



# **INTER-AGENCY GUIDANCE FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Child Trafficking Assessment  
National Referral Mechanism

September 2011

## Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Scope & Purpose of Guidance	3
3. Definitions	4
4. Legal Framework	6
5. Research Context	7
5.1 Child Trafficking in the UK	8
5.2 Child Trafficking in Glasgow	8
6. Recognising & Identifying Trafficked Children	9
7. Referring Children	10
7.1 Possible indicators of child trafficking	12
Child Trafficking Assessment form	14
National Referral Mechanism for Child Victims of Trafficking	18

# 1. Introduction

Child trafficking is a global business that targets and victimises the most vulnerable children for transportation, abuse and exploitation across the world. It is a largely hidden problem and is often described as a form of modern-day slavery. The children involved are in no way responsible for their predicament, having been coerced, bribed or forced into, and unable to escape from, the control of traffickers.

The effect of trafficking on children is wide-reaching; many will experience significant harm as a result of their situation, and outcomes for them may be extremely poor as a result of lack of proper care or access to universal services such as health and education as traffickers seek to avoid contact with the authorities.

At the end of 2008 the UK government ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human beings, following the publication of the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking in 2007. The Council of Europe Convention came into effect in the UK on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 and has important implications for the identification and recording of suspected trafficking victims.

Because tackling trafficking requires a multi-agency response at all levels, Glasgow Child Protection Committee has prepared this protocol in order to provide information and guidance to all members of the children's workforce in Glasgow so that professionals and others are able to identify trafficked children and make appropriate referrals so that victims can receive protection and support. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Scottish Government publication *Safeguarding Children in Scotland Who May Have Been Trafficked*.<sup>1</sup>

# 2. Scope and Purpose of Guidance

For the purposes of this guidance, a 'child' is a person under the age of 18 as defined by the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000)<sup>2</sup>

Working with children and young people who are or have been involved in child trafficking is a complex area and at the moment there is very little theoretical understanding of the phenomenon or evidence regarding its prevalence.

The purpose of this guidance is to present a strategic inter agency framework to respond to the need to protect children and young people who are at risk of

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/02/18092546/0> The LSCB documents Safeguarding Trafficked Children are also useful references <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking>

<sup>2</sup> <http://untreaty.un.org/English/TreatyEvent2003/Texts/treaty2E.pdf>

child trafficking in the context of current available evidence and the policy initiatives.

This Glasgow protocol is designed as a local practice guidance to be read in conjunction with the Scottish Government document and other relevant national and international papers. *Glasgow's Child Protection Committee Child Protection and Vulnerable Young Person Procedures remain the primary guidance documents for child protection and vulnerability investigations. The identification, or not, of child trafficking victims should not preclude or override any child protection investigations.*

The aim of this guidance is to -

- Raise awareness of child trafficking within agencies
- Support the investigation and prosecution of those who coerce, exploit and abuse children
- Raise awareness of indicators of child trafficking
- Facilitate a consistent response and approach to children and young people involved in trafficking.
- Support and encourage staff from all agencies in Glasgow to work collaboratively in developing and delivering appropriate and effective services to individual children and young people with experience of child trafficking.

### **3. Definitions**

An international definition for trafficking contained in article 3 of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000) has now been widely accepted across the world as the basis for identifying and working with the victims of trafficking.

*(a) "Trafficking of persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.*

*(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article shall be*

*irrelevant where any of the means set forth in sub-paragraph (a) have been used.*

*(c) 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 in subparagraph (a) of this article*

*(d) “Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age*

Article 6(4) focuses on the support provided to victims of trafficking stating that:

*Each state party shall take into account, in applying the provisions of this article, the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons, in particular the special needs of children, including appropriate housing, education and care.*

