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Note

The National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities came into operation on April 1st 2009.

Solihull LSCB is grateful for the London LSCB approving Solihull to be part of the pilot project to evaluate their specially designed toolkit to be used to safeguard children who have been trafficked. This toolkit uses draws substantially from their original toolkit with some minor amendments to take into account local circumstances.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This toolkit for safeguarding trafficked children provides guidance to professionals and volunteers from all agencies in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who are harmed through being trafficked and exploited.
- 1.2 Trafficked children are at increased risk of significant harm because they are largely invisible to the professionals and volunteers who would be in a position to assist them. The adults who traffic them take trouble to ensure that the children do not come to the attention of the authorities, or disappear from contact with statutory services soon after arrival in the UK or in a new area within the UK.
- 1.3 This guidance is supplementary to, and should be used in conjunction with, the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.proceduresonline.com/solihull/lscb/>
- 1.4 This guidance includes a joint assessment tool and referral form to assist professionals in both assessing the needs of the child and the continuing risks that they may face, and referring their case to the competent authority (UKBA will fulfil this role for asylum cases, UKHTC for all other cases). This can be used in a variety of ways; agencies can use the toolkit to help them consider cases that may have a trafficking component; the assessment tool can be used to support both initial and core as well as specialist assessments.
- 1.5 Where necessary, the UKHTC will assist in ‘regularising’ their immigration status, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Human Trafficking and recording their case within the central UK database on victims of trafficking. See [section 5.2. UKHTC](#), below.

2. Definitions

2.1 Human trafficking

- 2.1.1 Human trafficking is defined by the UNHCR guidelines (2006) as a process that is a combination of three basic components:
- Movement (including within the UK);
 - Control, through harm / threat of harm or fraud¹;
 - For the purpose of exploitation (see point 2.1.5, below)

2.2 Child Trafficking

- 2.1.2 The Palermo Protocol establishes children as a special case for whom there are only two components – movement and exploitation.
- 2.1.3 **Movement** of a child from point A to point B, however short or long the distance for the purpose of exploitation, is ‘child trafficking’

¹ Control – to overcome or enforce consent – does not form part of the legal requirement for proof that a child has been trafficked because it is not considered possible for children to give informed consent (see the Palermo Protocol, point 2.12 in the main text).

- **Example:** *collecting a child from a school gate and transporting them to the next street for domestic servitude would be classed as child trafficking*

2.1.4 Any child transported for **exploitative** reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim – whether or not s/he has been deceived, because it is not considered possible for children to give informed consent. See [Appendix 1. Policy and legislation](#) for the Palermo Protocol and other relevant international and national legislation.

2.1.5 ‘Child’ refers to children 0 to 17 years and adolescents up to their 18th birthday

2.1.6 See also [section 6.4.11 Age assessments](#).

2.1.7 A child may be trafficked for the purpose of:

- Sexual exploitation (including child abuse acts and images)
- Domestic servitude (e.g. domestic chores, looking after young children)
- Labour exploitation (e.g. working in restaurants, building sites, cleaning)
- Enforced criminality (e.g. cannabis cultivation, street theft, begging, drug dealing and trafficking)
- Benefit or housing fraud
- Illegal adoption
- Female genital mutilation
- Servile and underage marriage

2.1.8 A child may be trafficked between a number of countries in the EU or globally, prior to being trafficked into / within the UK. The child may have entered the UK illegally or legally (i.e. with immigration documents). The intention to exploit the child underpins the entire process.²

2.2 Other terms

2.2.1 ‘Parent’ means parent or carer and ‘professional’ refers to any individual working in a voluntary, employed, professional or unqualified capacity, including foster carers and approved adopters.

3. Principles

3.1 The following principles should be adopted by all agencies in relation to identifying and responding to children (and unborn children) at risk of or having been trafficked:

- Trafficking causes significant harm to children in both the short and long term; it constitutes physical and emotional abuse to children;
- The safety and welfare of the child is paramount (i.e. the nationality or immigration status of the child is secondary and should be addressed only after the child’s safety is assured);

² ‘The application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked’ UNHCR April 2006, p5

- Trafficked children are provided with the same standard of care that is available to any other child in the UK;
- All decisions or plans for the child/ren should be based on good quality assessments (see Appendix 8) and supported by easily accessible multi-agency services; and
- All agencies should work in partnership with members of local communities to empower individuals and groups to develop support networks and education programmes.

4. The problem of child trafficking

4.1 Why do people traffic children?

4.1.1 Most children are trafficked for financial gain. This can include payment from or to the child's parents, and can involve the child in debt-bondage to the traffickers. In most cases, the trafficker also receives payment from those wanting to exploit the child once in the UK. Some trafficking is carried out by organised gangs. In other cases, individual adults or agents traffic children to the UK for their own personal gain. The exploitation of trafficked children may be progressive. Children trafficked for domestic work may also be vulnerable to sexual exploitation or children initially trafficked for sexual exploitation may be resold.

4.1.2 Children may be used for:

- Sexual exploitation e.g.
 - child sexual abuse
 - child abuse images
- Domestic servitude e.g.
 - undertaking domestic chores
 - looking after young children
- Labour exploitation e.g.
 - working in restaurants
 - building sites
 - cleaning
- Enforced criminality e.g.
 - begging and pick pocketing
 - cannabis cultivation
 - drug dealing and trafficking
 - benefit fraud
 - illegal adoption
 - forced marriage
 - female genital mutilation

- trade in human organs; and in some cases ritual killing

This list is not exhaustive.

4.2 What are the contexts from which trafficking is possible?

4.2.1

Children may be trafficked from a number of different countries for a variety of different reasons. There are a number of factors in the country of origin which might make children vulnerable to being trafficked, and the factors listed below are by no means a comprehensive list.

- **Poverty:** in general, this is the root cause of vulnerability to exploitation. The recruiter's promises of work or income are seen by families as a possible escape route from impoverished circumstances. At the very least a child's departure means one less mouth to feed.
- **Lack of education:** attendance at school has proved to be a key means of protecting children from all forms of exploitation, including trafficking. Traffickers promise education for children whose parents cannot afford to pay school fees, or where schools are difficult to access or are of poor quality.
- **Discrimination:** this can be based both on gender and ethnicity. In some cultures, girls are expected to make sacrifices in terms of their education and security for the benefit of the family. They represent less of an investment for the family because their contribution to the family will end when they leave to marry (in some cases marriage itself may be too expensive for the family). Many trafficking victims are from minority communities who are socially discriminated against and disadvantaged in their own country.
- **Cultural attitudes:** traditional cultural attitudes can mean that some children are more vulnerable to trafficking than others. In some cultures the rights of children are ignored and they are seen as commodities to be traded. In some countries it is the custom for children to work as domestic servants in households. It is, therefore, possible that a child is taken abroad by a relative, or someone claiming to be a relative, to work as a domestic servant. Sometimes the child, or the family of the child, is promised an education and a better life.
- **Grooming:** children are sometimes trafficked out of their country of origin after having been groomed for purposes of exploitation. This can be done over the internet by child sex offenders.
- **Dysfunctional families:** children may choose to leave home as a result of domestic abuse and neglect, or they may be forced to leave home for a variety of reasons. They then become vulnerable to trafficking, particularly if they become destitute or homeless.
- **Political conflict and economic transition:** these often lead to movements of large numbers of people and the erosion of economic and social protection mechanisms. Parents or guardians may be killed, leaving children vulnerable to trafficking.

- **Inadequate local laws and regulations:** trafficking involves many different events and processes, and legislation has been slow to keep pace. Most countries have legislation against exploitative child labour, but not all have laws specifically against trafficking. Even where there is appropriate legislation, enforcement is often hampered by lack of prioritisation, corruption and ignorance of the law.

4.2.2 While there is demand for child exploitation in the UK, trafficking will continue to be a problem.

4.3 How are children from abroad recruited and controlled?

4.3.1 Traffickers recruit their victims using a variety of methods. Some children are abducted or kidnapped, although most children are trapped in subversive ways - e.g:

- Children are promised education or what is regarded as respectable work – such as in restaurants or as domestic servants.
- Parents are persuaded that their children will have a better life elsewhere.

4.3.2 Many children travel on false documents. Even those whose documents are genuine may not have access to them. One way that traffickers control children is to retain their passports and threaten children that should they escape, they will be deported.

The creation of a false identity for a child can give a trafficker direct control over every aspect of a child's life, for example, by claiming to be a parent or guardian.

4.3.3 Even before they travel, children may be abused and exploited to ensure that the trafficker's control over the child continues after the child is transferred to someone else's care - e.g:

- Confiscation of the child's identity documents;
- Threats of reporting the child to the authorities;
- Violence, or threats of violence, towards the child and/or his/her family;
- Keeping the child socially isolated;
- Keeping the child locked up;
- Telling some children that they owe large sums of money and that they must work to pay this off;
- Depriving the child of money; and
- Voodoo or witchcraft, which may be used to frighten children into thinking that they and their families will die if they tell anyone about the traffickers, for example.

4.3.4 The traffickers might be part of a well organised criminal network, or they might be individuals involved in only one of the various stages of the operation, such as the provision of false documentation, transport, or places where the child's presence can be concealed.

4.4 How are children brought to the UK?

4.4.1 Any port of entry into the UK might be used by traffickers. There is evidence that some children are trafficked via numerous transit countries and many may travel through other European Union countries before arriving in the UK.

- 4.4.2 Recent experience suggests that as checks have improved at the larger ports of entry, such as Heathrow and Gatwick airports, traffickers are starting to use smaller regional airports. Traffickers are also known to use the Eurostar rail service and ferries to UK sea ports.
- 4.4.3 We consider separately children who enter the UK either accompanied by adult/s or as unaccompanied minors.

Accompanied children

- 4.4.4 There are many legitimate reasons for children being brought to the UK, such as economic migration with their family, education, re-unification with family or fleeing a war-torn country. Some children will have travelled with their parent/s.
- 4.4.5 However, a number of children arrive in the UK accompanied by adults who are either not related to them or in circumstances which raise child protection concerns. For example, there may be little evidence of any pre-existing relationship or on occasions the young person does not know who the sponsor is or even of their existence. There may be unsatisfactory accommodation arranged in the UK, or perhaps no evidence of parental permission for the child to travel to the UK or stay with the sponsor. These irregularities may be the only indication that the child could be a victim of trafficking.
- 4.4.6 To curb illegal migration and improve children's safeguards, new global visa regulations have been in place since February 2006. A photograph of the child is now shown on the visa, together with the name and passport number of the adult/s who have been given permission to travel with the child.
- 4.4.7 Some accompanied children may apply for asylum claiming to be unaccompanied, after being told by their trafficker that by doing so they will be granted permission to reside in the UK and be entitled to claim welfare benefits.

Unaccompanied children

- 4.4.8 Groups of unaccompanied children often come to the notice of the UK Borders Agency (UKBA). Unaccompanied children may come to the UK seeking asylum (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – UASC), or they may be here to attend school or join their family. A child may be the subject of a private fostering arrangement.
- 4.4.9 If the child is unaccompanied and not travelling to his or her parent, or if there are some concerns over the legitimacy or suitability of the proposed arrangement for the child's care in the UK, s/he will be referred to LA UASC or EDT team by UKBA.
- 4.4.10 Some groups of children will avoid contact with authorities because they are instructed to do so by their traffickers. In other cases the traffickers insist that the child applies for asylum as this gives the child a legitimate right of temporary leave to remain in the UK.
- 4.4.11 Nationally, It is suspected that significant numbers of children are referred to LA Children's Social Work service after applying for asylum and some even register at school for up to a term, before disappearing again. It is thought that they are trafficked internally within the UK or out of the UK to other European countries.

Internal trafficking

- 4.4.12 There is increasing evidence both nationally and locally that children (both of UK and other citizenship) are being trafficked internally within the UK. The list of indicators in [section 6.3](#) should help identify these children. Children may be trafficked internally for a variety of reasons many of them similar to the reasons children are trafficked between countries.
- 4.4.13 Whilst evidence so far relates to girls, there may be cases of boys being trafficked within the UK.

4.5 The impact of trafficking on children's health and welfare

- 4.5.1 All children who have been exploited will suffer some form of physical or mental harm. Usually, the longer the exploitation, the more health problems that will be experienced, such as contracting AIDS or the extreme abuse suffered by Victoria Climbié. Children may also suffer from stress / post traumatic stress (PTSD) related physical disorders such as skin diseases, migraine, backache etc
- 4.5.2 Trafficked children are not only deprived of their rights to health care and freedom from exploitation and abuse, but are also not provided with access to education. The creation of a false identity and implied criminality of the children, together with the loss of family and community, may seriously undermine their sense of self-worth. At the time they are found, trafficked children may not show any obvious signs of distress or imminent harm, they may be vulnerable to particular types of abuse and may continue to experience the effects of their abuse in the future.

Physical abuse

- 4.5.3 This can include:
- Inappropriate chastisement, not receiving routine and emergency medical attention (partly through a lack of care about their welfare and partly because of the need for secrecy surrounding their circumstances);
 - Children in the sex industry are open to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and for girls there is the risk of early pregnancy and possible damage to their reproductive health *
 - Physical beatings and rape;
 - Addiction to drugs (some trafficked children are subdued with drugs, which they then become dependent on). They are then effectively trapped within the cycle of exploitation, continuing to work in return for a supply of drugs;
 - Alcohol addiction;
 - Female genital mutilation* (children are trafficked to undergo female genital mutilation);
- 4.5.4 Some forms of harm might be linked to a belief in spirit possession*

Emotional and psychological abuse

4.5.5 Some kind of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, including trafficking.

4.5.6 Trafficked children may feel:

- Disorientated after leaving their family environment, no matter how impoverished and difficult. This disorientation can be compounded for some children who have to assume a new identity or have no identity at all;
- Isolated from the local community in the UK by being kept away from school and because they cannot speak English.

4.5.7 They may:

- Fear both the adults who have physical control of them and the threat that they will be reported to the authorities as immigration criminals;
- Lose their trust in all adults;
- Have low self-esteem and believe that the experience has ruined them for life psychologically and socially. They may become depressed, and sometimes suicidal;
- Worry about people in their families and communities knowing what has happened to them, and become afraid to go home;
- Feel like criminals as a result of the new identity forced on them, which can have long term consequences for their adult lives.

4.5.8 All children who have been exploited are likely to suffer some form of mental harm, usually the longer the exploitation the more mental health problems that will be experienced. These can include:

- Psychological distress owing to their sense of powerlessness. In many cases involving violence and deprivation at the hands of their traffickers, which can be extreme, it will take the form of post traumatic stress disorder;
- Dependent relationships with their abusers;
- Flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety attacks, irritability and other symptoms of stress, such as nervous breakdowns;
- A loss of ability to concentrate;
- Becoming anti-social, aggressive and angry, and/or fearful and nervous – finding it difficult to relate to others, including in the family and at work.

Sexual abuse

4.5.9 Trafficked children may be sexually abused as part of being controlled or because they are vulnerable. In many cases, sexual exploitation is the purpose of the trafficking. Children being sexually exploited are at risk of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS; and for girls there is the risk of an unwanted early pregnancy and possible damage to their sexual and reproductive health.

Neglect

- 4.5.10 Trafficked children may also suffer neglect. In particular, they may not receive routine and emergency medical attention (partly through a lack of care about their welfare and partly because of the need for secrecy surrounding their circumstances). They may also be subject to physical, sensory and food deprivation. Trafficked and exploited children are deprived of their rights to health and freedom from exploitation and abuse, and to education and related life opportunities.

5. Role of specific agencies and services

5.1 All agencies

- 5.1.1 Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children depends on effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and types of expertise. In the case of trafficked children, it is particularly important that links are established between statutory agencies and the voluntary and community sectors.
- 5.1.2 All agencies and professionals who work with or are in contact with children have a responsibility to safeguard and promote their welfare. This includes safeguarding children from trafficking. The statutory duties of a range of statutory bodies and persons are explained in the Government guidance [Making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 \(DCSF, 2007\)](#)³, [Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education \(DCSF, 2006\)](#)⁴, and [Working Together 2010](#)
- 5.1.3 More details relating to agency roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children can be found in section 2.1.3 Roles and Responsibilities in the Solihull Child Protection Procedures.
<http://www.proceduresonline.com/solihull/lscb/>

5.2 UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC)

- 5.2.1 The UKHTC was established in October 2006, following a proposal from ACPO. It comprises staff from various disciplines bringing a multi-agency approach to the Centre's response to trafficking both into and within the UK.
- 5.2.2 It aims to improve and co-ordinate the law enforcement response to human trafficking, working closely with its partners in delivering a diverse set of programmes. A number of these will be targeted campaigns on preventing and reducing human trafficking and improving knowledge and understanding of the problem through best practice and training. A key element in the UKHTC's approach to preventing and reducing human trafficking is to ensure that victims are adequately safeguarded and protected from harm.
- 5.2.3 The UKHTC is also a key agent in the UK's national referral mechanism for trafficked children (and adults). For a description of the national referral mechanism, see [section 6.4 National referral mechanism](#). The UKHTC and UKBA will act as the Centralised Competent Authorities with responsibility for the final decision on whether a frontline professional's 'reasonable grounds' for believing that the child has been trafficked are met i.e. whether the child is or is not a victim of trafficking.

³ See: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00042/>

⁴ See: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00175/>

6. Action by professionals and agencies

6.1 Identifying trafficked and exploited children

- 6.1.1 All professionals who come into contact with children in their everyday work need to be able to identify children who may have been trafficked, and be competent to act to support and protect these children from harm. They should follow the practice guidance set out below, which is in accordance with the Solihull Child Protection Procedures. <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures/>
- 6.1.2 Whenever a professional identifies that a child may have been trafficked, s/he should act promptly before the child goes missing and assess the child's levels of need / risk of harm as set out in this guidance.
- 6.1.3 All ports of entry in the UK are potential channels for trafficking children. Identifying trafficked children at these ports of entry is likely to be difficult as they may not be showing obvious signs of distress (see [section 6.2 Obstacles to self-identification, below](#))
- 6.1.4 The ports' intelligence units have developed a profile of trafficked children to assist immigration officers (see the on-line trafficking toolkit²¹). Other resources readily available to all staff include the location of Paladin-type teams, and the local UKBA. The on-line trafficking toolkit is an enforcement toolkit. UKBA at ports use a different guidance manual, which is currently being revised.
- 6.1.5 Child victims may be discovered in routine police operations to detect and disrupt trafficking networks, and during other criminal investigations both in the UK and abroad. Anyone who works with children may come into contact with a victim of trafficking.
- 6.1.6 All agencies working with children who may have been trafficked into and within the UK should work together to safeguard and promote their welfare, providing the same standard of care that is available to any other child in the UK. This may be the crucial intervention which breaks the cycle of the child being vulnerable to continuing or further exploitation.

