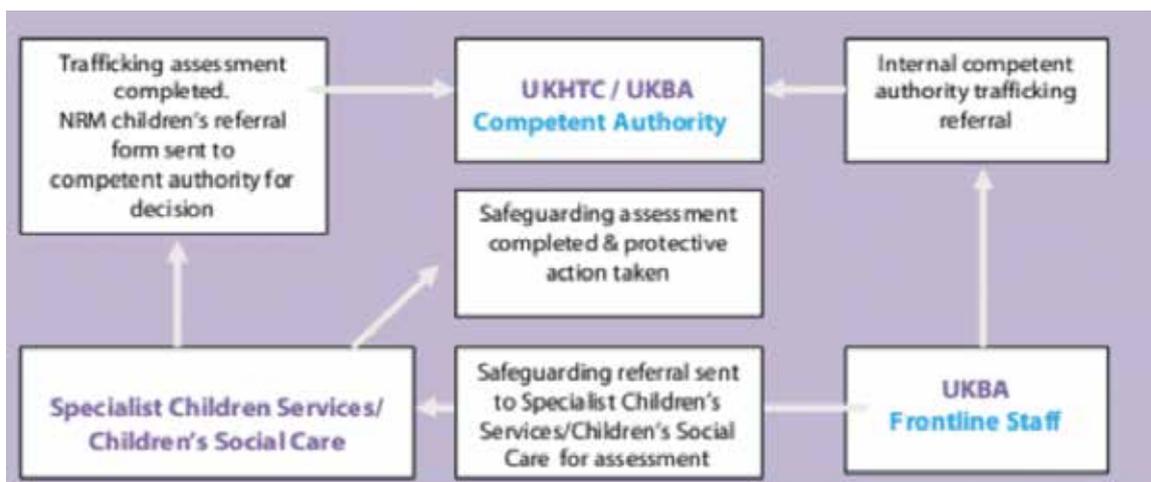
The screening tool will help you decide if a referral to children's social care is required. It will also help you to explain why you are worried, and should be used in all cases.

This section describes in more detail the response from LA Children's Social Care to a referral from one of the agencies:

- The social worker should obtain as much information as possible from the referrer, including the child's name, dob, address, name of carer/guardian, address if different, phone number, country of origin, home language and whether s/he speaks English, names of any siblings or other children;
- The social worker should verify that the child is living at the address as soon as possible;
- In the case of a referral from a school or education department the list of documentation provided at admission should also be obtained;
- A Home Office check should be completed to clarify status of the child/ren and the adult/s caring for them.

8.2 National Referral Mechanism

- In cases where a child displays indicators that they may have been trafficked, whether from overseas or within the UK, social workers or other front line professionals should refer the case to the relevant competent authority by submitting a National Referral Mechanism referral form.
- Referrals into the NRM will provide a national picture of numbers of children trafficked, as well as supporting evidence which will assist in building up intelligence such as trends, routes of travel and details which may assist in leading to the arrest and conviction of those who commit this crime.
- NRM referrals will also help the local authority focus their approach to the appropriate response for the child by ensuring all available information can be gathered and shared quickly between partners. This will allow the child's needs to be addressed as well as certain mitigating factors taken into account such as the risk of the child going missing.



8.3 Action after the Information Gathering

On completion of the information gathering the social worker will discuss the referral with their supervising manager to agree and plan one of four ways forward:

- An assessment to decide whether -
 - Appropriate arrangements for the child have been made by her/his parents;
 - There are grounds to accommodate the child;
 - The child is in need of immediate protection;
 - A s.47 enquiry should be initiated

b) Accommodation of the child under s.20 Children Act 1989 - there may be enough information at this stage to support a decision to accommodate the child. A child should be accommodated under s.20 Children Act 1989 if:

- The child is lost or abandoned;
- There is no person with Parental Responsibility for the child;
- The person who has been accommodating the child is prevented, for whatever reason, from providing suitable accommodation or care.
- A photograph of the child should be taken at point of placement

If there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is suffering or likely to suffer Significant Harm, an Emergency Protection Order may be sought. Consideration should be given to Police Powers of Protection in an emergency.

Local authorities need to go through their own legal process to determine the appropriate steps for future needs and support of the child/ young person.

c) Instigation of a Child Protection Enquiry and an Assessment of need under s.47 Children Act 1989 (See S.47 Enquiry below)

or:

d) Required actions

In all instances, the social worker should advise the referrer of the outcome

- The discussion between the social worker and their supervising manager after completion of the information gathering, should be recorded, tasks outlined and signed off by the manager;
- If further action is needed, consideration should be given to involvement of the police, education, health services, the referring agency and other relevant bodies e.g. housing, the benefits agency and immigration service. Careful consideration should be given to the effect of any action on the outcome of any investigation;
- In undertaking any assessment and all subsequent work with the child, the social worker must ensure that they use a suitable interpreter;
- The social worker must meet with the referrer;
- The social worker must check all documentation held by the referrer and other relevant agencies. Documentation should include, passport, Home Office papers, birth certificate, proof of guardianship. The list is not exhaustive and all avenues should be looked into;

- When assessing paperwork/documentation attention should be given to the detail. If a passport, when was it issued, how long is the visa for, does the picture resemble the child, is the name in the passport the same as the alleged mother/father, if not, why not. When assessing documentation, does it appear original, take copies to ensure further checks can be made.
- Once all papers have been checked, the social worker should clarify with the referrer what his/her concerns are again. Why did they make the referral, what led them to believe the child may be trafficked or here illegally etc; and request that they put their concerns in writing to ensure accuracy of recording.