The Palermo Protocol establishes children as a special case and any child found to have been moved for exploitation is considered to be a victim of trafficking, whether or not they have been deceived, because it is not considered possible for children to give informed consent. The distinction between trafficking and smuggling is also considered an important one in determining if a child has been trafficked, as smuggling is taken to mean that arrangements are consensual and that a smuggler has been paid to help people to enter the country illegally, after which there is no longer a relationship and no exploitation. However, there are concerns that in respect of the abuse of children and at the front line of child care and protection work the distinction between trafficking and smuggling is often blurred – Glasgow research has highlighted that some children have been abused on their journeys to Glasgow after paying smugglers to get them to the UK.<sup>3</sup>

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also recognises that trafficked children have specific needs as a consequence of age:

*Children who are victims of trafficking shall be identified as such. Their best interests shall be considered paramount at all time. Child victims of trafficking shall be provided with appropriate assistance and protection. Full account shall be taken of their special vulnerabilities and needs (UNHCHR 2002, principle 10)<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>3</sup> Rigby P (2009) *Child trafficking in Glasgow* – Glasgow Child Protection Committee  
[http://www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F4470FF7-1586-4ADB-8217-03A0E45EA07A/0/GCPC\\_child\\_traffic\\_2009.pdf](http://www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F4470FF7-1586-4ADB-8217-03A0E45EA07A/0/GCPC_child_traffic_2009.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> UNHCHR (2002) *Recommended Principles and guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking*  
[http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/caf3deb2b05d4f35c1256bf30051a003/\\$FILE/N0240168.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/caf3deb2b05d4f35c1256bf30051a003/$FILE/N0240168.pdf)

## 4. Legal Framework

The UK is a signatory to the UN *Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime*, including the *Palermo Protocol* that deals specifically with the trafficking of children, and the European *Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings*. These international agreements provide the framework for inter-government action to tackle trafficking and are the basis of the UK's national policy.

The European convention contains specific provisions for children, and *Human Trafficking; The Government's Strategy (2011)*<sup>5</sup> has a chapter on proposals to tackle the exploitation of children. For the purposes of provisions to meet the needs of trafficking victims a child is defined as any person under the age of 18 years, although under Scottish legislation the definition is variable.

UK legislation and policy makes it clear that trafficking is both a crime and a violation of human rights, and the strategy focuses both on the disruption and reduction of trafficking and providing support for adult and child victims. The focus for national and international developments is prevention, protection and prosecution. The UK strategy proposes a comprehensive approach to tackling trafficking:

- commitment to improving victim care arrangements
- focuses on disrupting trafficking networks before they reach the UK
- establishes a basis for smarter multi-agency action at the border
- aims to improve coordination of our law enforcement efforts in the UK
- seeks to strengthen intelligence-gathering and -sharing through the new National Crime Agency
- places emphasis on raising awareness of child trafficking and ensuring child victims are safeguarded and protected from re-trafficking

Delivery of the strategy is a multi-agency concern between central and local government, law enforcement agencies and voluntary and community groups. Child Protection Committees in Scotland are responsible for co-ordinating services and responses in terms of child trafficking victims at a local level.

The UK strategy recognises that children who have been trafficked are particularly vulnerable and will have very specific needs, and that their care, protection and support will be crucial in enabling them to recover from their experiences and return to a normal life. All trafficked children are entitled to the same level of care and protection and to have their welfare safeguarded and promoted as those normally resident in the UK, regardless of their immigration status.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/trafficking/campaign/Docs/Convntn/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg2/trafficking/campaign/Docs/Convntn/default_en.asp)  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/human-trafficking-strategy?view=Binary>

## 5. Research Context – a brief overview

The illegal trading of people is a global problem, thought to be the third largest illegal trade after drugs and weapons trafficking. Globalisation has contributed to the growth of trafficking, and due to the fact humans can be re-sold it is comparatively low risk with high rewards, making it a profitable activity for traffickers.<sup>6</sup>

The US Dept of State estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders annually, nearly 50% of these being children. However, there are no clear estimates about the numbers of children trafficked around the world, the ILO estimate 1.2 million children are trafficked annually and UNICEF describe the numbers as enormous.<sup>7 8</sup> While in Western Europe women are the most numerous victims, globally children constitute the largest numbers.<sup>9</sup>