6.2 Obstacles to self-identification

- 6.2.1 Children are unlikely to disclose they have been trafficked, as most do not have an awareness of what trafficking is or may believe they are coming to the UK for a better life, accepting that they have entered the country illegally. It is likely that the child will have been coached with a story to tell the authorities in the UK and warned not to disclose any detail beyond the story, as this would lead them to being deported.
- 6.2.2 Apparent collusion with the trafficker can add to confusion when attempting to identify a child as victim of trafficking⁵. The child may be reluctant to disclose their circumstances because:
- His or her experience of authority in their country of origin is such that they do not trust the police or other statutory agencies (s/he may provide a statement to a voluntary and community agency).
 - The identification and referral process may mimic aspects of what had happened during trafficking – promises of help and a good life, movement

⁵ OSCE (2007) Report on Civil Society Meeting, Warsaw, 'The NRM Approach to Trafficking and its Application to Trafficking for Labour Exploitation', p3

by persons the child did not know, being taken to unknown locations where 'everything would be fine' and 'they would be taken care of'⁶.

- The circumstances, even under exploitation, in the UK may compare more favourably to the child's experiences at home⁷.

6.2.3 Disclosure from a child can take time, especially where the child is within the control of a trafficker or facilitator and relies on a relationship of trust and safety being established.

6.3 Possible indicators that a child may have been trafficked

6.3.1 Clusters of indicators around a child can highlight concern which triggers a systematic assessment of the child's circumstances and experiences.

6.3.2 There a number of indicators which suggest that a child may have been trafficked into the UK, and may still be controlled by the traffickers or receiving adults. These are as follows:

At port of entry

6.3.3 The child:

- Has no passport or other means of identification;
- Has false documentation;
- Possesses money and goods not accounted for;
- Is malnourished;
- Is unable to confirm the name and address of the person meeting them on arrival;
- Has had their journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family;
- Is accompanied by an adult who insists on remaining with the child at all times;
- Is withdrawn and refuses to talk or appears afraid to talk to a person in authority;
- Has a prepared story very similar to those that other children have given;
- Exhibits self-assurance, maturity and self-confidence not expected to be seen in a child of such age;
- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone;
- Is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or other personal details.

6.3.4 The sponsor could:

⁶ 'Listening to Victims Experiences of identification, return and assistance in South-Eastern Europe' ICPMD, 2007 [http://www.icmpd.org/768.html?&tx_icmpd_pi2\[document\]=593&cHash=6688569e46](http://www.icmpd.org/768.html?&tx_icmpd_pi2[document]=593&cHash=6688569e46) p60

⁷ OSCE (2007) Report on Civil Society Meeting, Warsaw, 'The NRM Approach to Trafficking and its Application to Trafficking for Labour Exploitation', p4

- Be a community member, family member, or any other intermediary⁸;
- Have previously made multiple visa applications for other children and/or has acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications;
- Is known to have acted as the guarantor on the visa applications for other visitors who have not returned to their countries of origin on the expiry of those visas.

6.3.5 See [sections 6.4.6. Reasons for alerting the central competent authority in Stage one](#) and [9.1.3 Port authority professionals](#) for actions following the identification of a trafficked child by port authority staff.

Whilst living in the UK

6.3.6 The child:

- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone;
- Receives unexplained / unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation;
- Possesses money and goods not accounted for;
- Exhibits self assurance, maturity and self-confidence not expected to be seen in a child of such age;
- Has a prepared story very similar to those that other children have given;
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy;
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves;
- Has gone missing from local authority care;
- Is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day;
- Works in various locations;
- Has limited freedom of movement;
- Appears to be missing for periods;
- Is known to beg for money;
- Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence;
- Is malnourished;
- Is being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents and the quality of the relationship between the child and their adult carers is not good;
- Is one among a number of unrelated children found at one address;
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice;
- Has not been enrolled in school;

⁸ Anti-Slavery International (2005) 'Protocol for identification and assistance to Trafficked Victims and Training Kit' p7

- Has to pay off an exorbitant debt (e.g. for travel costs) before having control over own earnings;
- Is permanently deprived of a large part of their earnings by another person;
- Is excessively afraid of being deported.

Children internally trafficked within the UK

6.3.7 Indicators include:

- Physical symptoms (bruising indicating either physical or sexual assault);
- Prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection or pregnancy;
- Young person known to be sexually active;
- Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation;
- Reports that the child has been seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation;
- Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse;
- Leaving home / care setting in clothing unusual for the individual child (inappropriate for age, borrowing clothing from older people);
- Phone calls or letters from adults outside the usual range of social contacts;
- Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence;
- Significantly older boyfriend;
- Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding;
- Persistently missing, staying out overnight or returning late with no plausible explanation;
- Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for despite having no known base;
- Missing for long periods, with no known base;
- Placement breakdown;
- Pattern of street homelessness;
- Possession of large amounts of money with no plausible explanation;
- Acquisition of expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation;
- Having keys to premises other than those known about;
- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity;
- Truancy / disengagement with education;
- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults;

- Going missing and being found in areas where the child or young person has no known links;
- Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming on-line relationships, particularly with adults.

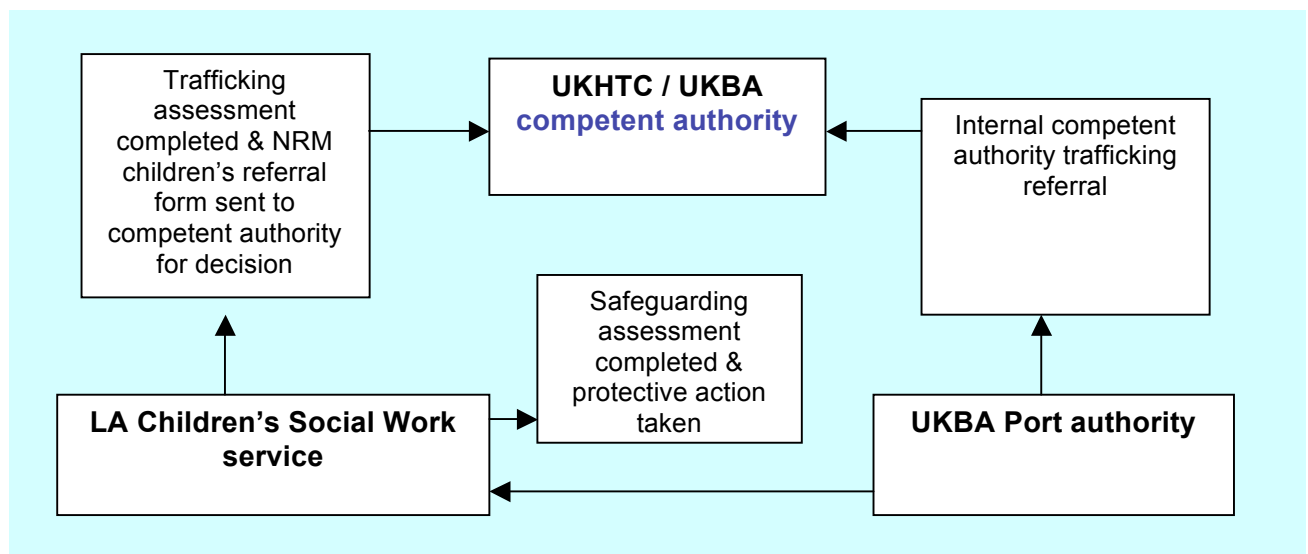
6.3.8 The indicators above should not be read as a definitive list and professionals should be aware of any other unusual factors that may suggest a child might have been trafficked. They are intended as a guide, which should be included in a wider assessment of the young person’s circumstances. The final set of indicators are applicable to both cases of sexual exploitation and internal trafficking.

6.3.9 It is also important to note that trafficked children might not show obvious signs of distress or abuse and this makes identifying children who may have been trafficked difficult. Some children are unaware that they have been trafficked, while others may actively participate in hiding that they have been trafficked.

6.4 National Referral Mechanism*

6.4.1 In accordance with the requirements of the *Council of Europe Convention on action against Trafficking in Human Beings*, the UK has a national referral mechanism for identifying and recording victims of trafficking and ensuring that they are provided with appropriate support wherever they are in the UK.

6.4.2 National referral mechanism overview:



6.4.3 The national referral mechanism comprises a three stage process for establishing formally that a child is a victim of trafficking:

- **Stage one – Safeguarding Assessment:** in the first stage a frontline professional identifies that the child may be trafficked using the indicators in [section 6.3](#), and undertakes a safeguarding assessment in line with

[section 8.1 \(Identifying whether a child is trafficked and assessing levels of need / risk\)](#), part of this assessment should clarify as far as possible whether the child has indeed been trafficked.

Port authority: a port authority professional who identifies that the child may be trafficked should make a referral to LA Children’s Social Work service (and the local police), complete the [Trafficking assessment tool \(ACPO / CEOP\) in appendix 16](#) and send the last page only (Section K) of the completed Trafficking assessment tool (ACPO / CEOP) to the UKHTC. See also [section 9.1.3 Port authority professionals](#).

- **Stage two – ‘reasonable grounds’:** with support, as required, from the local trafficked children lead (see [section 7, below](#)), and using information from the safeguarding assessment in stage one, the professional completes the [Trafficking assessment tool \(ACPO / CEOP\) in appendix 16](#). This should assist the professional to describe the safeguarding concerns in terms of ‘reasonable grounds’ (see [section 6.4.8, below](#)) for believing – though in most cases not being able to prove – that the child has been trafficked.
- **Stage three:** in the third stage LA Children’s Social Work service refers the child’s case to the UKHTC (see [section 5.4 UK Human Trafficking Centre \(UKHTC\), above](#)) as the central competent authority.

NRM referral form: to make the referral the frontline professional should send the NRM referral form to UKHTC.

6.4.4 See [flowchart for safeguarding a trafficked child in appendix 12](#).

Reasons for alerting the central competent authority in Stage one

6.4.5 When LA Children’s Social Work service receives a referral for a child who may be a victim of trafficking and the child is subject to immigration control, in addition to acting promptly before the child goes missing and initiating an assessment of the child’s levels of need / risk of harm, the professional must notify the central competent authority (see [section 5.4. UK Human Trafficking Centre \(UKHTC\), above](#))

6.4.6 This will allow the central competent authority to suspend immigration activity for a 45 day period. This should enable frontline professionals to complete the safeguarding assessment needed to inform the trafficking assessment tool, and clarify for LA Children’s Social Work service whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child is a victim of trafficking.

The 45 day period is also a period in which scope for criminal investigation can be explored.

‘Reasonable grounds’ test

6.4.7 The ‘reasonable grounds’ test focuses firstly on the applicability and credibility of the child’s story and circumstances to the definition of trafficking.

Reasonable grounds exist where the assessor can say: “I suspect that this child is likely to have been trafficked”.

- 6.4.8 Trafficking is defined by the UNHCR guidelines (2006) as a process comprising a number of inter-related actions rather than a single act at a given point in time. It consists in a combination of movement, control and exploitation (see [section 2.1 for more detail](#)).

Age assessments

- 6.4.9 Assessing the age of a victim of trafficking can be necessary because a child may have documents which are fake, or belong to another child, in order to make them appear younger or older. Children are groomed (coerced) to lie about their age by the adults trafficking and exploiting them. Accordingly, information about a child provided by an accompanying adult / carer may not be accurate.
- 6.4.10 When the age of the victim is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that they are a child, either because the victim has stated they are under 18 years of age or there is documentation or information from statutory or specialist agencies that have raised concerns that they may be under 18, then s/he should be presumed to be a child and be provided with full protection as a child victim of trafficking.
- 6.4.11 Where there is concern that a child may have been trafficked and an age dispute arises, the child should be given the benefit of the doubt as to their age until his/her age is verified. This is in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention.
- 6.4.12 In circumstances where it is determined that a young victim of trafficking is an adult, professionals must follow their local Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) procedure, and also contact the UKHTC.
- 6.4.13 See [section 9.2.22 Interview as part of section 47 enquiries](#) for elements of guidance which is also relevant for interviewing children and their families / carers outside the s47 process.

7. Local expertise in relation to trafficked children

- 7.1 Local authorities are recommended to nominate a local professional who can develop specialist knowledge in relation to trafficked children – a ‘local trafficked children lead’ – to act as an adviser to other professionals and the lead professional **Cornelia Heaney, Assistant Team Manager for the UASC team** has been identified in Solihull as the Local Trafficked children lead. (see [section 8.6. Lead professional](#)) in cases where the concerns in relation to a child are related to trafficking.

8. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of trafficked children

All professionals who come into contact with children in their everyday work need to be able to identify children who may have been trafficked (see [section 6.1 Identifying trafficked and exploited children](#)), and be competent to act to support and protect

these children from harm (see [Appendix 5 for roles of specific agencies and services](#), and [section 9 for response to children at risk of or experiencing significant harm](#) . See also the [Quick referral flowchart in appendix 11](#) .

Professionals should act promptly before the child goes missing and follow the practice guidance set out in this document, which is in accordance with the Solihull Child Protection Procedures. <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures/>.

8.1 Identifying whether a child is trafficked and assessing levels of need / risk

8.1.1 Professionals should use the [Risk Assessment Matrix in appendix 9](#) to identify and assess whether there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the child is trafficked. The assessment matrix can be used to assist initial identification or as an aid to thinking as part of the assessment process e.g. the CAF or specialist assessments (see [section 8.3, below](#)).

8.2 How to use the risk assessment matrix in [appendix 9](#):

8.2.1 The Risk Assessment Matrix is a tool to assist professionals in using the available information to focus their thinking and form the basis for discussion about the risk of harm - through trafficking - to a child. This may include deciding that the available information is not enough to form a sound judgement about the risk.

8.2.2 Professionals who have not had specific training should, wherever possible, complete the Risk Assessment Matrix together with their agency's nominated safeguarding children adviser and/or their local trafficked children lead (see [section 7](#)). The Matrix makes the link with the [Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families](#) (the Assessment framework) ⁹ .

8.2.3 The professional should look across the whole matrix and tick as many as apply the description/s of the incidents / circumstances which correspond best to the information available at the time. This is likely to mean ticking several descriptions.

The incidents / circumstances are arranged in the domains of the risk assessment triangle: child development, parenting capacity and family / environment, for ease of reference (see [appendix 8. Assessment Framework for trafficked children](#)).

8.2.4 Each scale has the 2 basic components in the UNHCR (2006) definition of trafficking to assist professionals to think through the information they have about a child:

- Movement into / within the UK
- Exploitation

Plus control, which is included as a key safeguarding concern, and other risk factors.

8.2.5 If the information known to the professional results in ticks in each of the 2 components of the UNHCR definition, then there may be reasonable grounds to believe that the child is trafficked. It does not matter whether the ticks are across the 3 domains or are all in one (e.g. child development).

9

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4003256

- 8.2.6 If a professional ticks a descriptor which indicates that a child is at risk of harm (e.g. 'physical symptoms of exploitative abuse' or 'under age marriage'), the professional should make an immediate referral to Solihull Duty and Referral Team (DART), in line with [section 9.1 Referral to LA Children's Social Work service](#), regardless of whether the child may be trafficked.
- 8.2.7 Professionals should always keep in mind the possibility that a piece of information, currently not known, could significantly raise the threshold of risk for a child. Workers should attempt to collate information from as many sources as possible.
- 8.2.8 See below for more detailed information on professional response.
- 8.2.9 Information gathering should include the child's presenting behaviours and what s/he discloses together with whatever information is known about the child's circumstances, and expert advice about trafficked children. The expert advice (including identifying children, ensuring their safety, gaining their trust and assessing them) can be obtained from:
- The local trafficked children lead (see [section 7, above](#));
 - The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (see [Appendix 5 for more information](#)); and
 - Another local authority with expertise in responding to trafficked children.
 - Harrow Council have kindly given us permission to use their good practice guidance (See [Appendix 17](#) for the guidance)
- 8.2.10 The tools for gathering information and making an assessment are:
- A specialist / statutory assessment (including LA Children's Social Work service initial and core assessments).
- 8.2.11 See the [Quick guide to assessments and levels of intervention in Appendix 10](#), according to which the four levels of need which an assessment could indicate for a child are:
- Level 1: Universal
 - Level 2: Vulnerable – Common assessment
 - Level 3: Complex – Common assessment or LA Children's Social Work service assessment
 - Level 4: Acute – LA Children's Social Work service assessment
- 8.2.12 When a professional is concerned that a child may be at risk of being trafficked, or has been trafficked, the child is likely to be vulnerable or at risk of harm (levels 3 or 4).
- 8.3 Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**
- 8.3.1 If during a common assessment framework (CAF) professionals become aware of information that may suggest that a child could be a victim of trafficking the CAF should stop and follow the procedures [in section 9](#) below.