8.4 Decision to Interview

Once all possible information has been gathered, the social worker and their supervising manager, together with the police should decide whether to conduct joint interviews with the police,

- Where it is decided that the family should be visited and interviewed, standard social work practice should be followed. The child should be seen alone, preferably in a safe environment. Ensure that the carers are not in the proximity. Children and young people will usually stick to their account and not speak until they feel comfortable;
- Professional interpreters, who have been DBS checked, should be used, it is not acceptable to use a family member, there needs to be awareness of any potential impact of the interpreter comes from the community where the family

live.

- Questions with the family should focus on the following:

Family composition, brothers, sisters, ages;

Parents' employment;

Task they do around the house;

Length of time in this country;

Where they lived in their country of origin;

Where they went to school in their country of origin;

Who cared for them in their country of origin.

How they arrived in the UK

The adults in the family should be interviewed (separately if possible) on the same basis, using the same questions, a comparison can then be made between the answers to ensure they match.

- All documentation should be seen and checked. This includes Home Office documentation, passports, visas, utility bills, tenancy agreements, birth certificates. Particular attention should be given to the documentation presented to the school at point of admission. It is not acceptable to be told 'the passport is missing' or 'I can't find the paperwork right now'. It is extremely unlikely that a person does not know where their paperwork/official documentation is kept;
- This interview should be conducted as fully and complete as possible to ensure accuracy and to avoid intrusion on the family over a longer period than is absolutely necessary;
- On completion of the assessment a meeting should be held with the social worker, their supervising manager, the referring agency as appropriate, the police and any other professionals involved to decide on future action. Further action should not be taken until this meeting has been held and multi-agency agreement obtained;
- Where it is found that the child is not a family member and is not related to any other person in this country, consideration should be given to establishing status and assisting the child as an Unaccompanied Minor;
- Any action regarding fraud, trafficking, deception and illegal entry to this country is the remit of the police and the Home Office. The local authority

should assist in any way possible, however, the responsibility for legal action usually remains with the other agencies (exceptions include benefit fraud, the responsibility of the Department of Work and Pensions, and Education offences, pursued by the LEA).

9. Section 47 Enquiry

Whenever a practitioner or volunteer becomes concerned that a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, a referral must be made to LA Children's Social Care, (verbal referral, followed by a written referral within 48 hours) in accordance with local procedures.

If the concern is raised at a port of entry, then immigration service should without delay, contact the LA Children's Social Care for the local area serving the port of entry. If the child is already in the country, the referral must be made to the LA Children's Social Care for the area in which the child resides.

LA Children's Social Care must convene a Strategy Meeting within 24 hours:

- The child coming into care; or
- Arrival in the borough where they are intending to reside, if a section 47 enquiry is appropriate.

The Strategy Meeting must:

- Share information - this will involve Immigration, the Police, Children's Social Services and any other relevant professionals;
- Develop a strategy for making enquiries into the child's circumstances, including consideration of a video interview;
- Develop a plan for the child's immediate protection, including the supervision and monitoring of arrangements (for Looked After children this will form part of the care plan);
- Agree what information can be given about the child to any enquirers; and
- Agree what support the child requires.

10. Children in Care

An Assessment of the child's needs must be undertaken immediately by the social worker to include:

- Establishing relevant information about the child's background;
- Understanding the reasons the child has come to the UK; and
- Assessing the child's vulnerability to the continuing influence/control of the traffickers.

Planning and actions to support the child must minimise the risk of the traffickers being able to re-involve a child exploitative activities. Thus:

- The location of the child must not be divulged to any enquirers until they have been interviewed by a social worker and their identity and relationship/connection with the child established, with the help of police and immigration services, if required;
- Foster carers/residential workers must be vigilant about anything unusual e.g. waiting cars outside the premises and telephone enquiries;
- The social worker must immediately pass to the police any information on the child (concerning risks to her/his safety or any other aspect of the law pertaining either to child protection or immigration or other matters), which emerges during the placement.
- The risk for the child to access to mobile phones and social media must be considered.

The child's social worker must try to make contact with the child's parents in the country of origin (immigration services may be able to help), to find out the plans they have made for their child and to seek their views. The social worker must to steps to verify the relationship between the child and those thought to be her/his parent/s.