Throughout the world children are trafficked for numerous purposes within and between countries. While exploitation varies between different parts of the world children trafficked for one type of labour are often sold into another making simple categorisation problematic.<sup>10</sup>

Children are often exploited in relation to:

- child labour eg cannabis farms
- debt bondage
- domestic servitude
- begging
- benefit fraud
- drug trafficking / decoys
- illegal adoptions
- forced / illegal marriage
- sexual abuse
- sexual exploitation

Worldwide there are also documented cases of exploitation in relation to organ donations, use in sport and military conscription.

### 5.1 Child trafficking in the UK

The United Kingdom is considered a high risk destination country for victims of human trafficking and a number of case studies and data collection exercises have

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<sup>6</sup> Omelaniuk I (2005) *Trafficking in Human Beings* UN expert group meeting on international migration and development

[http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/ittmigdev2005/P15\\_IOMelaniuk.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/ittmigdev2005/P15_IOMelaniuk.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> ILO (2002) *Every Child Counts: New Global Estimates on Child Labour* ILO/IPEC Geneva  
<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do?productId=742>

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF (2005) *Combating Child Trafficking: Handbook for Parliamentarians* No 9  
[http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/IPU\\_combattingchildtrafficking\\_GB\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/IPU_combattingchildtrafficking_GB(1).pdf)

<sup>9</sup> UNODC (2006) *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, accessed 26/6/08 [www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT/globalpatterns/en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT/globalpatterns/en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Rafferty Y (2008) 'The impact of trafficking on children: psychological and social policy perspectives' *Child Development Perspectives* 2(1), 13-18

documented the existence of potential child trafficking cases into and out of the country.<sup>11</sup> These studies cannot provide confirmed numbers of trafficked or at risk children, but they do begin to quantify the problem. CEOP studies in 2007 and 2009 have identified over 600 children as fitting the trafficking profile in the UK. By the end of 2010 305 children had been referred to the UK Human Trafficking Centre as suspected victims of trafficking ([www.soca.org.uk](http://www.soca.org.uk)).

The limited research that has been commissioned in the UK has reached some consensus that trafficking is a growing phenomena, requiring a co-ordinated response, involving research, intelligence, awareness raising and training on a multi-agency level. There is insufficient robust information about the prevalence of child trafficking in the UK and it is clear that knowledge and understanding remains at an early stage, especially so in Scotland.

## 5.2 Child trafficking in Glasgow

The extent and nature of child trafficking in Scotland is largely unknown, although a recent report by the Children's Commissioner attempted to quantify the issue across the country, identifying at least 83 potential victims.<sup>12</sup> Research commissioned by the Child Protection Committee in Glasgow investigated the prevalence of child trafficking amongst the unaccompanied asylum seeking children population. This identified that nearly a quarter of UASC children in the city had probably been trafficked. Follow on work interviewing front line practitioners experienced in work with separated and trafficked children indicated that the cases identified are likely to be only the tip of an iceberg.<sup>13</sup> By mid 2011 30 children from Glasgow had been referred to the National Referral Mechanism following suspicions about trafficking.

As the Children's Commissioner Report identified, Glasgow is not the only place in Scotland likely to be experiencing issues regarding children who have been trafficked. However, it is in a unique position being the largest metropolitan area in Scotland and the only Scottish asylum dispersal centre, with networks of services already established for asylum seekers. Despite the research focus on separated children, trafficking is not restricted to immigration and asylum cases and it has been identified amongst UK nationals in addition to non-UK nationals.