9. Children at risk of or experiencing significant harm

9.1 Referral to LA Children's Social Work service team DART

- 9.1.1 See also the [Assessment Framework for trafficked children in appendix 8](#), the [Risk Assessment Matrix in appendix 9](#), and the [Quick guide to assessments and levels of intervention in appendix 10](#) (Level 3: Complex – LA Children's Social Work service assessments and Level 4: Acute – LA Children's Social Work service assessments).
- 9.1.2 If a professional is concerned that a child could be trafficked and/or at risk of significant harm, the professional should:
- Act promptly before the child goes missing;
 - Wherever possible, consult with their agency's nominated safeguarding children adviser, their manager and, if available, the local professional with specialist knowledge in relation to trafficked children (see [section 7. Local trafficked children lead](#)); and
 - If the threshold is met at level 4 for significant harm (see [appendix 10. Quick guide to assessments](#)), then a referral must be made to LA Children's Social Work service, in line with section 6. Referral and assessment and section 7. Child protection enquiries, in the Solihull [LSCB procedures](#)
 - Consideration should be given to best practice, Harrow Council have kindly given us permission to use their good practice guidance (See [Appendix 17](#) for the guidance)

Port authority professionals

- 9.1.3 An immigration professional who is concerned that a child may have been trafficked should act promptly, following UKBA guidance. The professional should contact LA Children's Social Work service and the police based in a local child abuse investigation unit (CAIU) by telephone, confirming the referral in writing (by fax wherever possible) within 48 hours (i.e. in line with the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.proceduresonline.com/solihull/lscb/>
- 9.1.4 Immigration professionals should also complete the [Trafficking assessment tool \(ACPO / CEOP\) in appendix 16](#) and send the last page only (Section K) of the completed assessment (ACPO / CEOP) to the UKHTC.

9.2 LA Children's Social Work service response

Referral and information gathering

See section 3.1.1 Referrals in the *Solihull LSCB Child Protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>)

- 9.2.1 The social worker should obtain as much information as possible from the referrer, including:

- The child's name, dob, address, name of carer, address if different, phone number, country of origin, home language and whether s/he speaks English, names of any siblings or other children;
- A description of the indicators and circumstances which have identified the child to the referrer as being at risk of or having been trafficked into or within the UK ;
- The social worker should verify that the child is living at the address as soon as possible;
- In the case of a referral from a school or education department, the list of documentation provided at admission should also be obtained;
- A Home Office check should be completed to clarify the status of the child/ren and the adult/s caring for them.

Action after the initial information gathering

9.2.2 See also the [Flowchart for safeguarding a trafficked child in appendix 12](#) for clarity about the child protection process once a referral has been made to LA Children's Social Work service.

9.2.3 On completion of the initial information gathering, the social worker discusses the referral with their supervising manager to agree and plan one of four responses:

- a) An initial assessment to decide whether:
 - i. appropriate arrangements for the child have been made by her/his parents (no further action)
 - ii. there are grounds to accommodate the child
 - iii. the child is in need of immediate protection
 - iv. section 47 enquiries should be initiated (See [section 9.2.18. s.47 enquiries, below](#))
- b) Accommodation of the child under s20 Children Act 1989 – there may be enough information at this stage to support a decision to accommodate the child. A child should be accommodated under s20 Children Act 1989 if:
 - i. The child is lost or abandoned
 - ii. There is no person with parental responsibility for the child
 - iii. The person who has been accommodating the child is prevented, for whatever reason, from providing suitable accommodation or care.

If there is reasonable cause to believe that the child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, the child can be accommodated on a voluntary basis or an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) may be sought. The police also have powers to remove a child, but these powers (PPO) should only be used in exceptional circumstances. If, for example, there is insufficient time to seek an EPO, or for reasons relating to the immediate safety of the child.

Emergency action addresses only the immediate circumstances of the child/ren, and should be followed quickly by section 47 enquiries;

- c) Instigation of child protection enquiries and a core assessment of need under s.47 Children Act 1989 (See [section 9.2.18. s.47 enquiries, below](#));
or
- d) No further action – if no concerns are identified, the social worker should advise the referrer within 24 hours.

- 9.2.4 The discussion between the social worker and their supervising manager after completion of the initial information gathering should be recorded, tasks outlined and signed off by the manager.
- 9.2.5 If further action is needed, consideration should be given to involvement of the police, education, health services, the referring agency and other relevant bodies (e.g. housing, the benefits agency and immigration services). Careful consideration should be given to the effect of any action on the outcome of any investigation.
- 9.2.6 In undertaking any assessment and all subsequent work with the child, the social worker must ensure that they use a suitable interpreter.
- 9.2.7 The social worker must speak with the referrer and arrange to meet if appropriate.
- 9.2.8 The social worker must check all documentation held by the referrer and other relevant agencies. Documentation should include, passport, Home Office papers, birth certificate, proof of guardianship. The list is not exhaustive and all avenues should be looked into.
- 9.2.9 When assessing paperwork / documentation, attention should be given to the detail. If a passport: when was it issued, how long is the visa for, does the picture resemble the child, is the name in the passport the same as the alleged mother/father (if not, why not?). When assessing documentation: does it appear original, take copies to ensure further checks can be made.
- 9.2.10 Once all papers have been checked, the social worker should clarify with the referrer what his/her concerns are again. Why they made the referral, what led them to believe the child may be trafficked or in the UK illegally etc.

Initial assessment

- 9.2.11 See sections 3.1.2 Initial assessment and Involving parents, *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at:
<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>
- 9.2.12 The initial assessment should be led by a qualified and experienced social worker. It should be carefully planned, with clarity about who is doing what, as well as when and what information is to be shared with the parents. The planning process and decisions about the timing of the different assessment activities should be undertaken in collaboration with all those involved with the child and family. The process of initial assessment should involve:
- Seeing and speaking to the child (according to their age and understanding) and family members as appropriate;
 - Drawing together and analysing available information from a range of sources (including existing records);
 - Involving and obtaining relevant information from professionals and others in contact with the child and family.

- 9.2.13 All relevant information (including historical information) should be taken into account. This includes seeking information from relevant services if the child and family have spent time abroad. Professionals from agencies such as health, LA Children's Social Work service or the police should request this information from their equivalent agencies in the country or countries in which the child has lived. See section 5.1.6 Accessing information from abroad in the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>.¹⁰
- 9.2.14 During the initial assessment, a social worker should check all the documentation held by the referrer and other relevant agencies. Documentation should include (if available), passport, Home Office papers, birth certificate and proof of guardianship. This list is not exhaustive and all possible types of documentation should be considered. A recent or new photograph of the child should be included in the social worker's file together with copies of all relevant identification documentation.
- 9.2.15 When assessing any documentation, attention should be given to the details. If a passport is being checked the official should:
- Verify the date of issue;
 - Check the length of the visa;
 - Check whether the picture resembles the child;
 - Check whether the name in the passport is the same as the alleged mother/father, and if not, why not; and
 - Check whether it appears to be original and take copies to ensure further checks can be made if necessary.
- 9.2.16 Immigration staff will be able to provide a clear explanation of the immigration process, different forms of documents and leave to enter the UK and an opinion on the validity of a document.
- 9.2.17 Even if there are no apparent concerns, child welfare agencies should continue to monitor the situation until a child is appropriately settled. The social worker should advise the referrer of their decision and the proposed plan. In each case of a child with immigration issues UKBA should be informed so that they can co-ordinate the immigration processes with the child's protection plan.

Strategy meeting / discussion as part of section 47 enquiries

- 9.2.18 See section 3.1.3 Strategy meeting / discussion in the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>

¹⁰ Information about who to contact can also be obtained via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 0207 008 1500

- 9.2.19 Once the relevant information has been gathered, the social worker and their supervising manager, together with the police, should decide whether to convene a strategy discussion.
- 9.2.20 LA Children's Social Work service must convene a strategy meeting within two working days of:
- The child becoming looked after; or
 - Arrival in the borough where they are intending to reside, if s.47 enquiries are appropriate.
- 9.2.21 The strategy meeting must:
- Share information – this should involve the Child Abuse Investigation Team, UKBA and the local police and any other relevant professionals;
 - Develop a strategy for making enquiries into the child's circumstances, including consideration of a video interview;
 - Develop a plan for the child's immediate protection, including the supervision and monitoring of arrangements (for looked after children this will form part of the care plan);
 - Agree what information can be given about the child to any enquirers; and
 - Agree what support the child requires.

Interview as part of section 47 enquiries

- 9.2.22 See sections 3.1.1 Immediate protection, Section 47 enquiry thresholds and the core assessment, in the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>
- 9.2.23 The decision to conduct a joint interview with the child and, if necessary, with the child's carers will have been taken at the strategy meeting. The interviews must be conducted in line with sections 3.1.4 Involving parents, family members and children and Visually recorded interviews / Achieving Best Evidence in the Solihull LSCB child protection procedures <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>.
- 9.2.24 Planning and undertaking the interview/s could involve the Child Abuse Investigation Team, the UKBA and/or the local police. It may be helpful to involve immigration officials in this decision-making as outstanding immigration concerns may need resolving. In the longer-term, information gathered at an interview might help to resolve the child's immigration status. Intelligence gathered from the interview may also be helpful in preventing other children being trafficked from overseas.
- 9.2.25 Professional interpreters, who have been approved and CRB checked, should be used where English is not the child's preferred language. Under no circumstances should the interpreter be the sponsor or another adult purporting to be a parent, guardian or relative. Every child should be given ample opportunity to disclose any worries away from the presence of the sponsor.
- 9.2.26 The interview should focus on the following areas:
- The child's family composition, brothers, sisters, ages;
 - The child's parents' employment;

- Tasks done around the house;
- Length of time in this country;
- Where they lived in their country of origin;
- Where they went to school in their country of origin;
- Who cared for them in their country of origin.

9.2.27 The adults in the family should be interviewed separately, covering the same areas. A comparison can then be made between the answers to ensure they match.

9.2.28 All documentation should be seen and checked. This includes Home Office documentation, passports, visas, utility bills, tenancy agreements and birth certificates. Particular attention should be given to the documentation presented to the school at point of admission. It is not acceptable to be told that the passport is missing or that the paperwork is missing. It is extremely unlikely that a person does not know where their paperwork / official documentation is kept and this information could be considered as an indicator the child may have been trafficked.

9.2.29 The interview should be conducted as fully and completely as possible, both to ensure accuracy and to avoid intrusion into the family for a longer period than is absolutely necessary.

9.2.30 On completion of the section 47 enquiries, a meeting should be held with the social worker, their supervising manager, the referring agency as appropriate, the police and any other professionals involved to decide on future action. Further action should not be taken until this meeting has been held and multi agency agreement obtained to the proposed plan unless emergency action is required.

9.2.31 Where it is found that the child is not a family member and is not related to any other person in this country, consideration should be given as to whether the child needs to be moved from the household and/or legal advice sought on making a separate application for immigration status.

9.2.32 Any law enforcement action regarding fraud, trafficking, deception and illegal entry to this country is the remit of the police. The local authority should assist in any way possible. However, the responsibility for taking legal action usually remains with the criminal justice agencies (exceptions include benefit fraud which is the responsibility of the Department of Work and Pensions).

9.3 Issues for professionals to consider when working with trafficked children

9.3.1 The following services are likely to be necessary to address the child's needs:

- Appropriately trained and CRB checked independent interpreters;
- Counselling;
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS);
- Independent legal advice for the child;
- Medical services;
- Sexual health services;
- Education;

- Family tracing and contact (unless it is not consistent with their welfare);
- 9.3.2 They will also need:
- Professionals to be informed and competent in matters relating to trafficking and exploitation;
 - Someone to spend time with them to build up a level of trust;
 - To be interviewed separately. Children will usually stick to their account and not speak until they feel comfortable;
 - A safe placement if they are victims of an organised trafficking operation;
 - Their whereabouts to be kept confidential;
 - Legal advice about their rights and immigration status. Professionals should make every effort to assist children to benefit from independent legal advice from a solicitor with experience in child trafficking;
 - Discretion and caution to be used in tracing their families;
 - A risk assessment to be made of the danger the child will face if he or she is repatriated and consideration of the issues around repatriation;
 - Where appropriate, accommodation under section 20 of the children act 1989 or on application for an interim care order.
- 9.3.3 Professionals should:
- Consider interviewing children in school as they may feel more able to talk;
 - Consider the most appropriate communication methods of talking to children.
 - Ensure that carers are not in the proximity;
 - Ensure that interpreters are agency approved and are CRB checked.

Supporting child witnesses

- 9.3.4 Assessing the willingness and capacity of a child victim to testify in court against a trafficker is complicated. This also applies to the process of gathering information that might support care proceedings. Like victims of domestic abuse, the child usually fears reprisal from the traffickers and/or the adults with whom he or she was living in the UK if they co-operate with LA Children's Social Work service or the police. For children trafficked from abroad an additional level of anxiety may exist because of fear of reprisals against their family in their home country. They may also fear being deported, having entered the UK illegally. Children who might agree to testify in a criminal case, fear that they will be discredited in court because they were coerced into lying on their visa applications or immigration papers. No child should be coerced into testifying in court against a trafficker.

Returning trafficked children to their country of origin

- 9.3.5 In many cases, and with advice from their lawyers, trafficked children apply to the UKBA for asylum or for humanitarian protection. This is often because of the high

risk they face of coming to harm if they are forced to return to their countries of origin. All such claims must be carefully considered. Among the factors to consider if the child is deported is the risk of him or her being re-trafficked with the possibility of further exploitation and abuse. When considering the child's application it will be important to gather information about the child's family, community and general conditions in the country of origin.

- 9.3.6 If the child does not qualify for asylum or humanitarian protection, and adequate reception arrangements are in place in the country of origin, the child will usually have to return. The process of returning the child should be handled sensitively and will require close co-operation between the UKBA and the child's social worker.
- 9.3.7 It is important that appropriate steps are taken to minimise the possibility of the child going missing once a decision to return him or her to their country of origin has been made. Equally, the social worker may be best placed to reconcile the child to being returned, and in helping the child access the assistance with reintegration which is available through voluntary return schemes (which are always the preferred way of carrying out any return to the child's country of origin).

Potential prosecution of traffickers

- 9.3.8 Whether or not an alleged trafficker is being prosecuted may be of relevance but the decision to identify a victim (either preliminary or conclusively) is not dependent on a conviction of the perpetrators, or on whether or not the victim cooperates in the criminal proceedings.
- 9.3.9 Decision makers need to be aware that any deliberations that are made will be subject to rules of disclosure in any subsequent prosecution for trafficking. Where an individual is being treated by the police as a potential witness, regardless of whether they are likely to be found to be victims or not, case owners should ensure lines of communication with the Senior Investigating Officer are kept open. The decision as to whether someone is a victim or not is for the Competent Authority to make but officers must be alert to the impact that the decision may have not only on the victim but other stakeholders in the criminal justice process.

10. Particularly vulnerable groups of children

10.1 Inter-country adoption

- 10.1.1 In some instances children may be trafficked for the purposes of adoption outside their country of origin. Those involved in facilitating these arrangements may deceive the authorities responsible for the adoption process, and often benefit from significant financial gain through payments by prospective adopters who may be unaware of the true circumstances of a child's availability for adoption. This can include payment, coercion or the deception of birth parents into relinquishing a child as well as abducting children.
- 10.1.2 The UK Government allows inter-country adoption to take place if it is in the child's best interests and in accordance with the principles of international law, and where safeguards and standards equivalent to those which apply in domestic adoption are applied to protect the welfare of the child. At no point should profit be made from the process.

10.1.3 Professionals who suspect that a child may have been trafficked for the purposes of adoption are encouraged to notify the police and may wish to refer to the *Statutory Guidance for the Adoption and Children Act 2002 26 (2005)*.

10.2 Private fostering

10.2.1 Private fostering is defined in *section 66 of the Children Act 1989*. A private fostering arrangement arises when a child under 16 years (or under 18 if disabled) is to reside for more than 28 days in the care of someone who is not a parent, close relative, or someone with parental responsibility (these close relatives are defined by the Act as grandparents, brother, sister, uncle or aunt whether of the full blood or half blood or by marriage or civil partnership or step-parent).

10.2.2 Parents and private foster carers are required to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement. A person who proposes to foster a child privately must notify the appropriate local authority of the proposal at least six weeks before the private fostering arrangement is to begin; or where the private fostering arrangement is to begin within six weeks, immediately.

10.2.3 Many private fostering arrangements are not notified to the local authority for a variety of reasons, not all of them associated with a risk of serious harm. Identifying a child who is privately fostered is not the same as identifying a child who has been trafficked. Nevertheless, some children in private fostering arrangements are vulnerable to being exploited in domestic servitude, other forms of forced labour, or even to sexual exploitation. It is difficult for professionals to identify these children and, therefore, to track their movements and hence monitor their welfare. However, it is important to consider whether a carer, whether or not they present as a relative, is maintaining a private fostering arrangement in order to exploit a child for their own gain.

10.2.4 Staff or volunteers in an agency who believe that a child may be privately fostered, whether or not they have suspicions or concerns about trafficking or other forms of abuse, should contact LA Children's Social Work service. Local authorities have the following statutory duties in relation to private fostering:

- Identify private fostering arrangements;
- Visit the home and assess the suitability of the arrangement in terms of the child's welfare; and
- Visit the child regularly, and monitor and keep records of the placement.

10.2.5 Such enquiries should help professionals be alert to signs that the child is being exploited.

10.2.6 Local authorities are required to raise awareness within their local communities of the obligations to notify them about a private fostering arrangement (*paragraph 7a of section 8 of the Children Act 1989 inserted by section 44(7) of the Children Act 2004*) and to ensure that staff and volunteers in all agencies encourage such notifications.

10.3 Trafficked children who are looked after

10.3.1 A child who may be at risk from, or has been, trafficked, may be accommodated after initial information gathering (see [section 9.2.1](#)). In these circumstances, LA Children's Social Work service will care for the child as a looked after child. The child will have a care plan (which becomes the pathway plan when s/he turns 16 and s/he

will be entitled to care leaving support) based on a thorough needs assessment outlining how the local authority proposes to meet their needs.