Anyone approaching the local authority and claiming to be a potential carer, friend, member of the family etc., of one of the child, should be investigated by the social worker, the police and immigration service. If the supervising manager is satisfied that all agencies have completed satisfactory identification checks and risk assessments the child may transfer to their care.

11. Determining age

Young people may have no identifying information on them, their documents may

be false or they may have been told to lie about their age to evade attention from the authorities. Some victims may claim to be children when they are in fact over 18 years of age. Children are groomed (coerced) to lie about their age by the adults trafficking and exploiting them. Accordingly, information about a child provided by an accompanying adult / carer may not be accurate.

Where it is not clear whether the young person is a child (i.e. under 18 years of age) then, in accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, the young person should be treated as a child and be provided with full protection as a child victim of trafficking. This approach is also adopted by the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Where there is uncertainty about a suspected victim's age, children's services will be responsible for assessing their age. The local authority in whose area the victim has been recovered or found will have responsibility for the care of the child as required by the Children Act 1989. The process by which a child's age is assessed is known as a 'Merton Compliant' Age Assessment, following the principles laid down in a 2003 case involving Merton Council (B v London Borough of Merton (2003) EWHC 1689 (Admin)).

The court should consider any evidence of age that is available, which may include documentary evidence such as a passport, school records or a Police National Computer (PNC) printout verified by fingerprints as well as verbal evidence from people who know the child.

12. Support for Trafficked Children

Children who have been trafficked are likely to need some of the following services:

- Appropriately trained interpreting;
- Counselling;
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHs);
- Independent legal advice;
- Medical services (including, for victims of torture);
- Education;
- Repatriation.

12.1 Issues for Professionals to consider when working with Trafficked Children

Children who have been trafficked and exploited will need a variety of things including

some of the below:

- A practitioner to be informed and competent in matters relating to trafficking and exploitation;
- Someone to spend time with them to build up a level of trust;
- A 'safe house' if they are victims of an organised trafficking operation;
- Legal advice about their rights and immigration status;
- Their whereabouts are to be kept confidential;
- A risk assessment to be made into the danger they face if they are repatriated;
- Accommodation - for those who meet the criteria;
- To be interviewed separately. Children and young people will usually stick to their account and not speak until they feel comfortable;
- For practitioners to ensure that carers are not in the proximity;

12.2 Missing Children

Cheshire practitioners responding to the disappearance of vulnerable children from abroad, following their arrival in this country, can access additional guidance in Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care Protocol.

12.3 Issues for the Prosecution of Traffickers

Attempting to persuade a child victim to testify against a trafficker is complicated. The child usually fears reprisal from the traffickers and/or the adults whom the child was living with in the UK if they co-operate with the police. This includes reprisals against their family in their home country. Children who might agree to testify, fear that they will be discredited because they were coerced into lying on their visa applications/immigration papers.