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<sup>11</sup> CEOP (2007) *A Scoping Project on Child Trafficking in the UK* London, Child Exploitation and Online Protection [http://www.ceop.gov.uk/downloads/documents/child\\_trafficking\\_report0607.pdf](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/downloads/documents/child_trafficking_report0607.pdf)  
CEOP (2009) *Strategic Threat Assessment Child Trafficking in the UK*, London, Child Exploitation and Online Protection [www.ceop.gov.uk/downloads/documents/child\\_trafficking\\_report0409.pdf](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/downloads/documents/child_trafficking_report0409.pdf)  
ECPAT – (2007) *Missing Out: A Study of Child Trafficking in the North-West, North-East and West Midlands* London, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children

<sup>12</sup> Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (2011) *Scotland: A Safe place for Child Traffickers?* <http://www.sccyp.org.uk/Infoforadults/childtrafficking>

<sup>13</sup> Rigby P (2010) *Child Trafficking in Glasgow: The Views of Professionals*  
[http://www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C3597A7A-8D4C-4F98-B846-76A6F7CB1D1C/0/GCPC\\_child\\_traffic\\_research2010.pdf](http://www.glasgowchildprotection.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C3597A7A-8D4C-4F98-B846-76A6F7CB1D1C/0/GCPC_child_traffic_research2010.pdf)

## 6. Recognising and identifying trafficked children

The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings ensures that each signatory country has mechanisms in place – The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – for identifying and recording cases of child trafficking. This formal procedure for assessing and recording all trafficking cases, including children, became operational on 1 April 2009. From this date new arrangements came into force to allow all cases of human trafficking to be referred by frontline agencies for assessment by designated Competent Authorities. In the UK the competent authorities are a central UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) and a linked authority within UKBA for cases of immigration and asylum.

Glasgow was a pilot area for the assessment framework that accompanied the NRM referral to the competent authority. While difficulties were identified with the NRM and the assessment framework, recommendations were made for improvements.<sup>14</sup> A referral to the NRM does not require a criminal level of ‘evidence’ as a reasonable grounds decision by the competent authority can be made where there are suspicions and reasonable grounds to believe that a child has been trafficked. A conclusive decision is made when it is believed that on the ‘balance of probabilities’ a child has been trafficked.

One recommendation from the LSCB report centred around the need for a more accessible assessment framework form, and for a trafficking assessment to be incorporated into the Integrated Assessment Framework. Glasgow Child Protection Committee responded by designing a Child Trafficking Assessment (CTA), focussing purely on trafficking concerns.

The CTA should be completed by social work / police for all suspected child trafficking victims, in conjunction with the UKBA where asylum / immigration issues are also apparent.

Social workers are responsible for co-ordinating the completion of the CTA and a NRM referral report where appropriate. They must liaise with the Senior Officers of the social work child protection team and the vice and anti-trafficking unit to undertake this.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Arocha L (2010) Wrong Kind of Victim London, Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group [http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm\\_docs/2010/f/full\\_report.pdf](http://www.antislavery.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2010/f/full_report.pdf) ; Fairfax K & Rigby P (2011) Final Monitoring Report: Local Authority Pilots of the London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Guidance and Toolkit London Safeguarding Children Board <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking>

<sup>15</sup> Scottish Government (2009a) The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: Identifying and recording cases of child trafficking: The national referral mechanism - letter to CPC Chairs 31/3/09 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/254429/0080167.pdf>

## 7. Referring children

Whenever an agency or professional have concerns that a child they are in contact with is, or may have been, trafficked they should initially consult the indicator matrix and / or complete a social work referral form, contact social work services child protection team at Centenary House, or the police vice and anti-trafficking unit. Where their initial assessment indicates there are grounds to believe the child may have been trafficked, the actions noted below should be followed.

*Agencies and individuals should bear in mind that it is essential to take timely and decisive action where child trafficking is suspected because of the risk of the child being moved.*

Often agencies would be expected to obtain the consent of the child's parent or carer regarding any referral. However, in cases where the child may be trafficked, it is possible that their carer is involved in the trafficking or exploitation and seeking their consent could put the child at further risk or lead to their being moved elsewhere.

It is therefore recommended that unless there is clear evidence that seeking consent would in no way harm the child, referring agencies should not seek the carer's consent or consult with parents / carers at the initial stage.