- 10.3.2 The assessment of needs to inform the care plan should cover the same dimensions of need as the assessment for any other looked after child. However in addition, for children who may have been trafficked, the assessment should include:
- Establishing relevant information about the child's background;
 - Understanding the reasons the child has come to the UK; and
 - Assessing the child's vulnerability to the continuing influence / control of his or her traffickers.
- 10.3.3 Responding to this information ensures that the care plan includes a risk assessment setting out how the local authority intends to safeguard the young person so that, as far as possible, they can be protected from any trafficker to minimise any risk of traffickers being able to re-involve a child in exploitative activities. This plan should include contingency plans to be followed if the young person goes missing.
- 10.3.4 Given the circumstances in which potentially trafficked young people present to local authorities it will be extremely important that any needs assessments and related risk assessments are sensitively managed. It should allow for the child's needs to be met in a safe place before any assessment takes place and for the possibility that they may not be able to disclose full information about their circumstances immediately as they, or their families, may have been intimidated by traffickers.
- 10.3.5 Therefore, it will be important that:
- The location of the child should not be divulged to any enquirers until they have been interviewed by a social worker and their identity and relationship / connection with the child established, if necessary with the help of police and immigration services.
 - Foster carers / residential workers should be vigilant about anything unusual (e.g. waiting cars outside the premises and telephone enquiries).
 - LA Children's Social Work service should continue to share information with the police. Further information may emerge during the placement of a looked after child who may have been trafficked and concern potential crimes against the child, the risk to other children, or relevant immigration matters.
- 10.3.6 Where adults present in this country claim a family connection to the child, then the local authority should take steps to verify the relationship between the child and these adults and exercise due caution in case they are a trafficker or a relative colluding with trafficking or exploitation of the child.
- 10.3.7 Anyone approaching the local authority and claiming to be a potential carer, friend, member of the family etc, of the child, should be investigated by the local authority, the police and UKBA. Normal procedures for re-uniting a child with their family should be followed. Where a child may have been trafficked it will be necessary to ensure that a risk assessment takes place prior to reunification – establishing that the adult concerned is who they say they are and is able to keep the child safe and exercise responsibility for their care.

- 10.3.8 It is important that no assumptions are made about young people's language skills and that assessments can call on the services of impartial translators with the necessary competences in responding to children.
- 10.3.9 The local authority responsible for the child should try to identify, locate and make contact with the child's parents in the country of origin, to seek their views. UKBA may be able to help with this, see also section 5.16 Accessing information from abroad in the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>¹¹

10.4 Missing children

- 10.4.1 Research from ECPAT and CEOP (see [appendix 5 for more information and contact details](#)) suggests that significant numbers of children who are categorised as unaccompanied asylum seeking children have also been trafficked. Some of these children go missing (back into the 'care and control' of the traffickers) before being properly identified as victims of trafficking. Such cases should be urgently reported to the police.
- 10.4.2 Local authorities should consider seriously the risk that a trafficked child is likely to go missing and take this into account in planning that child's care. All placements should be given a copy of this guidance. A contingency plan could include contact details of agencies that should be notified if a potentially trafficked young person goes missing including the police and the UKBA. Where there are concerns that a trafficked child has been moved to elsewhere in the country away from their care placement, then it may be helpful to contact Missing People (see [appendix 5 for more information and contact details](#)).
- 10.4.3 Missing People have a team that offers support to local authorities when young people in their care go missing and this service can advise on issues such as contact with other police forces and national publicity.
- 10.4.4 When the police receive the notification of a missing child they should follow the following guidance: *The Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons*.
- 10.4.5 The guidance sets out that:
- Every missing persons report should be assessed to identify the level of risk (high, medium or low) to the missing person;
 - The response should be appropriate to the level of risk;
 - The risk assessment should be continuously reviewed; and
 - Children who go missing from care are vulnerable and the level of risk does not diminish because of frequency of absence.
- 10.4.6 Where missing children come to the attention of LA Children's Social Work service or the police, a 24 hour enquiry service available from the UKHTC may help in providing guidance. The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Help Line can offer support (see [appendix 5 for more information and contact details](#)).

¹¹ Information about who to contact can also be obtained via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 0207 008 1500

- 10.4.7 If a child does go missing, professionals should follow the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>.
- 10.4.8 All local authorities should appoint a designated senior manager with responsibility for monitoring missing from care incidents, so that trends can be identified and action taken in conjunction with the LSCB to respond to the problem. Trends should also be shared with the LSCB. The designated senior manager has the potential to take an important strategic role in safeguarding children who may have been trafficked, identifying whether there are any particular patterns of children (such as unaccompanied asylum seeking children) going missing that could provide evidence suggesting that young people are being trafficked, which might be used by a local authority to inform their analysis as to how they might better safeguard these children.
- 10.4.9 As it is recognised that children who go missing shortly after Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) screening may have been trafficked, immigration staff should follow the agreed process to inform the appropriate authorities.

11. Information sharing

- 11.1 Professionals in all agencies should be confident and competent in sharing information in line with section 1. Information sharing, in the *Solihull LSCB Child protection Procedures* which can be accessed at <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/StaysafeProcedures>
- 11.2 Professionals should make all efforts to share information, where appropriate, with other professionals to avoid repeated questioning of children.
- 11.3 Where a professional suspects that a child may have been trafficked and/or is at risk of being trafficked, discussing concerns with the child and his/her family or carer and seeking consent to share information will place the child at increased risk of significant harm. **Consent should therefore not be sought.**
- 11.4 Professionals should talk to their agency's nominated child protection adviser, if possible, and share information with (make a referral to) LA Children's Social Work service in line with [section 9. Children at risk of / or experiencing significant harm](#).
- 11.5 All agencies are empowered to share information without permission for the purpose of crime prevention under section 115 of the *Crime and Disorder Act 1998*.

12. Role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards

- 12.1 The objective of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) is to co-ordinate what is done by their members to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the local area and to ensure the effectiveness of that work. That includes addressing trafficking as well as other forms of maltreatment.
- 12.2 **Mapping need:** LSCBs should consider whether children are being trafficked into or out of their local area. Where necessary, LSCBs should undertake investigations to identify what may be a hidden problem as part of the local needs assessment and,

as appropriate, take action to address this an explicit part of the LSCB business plan (which may in turn be part of the Children and Young People's Plan).

- 12.3 **Promoting prevention:** LSCBs should maintain close links with community groups and have a strategy in place for promoting awareness within the local community of the possibility that children are trafficked and exploited, and how to raise a concern. The LSCB may publicise sources of help for child victims and information fro the public.
- 12.4 **This Guidance:** LSCBs should adopt this Guidance as a means of supporting the professionals in all the agencies and the community in their local area, to identify and respond appropriately to safeguard children who are or are at risk of being trafficked.
- 12.5 **LSCB sub-group:** LSCBs may establish a sub-group specifically to deal with trafficking issues (see [appendix 3. LSCB trafficked children sub-group –Terms of Reference](#)).
- 12.6 LSCBs should also ensure that local training programmes cover trafficking issues as required, either as part of safeguarding training or as additional training.

Appendix 1 - Policy and legislation¹²

International

1.1 International agreements and legal instruments relevant to trafficked and exploited children include:

- The **Palermo Protocol** to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime to the UN Convention (2000) (ratified by the UK on 6 February 2006). Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol defines trafficking as:
 - (a) “Trafficking of persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat of 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 achieve 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 subparagraph (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 sub-paragraph (a) of this article
 - (d) “Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.
- **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)**. Article 10 of the Council of Europe Convention comments on age as follows:
 - (3) When the age of the victim is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the victim is a child, he or she shall be presumed to be a child and shall be accorded special protection measures pending verification of his/her age.

The official explanatory notes to the Convention state that the point of paragraph 3 is that, while children need special protection measures, it is sometimes difficult to determine whether someone is over or under 18. Paragraph 3 consequently requires Parties to presume that a victim is a child if there are reasons for believing that to be so and if there is uncertainty about their age. Until their age is verified, they must be given special protection measures, in accordance with their rights as defined, in particular, in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- The **Yokohama Global Commitment** agreed at the Second World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Yokohama, 2001).

¹² Extracted from *Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked* (DCSF, 2007). See: <http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=HMG-00994-2007>

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (United Nations, 1989), its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000) and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement on Children in Armed Conflict (2000).
 - The **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons**, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (2000).
 - **International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 182** concerning the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2000).
 - The **Declaration and Agenda for Action agreed at the First World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children** (Stockholm, 1996).
- 1.2 In 2000 trafficking became enshrined in international law for the first time through the Palermo Protocol within the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Protocol defines trafficking as:
- “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 [elsewhere in the Palermo Protocol]”*
- UK**
- 1.3 UK Legislation and guidance relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:
- The Children Acts 1989 and 2004.
 - The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.
 - The Sexual Offences Act 2003.
 - The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.
 - Adoption and Children Act 2002.
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006) and its supplementaries.
 - The UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking (2007).
- 1.4 The UK Borders Act 2007 requires the Secretary of State to publish a Code of Practice, *Keeping children safe from harm*, which UKBA officials are required to have regard to when dealing with children in the UK identified as being at risk of harm.
- 1.5 The UK Borders Act 2002 will enhance current trafficking legislation in two ways. Firstly it ensures that acts of trafficking aimed at the UK and carried out overseas, irrespective of the nationality of the offender, will be liable to prosecution. Secondly, it ensures that any acts to traffic an individual which are committed after the individual has arrived in the UK but before they have passed through passport control will be liable to prosecution (for example, providing a child with a false passport after they have disembarked from the aircraft).
- 1.6 The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004, introduced wide ranging offences covering trafficking into, out of, or within the UK for any form of sexual offence. These carry a 14 year maximum penalty. An offence of ‘trafficking for exploitation’, which covers non-sexual exploitation, including trafficking for forced labour and the removal of organs, was included in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

- 1.7 The trafficking of children is included under the trafficking offences contained in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004. In addition, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced new offences of abuse of children through sexual exploitation and pornography which aim to protect children under the age of 18. These cover a range of offences, including paying for the sexual services of a child, for which the penalty ranges from seven years to life depending on the age of the child; and causing, facilitating or controlling the commercial sexual exploitation of a child in prostitution or pornography, for which the maximum penalty will be 14 years imprisonment.
- 1.8 The offences of people trafficking and of prostitution and child sex are included as lifestyle offences under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, which means that a conviction for these offences may be followed by an order for the payment of the proceeds of those crimes and assets may be seized. The Director of the Assets Recovery Agency also has powers to recover property obtained through unlawful conduct, even if that conduct took place abroad and even if there has not been a criminal prosecution.

Relevant provisions of UK legislation

Children Act 1989, Section 17

1.9 A child is defined as 'in need' by Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 if:

- S/he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him/her of services; or
- His/her health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him/her of such services; or
- S/he is disabled.

Children Act 1989, Section 20

1.10 Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who appears to them to require accommodation as a result of:

- There being no person who has parental responsibility for him; or
- His/her being lost or having been abandoned; or
- The person who has been caring for him/her being prevented (whether or not permanently and for whatever reason) from providing him with suitable accommodation or care.

1.11 Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who has reached the age of 16 and whose welfare the authority consider is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide him with accommodation.

Children Act 1989, Section 47

1.12 Where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, the authority shall make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as they consider necessary to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

1.13 'Harm' is defined as:

- Ill treatment, which includes sexual abuse, physical abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical, for example, emotional abuse;
 - Impairment of health (physical or mental); or
 - Impairment of development (physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural).
- 1.14 This may include seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another (section 31 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002).

Children Act 1989, Section 67 Private Fostering

- 1.15 Under section 67 of the Children Act 1989 a local authority is under a duty to satisfy itself that the welfare of children who are privately fostered within their area is being satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted and to ensure that such advice is given to those caring for them as appears to the authority to be needed.
- 1.16 A privately fostered child means a child who is under the age of 16 (18 if disabled) and who is cared for, and provided with accommodation in their own home by, someone other than:
- A parent;
 - A person who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him; or
 - A relative.
- 1.17 A child is not a privately fostered child if the person caring for and accommodating him:
- Has done so for a period of less than 28 days; and
 - Does not intend to do so for any longer period.
- 1.18 A child is not a privately fostered child while:
- He is being looked after by a local authority;
 - He is in the care of any person in premises in which any parent of his; person who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him; or person who is a relative of his and who has assumed responsibility for his care, is for the time being living:
 - i. in accommodation provided by or on behalf of any voluntary organisation;
 - ii. in any school in which he is receiving full-time education;
 - iii. in any health service hospital;
 - iv. in any care home or independent hospital;
 - v. in any home or institution not specified above but provided, equipped and maintained by the Secretary of State; or
 - vi. in the care of any person in compliance with an order under section 63(1) of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000; or a supervision requirement within the meaning of Part II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995;
 - He is liable to be detained, or subject to guardianship, under the Mental Health Act 1983; or
 - He is placed in the care of a person who proposes to adopt him under arrangements made by an adoption agency or he is a protected child.

- 1.19 A child who is a pupil at a school, and lives at the school during the holidays for more than two weeks, is under 16 and none of the above exemptions apply is regarded as a privately fostered child during that time.
- 1.20 The usual fostering limit applies to private fostering.
- 1.21 A carer, who is disqualified from being a private foster carer or who lives with someone else who is disqualified, cannot privately foster without the consent of the local authority. There is a right of appeal against the refusal of consent.
- 1.22 A local authority is empowered to prohibit a carer from being a private foster carer if they are of the opinion that:
- the carer is not a suitable person to foster a child;
 - the premises in which the child is, or will be accommodated, are not suitable; or
 - it would be prejudicial to the welfare of the child to be, or continue to be, accommodated by that carer in those premises.
- 1.23 A prohibition may prevent the carer fostering anywhere in the area, restrict fostering to specific premises, or restrict fostering a particular child in those premises. There is a right of appeal against the imposition of a condition.
- 1.24 The local authority may also impose requirements on a carer affecting:
- The number, age and sex of the children to be fostered;
 - The standard of accommodation and equipment;
 - Health and safety arrangements; and/or
 - Specific arrangements for the children to be fostered.
- 1.25 The local authority must be given notice of the placement by both the parent and the carer and any other person involved in its arrangement.
- 1.26 The local authority must be satisfied as to the suitability of each arrangement notified to it.
- 1.27 Regulations prescribe the frequency that a privately fostered child must be visited.
- 1.28 Where a local authority is not satisfied that the welfare of a privately fostered child is being satisfactorily safeguarded or promoted it must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure the care of the child is undertaken by a parent, a holder of parental responsibility, or a relative (unless not in the interests of the child to do so) and consider exercising its functions under the Children Act 1989.

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, Section 54

- 1.29 Section 54 is intended to discourage the concept of 'benefit shopping' within Europe. It is retrospective and applies to anyone who comes within the categories set out below. This is not dependent on the length of time they have been in the UK.
- 1.30 The Act has the effect of preventing local authorities from providing support under certain provisions, including section 21 of the National Assistance Act and section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to:
- Those with refugee status in another European Economic Area state.

- Persons unlawfully present in the UK who are not asylum seekers, including those who have overstayed visa entry limit and those without confirmation of leave to remain.
 - Failed asylum seekers who refuse to co-operate with removal directions.
- 1.31 The Act does not, however, prevent the provision of support to children, or the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty to prevent a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights or rights under the European Community treaties.

Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, Section 55

- 1.32 Section 55 applies to those who have made or are intending to make an asylum claim in the UK. It prevents UKBA from providing asylum support, and local authorities from providing certain support, unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the person applied for asylum as soon as reasonably practicable after arrival in the UK. The section does not prevent the provision of asylum support to families with dependent children, nor does it prevent the provision of support by the Secretary of State (via UKBA) to prevent a breach of human rights.
- 1.33 Section 55 does not apply to unaccompanied minors.
- 1.34 Families with minor dependents and vulnerable cases who have not yet officially lodged an asylum claim can be offered assistance with accommodation (usually overnight) and travel to a UKBA Asylum Screening Unit by social services in order to register the claim with the Home Office. Families can access asylum support via the voluntary grant funded One Stop Service once UKBA has accepted the claim and provided written confirmation of this.

Parental Responsibility

- 1.35 The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of 'parental responsibility', which means all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property. This legal framework provides the starting point for considering who has established rights, responsibility and duties towards a child.
- 1.36 A child whose parents' whereabouts are not known has no access to parents for consent when making important choices about their life. Whilst the parents still have parental responsibility, they have no way of exercising it.
- 1.37 Children who do not have someone with parental responsibility caring for them can still attend schools, which are normally pragmatic in allowing the carer to make most decisions normally made by the parent.
- 1.38 A child in this position is entitled to health care and has a right to be registered with a GP. If there are difficulties in accessing a GP, the local Patient's Services will assist. Emergency life-saving treatment will be given if required, however, should the child need medical treatment such as surgery or invasive treatment in a non life-threatening situation, the need for consent would become an issue and legal advice would be required.
- 1.39 A main route for a carer to obtain parental responsibility is through obtaining a Residence Order, however, an adult whose immigration status is unresolved cannot apply for a Residence Order.

Appendix 2 - Glossary and acronyms

Glossary

Child	Children 0 to 17 years and adolescents up to their 18th birthday
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	The <i>CAF</i> is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It can be used by practitioners across children's services in England. The CAF is intended to provide a simple process for a holistic assessment of a child's needs and strengths, taking account of the role of parents, carers and environmental factors on their development.
Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families	The <i>Assessment Framework</i> is a systematic way for professionals to assess a child's needs and whether s/he is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, what actions must be taken and which services would best meet the needs of the child and family. All professionals should be competent to contribute to an assessment, which is usually led by LA Children's Social Work service under the Children Act 1989 .
Nominated safeguarding children adviser	The person in each agency who has responsibility for child protection issues in that agency and provides child protection advice to frontline professionals / clinicians, e.g. child protection lead in schools, designated and named doctors and nurses etc.
Parent	Parent or carer
Professional / staff / staff member	Any individual/s working in a voluntary, employed, professional or unqualified capacity, including foster carers and approved adopters.

