



Child Trafficking Indicators Maternity and GUM Services

The following information is intended to act as a prompt to help workers identify areas that might indicate child trafficking. This is not a comprehensive list of indicators, and should be read in line with the CPC Inter Agency Guidance for Child Trafficking.

If a worker has a suspicion that a child has been trafficked, they should discuss this *immediately* with their line manager. They should make reference to the National Referral Mechanism form and matrix and follow the procedure in the CPC Inter Agency Guidance for Child Trafficking.

Area	What to look for
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untreated injury/medical condition (unexplained delay in treatment) – lack of medical attention during pregnancy • Indications of abuse/neglect • Sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy (possibly numerous occasions) • May have tattoos or other marks indicating 'ownership' • Evidence of substance misuse • Not registered with GP • Use of different doctors, A&E departments

Don't Forget!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trafficked children are at high risk of going missing - concerns must be dealt with immediately • Overt probing/investigation into the child's circumstances may heighten risk of disappearance – this requires multi-agency response • Children are unlikely to disclose and have been groomed not to tell • Copies should always be taken of any identification of adult and child/ren, and wherever possible this should be photographic identification • Traffickers may divert attention of authorities by providing accounts of being on holiday, or plans to shortly return home or to another locality • Traffickers often pose as relatives • Always record all addresses, names and contact details – home and holiday, addresses of relatives/friends being visited • Where there are concerns of trafficking, the child must be spoken to away from adult/carer (who must not be used to interpret) • Accounts provided by child/adult should be compared and any inconsistencies carefully scrutinised.
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Thanks to Harrow Local Safeguarding Board
for use of their agency guides

Area	What to look for
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly older 'boyfriend' • Underage marriage • Adult presenting with child is not immediate family member or legal guardian – may insist on staying with child at all times • Suspicion that relationship between adult and child is not as claimed (ie does not appear to be a close relative despite claims) • Unregistered private fostering arrangement • Conflicting accounts provided by child or adult (health, relationships, place of residence, length of time in the country) • Adult unable to provide identification documents for child • Documentation that is false, altered or fraudulently obtained • Whereabouts of parents unknown or uncertain
Behaviour/ Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has been in the UK for some time but not enrolled in education or does not speak English • Has been in UK for some time but not familiar with local area and culture • Child may appear coached, or to act under the instruction of someone • Unable or reluctant to provide details – address, medical history, daily activities, relationships in household • Child exhibits maturity not expected for his/her age • Child may appear fearful or uncomfortable in presence of adult/carer

Area	What to look for
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child withdrawn/appears afraid to talk to people in authority • Child has excessive fears/anxieties • May have few items of clothing (and may be typical of sex work clothing) Child has excessive fears/anxieties • Unable or reluctant to provide details – address, medical history, cause of injury, relationships in household • Indications of trauma
Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered country illegally • History of missing links or unexplained moves • Registered at multiple addresses • Claims to be here on holiday or visiting relatives/friends in the area
Exploitation •	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indications of sexual exploitation (clothing may be typical of sex work clothing, language may be limited to sex related words, reports by clients that sex workers do not smile) • Child claims to have been exploited, or owes money (eg for travel costs) • Physical indications of work – tiredness, manual labour – back aches, calloused hands, skin irritations, headaches, respiratory problems (consider hazardous working conditions, poor safety conditions) • Child may perform excessive chores and rarely leave the house