Recognising the child protection implications of trafficking, social work and police will be the lead agencies for completing the assessment and co-ordinating all child referrals to the Competent Authority. All relevant agencies will be expected to contribute information to the assessment following their initial referral to police / social work.

While the following process has been agreed for suspected child trafficking cases the multi-agency child protection procedures remain the primary guidance for the care and protection of children.

- Where a child / young person is suspected or is known to have been trafficked the child's safety is paramount and all necessary child protection actions and procedures should be followed to ensure they are protected.
- Agencies and / or individuals should not wait until a child discloses, agrees or perceives they have been trafficked to initiate procedures. Research to date indicates children, apart from being threatened to remain silent, often are not aware they are victims of trafficking.
- Where there are suspicions about trafficking a referral should be made to social work using the usual social work referral form. This should be accompanied by ongoing discussion with the local child protection team and police and contact with social work centre child protection and police vice and anti-trafficking unit.
- A child protection / vulnerable young person case discussion should be convened and a member of the social work child protection team and

police vice and anti-trafficking unit should be invited to advise on the process. In addition to usual invites, a member of the UK Borders Agency should also be invited if there are immigration / asylum issues.

- It should be remembered that all information shared at a child protection case discussion / meeting is for the purposes of child protection.
- A Child Trafficking Assessment (CTA) should be completed by social work / police prior to case discussion. It is likely there may not be substantial amounts of information at this initial stage (international agencies and organisations may need to be consulted during the assessment stage).
- The case discussion should consider ongoing risks, agree broad protection actions, consider the need for a multi-agency response and refer via core group processes.
- The case discussion will also agree if the case requires to be referred to the Competent Authority and a member of the social work child protection team will support the social worker in completing the necessary forms.
- Referrals can be made immediately to the Competent Authority if it is clear that children have been trafficked, before the CTA is completed or a case discussion called. Again, the child protection team will support the worker in completing any paperwork. Referrals can then be followed up with a full assessment and case meetings.
- All NRM referrals should be via the child protection team who require copies of the assessment and NRM report (attached). The child protection team will liaise with the person referring and, in discussion with the police, may modify the NRM referral before forwarding to the Competent Authority. The referral to the NRM (referral form and indicator matrix) will be copied to the worker making the initial referral.
- The Competent Authority will contact the worker and child protection team with a decision. It may be that the Competent Authority requires additional information and / or further discussion before reaching a decision.

NB where children are not assessed as being trafficked by the Competent Authority there may still be child protection concerns. The possibility of trafficking should not be dismissed at this point as it may be that further information becomes apparent in the succeeding months.

- All usual child protection / VYP procedures should follow an NRM referral and the trafficking assessment does not replace a full child protection assessment, including a comprehensive assessment of a child's needs via the IAF.

## 7.1 Possible indicators of child trafficking

The attached trafficking matrix is not a validated assessment of actual, or risk of, trafficking. It is based on present best available information as to what factors in a child's circumstances may lead to the belief a child has been trafficked. It should not replace a comprehensive child protection or IAF / GIRFEC assessment.

As the two prerequisite factors for child trafficking are movement and exploitation this Glasgow matrix has been colour coded to aid decision-making and to inform discussions. If exploitation (red E) and movement (green M) indicators are present a child trafficking assessment (CTA) should be undertaken and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism seriously considered. Contact should also be made immediately with the social work child protection team and / or the police vice and anti-trafficking unit.

The following additional indicators were also identified as those most common in children referred to the Competent Authority in Glasgow. The presence of any of these indicators should also trigger further investigation and a probable completion of a CTA.

- Socially isolated – lack of positive, meaningful relationships in child's life
- Psychological – indications of trauma or numbing
- Exhibits self assurance, maturity and self confidence not expected in a child of such age
- Not registered with or attended a GP practice
- Not enrolled in school
- Cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and quality of relationship is not good
- Appropriate adult is not an immediate family member (parent / sibling)

The matrix is not an exhaustive list of factors and other concerns may be present. For UK national children especially movement may involve that between and within cities, between accommodation, places of abuse within a city and movement between different people.