Acronyms

ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
ARC	Application Registration Card
ASUs	Asylum Screening Units
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAIU	Child Abuse Investigation Unit
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre
CTN	Coming To Notice
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau

CROP	Coalition for the Removal of Pimping
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DART	Duty Assessment and Referral Team
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
DoH	Department of Health
EDT	Emergency Duty Team
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children
GUM	Genito-Urinary Medicine
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LAC	Looked After Child(ren)
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NASS	National Asylum Support Services
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
NRUC	National Register for Unaccompanied Children
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
UAS	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child(ren)
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UKBA	UK Borders Agency
UKHTC	United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Appendix 3 - LSCB Trafficked Children Sub-group

Terms of Reference of Solihull Trafficking sub group

- To work towards an integrated strategy to identify and address child trafficking
- To support young people in identifying themselves as trafficked children
- To raise awareness and encourage the reporting of concerns about trafficked children and those perpetrating this crime
- To promote interagency and community participation in tackling child trafficking
- To develop mechanisms to collate intelligence by the Children and Young People's Services and the Police
- To share information to trace children who have 'disappeared'.
- To support / provide training to professionals, families and community groups to understand the profile of trafficked children and of their needs
- To combine expertise to act as a point of authority and reference in matters associated with child trafficking and exploitation
- To establish links with local, national and international services and agencies to facilitate the protection of children who may be at risk from trafficking and exploitation
- To undertake any other activities, as deemed necessary to work towards the aim of preventing and addressing child trafficking in Solihull
- To establish a referral mapping process incorporating all levels of child trafficking

Thanks to Islington & Haringey Safeguarding Children Boards for the use of their Terms of Reference

Appendix 4 - Multi-agency Training Matrix

UK BORDER AGENCY	LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARDS	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	LAW ENFORCEMENT	HOUSING	HEALTH	COMMUNITY GROUPS
<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Child Trafficking awareness Child Trafficking Interviews engaging with children Victim Identification completing the relevant sections of the child trafficking victim assessment tool Referral Pathways Police and Social Care, Health, NGO, UKHTC The Statutory Social Care response including Private Fostering UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities Role of competent authorities Reunification & resettlement safe and secure process to avoid re-trafficking 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in victim identification and referral Multi-agency approach to identify victims and support, safety and care planning How & Why children are trafficked UK nationals, EU and Non-EU nationals Health Impact on victims Trafficking profiles UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities incumbent on all agencies Local Referral Pathways Children Social Care, Police/Youth Offending Teams/ CPS/ Education, Health, UKBA, UKHTC, Primary Care Trust, Education Training Advice and Guidance for Foster carers 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in referrals to Duty teams Victim Identification Using the child trafficking victim identification assessment tool. UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities Care needs of trafficked children Safety Planning, including safe placements Reunification & resettlement safe and secure process to avoid re-trafficking Training Advice and Guidance for Foster carers Referral Pathways Health, UKHTC, UKBA, NGO Reunification & resettlement safe and secure process to avoid re-trafficking 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Victim Identification completing the relevant sections of the child trafficking victim assessment tool UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities incumbent on Children Social Care and UKBA, Referral Pathways Children Social Care Social Care, Health NGO, UKHTC 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in victim identification and referral Multi-agency approach to identify victims and support, safety and care planning How & Why children are trafficked UK nationals, EU and Non-EU nationals Health Impact on victims Trafficking profiles UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities incumbent on all agencies Victim Identification Using the child trafficking victim identification assessment tool. 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Role of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in referrals to Duty teams Victim Identification Using the child trafficking victim identification assessment tool. UK & International Child Trafficking Law & statutory responsibilities Care needs of trafficked children Safety Planning, including safe placements Reunification & resettlement safe and secure process to avoid re-trafficking Referral Pathways Health, Sexual Health, UKHTC, UKBA, NGO Health / SRE / substance misuse / Advice and Guidance for victims and Foster Carers 	<p>TRAINING PROGRAMME CONTENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information on Victim identification Trafficking profiles Health impact on victims Accessing support agencies The law How to inform Local Children Services Health, Education, and Police and why

Appendix 5 - Role of specific agencies and services

A. Statutory services

1. LA Children's Social Work service

1.1 LA Children's Social Work service has a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in need in their area, regardless of their immigration status. They have responsibilities for unaccompanied children, as well as those who arrive in the UK with their parents and for whom there are concerns regarding their safety and welfare.

1.2 See [section 9.2 of this Guidance](#) for LA Children's Social Work service duties to undertake an initial assessment and, where appropriate, section 47 enquiries.

2. Local authority UASC team

2.1 Solihull local authority has an UASC team who has responsibility for unaccompanied young people.

3. Local authority children missing education team

3.1 In England local authorities have a statutory duty to identify children missing from education ([Statutory Guidance for local authorities in England to identify children not receiving education \(DCSF, 2007\)](#))¹³. The named contact or team responsible for identifying children missing from education is the CME team based in the Council office and referrals should be made to the 'Children Missing Education Officer'

4. Education services

4.1 Children trafficked into the country may be registered at a school for a term or longer, before being moved to another part of the UK or abroad. This pattern of registration and de-registration may be an indicator that a child has been trafficked. It has been identified as a particular concern in schools which are situated near ports of entry, but professionals should be alert to this possibility in all schools. However, professionals should always bear in mind that not all children who go missing from education have been victims of trafficking. For example, there may be instances of children from communities that move around – Gypsy, Roma, traveller or migrant families – who collectively go missing from school.

4.2 If a member of the school staff suspects that a child may have been trafficked they should act immediately to inform the senior member of staff with designated responsibility for child protection and ensure that police or LA Children's Social Work service are contacted immediately

5. Health services

5.1 Trafficked children may be seen at the full range of health settings – Accident & Emergency services, Walk-in Centres, minor injury units, Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics, sexual health services, community contraceptive services, GPs, primary care trusts and by school

¹³ See: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/

nurses. Professionals should be alert to potential signs of abuse and trafficking including inconsistencies in addresses, any deliberate vagueness with children or carers being unable to give details of next of kin, names, telephone numbers or other personal details.

- 5.2 When children or their carers give addresses in other countries, stating that the child is resident outside of the UK, reception staff should always record the current holiday address as well as their home address abroad. Staff should be alert to local holiday addresses, in case patterns emerge that suggest large numbers of children are moving in and out of the same address.
- 5.3 Health visitors and senior nurses who may follow up visits to Accident & Emergency and Walk-in Centres and doctors who provide statutory health checks and reviews on looked after children, should also be alert to child trafficking concerns.

6. Youth offending service

- 6.1 Staff working in Youth Offending Service (YOS) may encounter trafficked children who have been charged with criminal offences, such as when involved in cannabis farms or pick-pocketing.
- 6.2 A child's reluctance to disclose the real circumstances in which s/he arrived in the country will have implications for a number of youth criminal justice processes. Parenting and carer assessments may be difficult as adults presenting as carers may be implicated in the trafficking process and would not be acting in the best interests of the child. In addition, age verification processes may have to be put in place.
- 6.3 If a YOS professional suspects a child may have been trafficked, safeguarding procedures should be followed immediately, and the LA Children's Social Work service and police should be contacted.

7. Police

- 7.1 Under section 46 of the Children Act 1989, when the police are concerned that unless they take action the child is likely to suffer significant harm, they may use their powers to either remove a child to a safe place or prevent the child's removal from a safe place, for example a hospital. Across the UK there are a number of specialist teams, which are separate from the child abuse investigation teams that have expertise in dealing with trafficking cases. There are also joint intelligence teams in key locations across the country comprising immigration, police and other agencies which help to identify child protection concerns. Police services should take all necessary steps to ensure that children at risk of being trafficked do not fall through the gap between operational teams and that there is a co-ordinated response between agencies.
- 7.2 Birmingham International Airport is situated within the Borough of Solihull. There is no dedicated child trafficking team within the airport facility, however there is a permanent team of uniform police officers based at the airport.
- 7.3 It is important that officers investigating offences committed by children who may have been trafficked are able to recognise and identify such cases. The child's welfare needs and safety should be taken into account on every occasion and appropriate safeguarding processes followed.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued guidance to all police services to this effect, and an overview of trafficking into the UK and ways of preventing it is also available on the Home Office crime reduction website.

8. Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

- 8.1 The *Code for Crown Prosecutors*¹⁴ issued by the CPS gives policy guidance on prosecuting cases involving children as victims and witnesses of crime and, in appropriate circumstances, as defendants. It sets out CPS policy to guide prosecutors in ensuring that when they are dealing with cases involving children, the child is given appropriate support and there is consideration as to what is best for the child if a criminal prosecution proceeds.
- 8.2 There are specific provisions in the Code to ensure that young people are not inappropriately criminalised. Paragraphs 8.8 and 8.9 of the Code require the Crown prosecutor to consider the interests of a child or youth when deciding whether it is in the public interest to prosecute. Cases involving children are usually only referred to the CPS for prosecution if the child has already received a reprimand and final warning. Reprimands and final warnings are intended to prevent re-offending.
- 8.3 The use of a child in a criminal enterprise is a form of child abuse. A child who is forced into sexual exploitation will be treated by the CPS as an abused child and a victim who needs help, rather than as a defendant. The same consideration will be given to those who are coerced into committing crimes or used by adults to commit offences. The CPS will prosecute people who organise sexual exploitation and who benefit financially from abusing children.
- 8.4 More detailed guidance to prosecutors expands on these provisions. In cases where there is evidence that a young person has committed an offence whilst in a coerced situation, for example when they have been trafficked, the prosecutor will have to consider whether or not the coercion amounts to a defence of duress. Where it does not amount to a defence and there is sufficient evidence for a prosecution, the prosecutor will consider the circumstances of the young person when deciding whether or not it is in the public interest to bring a prosecution.

9. UK Border Agency (UKBA)

- 9.1 UKBA is an executive agency of the Home Office and its primary duties include maintaining a secure UK border and ensuring controlled, fair migration that protects the public.
- 9.2 Immigration officers identify children from abroad who may be at risk of being trafficked and they may be the first officials in the UK to have contact with child victims of trafficking. UKBA's suspicions may be triggered by the particular circumstances of the case or by international intelligence about trafficking.
- 9.3 The immigration officer's role, alongside considering the eligibility of the child for entry into the UK, is to be alert to the need to keep children safe from harm. The priority is to safeguard any child where a UKBA officer identifies a concern. An immediate referral to the local authority Police or

Children's Services, will be made via telephone and in writing on the UKBA child welfare referral form. This form is used for all referrals to Children's Services including possible victims of trafficking.

- 9.4 Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Secretary and the Director of Border Revenue to make arrangements to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The duty came into force on 2 November 2009 and is accompanied by statutory guidance. Section 55 of the BCI 2009 brings UKBA into line with the police, probation service and other public bodies who have a similar duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
- 9.5 From 1 April 2009 the UK has been bound by the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings. In line with this UKBA identifies victims of trafficking, refers cases for support and contributes to investigations against traffickers. Under this Convention, UKBA along with the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is a 'competent authority'. UKBA has trained case owners in the regions or specialised business areas, such as the Operational Support and Certification Unit (OSCU) and Third Country Unit (TCU) On receiving a copy of the UKBA child welfare referral form, which will indicate the child maybe a victim of trafficking, the trained 'competent authority' staff will begin the process to decide if there are reasonable and conclusive grounds that the individual child is a victim of trafficking. This decision will be made with input from the Local Authority social work assessment.
- 9.6 Applications for immigration status made on behalf of children may give rise to concerns that they are victims of trafficking. UKBA case owners will not only be a source of referral and information to Children's Services or the police but may assist with developing child protection and care plans.
- 9.7 When working with children, officers should operate in accordance with section 55 of the BCI 2009. UKBA should ensure that immigration processes and decisions made in respect of children take into account their individual situation, views and welfare. When an interview is considered necessary, every care should be taken to conduct it in the light of the child's circumstances and understanding. In most circumstances the interview will be conducted by a specially trained officer with knowledge of child protection issues.
- 9.8 In addition, when a child is interviewed every effort is made to identify sponsors and others who come to collect the child to ensure that they are legitimately able to do so, and that they do not pose a threat to the child's safety and welfare.
- 9.9 It is important for all agencies concerned with protecting children who may have been trafficked to develop good working arrangements. It is important that UKBA establishes good relationships and contacts with Local Authority Children's Services and, where appropriate, that they are involved with Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards.

B. Support services

1. Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

- 1.2 The Government established CEOP¹⁹ in April 2006 to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and sexual abuse originating from the

internet. It adopts a child-centred approach to all areas of its business and has a dedicated child trafficking unit. CEOP works closely with the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the Association of Chiefs of Police Officers (ACPO), the UKHTC and relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders on all issues relating to child trafficking.

- 1.2 CEOP will assess annually the nature and scale of child trafficking. This information will inform the development of policing policy, good practice and training requirements. The involvement of a UKBA staff member seconded to CEOP will ensure that immigration issues relating to trafficked victims will be appropriately responded to by CEOP.
- 1.3 Part of the work of the child trafficking unit within CEOP will be to draw on examples of best practice to develop guidance for law enforcement around the identification of victims of child trafficking. Once developed this guidance will be available on the ACPO and/or CEOP websites.

2. NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line (0800 107 7057)

- 2.1 The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line for staff is supported by the Home Office, in partnership with ECPAT UK¹⁵, CEOP and Comic Relief. It offers direct advice and assistance to professionals in statutory and non-statutory services responsible for children who show signs of having been trafficked about how to meet their needs and safeguard them from harm or further harm..
- 2.2 The advice line is a conduit for professionals to discuss issues and possible actions about any children who may have been trafficked or who are being trafficked. The line supports referrals to other agencies and charities where a particular issue could be resolved by them.
- 2.3 The service works closely with a range of other agencies and experts on child trafficking through an advisory group in order to ensure that the advice given is up to date, relevant and useful. The advice line share good practice and intelligence with CEOP and the UKHTC.

3. International Social Service UK (ISS UK)

- 3.1 ISS UK promotes and protects the rights and welfare of children across international borders (according to the UN Convention on Human Rights and on the Rights of the Child). It is an independent charity and part of an international network of agencies, which facilitates a global exchange of information to increase access to protection and support services.
- 3.2 ISS UK seeks positive outcomes for children and their families facing social, legal or personal issues with an international dimension – assisting children who have been separated from their families as a consequence of divorce, migration, seeking asylum, trafficking and abduction.
- 3.3 ISS UK operates on both a micro and macro level, providing inter-country casework services directly to individuals and families or in partnership with relevant authorities, as well as delivering advice and training about inter-country social work and seeking to influence policy and practice in the UK. Work typically falls into the following areas:

¹⁵ *End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children:*
www.ecpat.org.uk

- Inter-country casework management – action, advice and information on inter-country social work issues
- Training – workshops, information sheets, good practice guidelines, training seminars and other training events to increase the capacity of professionals to resolve inter-country social work issues successfully. Interested organisations can commission ISS UK to develop and deliver training programmes on specific topics.
- Advocacy – helping create international laws and standards on the protection of human rights, children and families, and in implementing them throughout the world.

4. Refugee Council Children's Panel

4.1 The Refugee Council Children's Panel comprises over 35 advisers who travel all over the country to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The Panel offers support to children who:

- Have applied for asylum on entering the UK;
- Have lived in the UK for some time before applying for asylum;
- Are abandoned by relatives, agents or friends;
- Have been picked up by the police;
- Are in detention centres or prisons; or
- Are living on the streets or are already in the care of the local authority, carers or community groups.

5. Community groups, including faith groups, and the voluntary sector

- 5.1 Community groups, faith groups and voluntary agencies play an important role in identifying children who may have been trafficked. Through their reach into local communities, and their extensive knowledge and experience in working in different ways with the most vulnerable children, these agencies may well be best placed to reach children who may have been trafficked. It is important that good working relationships are developed between these agencies and the statutory agencies working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and in line with community cohesion strategy.
- 5.2 These bodies can be trusted agencies in minority communities that may not have a high degree of trust in state sector agencies. They have access to faith and community leaders in hard to reach communities, locally and nationally. This means they have an important role to play in conveying strong messages about the need to protect children within their communities. They may help mediate and build confidence where an individual feels that a child is in trouble or may have been trafficked but does not know what to do for the best.
- 5.3 Building the confidence of local faith leaders to believe that the right thing will be done by the local authority, and making use of their moral leadership role, may build the confidence of the wider minority community. With established organisational and communication networks these groups can play an important role in raising public awareness of the issues around child trafficking.
- 5.4 The NSPCC is the only voluntary agency authorised to initiate proceedings to protect children under the Children Act 1989, but other voluntary and community organizations often play a key role in safeguarding children. They need to work effectively with LSCBs and should make their paid and voluntary staff aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and how they should respond to child protection concerns in line with the Solihull [LSCB procedures](#) and with the guidance contained in this document.
- 5.5 Community groups, faith groups and voluntary agencies may be the first to come into contact with a trafficked child. Protecting them and promoting their welfare depends on the awareness and co-operation of community groups, neighbours and the public. Where such concerns exist, these should be brought to the attention of the local authority or the police.

6. National register for unaccompanied children (NRUC)

- 6.1 The National Register for Unaccompanied Children (NRUC) stores detailed identity and demographic information on all unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the UK to assist planning for services to support for them. It is supported by local authorities in England and approved staff have access to it. There are plans to extend the database to cover all unaccompanied children from abroad, not just asylum seeking children. NRUC provides for secure information sharing between children's social care and Government departments, including UKBA.

C. National referral mechanism and other agency contacts

For initial advice on trafficking matters contact: **UKHTC**: 0114 252 3891

For initial advice on immigration matters contact: **UKBA**: 0161 261 1640

For advice on accommodation providers contact: **UKHTC**: 0114 252 3891

Competent Authority

UKBA

Vandha Maher
Dominion Court
41 Station Road
Solihull
B91 3RT
Tel: 0870 606 7766
Fax:
Email:

UKHTC

Gordon Simmonite
Tel: 0114 252 3891
Mob: 07770 267286
Fax: 0114 228 6456
Email: Tolerance@southyorks.pnn.police.uk
Web: www.ukhtc.org

Home Office

Project Manager

Helen Anderson
Organised Immigration Crime Team
UK Border Agency
Home Office, 6th Floor, Green Park House, 29 Wellesley Rd, Croydon, CR0 2AJ
Tel: 020 8760 2477
Mobile: 07717 730234
Fax: 020 8760 2941
Email: helen.anderson2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Other agencies

Missing People

Local Authorities fund the Missing People's Missing from Care Team that provides a specialist service to LA Children's Social Work service when any of their 'looked after' children go missing. LA Children's Social Work service professionals can contact the Missing from Care Team on 020 8392 4527.

