

Quick Guide to Trafficking and National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The NRM is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation and involves human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour

When does trafficking of children take place?

- Whenever a child (i.e. anyone under 18) is moved from one place to another, for the purposes of exploitation

Doesn't trafficking just relate to people trying to get into the country?

- A popular media image portrayed for trafficking of human beings involves the transportation of children and adults using covert methods like cargo containers etc (this is actually smuggling which is a different issue). However, wherever a child has been **recruited, transported or transferred** for the **purpose of exploitation, they should be considered a victim of trafficking**. This includes **whether or not** they have been forced, deceived or the child believes that they are travelling willingly from one location to another, for example when a child takes a bus or walks from one location to another, for the purpose of exploitation. **Remember: a child cannot legally give consent to being trafficked**

Is there something I should be doing?

- Any agency or organisation that has a concern for a child that they believe may be a victim of trafficking, should immediately make a safeguarding referral to Children's Social Care and notify the police. This will ensure arrangements are put in place to safeguard the child, and the police are aware a crime has been committed

What else should happen?

- Organisations like Children's Social Care and the Police are **'first responder'** organisations. When Children's Social Care and the Police have assessed the indicators of trafficking and arrangements have been made to safeguard the child, **first responders should refer the child to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** using their referral form ([available here](#))

What happens next?

- Once a referral has been made, trained decision makers will assess and make a decision on whether a child (or adult) is a victim of trafficking or modern slavery. There is a two stage process whereby the trained decision maker will decide if they have 'reasonable grounds' to believe the child has been the victim of trafficking (normally within 5 days of receipt of the referral), and a 'conclusive decision' will be made after a 45 day reflection period

Where can I find out more information?

- Further information is available in the National Referral Mechanism Guidance which is available [here](#)