The indicators may apply to both UK nationals and/or migrant children and to both boys and girls and should be kept in mind when working with children when making an initial assessment. They are not questions to be directly asking children at the initial stage of enquiry.

The indicators do not replace child protection investigations and the presence, or otherwise, of trafficking suspicions should not preclude the standard child protection procedures being implemented.

If you have any further questions about child trafficking, or the National Referral Mechanism, please contact:

- Social work child protection team at Centenary House –  
Tel - 0141 276 5838
- Police vice and anti-trafficking unit  
Tel - 0141 532 2721 and 2723  
Fax 0141 532 2732  
E-mail [anti-trafficking@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anti-trafficking@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk)

The Child Protection Unit at Yorkhill Hospital can also be contacted on 0141 222 7364

In respect of concerns regarding suspected trafficking of adult female victims for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation TARA can be contacted for advice on 0141 276 7724

Migrant Helpline can provide advice and assistance for adult victims of trafficking - tel 01304 203977 [www.migranthelpline.org.uk](http://www.migranthelpline.org.uk)

UKHTC also have a direct contact for information: 084477 82406 ask to speak to a Tactical Advisor - <http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc>

Useful websites:

**Copies of the following child trafficking assessment, NRM referral forms and indicator matrix are available on the CPC website and social work intranet sites.**

## CHILD TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT (CTA)

Child's surname:		Known as:		Forenames:	
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Date of birth		Place of birth		Nationality	
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Ethnicity		Language		Religion	
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Carefirst no		Home Office no		ID docs	
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Home address:	Current address:

Family / household members:		
Name:	Relationship:	Address:

Legal / asylum status:	
Legal status(looked after etc & previous):	Asylum status:

Agencies involved & contact details:

Referrer / Report writer		Date		Agency / Team	
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Social work / police use only			If not contacting centre child protection team and anti trafficking unit or referring to NRM please explain why
Social work CP team Centenary House contacted		NRM referral & date	
Police vice & anti trafficking unit contacted			
All concerns about child trafficking should be discussed with the child protection team and vice and anti trafficking unit. A copy of this assessment should be forwarded to them.			

*Note: each section should encompass the views and accounts of all agencies with relevant information. Please make it clear where you obtained the evidence / information*

**1. Brief background details** ( give a pen picture of the young person within their family / country of origin context)

**2. Movement** (within countries; across borders; across UK; across city; across accommodation. Include details of how travelled; timescales; time at locations etc; entry into trafficking process;– eg sold; passage bought; abducted; escape; present accommodation)

**3. Exploitation / abuse** (detail evidence and / or suspicions; types of exploitation; locations; length of exploitation; freedom of movement)

**4. Trafficker** (description; relatives; gender; title; job; names; relationship to child; still in contact etc)

**5. Means of control**

(how has trafficker controlled child; threats (to child & family); grooming; violence, voodoo, oaths, captivity, debt)

**6. Additional risk factors**

(likely to be identified from indicator matrix; may include health; other contacts)

**7. Agency contact / actions taken** (police; social work; UKBA; voluntary; overseas)

**8. Views of young person** (if appropriate)

**9. Analysis / Assessment of Needs and Risks in relation to trafficking**

(inc analysis of why believe trafficked / not; present safety; future risk of trafficking)

**10 Conclusion & recommendation** (VYP/not & reasons, action plan, identify specific outcomes; by whom)

## GUIDANCE NOTES FOR COMPLETION

*If there are immediate child protection concerns this referral / assessment form is not a substitute for following child protection procedures.*

### CHILD TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT

This form should be completed by social workers and police in conjunction with the child protection team and vice and anti-trafficking unit.