Missing People is dedicated to helping missing people, their families and those who care for them. It has information sharing agreements with the police.

Missing People's 24-hour Freephone confidential Helpline 0500 700 700 takes calls from families and police reporting missing people.

Missing People's Runaway Helpline 0808 800 70 70 is a national 24 hour freephone Helpline for anyone aged 17 or under who has run away or been forced to leave home. Confidential advice is given, referrals made to other organisations and it can help a child or young person get to a place of safety or pass on a message.

Children's Legal Centre

Tel: 01206 872 466

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

The Refugee and Asylum Seeking Children's Project at the Children's Legal Centre aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking and refugee children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements.

Details of the appropriate consulate or embassy in London can be found in the London Diplomatic List

(ISBN 0 11 591772 1), available from the Stationary Office

Tel: 0870 600 5522.

Or on the website: www.fco.gov.uk

International Social Services of the UK

Cranmer House, 3rd Floor, 39 Brixton

Road, London SW9 6DD

Tel: 020 7735 8941/4

www.issuk.org.uk

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Tel: 020 7008 1500

www.fco.gov.uk

CEOP

www.ceop.gov.uk

ECPAT UK

Grosvenor Gardens House, 35–37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W OBS

Tel: 020 7233 9887

www.ecpat.org.uk or info@ecpat.org.uk

ECPAT UK stands for End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.

ECPAT are a leading children's rights organisation campaigning against the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the UK and on its international aspects. In particular, they focus on the protection of trafficked children and children exploited in tourism and the prevention of such crimes

UNICEF

Africa House, 64–78 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NB

Tel: 020 7405 5592

www.unicef.org.uk/contact/contact.asp

UNICEF's work to combat child trafficking focuses on poverty reduction, education and life skills, strengthening of existing laws, and care of the victims.

Afruca (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

Unit 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP

Tel: 020 7704 2261

www.afruca.org

AFRUCA - Africans Unite Against Child Abuse was established in May 2001 as a platform for advocating for the welfare of African children. In particular, AFRUCA has been at the forefront of efforts to denounce the trafficking of African children to the country. It has drawn attention to the growing phenomenon through organising activities, and engaging at different levels with policy-makers, other NGOs and within the African community.

Childwatch

19 Springbank, Hull, East Yorkshire HU3 1AF
Tel: 01482 325 552
Fax: 01482 585 214
www.childwatch.org.uk

Childwatch is a registered charity working for the good of children and adults who have been abused, offering free confidential counselling and support to victims of abuse.

CROP

34 York Road, Leeds, LS9 8TA
Tel: 0113 240 3040
Email: info@cropuk.org.uk
Website: www.crop1.org.uk

CROP is a voluntary organisation working to end the sexual exploitation of children by pimps and traffickers. CROP is dedicated to combating sexual exploitation. It supports affected parents (especially through its Parent Support Unit), and presses for multi-agency intervention and the effective use of legislation to target pimps.

Children's Panel

James Whitehouse
Team Manager
Children's Panel
Refugee Council
3 Lionel Street
Birmingham
B3 1AG
General Line: 0121 234 1950
Fax: 0121 236 7864
Website: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line

T: 0800 107 7057

An advice and information service for professionals available since October 2007, a case consultancy service is also available by appointment.

Appendix 6 - Competent Authority considerations

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Reasonable Grounds to Believe

The Council of Europe Convention on trafficking has a two stage process for identifying victims of trafficking in which the 'reasonable grounds' test acts as an initial filter to a fuller more conclusive decision. Once a positive 'reasonable grounds' decision is made; the individual is granted a 45 day reflection/recovery period. This temporary status provides the conditions for the fuller evaluation to be made, and allows the individual to escape the influence and control of the traffickers. The officer will have the discretion to extend the validity of the temporary admission beyond 45 days where circumstances warrant. Similarly the decision maker can curtail the reflection period and immigration status where the trafficking claim is found to be fraudulent. Upon receipt of a referral, a Competent Authority shall apply a 'reasonable grounds' test to decide whether a person has been a victim of trafficking.

The 'reasonable grounds' test has a low threshold and is lower than the threshold required for prima facie evidence (which is legally sufficient evidence, that if uncontested, would establish a fact or raise a presumption of a fact). The test that should be applied is whether the statement "I suspect but cannot prove" would be true and whether a reasonable person would be of the opinion that, having regard to the information in the mind of the decision maker, there were reasonable grounds to suspect the individual concerned had been trafficked. Legally sufficient proof may or may not be present at this stage. Reasonable suspicion can never be supported on the basis of personal factors alone (e.g. the appearance of the suspected victim) without reliable supporting intelligence or information or some specific behaviour by the person concerned. It should normally be connected to precise and up to date intelligence/information.

However the Competent Authority must take account of the limited information that the first responder may be able to acquire. Other bodies particularly any support agencies are likely to be able to assist in determining whether reasonable grounds to believe are met. A first responder may also be in a position to be able to provide a huge amount of information that goes beyond the required proof. In these circumstances it is the responsibility of the Competent Authority to advise the first responder that reasonable grounds is met and that any further information will go towards the subsequent 'conclusive decision'.

Some of the indicators on the form may not be apparent on the initial encounter but will become clear during subsequent interviews at a safe location (such as a Police Station) with an interpreter. Competent authorities should be mindful of any ongoing process which may be able to provide additional information.

The 'reasonable grounds' decision has consequences for the person in terms of protection and potential further stay in the UK. It will be subject to external scrutiny and judicial review. The decision should be of the highest possible standard, taking into account the expert views of those surrounding the individual. Where the decision maker is not sure they should seek guidance and assistance from others and commission more information from first responders or support providers.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/victimsoftrafficking.pdf?view=Binary>

Appendix 7 - Local professional / agency response

Staff in any of the settings or circumstances in this table may become aware, immediately or over time, of the quality of relationships, patterns of behaviour displayed, or inconsistent/contradictory information provided to them, by their clients, which raises concerns that a child has been or is being trafficked and exploited. This table provides non-exhaustive indicators of actions which should be considered and/or taken by frontline practitioners/volunteers and their supervising managers.

Setting/circumstance where a child may be identified as a trafficked child	Practitioner or volunteer who may identify a child who has been trafficked	Initial action & assessment within a single agency where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked	Early multi-agency intervention: referral and the involvement of other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked
<p>Schools, colleges, Local Education Authority</p> <p><i>(Application for school place, child starts/is attending school, talks to school nurse or unexpectedly leaves school)</i></p>	<p>Teacher, school nurse, classroom assistant, reception/administrat or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The practitioner discusses concerns with the designated teacher with safeguarding children responsibility The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Health services: GP surgery, A&E, Ambulance Service, maternity services, hospitals and specialist services</p> <p><i>(An adult takes a child to the GP/A&E or an unaccompanied child seeks services, maternity services/health visitor talk to women and visit homes, LAC or other child sees community paediatrician, optician, dentist)</i></p>	<p>GP, practice nurse, community health visitors, hospital staff, maternity staff, adult mental health and CAMHs practitioners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practitioner discusses concern with the named/designated doctor or nurse with safeguarding children responsibility The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column

<p>Setting/circumstance where a child may be identified as a trafficked child</p>	<p>Practitioner or volunteer who may identify a child who has been trafficked</p>	<p>Initial action & assessment within a single agency where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked</p>	<p>Early multi-agency intervention: referral and the involvement of other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked</p>
<p>Police <i>(Family or unaccompanied child comes to notice through criminal activity, illegal immigrant status, domestic violence home visits, missing persons referrals or other)</i></p>	<p>Police officer, community safety officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borough police complete a Coming to Notice (CTN) report and send it to the Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) Borough police discuss case with CAIT Further investigation is undertaken as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All CTNs are sent to LA Children's Social Work service Where immediate action is needed the CAIT will have a strategy discussion with Social Services See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>LA Children's Social Work service <i>(Adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child seeks help directly from the 'intake team', a child already receiving services or looked after is identified as being trafficked, a referral of concern is received from another agency/person)</i></p>	<p>Children's social worker, family support worker, foster carer, reception/administrative or, residential worker, children's rights officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA Children's Social Work service staff discuss case with their supervising line manager, foster carer's with their supervising social worker and the child's social worker, children's rights officer with the child's social worker The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further checks can be made by the child's social worker HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA Children's Social Work service will respond in one of three ways and should advise the referrer of which plan is in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an initial assessment – which may or may not lead to; b) accommodation of the child c) a child protection enquiry and a core assessment of need under s47 of the Children Act 1989 d) if no concerns are identified, there will be no further action
<p>Local Authority UASC team <i>(The child, accompanied or unaccompanied, is referred by LA Children's Social Work service 'intake team' to their Local Authority's UASC team)</i></p>	<p>UASC team social worker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UASC team staff discuss case with their supervising line manager The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further assessment can be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to the Child Protection social work team See actions for LA Children's Social Work service (Child Protection team) in this column
<p>Setting/circumstance where a</p>	<p>Practitioner or</p>	<p>Initial action & assessment within a single agency</p>	<p>Early multi-agency intervention:</p>

child may be identified as a trafficked child	volunteer who may identify a child who has been trafficked	where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked	referral and the involvement of other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked
<p>Youth Offending Service, youth clubs & Connexions <i>(The child, accompanied or unaccompanied, commits an offence and is referred to the YOS, joins or attends a youth club, receives services from Connexions)</i></p>	<p>YOS practitioner, youth worker, youth work volunteer, Connexions Personal Advisor, reception/administrator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOS practitioner's discuss case with their supervising line manager, youth worker and volunteer with their team leader • The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. • Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF* assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service • See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>UKBA, Asylum Screening Unit, Refugee Council's Children's Panel <i>(Adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child present at port of entry or at UKBA, Sandford House, Homer Road in Solihull after entering the UK. In the latter case they may have first made contact with another service e.g. LA Children's Social Work service)</i></p>	<p>Ports immigration officer, asylum screening staff at Sandford House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration and screening staff member: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) considers the case in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol b) makes further checks where possible c) discusses concern with the designated officer with safeguarding children responsibility d) discusses the case with Children's Social Service and Police colleagues located at the port of entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service and the Police • See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Setting/circumstance where a</p>	<p>Practitioner or</p>	<p>Initial action & assessment within a single agency</p>	<p>Early multi-agency intervention:</p>

child may be identified as a trafficked child	volunteer who may identify a child who has been trafficked	where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked	referral and the involvement of other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked
<p>Fire Service <i>(Family or unaccompanied child comes to notice through fire-related or other accidents and incidents)</i></p>	<p>Fire Service staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire service staff member discusses concern with the designated officer with safeguarding children responsibility • The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. • Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF* assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service • See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Local Authority Housing <i>(Homeless adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child apply for to be housed)</i></p>	<p>Housing Aid and/or Homelessness Managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing staff member discusses case with the designated officer with safeguarding children responsibility, makes further checks where possible • The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. • Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service • See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Setting/circumstance where a</p>	<p>Practitioner or</p>	<p>Initial action & assessment within a single agency</p>	<p>Early multi-agency intervention:</p>

<p>child may be identified as a trafficked child</p>	<p>volunteer who may identify a child who has been trafficked</p>	<p>where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked</p>	<p>referral and the involvement of other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked</p>
<p>Benefits Agency <i>(Adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child apply for, or notify alterations in, benefits)</i></p>	<p>Benefits officer, assessor, reception/administrator or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefits service staff member discusses case with the designated officer with safeguarding children responsibility, makes further checks where possible The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF* assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>LA Leisure Centres, Libraries <i>(Adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child use leisure centres or libraries)</i></p>	<p>Leisure centre worker, librarians, reception/administrators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure centre and libraries' staff member discusses case with the designated officer with safeguarding children responsibility The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. Further checks, and where appropriate a CAF* assessment, should be made HOWEVER not if this will heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Independent private & voluntary agencies <i>(Families and children, including unaccompanied children, receive a range of social care and other services from these agencies)</i></p>	<p>Solicitor, interpreter and others coming into contact with children, young people and families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicitors, interpreters and others coming into contact with children should telephone the local LA Children's Social Work service for advice about whether to make a referral* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column
<p>Setting/circumstance where a child may be identified as a</p>	<p>Practitioner or volunteer who may</p>	<p>Initial action & assessment within a single agency where there are concerns that a child may have</p>	<p>Early multi-agency intervention: referral and the involvement of</p>

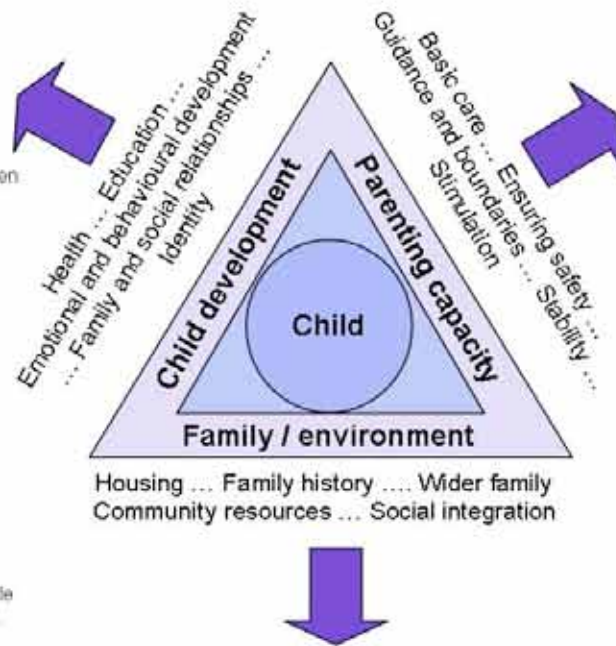
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trafficked child	identify a child who has been trafficked	been trafficked	other agencies where there are concerns that a child may have been trafficked
<p>Community, faith groups and others <i>(Families and children, including unaccompanied children, participate in a range of social care and other services from these agencies)</i></p>	<p>Organisers & volunteers for community and private sports, music, drama, church and other activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned adult discusses case with the designated person with safeguarding children responsibility The concerns should be considered in the light of information about trafficked children in this Protocol. HOWEVER concerned adults should not do anything which could heighten risk of harm or abduction to the child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all cases where action, including further assessment is felt to be needed, a referral should be made to LA Children's Social Work service See actions for LA Children's Social Work service in this column

* Where a child is not already receiving a service from the local LA Children's Social Work service, if the agency is required to participate under the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), then the initial assessment should be conducted by the agency's CAF Assessor. The CAF assessment will aid the decision about whether to refer the child to LA Children's Social Work service.

Appendix 8 - The assessment framework for trafficked children

- Returning after missing, looking well cared for despite no known base
- Claims to have been in UK for years but hasn't learnt local language or culture
- Claims to have been exploited through sexual exploitation, criminality, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage, illegal adoption, drug dealing by another person
- Physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (sexual, physical etc)
- Underage marriage
- Sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy
- Excessively afraid of deportation
- Withdrawn and refuses to talk / appears afraid to talk to a person in authority
- Significantly older boyfriend
- Story very similar to those given by others, perhaps hinting they have been coached
- Malnourished
- 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



- Unable to confirm name or address of person meeting them on arrival
- Gone missing from local authority care
- Accompanying adult previously made multiple visa applications for other children / acted as the guarantor for other children's visa applications
- 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
- History with missing links or unexplained moves
- Pattern of street homelessness
- Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves the residence
- Involved in criminality highlighting involvement of adults (e.g. recovered from cannabis farm / factory, street crime, petty theft, pick pocketing, begging etc)
- Reports from reliable sources suggest likelihood of sexual exploitation, including being seen in places known to be used for sexual exploitation
- Required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- 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
- 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
- Truancy / disengagement with education

- Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults
- Receives unexplained / unidentified phone calls or letters whilst in placement / temporary accommodation
- 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)
- 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

- Entered country illegally
- Journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family
- Registered at multiple addresses
- Located / recovered from a place of exploitation (brothel, cannabis farm, involved in criminality etc)
- Permanently deprived of earnings by another person
- Unable or reluctant to give accommodation or other personal details
- Claims to be in debt bondage or "owes" money to other persons (e.g. for travel costs, before having control over own earnings)
- Works in various locations

- No passport or other means of identity
- Receives unexplained / unidentified phone calls whilst in placement / temporary accommodation
- 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
- 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

Appendix 10 - Guide to assessments and levels of intervention

Level of intervention	Level of need	Appropriate assessment	Response agency	Examples
<u>Level 1 – UNIVERSAL</u>	No indication of additional, unmet, specialist or urgent needs.	Assessments used for all children by universal services e.g. child health checks, SATS.	Universal services.	Child progressing as expected; needs being met by universal services e.g. schools, primary care health services etc.

COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

<u>Level 2 Additional Needs</u>	Child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met.	Common Assessment Framework	Universal or targeted services.	. Child with additional needs – requiring multi-agency intervention. Likely to be short-term.
Multi-agency LINCS	Suspect or CAF shows that response from a number of agencies will be needed.			