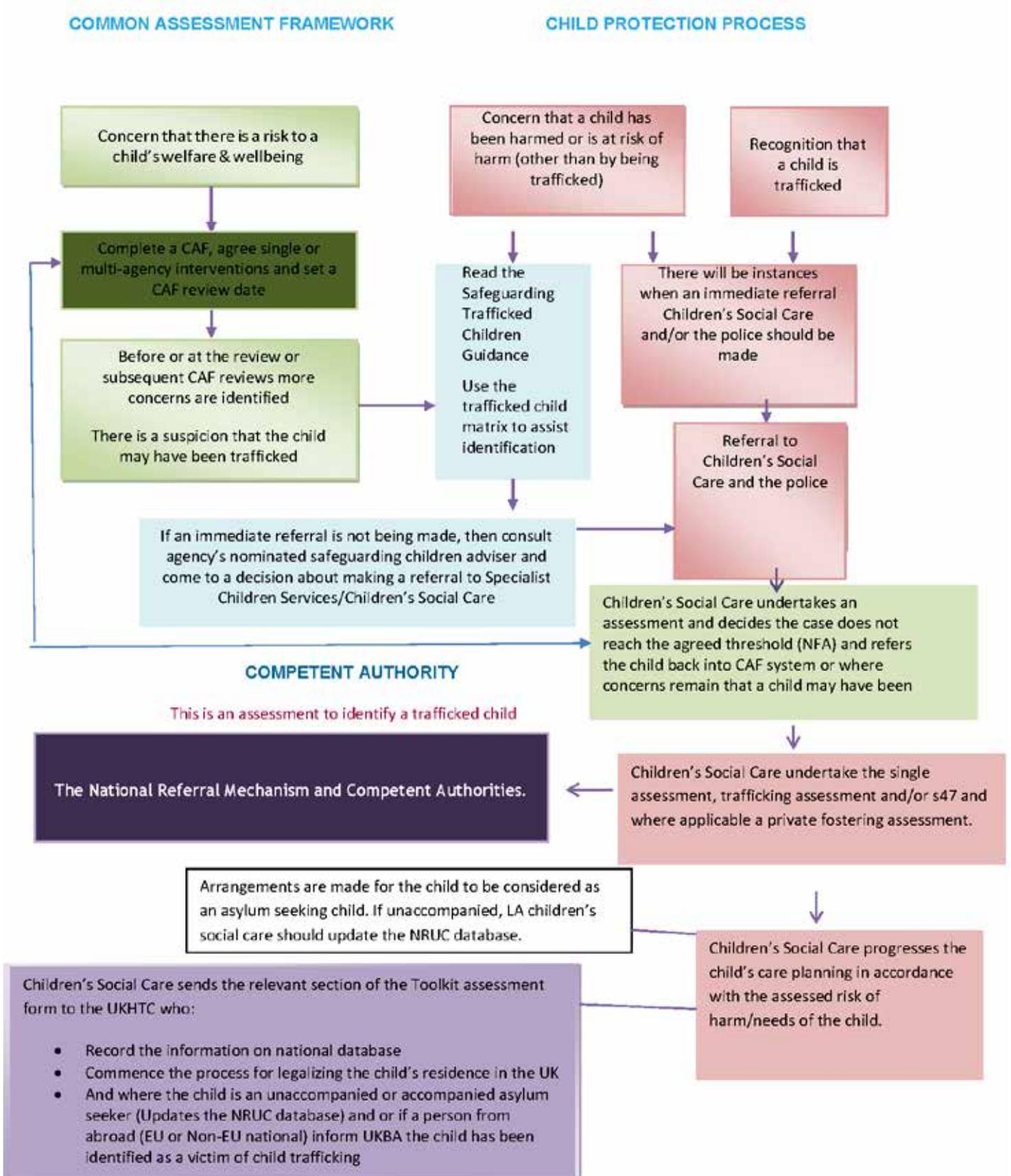
12.4 Repatriation and Deportation

Trafficked and exploited children who eventually return home can suffer discrimination from the community - particularly girls who have been sexually exploited. A risk assessment needs to be into the danger a child may face if they are repatriated.

