

Take **ACTION** to spot the indicators of child trafficking

This list is not exhaustive –there are many indicators which will vary for each child

Appearance :

- Are they dishevelled or not dressed well?
- Are there signs of abuse?
- Are they wearing clothes/ attire which they could not afford to buy or which suggests gang allegiance?
- Do they have tattoos which suggest gang allegiance?
- Is there a lack of eye contact?
- Are they wearing inappropriate clothing for their age/ their size/ the weather?

Context:

- Do they or their behaviour seem out of context for the situation?
- Is there evidence they have been moved around?
- Do they know where they are?
- Do they appear scared or fearful?
- Are they in an area or circumstances where you would not expect to find a child?
- Do they have missing episodes/ are they a missing child?

Talking

- Is someone talking for them or controlling what they say?
- Is a family member/ friend volunteering to interpret for them?
- Are they refusing or reluctant to talk?
- Are they fearful of authority? Or aggressive toward authority?
- What is their body language saying?

Identity

- Can they prove their identity? Do they have ID documents?
- Is there something suspicious about their identity?
- Is there something suspicious about who they are travelling with?
- Are they alone?
- Are they from another country?

Oppressed

- Do they act submissive to someone else or you?
- Is their behaviour unusual for their age?
- Are they able to come and go freely –including implicit threat/risk?
- Are they always accompanied or watched?
- Does someone controlling attend appointments with them?

Narrative

- Is their story credible?
- Does the story sound rehearsed, coached or familiar?

If any of these indicators are present, the child may be a victim of trafficking and should be safeguarded.

Child Trafficking Awareness

Children are being trafficked into, within and out of the UK, and we need your eyes and ears to stop it.

Child Trafficking is defined as the movement of a child for the purpose of exploitation. This movement could be across country borders, across the UK or even within the same local area or street. Children from any country, culture or religion, and both boys and girls, can be victims of trafficking and exploitation.

Victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation through County Lines, and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children should **always** be considered as potentially trafficked children.

If you are concerned that a child may be the victim of child trafficking:

- Where possible, ensure they are in a safe place
- Follow your organisation's safeguarding procedures
- Refer to Children's Services
- Contact Police by calling 101 and clearly state that you are concerned about a potential victim of child trafficking/ modern slavery. Always call Police on 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger.
- **Contact Barnardo's Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service Support Line for advice and to make a referral on 0800 043 4303**

Emerging trends and statistics

These are trends and not definitive exploitation types for children

- Vietnamese children are most commonly trafficked for labour exploitation for example in cannabis farms or in nail bars.
- Romanian (particularly Roma) children are most commonly trafficked for criminal exploitation such as theft, begging, drug offences and benefit fraud.
- Sudanese children are likely to have been trafficked and exploited on their journey to the UK, commonly in Libya. They are then more likely to be trafficked within the UK for criminal exploitation through County Lines.
- Iraqi children and Eastern European children are most commonly trafficked for labour exploitation such as working in car washes or for odd jobs such as gardening and labouring.
- UK children are more likely to be trafficked for criminal exploitation through county lines, and sexual exploitation
- Pakistani children are most commonly trafficked and exploited for domestic servitude and forced marriage.

In 2018:

- 3,137 children were referred to NRM as potential victims of trafficking. This is a 48% increase on the number referred in 2017
- UK, Vietnam, Sudan, Albania and Eritrea were the 'top five' nationalities of trafficked children referred into NRM
- The most common exploitation types for children referred to NRM were criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation and forced labour

All young people suspected of being trafficked, that are moved for the purpose of exploitation, should be referred through NRM.

The NRM Process

The NRM (National Referral Mechanism) is the process used by the Home Office to identify victims of trafficking. The SCA (Single Competent Authority) is the authority responsible for the NRM process. The NRM is a form which allows first responders to refer a child or adult. First responders include; Local Authorities, Police, Health and some Voluntary Sector Organisations. First responders have a legal duty to refer anyone suspect of being a victim of human trafficking, and consent is not needed to refer a child (under 18 years).

Trafficked and exploited children are often hidden, or do not realise that they are victims –they need YOU to identify and safeguard them.

If you are concerned a child may have been trafficked, call the ICTA Support line on:

0800 043 4303