The Child Trafficking Assessment is designed to assess potential victims of trafficking and / or future risk of trafficking. It is not a substitute for a comprehensive assessment of risk and needs in terms of a holistic GIRFEC assessment – such an assessment should be completed as per child protection procedures and guidelines. The assessments should complement and inform each other. If initial concerns are about trafficking it is likely that the CTA is completed first; if the IAF / CP1 / VYP (or equivalent) is being completed and suspicions about trafficking become apparent the CTA should be completed to focus on trafficking specific concerns.

*When the assessment is completed sections 1 to 10 can be copied into section G of the NRM form as evidence if a referral is being made to UKHTC.*

It is likely the CTA will be informed by the use of the indicator matrix for trafficking - the matrix is not an exhaustive list of indicators, *or an assessment* of future risk. Other factors may also be present that are not included on the matrix – eg for internal trafficking movement may be between cities and accommodation rather than countries.

*If there are indications, or intent, of movement (section 2) and exploitation / abuse (section 3) – the minimum requirements for child trafficking – a referral should be made to the National Referral Mechanism following CPC guidelines.*

The presence of other indicators may also be sufficient for a referral to the NRM (please discuss with child protection team or trafficking unit).

*In completing the assessment remember that background information may be available from agencies and organisations outside the UK – eg NGOs working in country of origin; country of origin embassies; social services in countries of origin.*

#### **1. Background details**

Include social / economic circumstances of the family; why child left the family; continued contact with family; any previous work / employment;

#### **2. Movement**

- Trafficking can occur at any stage throughout a child's journey; it is not limited to the final destination.
- UK nationals are also vulnerable to internal trafficking (movement between and

within cities and between people) and may also be trafficked out of UK

- A child may be trafficked through legitimate routes and with legal documents, in addition to covert routes with no documents
- Child may arrive alone or accompanied.
- Once trafficked may be at increased risk for future trafficking
- Are child movements restricted and / or accommodation locked?

### **3. Exploitation / abuse**

What is the nature of the exploitation? Where did it occur? Is it ongoing?

- Trafficking is a process, not a single event.
- Trafficked children may be forced into criminal activity.

### **4. Trafficker(s)**

- Children may remain in contact with the trafficker or the person who brought them into the country.
- Contact may be lost only to be recommenced days / months / years later.
- Children may describe the trafficker as a 'friend' 'boy/girl friend'.
- Who are the people involved in a child's life

### **5. Means of control**

- Children may be physically threatened
- Children may be controlled psychologically
- Consider threats to family
- Trafficked children may be groomed

### **6. Other risk factors**

- Consider factors that may be concerning, but on their own not indicative / evidence of trafficking
- There are no validated risk assessments for child trafficking
- Children may move in and out of trafficking situations

### **7. Agency involvement**

- Agencies may have been previously involved and not identified trafficking as an issue

### **8. Views of young person**

- Children do not usually say they have been trafficked.
- Children may deny any exploitation / abuse
- Children may not consider their experiences exploitative

### **9-10. Analysis and conclusions**

Trafficking is an extremely complex area of child protection and any analysis and conclusions will be subject to change.

***NB Trafficking and its assessment is not a static process - due to the nature of child trafficking it is likely that much of the required information may not be initially available, or sketchy; it is important that the assessment is regularly updated.***

**NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING  
REPORT TO COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR DECISION**

**When completed, please e-mail this form and matrix of indicators to UKHTC:**

**Section A - Personal Details**

Last name: ..... First name(s): .....

Also known as: .....

D.O.B (if known): ...../...../..... Age (approx. if not known): ..... Sex: ..... Place of birth: .....

Nationality: ..... Language: .....

Any English spoken/interpreter needed:..... Immigration status: .....

Competent Authority referred to: UK Border Agency / UK Human Trafficking Centre

Home Office ref: ..... Work Permit ref: .....

Any other reference numbers including NRUC if the child is a UASC:.....

UK Home address: .....

.....

.....

**Section B - Contact details of person making referral**

Name: .....

Job title: .....

Organisation and Local Authority area:  
.....

.....

Tel: .....Fax: .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Signature and date: .....