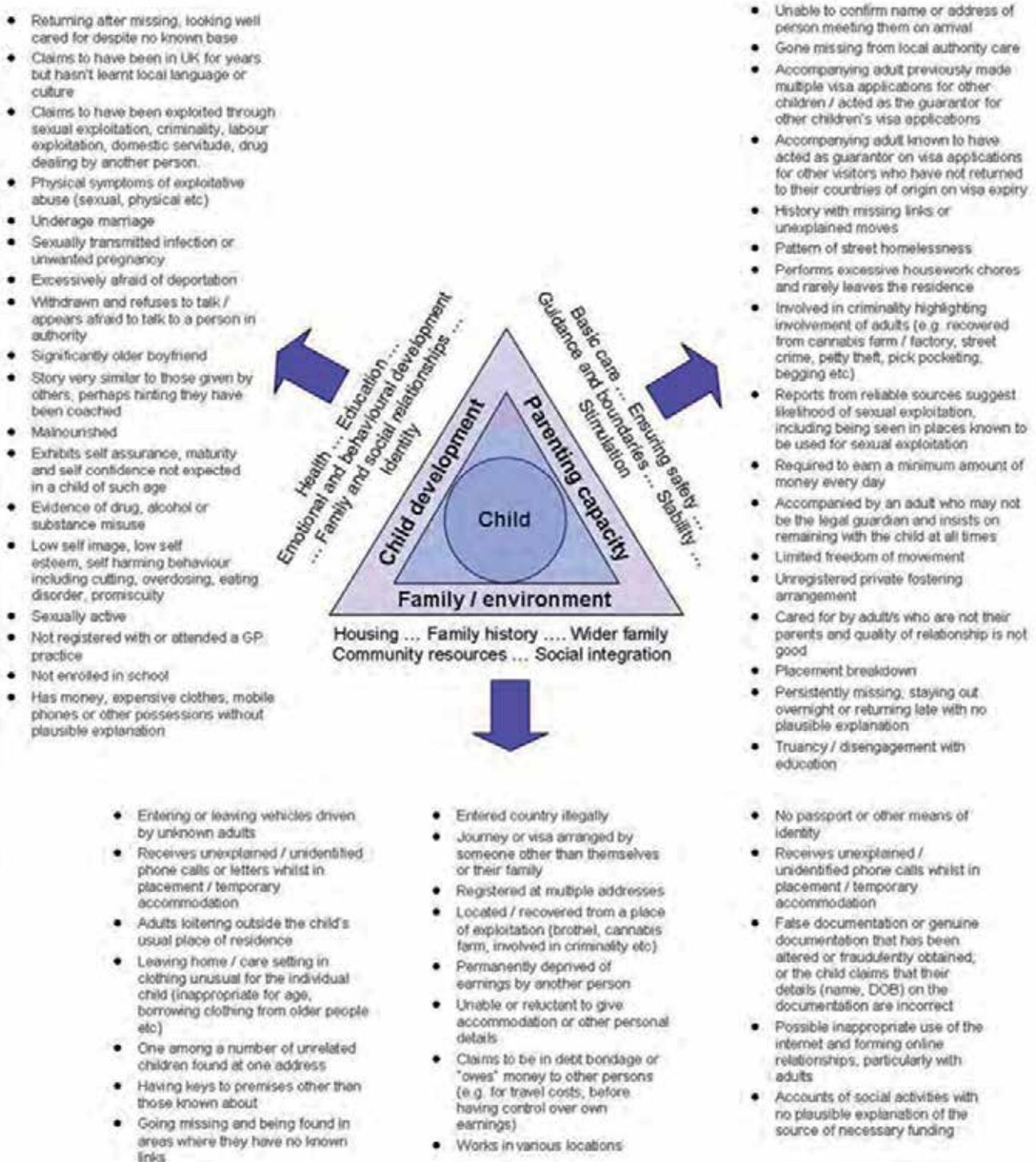


APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Flowchart for Safeguarding Trafficked Children



Appendix 2. Assessment Framework



Appendix 3. Risk Indicators

There are a number of circumstances which could indicate that a child may have been trafficked. The factors below set out key areas at the place of entry, whilst the child is resident in the UK, or if they are trafficked within the UK, where you need to be curious. These are also reflected in the screening tool in the appendix that will help you assess if you have identified a child or young person who needs further support.

At port of entry

The child:

- Has entered the country illegally
- Has no passport or other means of identification
- Has false documentation
- Possesses money and goods not accounted for
- Is unable to confirm the name and address of the person meeting them on arrival
- Is accompanied by an adult who insists on remaining with the child at all time
- Is withdrawn and refuses to talk or appears afraid to talk to a person in authority
- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone

The sponsor could:

- Be a community member, family member, or any other intermediary
- Have previously made multiple visa applications for other children and/or has acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications
- Be known to have acted as the guarantor on the visa applications for other visitors who have not returned to their countries of origin on the expiry of those visas

Whilst resident in the UK (in addition to those listed above)

The child:

- Receives unexplained/unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection or has an unwanted pregnancy
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- Is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- Works in various locations

- Appears to be missing for periods
- Is one among a number of unrelated children found at one address
- Has not been enrolled in school

Children internally trafficked within the UK

Indicators include:

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault)
- Prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation / the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse
- Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people)
- Phone calls or letters from adults outside the usual range of social contacts
- Significantly older boyfriend/ girlfriend
- Accounts of social activities, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding
Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation
- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links

Appendix 4. Risk assessment matrix for children who may have been trafficked

1. The Risk Assessment Matrix (section e in the next appendix) is a tool to assist professionals (the term includes unqualified managers, staff and volunteers) in using the available information to focus their thinking and form the basis for discussion about the risk of harm – through trafficking – to a child. This may include deciding that the available information is not enough to form a sound judgement about the risk.
2. Professionals who have not had specific training should, wherever possible, complete the Risk Assessment Matrix together with their agency's nominated safeguarding children adviser and/or their local trafficked children lead.
3. A professional may have a lot or a very little information indicating that a child has been or is being trafficked. The professional should look across the whole matrix and tick the description/s of the incidents / circumstances which correspond best to the information available at the time. This is likely to mean ticking several descriptions. The incidents / circumstances are arranged in the domains of the risk assessment triangle: child development, parenting capacity and family / environment.
4. Each scale has the 2 basic components in the UNHCR (2006) definition of trafficking to assist professionals to think through the information they have about a child:
 - Movement into / within the UK
 - Exploitation

Plus control, which is included as a key safeguarding concern, and other risk factors.

5. If the information known to the professional results in ticks in each of the 2 components of the UNHCR definition, then there may be reasonable grounds to believe that the child is trafficked. It does not matter whether the ticks are across the 3 domains or are all in one (e.g. child development).
6. If a professional ticks a descriptor which indicates that a child is at risk of harm (e.g. 'physical symptoms of exploitative abuse' or 'under age marriage'), the professional should make an immediate referral to Specialist Children Services, via the Central Referral Unit regardless of whether the child may be trafficked.
7. Professionals should always keep in mind the possibility that a piece of information, currently not known, could significantly raise the threshold of risk for a child.

Appendix 5. National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

As part of its implementation of the Council of Europe Convention, the UK Government created a National Referral Mechanism (NRM):

The NRM is a victim identification and support process which is designed to keep it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking case – e.g. police, Home Office UK Visas and Immigration Directorate, local authorities, Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in Northern Ireland, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – to co-operate; to share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support.

For children, a formal referral into the NRM is made by a first responder. In England, these include local authority children's social care, the UK Border Force, Home Office Immigration & Visas, the Police, and certain NGOs including Barnardo's.