SPECIALIST / STATUTORY ASSESSMENT (including LA Children’s Social Work service)

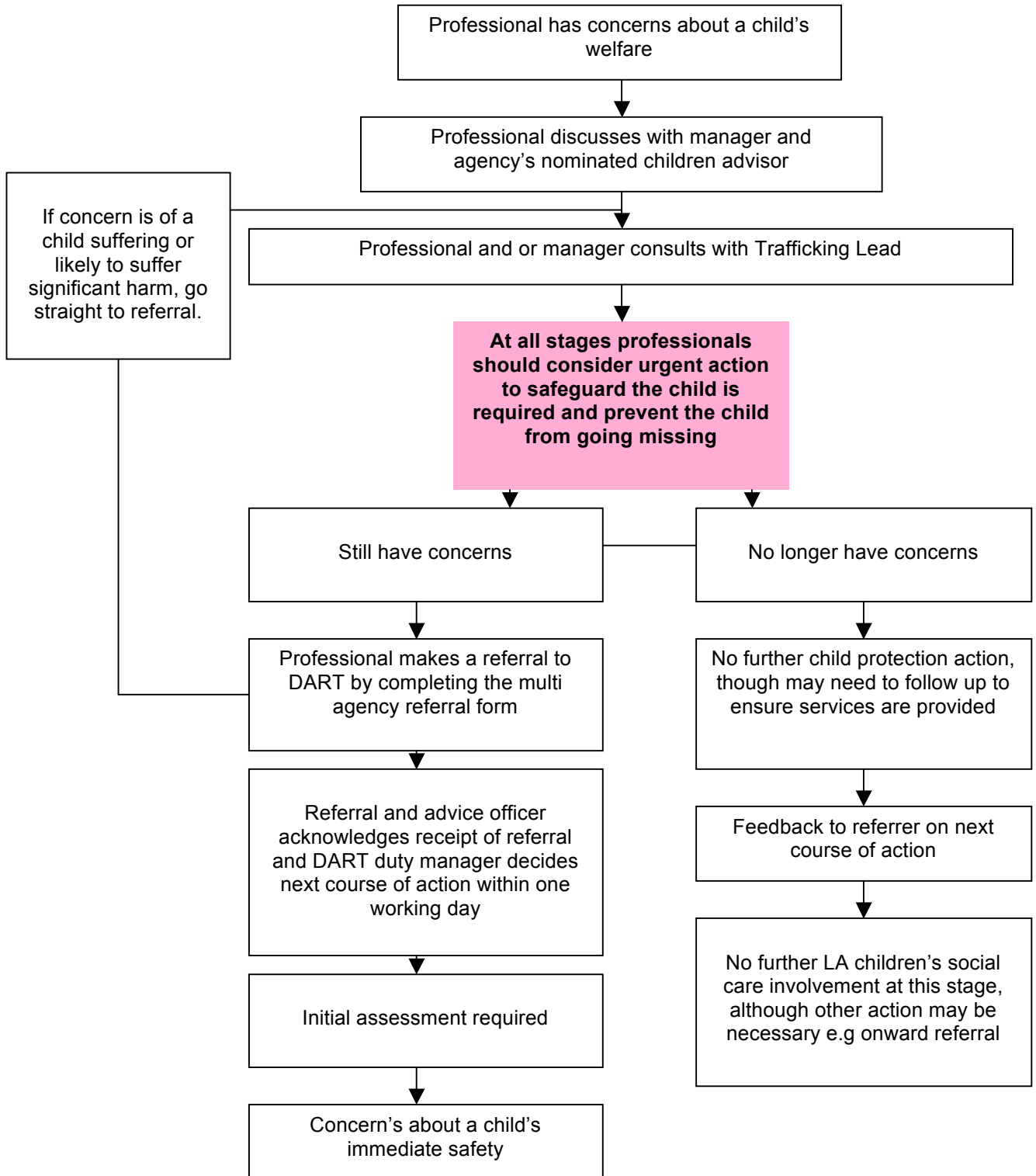
<u>Level 3 - COMPLEX</u>	Complex needs likely to require longer term intervention from statutory and/or specialist services	Statutory or specialist services	<p>LA Children’s Social Work service.</p> <p>Other statutory service e.g. SEN services.</p> <p>Specialist health or disability services.</p> <p>Youth Offending Service.</p>	<p>Child in need.</p> <p>Child in care.</p> <p>Child with significant disability/ies or complex health needs.</p> <p>Child involved in criminal or offending behaviour.</p>
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STATUTORY / CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

<u>Level 4 - ACUTE</u>	Need for immediate or urgent protection / intervention	Urgent statutory assessment – child protection	<p>LA Children’s Social Work service</p> <p>Police</p>	Child suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm and in need of urgent protection.
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Appendix 11 - Referral flowchart

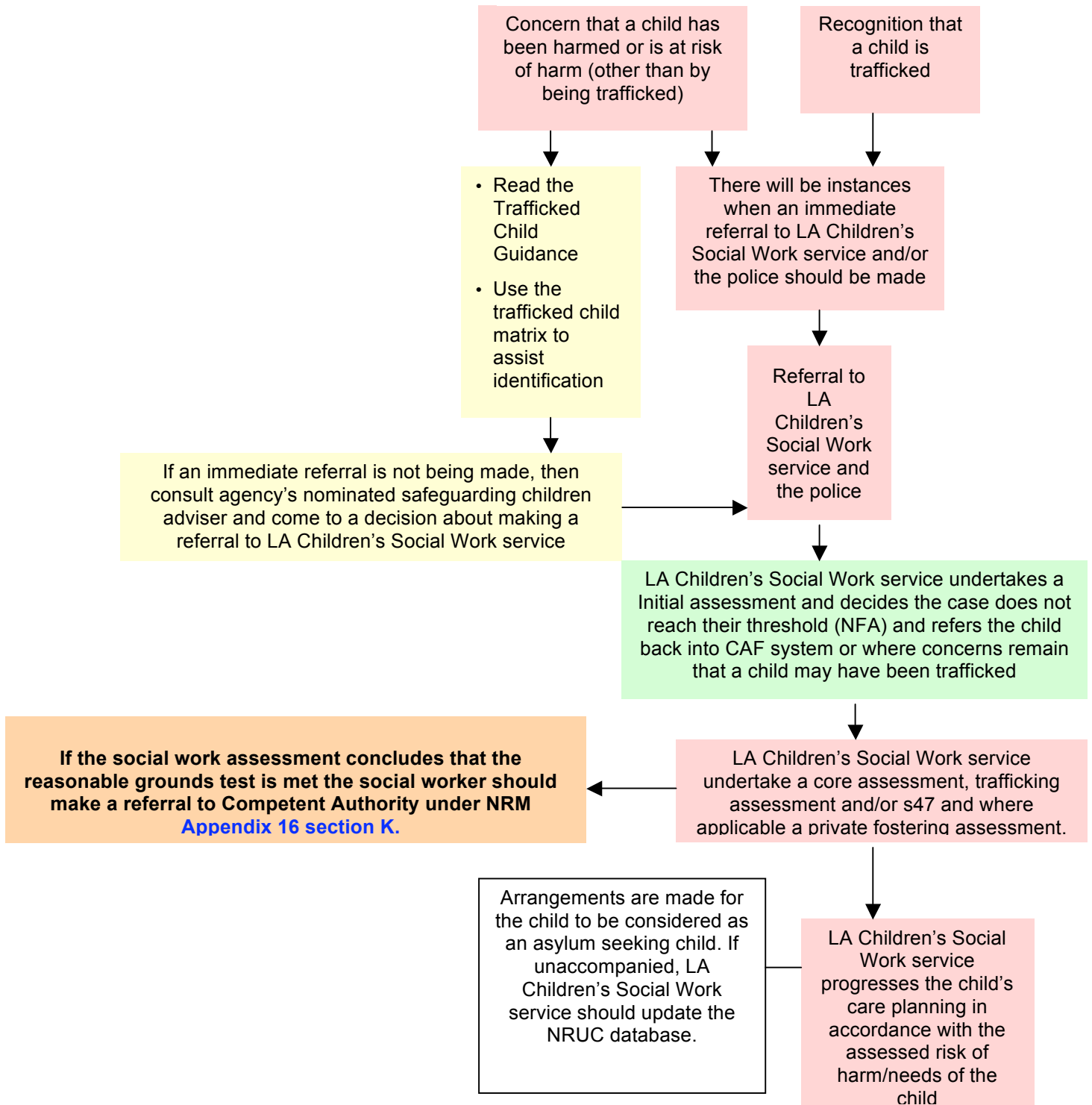
If at any point in this process, professionals suspect or find that a child is suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm – STOP the CAF process and make a referral to LA Children's Social Work service in line with the Solihull [LSCB procedures](#).



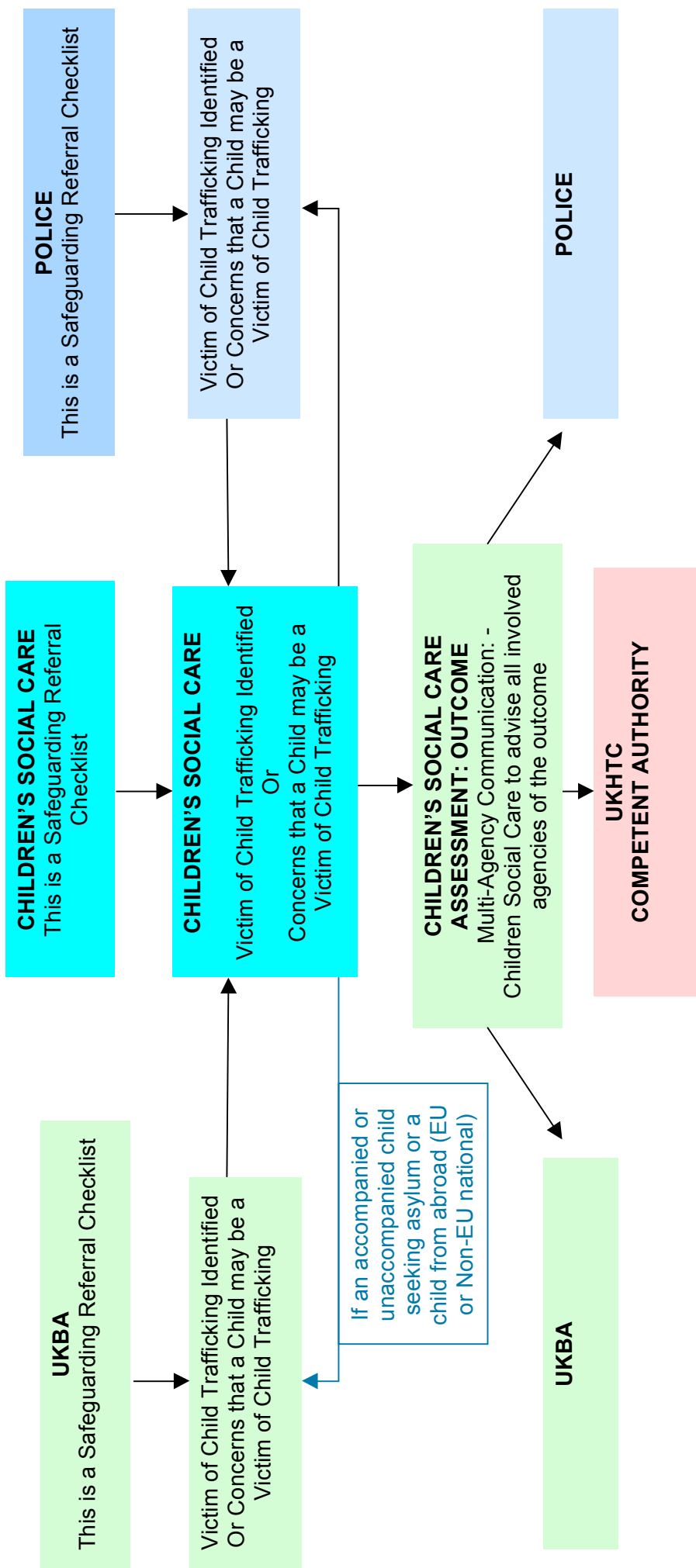
Appendix 12 - Flowchart for safeguarding a trafficked child

CHILD PROTECTION PROCESS

This is a safeguarding assessment



Appendix 13 - Child trafficking referral checklist



Are you talking to the right people?

Check your Solihull LSCB-Child Trafficking Guidance

Appendix 15 - Guidance on completion of trafficking assessment

Note: Each section of this assessment is colour coded to denote the sections each agency are to complete.

- Orange All agencies complete
- Blue To be completed by police
- Purple To be completed by LA Children's Social Work service

For quick reference and as a checklist, please see the table below:

Trafficking Assessment sections		All Agencies complete	Police complete	Social Care complete
A1	Personal Details of Subject			
A2	Details of Young Person			
A3	Details of Accompanying Adult or Young person			
A4	Education			
A5	Income and Employment			
B	Family			
C	Relationships			
D	Recent travel history			
E	Current circumstances			
E1	Current Accommodation			
E2	Daily living routine			
E3	Freedom of Movement			
F	Health			
G	Safety			
G1	Emotional Health			
G2	Quality of Sleep			
G3	Sexual Experience and Health			
H	Abuse			
I	Journey			
J	Analysis, conclusions and risks			
J (a)	Analysis			
J (b)	Conclusions and Risks			
K	Decisions and Referral			

Appendix 16 - Trafficking Assessment

BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, IF YOU BELIEVE THIS CHILD IS AT IMMINENT RISK OF HARM REFER SOLIHULL [LSCB PROCEDURES](#) TO TAKE APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING ACTIONS.

PURPOSE:

This multi-agency assessment tool and referral form is designed to assist practitioners (Children Services, Law Enforcement, UKBA) in both:

- Identifying and assessing the needs of a child who is suspected of being trafficked, and the continuing risks they may face, and
- referring their case to the competent authority (from April 2009) and other relevant agencies.

The competent authority will assist in regularising the child's immigration status should this be necessary in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Human Trafficking and recording their case within the central UK database on victims of trafficking. It is therefore important that once your agency has completed the form, a copy is immediately forwarded to the UKHTC.

This assessment should be undertaken in line with the Solihull Trafficking toolkit.

While undertaking the assessment, please remember these children may be traumatised, in fear of adults or people in authority.

1. Be sensitive and build trust
2. Avoid question and answer process
3. Be aware that the child may be fearful of disclosing information due to threats of direct harm to the child or their family
4. Please ensure child's mobile phone is turned off during the interview as it may be used as a method of control by the adult.
5. Be mindful of interviewing child/young person in presence of an individual who may be involved in trafficking
6. Only use authorised/registered interpreters

References:

- HM Government (DCSF and Home Office). Working Together to Safeguard Children Who May Have Been Trafficked 2007. This provides detailed advice for practitioners from all agencies on how to respond to children who they suspect have been trafficked.
- London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit (London Board, 2009)

UK Legislation and guidance relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:

- The Children Acts 1989.
- The Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.
- Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) and its supplementaries.
- The UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking (2007).

UK Offences of Trafficking

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 cover offences of trafficking into, within and outside of UK for any form of sexual offence carrying a 14 year maximum sentence. The form of sexual offence needed for this offence covers all forms of sexual exploitation as delineated as various offences within the Act itself.
- The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004 covers the offence of trafficking for exploitation covering types of non sexual exploitation, including forced labour and removal of organs. These offences also carry a maximum 14 year sentence.

International Trafficking legislation relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:

United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (2000) *also known as the 'Palermo protocol'*

In 2000 human trafficking was recognised under international law through the United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (the 'Palermo protocol'), ratified by the UK in 2006. The protocol essentially defines child trafficking as:

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- 'The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation'.
- A child is anyone under 18 years.
- It is not considered possible for children to give informed consent to being trafficked. Any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim - whether or not they have been subject to threats, force, coercion, abduction or fraud. Even when a child understands what has happened they may still appear to submit willingly to what they believe to be the will of their parents or caregiver in their home country.
- Trafficking affects almost all parts of the United Kingdom. Trafficking can be into, within and out of the United Kingdom. Trafficking within the United Kingdom is *domestic* or *internal* trafficking.
- Trafficking can involve children from any country, including children both born and raised in the UK (UK Nationals) eg young women and boys trafficked domestically into sexual exploitation from one UK city to another.
- The exploitation of trafficked children may be progressive. Children trafficked for domestic work may be later vulnerable to sexual exploitation or children initially trafficked for sexual exploitation may be resold.
- Children from different countries, communities and cultures may be particularly vulnerable to specific forms of exploitation (eg the trafficking of Eastern European young women into sexual exploitation). These patterns can shift over time as traffickers 'wise up' to new immigration or safeguarding anti-trafficking measures.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings was signed by the UK Government in 2007. This Convention will be fully implemented in the UK Domestic law by April 2009.

Under this convention the UK Government is obliged to "provide its competent authorities with persons who are trained and qualified in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, in identifying and helping victims, including children". It further states that when "the age of victim is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the victim is a child, he or she shall be presumed to be a child and shall be accorded special measures pending verification of his/her age." The Convention also makes provisions that oblige the Government to issue a temporary resident permit when there are "reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned is a victim". The UK Government, as part of its implementation plan is developing a National Referral Mechanism where there will be a central authority as well as local level competent authorities, who will be able to make final decisions on the identification of child victims of trafficking, for the purposes of the rights under this Convention.

Types of Exploitation

Children can be trafficked for the purpose of:

1. Sexual exploitation (including child abuse acts and images)
 2. Domestic servitude (eg domestic chores, looking after young children)
 3. Labour exploitation (eg working in restaurants, building sites, cleaning)
 4. Enforced criminality (eg cannabis cultivation, street theft, drug dealing and trafficking)
 5. Benefit fraud
 6. Illegal adoption
 7. Servile and underage marriage
- Even though a child may have been trafficked for a purpose other than sexual exploitation, they become highly vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse once they have been trafficked. Sexual exploitation of children is most likely to occur in informal locations, such as private flats. The use of trafficking for exploitative labour is often hidden within local communities and can be difficult to identify without the support of communities.

Child traffickers

- Traffickers vary between those that are highly organised and linked to other organised crime (eg cannabis cultivation), and those that are individually opportunistic and have trafficked a child on a more informal basis (eg bringing a child from their 'home country' to become domestic labour in their own household)
- Children can be trafficked into the United Kingdom through major and regional airports, seaports and docks (eg on lorries) and by train (eg Eurorail).

Child smuggling/facilitation and trafficking

There is an important distinction between child smuggling and child trafficking. Child smuggling, also called *facilitation* under UK law, is an arrangement whereby somebody assists a child to enter the country illegally. Once the child enters the UK the relationship between the child and the smuggler ends.

Child trafficking however must involve intent to exploit the child at their destination and can also include the movement of a child *within* the UK. On arrival in the UK or after being moved to a new city or town within the UK the trafficked child is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered.

Smuggling can be an indicator of trafficking however, as traffickers *do* commonly use smuggling as a method to bring children into the UK. So while a smuggled child may not necessarily have been trafficked, smuggling should be considered as an indicator of a child's vulnerability to being trafficked.