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: .....

Section C – Indicator matrix for child trafficking

Exploitation	Y	S
Claims to have been exploited through sexual exploitation, criminality, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage, illegal adoption, and drug dealing by another person.	E	
Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (sexual, physical etc)	E	
Underage marriage	E	
Physical indications of working (overly tired in school, indications of manual labour – condition of hands/skin, backaches etc)	E	
Sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy	E	
Story very similar to those given by others, perhaps hinting they have been coached		
Movement into / within UK	Y	S
Withdrawn and refuses to talk / appears afraid to talk to a person in authority		
Significantly older boyfriend		
Harbours excessive fears / anxieties (e.g. about an individual, of deportation, disclosing information etc)		
Other risk factors	Y	S
Shows signs of physical neglect – basic care, malnourishment, lack of attention to health needs		
Shows signs of emotional neglect		
Socially isolated – lack of positive, meaningful relationships in child's life		
Behavioural - poor concentration or memory, irritable / unsociable / aggressive behaviour in school or placement		
Psychological – indications of trauma or numbing		
Exhibits self assurance, maturity and self confidence not expected in a child of such age		
Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse		
Low self image, low self esteem, self harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity		
Sexually active		
Not registered with or attended a GP practice		
Not enrolled in school		
Has money, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation		

Exploitation	Y	S
Required to earn a minimum amount of money every day	E	
Involved in criminality highlighting involvement of adults (e.g. recovered from cannabis farm / factory, street crime, petty theft, pick pocketing, begging etc)	E	
Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence	E	
Reports from reliable sources suggest likelihood of sexual exploitation, including being seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation	E	
Unusual hours / regular patterns of child leaving or returning to placement which indicates probable working		
Accompanied by an adult who may not be the legal guardian and insists on remaining with the child at all times		
Limited freedom of movement	E	
Movement into / or within the UK	Y	S
Gone missing from local authority care	M	
Unable to confirm name or address of person meeting them on arrival	M	
Accompanying adult previously made multiple visa applications for other children / acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications	M	
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	M	
History with missing links or unexplained moves	M	
Pattern of street homelessness	M	
Other risk factors	Y	S
Unregistered private fostering arrangement		
Cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and quality of relationship is not good		
Placement breakdown		
Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation	M	
Truancy / disengagement with education		
Appropriate adult is not an immediate family member (parent / sibling)		
Appropriate adult cannot provide photographic ID for the child		

Exploitation	Y	S
Located / recovered from a place of exploitation (brothel, cannabis farm, involved in criminality etc)	E	
Deprived of earnings by another person	E	
Claims to be in debt bondage or "owes" money to other persons (e.g. for travel costs, before having control over own earnings)	E	
Receives unexplained / unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation		
No passport or other means of identity	M	
Unable or reluctant to give accommodation or other personal details	M	
False documentation or genuine documentation that has been altered or fraudulently obtained; or the child claims that their details (name, DOB) on the documentation are incorrect	M	
Movement into or within the UK	Y	S
Entered country illegally	M	
Journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family	M	
Registered at multiple addresses	M	
Other risk factors	Y	S
Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming online relationships, particularly with adults		
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding		
Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults		
Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence		
Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people etc)		
Works in various locations		
One among a number of unrelated children found at one address		
Having keys to premises other than those known about		
Going missing and being found in areas where they have no known links	M	

## **Section G - Evidence to support reasons for referral (2 pages available)**

Please use this section to:

1. expand on the circumstances/details of the encounter or contact and
2. provide supporting evidence for the indicators that you have identified in the matrix
3. provide any other relevant information that you consider may be important and wish to include e.g. details of behaviour, abuse and neglect
4. movements into, within or out of the UK, including dates (if known)
5. name of any adults, exploiter or trafficker (if known)
6. and any action you have taken including referral to other agencies e.g. Police, local authorities, Missing persons, NGOs etc
7. provide any method of entry details where the subject is a foreign national,

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