Completion of the NRM is intended to help children's social care put a focused and appropriate response in place for the child by ensuring that all of the available information is gathered and shared quickly between partners. It is also an important tool in the fight against those who commit the crime of trafficking; evidence collected from referrals helps to build a national picture and informs the decisions of policy makers and operational staff.

To note: this form is for all child cases identified across England and Wales. For Scotland or Northern Ireland cases please use the relevant form.

Modern slavery, including child trafficking, is child abuse. When an agency comes into contact with a child who may have been exploited or trafficked, Local Authority Children's Services and the police should be notified immediately. A referral into the NRM does not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue in tandem.

All children, irrespective of their immigration status, are entitled to safeguarding and protection under the law. Referrals to the NRM should be for all potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery, who can be of any nationality, and may include British national children, such as those trafficked for child sexual exploitation or those trafficked as drug carriers internally in the UK.

Where there is reason to believe a victim could be a child, the individual must be given the benefit of the doubt and treated as a child until an assessment is carried out.

This form should be completed with reference to the linked guidance available on gov.uk.

How to complete the form

Throughout the form, items marked with an asterisk(*) should be supported by documentary evidence where possible. This form should be completed with reference to the linked guidance available on gov.uk

Where to send the form

The Home Office is currently piloting changes to the NRM system. Completed forms should therefore be sent to the following teams depending on the location the victim was identified:

- In West Yorkshire police force area and the South West (Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire police force areas) a local Slavery and Safeguarding Lead;
- In the rest of England and Wales to NCA Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit via email to nrm@nca.x.gsi.gov.uk or by fax to 0870 496 5534.

If you are unsure which police force area the individual was identified in, please check <https://www.police.uk/>.

Duty to notify

From 1 November 2015, specified public authorities are required to notify the Home Office about any potential victims of modern slavery they encounter in England and Wales. Completing this NRM form is sufficient to satisfy this duty to notify as long as all of the sections marked with a † are completed. However, if the potential victim does not want to be referred to the NRM, then an MS1 form should be completed and sent to dutytonotify@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. The MS1 form can be anonymous. The MS1 form and associated guidance is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery.

NRM forms should not be sent to the dutytonotify@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk address.

Section A: child's Details

Last name

First name(s)

Also known as

Sex

Date of birth known / claimed (delete as appropriate)

Age (approximate if not known) known / claimed (delete as appropriate)

Place of birth

Nationality

Immigration status (where known)

Language(s) spoken

Any English spoken / interpreter needed (delete as appropriate)

Home Office reference (where known)

UK visa reference (where known)

Any other

UK Port of entry (where known)

known / claimed (delete as appropriate)

Method of entry to UK (where known)

Carrier (where known)

Section B: contact details of person making referral

Name

Job title

Organisation

Unit or area

Tel

Fax

Mobile

Email

Section C: General details of the encounter

Date encountered (if relevant) or date of first agency contact

Address encountered or place of first contact with your agency (if different from above)

Date of referral to local authority

Local authority area

Local authority / social worker contact details

Responsible police force area for this location†Have you reported the case to the police:

yes

no

NRM referral is being made by the police

If yes, was the case reported to the police in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland?

If reported to the police in England or Wales, which police force was the case reported to?

Crime reference numbers relating to this incident of modern slavery (where available):

If you have not referred the case to the police, what was the reason for this?

Section D: General information about the suspected modern slavery

Suspected victim of (tick any that apply):

- human trafficking
- Slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour

The country or territory where the modern slavery is believed to have occurred

Suspected form of exploitation or forced service:

- domestic servitude (i.e. occurred wholly or partly within residential premises)
- forced or compulsory labour
- provision of sexual services or the commission of sexual offences by the victim
- criminal services (i.e. involved the commission of an offence by the victim)
- removal of organs
- unknown
- other (please state)

Section E: potential indicators of children who may have been victim of modern slavery (Y = Yes, S = Suspicion)

Child development			Parenting Capacity			Family / environment		
Exploitation	Y	S	Exploitation	Y	S	Exploitation	Y	S
Claims to have been exploited through sexual exploitation, criminality, labour exploitation or domestic servitude by another person			Required to earn a minimum amount of money every day			Located / recovered from a place of exploitation (for example brothel, cannabis farm, involved in criminality)		
Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (For example sexual or physical)			Involved in criminality highlighting involvement of adults (for example recovered from cannabis farm / factory, street crime, petty theft, pick pocketing, begging)			Deprived of earnings by another person		
Underage marriage			Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence			Claims to be in debt bondage or "owes" money to other persons (for example for travel costs, before having control over own earnings)		
Physical indications of working (For example overly tired in school, indications of manual labour – condition of hands/skin, backaches)			Reports from reliable sources suggest likelihood of sexual exploitation, including being seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation			Receives unexplained / unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation		
Sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy			Unusual hours / regular patterns of child leaving or returning to placement which indicates probable working			No passport or other means of identity		
Story very similar to those given by others, perhaps hinting they have								
been coached			Accompanied by an adult who may not be the legal guardian and insists on remaining with the child at all times			Unable or reluctant to give accommodation or other personal details		
Significantly older partner			Limited freedom of movement			False documentation or genuine documentation that has been altered or fraudulently obtained; or the child claims that their details (name, date of birth) on the documentation are incorrect		
Harbours excessive fears / anxieties (for instance about an individual, of deportation, disclosing information)			Movement into, within or out of the UK			Movement into, within or out of the UK		
Movement into, within or out of the UK			Gone missing from local authority care			Entered country illegally		

