



Child Protection Child Trafficking

The movement of children into and within the country with the intent to exploit them

What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is the term given to the movement of children into and within the country with the intent to exploit them. The majority of children who arrive here in this way have been promised a good job, money and/or education; sometimes their parents have been persuaded to entrust them to others for a better quality of life. Once here, they are almost always exploited for financial gain. Some of the ways in which such exploitation can take place are:

- Sexual exploitation/prostitution
- Forced domestic work
- Sweatshop and restaurant work
- Drug dealing
- Credit card fraud
- Benefit fraud
- Drug mules or decoys for adult drug traffickers
- Forced marriage
- Ritual killings

All children who have been exploited will suffer some form of physical and/or psychological harm. Agencies have a duty to work together to safeguard them and promote their welfare. In order to do this effectively, people first need to be able to recognise when children have been trafficked and to understand the particular vulnerabilities to which this makes them susceptible.

What are the signs that a child may have been trafficked?

There are a number of circumstances that could indicate that a child may have been trafficked into and within the UK and may still be in the control of the trafficker or the receiving adults. These include situations in which the child:

- does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone
- possesses money and goods not accounted for
- appears to be missing for periods
- has gone missing from local authority care
- has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- is driven around by an older male or 'boyfriend'
- is withdrawn and refuses to talk
- shows signs of sexual behaviour or language
- shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection
- is pregnant
- is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- works in various locations
- has limited freedom of movement
- has responsibilities inappropriate for their age
- performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence
- appears to be neglected
- is malnourished
- evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse



Some children who are privately fostered have been trafficked.

Or situations where the child:

- is known to beg for money
- is being cared for by adults who are not the child's parents. The quality of the relationship between the child and the carers may not be good
- presents differently from other children living in the same household
- is treated differently from other children living in the same household
- has not been registered with or attended a GP practice
- has not been enrolled in school
- has to pay off an exorbitant debt, perhaps for the travel costs, before being able to have control of earnings
- hands over a large part of earnings to another person
- is excessively afraid of being deported
- has had their journey or visas arranged by someone other than their family
- does not have possession of their own travel documents
- is unable to confirm who is going to have responsibility for them
- has entered the country illegally
- has false documentation

How are children brought to the UK?

- Children come into the country either accompanied by adults or as unaccompanied minors. Very little is known

about the accompanied children, many of whom come with adults who pretend to be their parents or who claim to have the parents' permission to bring them. More is known about the unaccompanied children because they come to the notice of the authorities when they claim asylum.

- As most children who are victims of trafficking are not aware of their rights or that they can claim asylum, once they have entered the country they are unlikely to come to the attention of asylum or immigration services. Often, they will only come to the notice of statutory services when it is too late. Most trafficked children are invisible. Protecting them and promoting their welfare depends upon the awareness and co-operation of community groups and members of the public. Safeguarding trafficked children is very much everyone's business.

How children are trafficked within the UK

- Children are also trafficked within the UK. This includes teenage girls, born in the UK, being targeted for internal trafficking between towns and cities for sexual exploitation. Girls have been lured away from their families to perform sexual acts with groups of older men and threatened with violence if they refuse. The traffickers exerted strong control over the girls who had no means of communicating with family or friends and often had no idea where they were in the UK. The girls complied with the sexual demands to avoid being further assaulted or

their family or friends threatened. While the evidence so far relates to girls, there may be cases of boys being trafficked within the UK.

- Children trafficked from abroad are also trafficked within the UK. They are trafficked internally for all the reasons listed on page one. They are passed onto other traffickers for profit. The continuing exploitation of trafficking victims involves frequent use of violence and intimidation. They may have been kidnapped and held against their will. Organised criminals see human trafficking as a lucrative and relatively low risk crime, viewing the individual victims merely as another profitable commodity.

What to do if you are worried

- Any agency or individual who has a concern that a child known to them may have been trafficked should discuss their concerns with the Social Work Child Protection Team, or an NHS GG&C Child Protection Advisor. Often a situation will be far from clear and the Advisor will be able to help identify the need to make an immediate referral to Social Work Services.

Child Protection Contact Numbers:

Child Protection Team Social Work Services
0141 420 5838

Glasgow Asylum Seeker Support Project
0141 248 9799

Child Protection Team Yorkhill Hospital
0141 201 9253

Child Trafficking Contact Details:

NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)
Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (CTAIL)
0800 107 7057

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking)
020 7233 9887 • www.ecpat.org.uk

UKHTC (United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre)
0114 252 3891 • www.ukhtc.org

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) Centre
0870 000 3344 • www.ceop.gov.uk

Contact details:

Name of worker:

Phone:

Office:

This leaflet has been prepared by the local Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee is made up of representatives from across the main statutory and voluntary organisations in your area. The purpose of the Child Protection Committee is to ensure local agencies work together to protect children. Working together with the community we can be assured that all our children are given the best possible chance in life.

Glasgow Child Protection Committee, Centenary House, 100 Morrison Street, Glasgow G5 8LN • PHONE 0141 420 5665 • www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk

This leaflet can be made available in Braille, large print, on disc and tape. For further information contact Social Work Services Communications Unit on 0141 287 8897. If you require this information in other languages, please contact the Glasgow Translation and Interpreting Service on 0141 276 6850, who will give advice.

Thanks to Haringey and Islington Local Safeguarding Children Boards for the use of their Child Trafficking leaflet.