Returning after missing, looking well cared for despite no known base				Unable to confirm name or address of person meeting them on arrival			Journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family	
Claims to have been in the UK for years but hasn't learnt local language or culture				Accompanying adult previously made multiple visa applications for other children / acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications			Registered at multiple addresses	
Other risk factors				Accompanying adult known to have acted as guarantor on visa applications for other visitors who have not returned to their countries of origin on visa expiry			Other risk factors	
Withdrawn and refuses to talk / appears afraid to talk to a person in authority				History with missing links or unexplained moves			Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming online relationships, particularly with adults	
Shows signs of physical neglect – basic care, malnourishment, lack of attention to health needs				Pattern of street homelessness			Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding	
Shows signs of emotional neglect				Other risk factors			Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults	
Socially isolated – lack of positive, meaningful relationships in child's life				Unregistered private fostering arrangement			Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence	
Behavioural - poor concentration or memory, irritable / unsociable / aggressive behaviour				Cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and quality of relationship is not good			Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (for example inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people)	
Psychological – indications of trauma or numbing				Placement breakdown			Works in various locations	
Exhibits self assurance, maturity and self confidence not expected in a child of such age				Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation			One among a number of unrelated children found at one address	
Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse				Tuancy / disengagement with education			Having keys to premises other than those known about	
Low self image, low self esteem, self harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity				Appropriate adult is not an immediate family member (parent / sibling)			Going missing and being found in areas where they have no known links	
Sexually active				Appropriate adult cannot provide photographic identification for the child				
Not registered with or attended a GP practice								
Not enrolled in school								
Has money, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation								

Section F: Evidence to support reasons for referral (2 pages available)

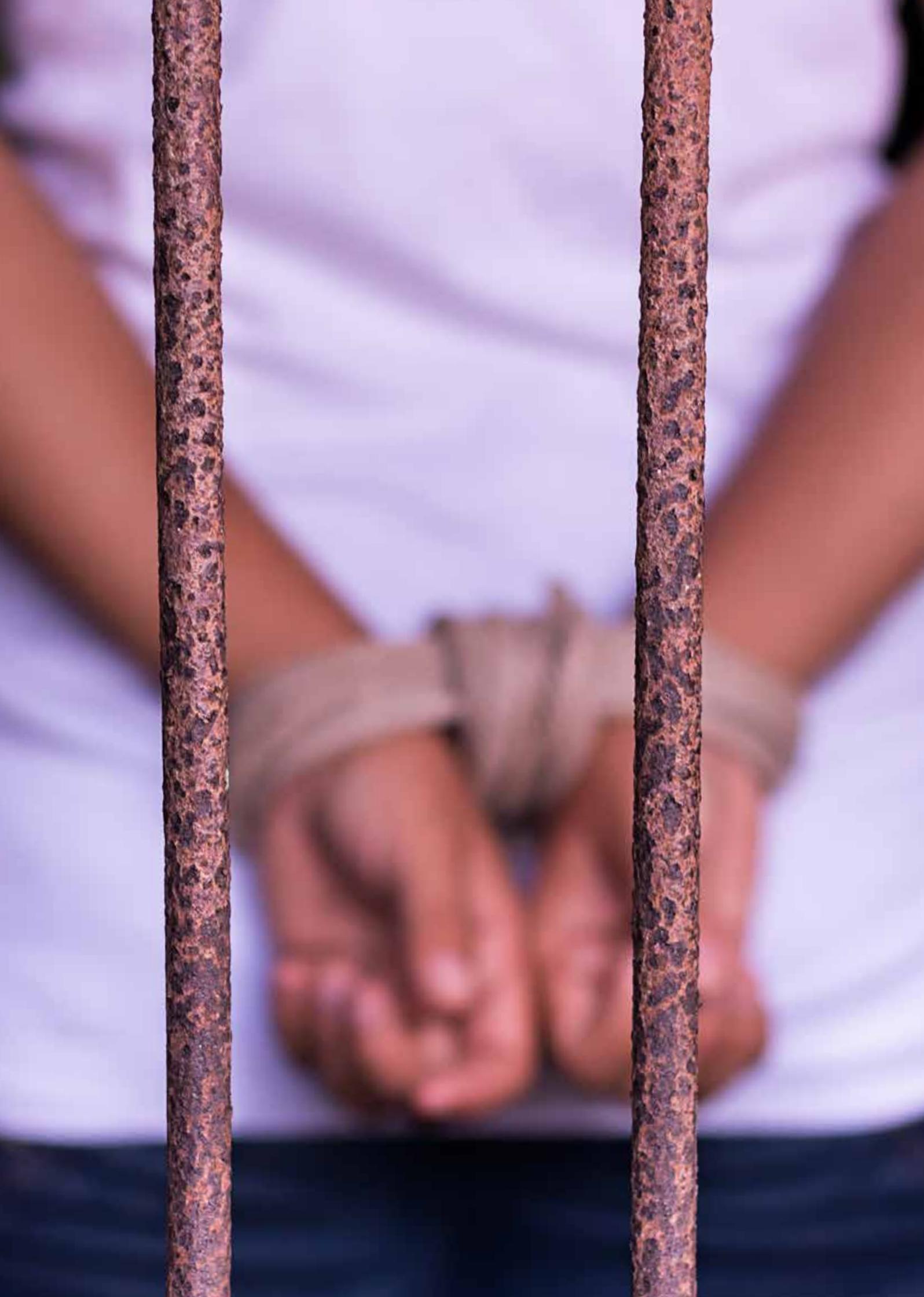
Please use this section to:

1. Expand on the circumstances and details of the encounter or contact
2. Provide supporting evidence for the indicators that you have identified in the matrix (please number the indicator you are referring to)
3. Provide details of any other indicators you feel are relevant but are not listed.
4. Provide any other relevant information that you consider may be important and wish to include for example details of behaviour, abuse and neglect
5. Provide details of any movements into, within or out of the UK, including dates (if known)
6. Provide name of any adults, exploiters or traffickers (if known)
7. Provide details of any linked victims (if known)
8. Provide suspected place of exploitation (if known)
9. Provide details of suspected form of exploitation (whether this had taken place or was yet to take place)
10. Detail any action you have taken including referral to other agencies such as police, local authorities.
11. Provide reasons why you think individual is a child details of any adults or other children the individual was encountered with, or whether the child was unaccompanied.

(if a separate sheet is required, please indicate that section D is continued and provide with referral)

Section D: Evidence to support reasons for referral (continued) if required

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Appendix 6. Policy and Legalisation

International

International legislation relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:

- The First World Congress on the Commercial Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 1996);
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, 1989);
- The Second World Congress on the Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, 2001).

In 2000 Trafficking became enshrined in international law for the first time through the Palermo Protocol within the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Protocol defines trafficking as:

‘The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’ even if this does not involve any of the means set forth [elsewhere in the Palermo Protocol]’

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/legislation-and-case-law-international-legislation-united-nations/united-nations-protocol-prevent_en

United Kingdom

United Kingdom legislation and guidance relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:

- The Children Act (1989);
- Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children Statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children July 2014;
- Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked: non-statutory good practice guidance issued by the Department for Education and the Home Office in October 2011;
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015;
- Modern Slavery Act 2015 Home Office Circular;
- The National Plan for Safeguarding Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2001-5);
- The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002;
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003;
- ECPAT - UK Briefing Paper on Child Trafficking - Begging and Organised Crime (published in September 2010);
- Safeguarding Trafficked Roma Children and Families, (published by the London Safeguarding Children Board in September 2010);
- ECPAT briefing ‘On the Safe Side - Principles for the Safe Accommodation of child victims of trafficking’

Appendix 7. 10 tips for responding to concerns

1. Child trafficking is child abuse. It requires a child protection response and multiagency working, in line with child protection legislation.
2. Consider using police powers of protection to remove a child from a dangerous place, or to prevent the child from being removed from a safe place.
3. Your perceived attitude towards a victim at the point of initial contact is crucial. It can determine whether the victim will engage with any conversation, investigation or interview.
4. If appropriate, explain to the child or young person who you are and what your role is.
5. It is likely that interpreters will not be trusted. Try to avoid the interpreter being from the same region as the victim. This reduces any link they may make between the interpreter and people at home.
6. Interpreters should be briefed about what you hope to achieve and told relevant background information. It should be made clear that the interview must be in accordance with guidance for interviewing a vulnerable and intimidated person.
7. If the child or young person is placed in local authority care, they may be under pressure from the trafficker to return. You should plan for this and ensure you have details available should they go missing.
8. Do not make promises that cannot be kept, such as guaranteeing protection of family and friends.
9. Once the child or young person is protected, as a first responder police should complete and submit the National Referral Mechanism form through the UK Human Trafficking Centre. You can contact them by calling **08447 782 406** or emailing **UKHTC@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk**
10. For advice, information or support, remember you can contact the NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice Centre by calling **0808 800 5000**, emailing **help@nspcc.org.uk**

I am Not
for SALE
STOP Human Trafficking!