Please note:

- Trafficking victims may also enter the country legally i.e. with immigration documents)

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- Children who arrive at UK borders may have been trafficked between a number of countries in the EU or globally, prior to being trafficked into the UK.

UK Nationals

- Smuggling and trafficking can affect children born and raised in the UK (UK Nationals) eg a UK born child who is trafficked from the UK within the UK, this is often referred to as “internal trafficking

REFERRAL AND INFORMATION GATHERING

All agencies should complete this assessment as soon as there is any suspicion that a child or young person may be a victim of trafficking. While an assessment should be completed within seven days, please note that any delay could significantly increase the chance of a trafficked child going missing. Where there is an immediate risk to the child's safety an immediate referral should also be made to Police and Children's Services. All agencies should record next stages of action when working with a trafficked child within one working day.

Missing children

Evidence shows that many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are trafficked, and go missing from the care system shortly after they enter the care system. One reason is that the child may have been groomed to believe that the trafficker or facilitator is their “friend” and not recognise the risk of harm and exploitation. It is therefore critical that intervention to safeguard the child may need urgent attention.

PRIVATE FOSTERING

Private fostering is defined in the Children Act 1989 as a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) being placed for 28 days or more in the care of someone who is not the child's guardian, or close relative, by private arrangement between parent and carer.

Parents and private foster carers are required to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement (at least 6 weeks before otherwise immediately, certainly within 48 hours of the child arriving to stay).

Private fostering can potentially mask child trafficking, when traffickers use the arrangement to formalise having a trafficked child in their home as a 'fostered' child. It is therefore imperative that the possibility of child trafficking be considered when making an assessment of a private fostering arrangement.

ASSESSMENT

Children are unlikely to disclose they have been trafficked for a variety of reasons. Most do not have an awareness of what trafficking is or may believe they are coming to the UK for a better life, accepting that they have entered the country illegally. They may be suffering from trauma, fear, intimidation and stigma, and may lack language skills. They may not remember what has happened to them and give varying accounts.

Disclosure from a child about their circumstances takes time and is often dependent on a relationship of trust and safety being established. Disclosure may be very limited where a child is within the control of a trafficker or facilitator or feels obliged to them, and can be especially difficult for sexually exploited children.

Assessment should therefore be on the possibility of trafficking, utilising known indicators where relevant rather than relying on a full disclosure from a child. A high level of practitioner awareness and proactive work is critical to enhance the identification of trafficking.

For information to support a good quality assessment professionals should see [sections 4. The problem of trafficked children](#), [8. Identifying trafficked children](#) and [9. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of trafficked children](#) in the Solihull trafficking procedures www.solihull.gov.uk/staysafe

SECTION A. PERSONAL DETAILS OF SUBJECT

POLICE ONLY TO COMPLETE SECTION A1

ALL AGENCIES COMPLETE SECTIONS A2 AND A3

SECTION A1

Insert Photograph

Have Fingerprints been taken? Yes/No

If Yes by Whom?

Has a DNA sample been taken? Yes/No

If Yes by Whom?

Any identification documents seen?

YES

NO

Details of documentation seen

Attached?

YES

NO

Date of Assessment:

Name of the Assessing Officer:

SECTION A2. DETAILS OF YOUNG PERSON

Insert Photograph

1) Surname:

2) Given Name:

3) Date of Birth/Age:

4) Place of Birth

5) Address:

6) Mobile Phone Numbers

7) Home Telephone Numbers

8) Gender:

9) Ethnicity:

10) Nationality,

11) Region/Village

12) Religion:

13) Language/s

14) Proficiency in spoken/written English

15) Interpreter required –language

16) Are they married (list name, age etc of spouse

17) If from abroad, date of arrival in the UK:

18) Date left the country of Origin:

18) Home Office Immigrant No:

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19) Port Reference Number

20) Immigration Status:

21) If from UK, date of arrival in locality

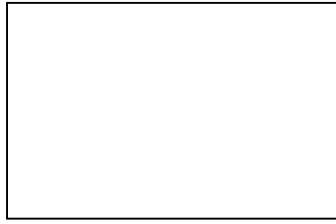
22) Date child left home or last known address.

SECTION A3. DETAILS OF ACCOMPANYING ADULT OR YOUNG PERSON

The name of the person accompanying claiming to be the guardian/carer/relative of the Child.

- 1) Surname:
- 2) Given Name:
- 3) Date of Birth/Age:
- 4) Place of Birth
- 5) Ethnicity,
- 6) Nationality,
- 7) Language,
- 8) Religion
- 9) Detail the relationship of the accompanying person to the child – are they an agent/young person/legal representative
- 10) Mobile Phone Numbers
- 11) Home Telephone Numbers
- 12) Current Address:
- 13) Previous Address/es:
- 14) Home Office Immigrant No:
- 15) Port Reference
- 16) National insurance No:
- 17) Date of Arrival in the UK:
- 18) Date left country of Origin:
- 19) Is this adult known to your agency? (Check information systems eg database)

20) Insert Photograph



SECTION A4. EDUCATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

1) History of education (in the child's country as well as in the UK)

2) Is the child currently attending school? (Yes/no)

If yes

Name of school

Address of school

Teacher's name

If no, why not

SECTION A5: INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

Consider possible exploitation or any intent to exploit the young person. Explore the following:

Working Conditions/hours/transport/free use of earnings/any deductions from salaries to repay debts/family dependent on earnings/sending money home/knowledge of any others in similar situations/expectations on a young person to do things.

1. Does the child receive money?
(Eg. amount, for what purpose, from whom, how often, what is the money used for?)

2. Previous Employment/Conditions:

3. Current Employment/Conditions/Work Permit:

4. Does the child have a choice if they work?

5. How does the young person perceive work and expectations/responsibilities provide for themselves or others? (Consider the young person's pre-trafficking profile – childhood experiences, family's financial circumstances, and cultural and familial values towards work).

SECTION B. FAMILY

TO BE COMPLETED BY SOCIAL CARE

GENOGRAM – details the relationships between adults, siblings, extended family and the child and may be useful when cross referencing with other trafficked children assessments and family relationships to suspected traffickers

- 1) Family Composition. Detail background and any concerns about the family of origin. Explore the details of the extended family. Be aware that traffickers often pose as extended family:

- 2) Does the child have any contact with the Family?
Detail the Current whereabouts of family in the UK or abroad. Are the family aware and in agreement with the child's current circumstances and care arrangements?

- 3) Financial Circumstances of Family.
Give consideration to the fact that the child or family may be in debt for the cost of travel Families may also have paid agent to take their child/ren to 'better life. Less commonly children may be sold

- 4) Circumstance in which or reasons why the young person left their family:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU UPLOAD A GENOGRAM AND ATTACH TO FILE

SECTION C. RELATIONSHIPS

TO BE COMPLETED BY SOCIAL CARE

Be mindful that if a child has been trafficked they are likely to have been coached by the trafficker about what story they should tell – the nature of their relationship with the trafficker, what activities they may be involved in.

1. What is the relationship between the child and the person they are staying with or accompanied by, and are they related? Is this a private fostering arrangement?

2. How and when did they meet? (In Country of Origin/en route /in the UK):

3. What does the child know about this person –Include any additional information known about this person/s (Establish how well the child knows the adult, what work/activities the adult does, whether the child had prior knowledge of the adult before meeting them).

4. What is the quality of the relationships between the person's and the child? (How does the child behave in relation to this person/s):

5. Does the child have any other relatives or friends in the UK? (Highlight where there are any other relationships where there is concern for the child).

6. Does the young person feel confident asking someone for help if needed? (Aim: to assess quality of relationship to accompanying adult/young person)

7. Who would the young person like to live with in the UK? (Be mindful that a trafficker may have coached and put pressure on the child about where they should live). If not within the current arrangements explore the reasons why (record the name and address of the person they wish to live with)

SECTION D. RECENT TRAVEL HISTORY

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

Points to note:

- Trafficking may occur at any stage throughout a child's journey to or within the UK; it is not limited to the child's final destination.
- Children who have been trafficked into the UK can be further trafficked internally within the UK
- UK national children are also vulnerable to internal trafficking and may also be trafficked out of the UK.
- A child may be trafficked into the UK through legitimate routes under passports and travel visas – though documentation can be falsified.
- A child may also be smuggled through covert routes into or within the UK and may have no identification documentation.
- A child who has been trafficked may arrive in the UK alone or accompanied by an adult and other children. Some children will have had multiple experiences of trafficking. Children who have been trafficked before are at risk of being re-trafficked.

- 1) Establish the circumstances of arrival – if arriving in the UK did the child pass through immigration control; did the child have any documentation, contact numbers?

- 2) Does the child have any ongoing contact with the person who facilitated their travel into/within the UK?

- 3) On arrival in the UK, who took responsibility for the child and where did the child sleep?

- 4) Has the child lived at multiple addresses? With whom? (List all Previous and current addresses)

SECTION E. CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

This section of assessment may provide an insight about possible types of exploitation for which the child may have been trafficked. Look for indications in the child's daily life that demonstrated restrictions of the child's independence and control mechanisms by another person.

An assessment of independence will of course need to recognise the cultural norms in which the child has grown up. It is essential that the child is provided with a sense of safety within the assessment process.

SECTION E1. Current Accommodation

- 1) Describe the rooms/house they are staying at:

- 2) Do any other children/adults/family or visitors live at this accommodation? (Nature/History of Relationship)

- 3) What are the current sleeping arrangements? (Including are they locked in at night?)

- 4) Conditions of accommodation eg Heating, Running water, furnishings and cleanliness?

- 5) Does the child have freedom of choice where they choose to live?

- 6) Does the child have to pay/do favours for the accommodations?

- 7) Does the child have control over his/her privacy and possessions?

SECTION E2. Daily Living Routine

- 1) Describe the current routine eg Sleep patterns, self-care and meal times, do they have sufficient food?

- 2) What activities did the child do at home and what do they do now?

Is the child spending time alone?

- 3) Who does the household chores eg cleaning, grocery shopping and cooking?

- 4) What sort of clothing/shoes does the child have? Who is responsible for washing the child's clothing?

- 5) Is the child familiar with local services such as the shops and parks? Can the child identify where they have been to?

SECTION E3. Freedom of Movement

- 1) How did the child travel to the place of assessment?

- 2) Is the child's freedom of movement restricted
E.g. (Does the child have a curfew; is the child limited in which places they can go to? Is the child allowed to go out alone or with friends?)

- 3) Is the child able to have social contacts and friendships?

- 4) Does the child have free access to their accommodation (do they have keys?)

- 5) Does the child have a mobile phone? (Who can the child contact and who contacts the child, who purchased the phone and who pays the bills?)

SECTION F. HEALTH

ALL AGENCIES COMPLETE QUESTION 1
SOCIAL CARE COMPLETE QUESTIONS 2 to 5

- 1) Observations of the child's physical presentation? (If seen more than one occasion note whether the child has more than one set of clothing)

- 2) Is the child registered with a GP? Has the child accessed the health service such as Accident and Emergency?

- 3) Has the child ever taken medication? (In case of sexual exploitation give consideration to, contraception and sexually transmitted infections)

- 4) Is the child currently experiencing any pain, have any injuries or have any concerns regarding their health? (Give consideration to any abuse)

- 5) History and current drug/alcohol use? (Are there any indications of dependency/misuse and drugging)

SECTION G. SAFETY

IF WHEN COMPLETING THIS SECTION YOU IDENTIFY AN IMMINENT RISK OF HARM REFER TO YOUR CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES AND TAKE APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING ACTIONS.

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES:

- **CHILDREN'S SERVICES/SOCIAL CARE**
- **CHILD PROTECTION POLICE OFFICERS**

The aim of this section is to identify whether the child is currently or potentially at risk of harm, and to elicit the children's capacity to ensure their own safety.

1) Has the young person gone missing and have there been multiple missing periods? What were the circumstances of the disappearances and are there any emerging patterns?

2) Has the young person been involved in any criminal activity? Are there any indications of forced involvement or exploitation?

3) If the child were injured or ill what would they do?

4) Is the child ever left in their accommodation on their own?

5) What would a child do in an emergency? Eg. if there was a fire or an intruder in the home?

6) Is the child concerned about the safety of their family/other children in their home country?

SECTION G1. Emotional Health

1) Explore the child's level of anxiety, fears, fluctuation of moods, appetite, levels of social isolation:

SECTION G2. Quality of Sleep

1) Explore sleep patterns, hours of sleep, nightmares etc (look for indicators of traumatic stress)

SECTION G3. Sexual Experience and Health

1) Explore if the young person has had any sexual experiences and give consideration to contraception, abortion, STIs and sexual violence in the context of exploitation.

SECTION H. Abuse

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES:

- **CHILDREN'S SERVICES/SOCIAL CARE**
- **CHILD PROTECTION POLICE OFFICERS**

1) Are there any indications that the young person has suffered/ or is suffering any form of abuse? If so how does the young person perceive this abuse? (Consider the history of abuse, relationship to trafficker/s and trafficking experience. The young person may have distorted views of abuse and may not view the trafficker as an abuser.

SECTION I JOURNEY

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

A Trafficked child is unlikely to disclose clear and accurate information about their journey. In many cases the child will have been warned not to disclose particular information to protect agents and traffickers. Be aware that some journeys will involve complicated routes and many changes involving varied methods of travel such as lorries, walking, cars and planes. Children may also be passed between agents and traffickers en route.

Solihull LSCB trafficking toolkit 2010
Journey to the UK

1. Reasons for leaving the country/ place of Origin:

2. Date (or approximate) journey commenced:

3. Who did the young person leave and travel with:

4. What was the relationship with this person's:

5. Did the child know them?

6. By what means of transport did they travel:

7. Route of travel, length and any stopovers:

8. How was the young person and any other young person treated during the Journey?

9. Did the child, family or any other party pay for the Journey?

10. Does the child, family or any other party owe anything for the journey?

11. Who had control of the child's travel documentation/passport during the journey?

SECTION J. ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RISKS

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

Children who have been trafficked are often seen as illegal immigrants or sometimes as young offenders if they have been forced or coerced into criminal behaviour, rather than as victims of human rights abuses. Be aware that family reunification is not always viable and safe option. In responding to children who have been trafficked it is essential that the child is cared for in a safe and secure environment. That the child's physical and mental health needs are met, the child is given support to recover and that the risk of re-trafficking and further exploitation is minimised.

Section J (a) Give an Analysis of the information gathered during the Trafficking Assessment.

Section J (b) Conclusions and Risks

OUTCOME

- Agency accepts this case as a case of child trafficking (Complete and send the referral to the Competent Authority for a decision form and send to nrm@ukhtc.pnn.police.uk)
- Agency does not accept this as case of child trafficking
- Referral of case to other Agency: - (Please detail the reasons for the referral and to which agency you are making the referral)

- Insufficient information of Child Trafficking - further info is being sought (please detail below)

COMMENTS AND SIGNATURES

Young person's signature (This section should only be signed by the young person if they are 18 or over.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Name of Worker completing the Trafficking Assessment

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Name:

Allocated to:

Team:

Signature:

Date:

Manager's Signature and Comments

Name:

Signature:

Manager's Actions:

Date

SECTION K. DECISIONS and REFERAL

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

This section (SECTION K) is to be completed where there are reasonable grounds to believe the child is trafficked.

Reasonable grounds exist where the assessor can say:
'I suspect that this child is likely to have been trafficked'.

Only this section, SECTION K. DECISIONS and REFERAL (not all the form) should be shared with the Competent Authority.

Date of Assessment	<input type="text"/>
Name of Child	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Female	<input type="text"/>
Male	<input type="text"/>

Decisions Following the Trafficking Assessment.

Assessing Agency accepts this case as a case of trafficking

Yes

Indicators/evidence of exploitation: -

Indicators/evidence of movement into or within the UK

Immediate Legal Action to protect the child (including support under section 20 of the Children's Act)

Date on which the referral to UKHTC was made.

Date:

- Commission a Specialist: - Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Health Professional, Counsellor or Other, please detail here

Details (position, name and organisation)

- Referral to other agencies

Details (position, name and organisation)

- Child Protection Team

- Police

- Provide Accommodation (inc. Respite)

- Other Accommodation Option

Was the report discussed with Parents/Carers?

Yes

No

If No will this be discussed?

COMMENTS AND SIGNATURES

Young person's signature (This section should only be signed by the young person if they are 18 or over.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Name of Worker completing the Trafficking Assessment

Name:

Allocated to:

Team:

Signature:

Date:

Manager's Signature and Comments

Name:

Signature:

Manager's Actions:

Date:

Appendix 17 – Harrow Good Practice Guidance



Solihull LSCB would like to Thank Harrow London Borough for sharing their good practice guidance and allowing us to use the document.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR TRAFFICKED CHILDREN IN CARE

This guidance is designed to aid Social Care and Education professionals, foster carers and residential staff to meet to the needs of trafficked children in care provision. This document has been developed within the context of the London Safeguarding Children Board Trafficked Children Toolkit pilot. It is intended as a practice guide only and not as compulsory procedures for services.

Note: many of these actions are about monitoring or restricting movement/contact/finances as a means to safeguard. The intention is not to make the child feel as though he or she has been imprisoned. Any safeguarding measures must endeavour not to replicate or mimic any of the child's trafficking or exploitative experiences, which may include severe restrictions on the child's freedom.

Please refer to the [1] [London Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009](#) for more detailed guidance and details of support services/agencies.

Action	Issues for consideration
First contact with child	Take a photo (immediately as a safeguarding action, children can go missing within 24 hours)
Safety of child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide child with a card (laminated?) with emergency contacts – carers, police, Children Services. • Ensure child knows how to dial 999 and that the child knows this is a free number. • Explore child's previous conceptions of figures of authority/uniform. Ensure child understand the role of Children Services and police – point of safety • The child should always be asked about what measures would make them feel safe
Safe placements	<p>Type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster care or residential? Carers/residential staff should have an awareness of trafficking and the impact on victims. • Close adult supervision is essential. A needs/risk assessment will determine the level of adult supervision required, but initially consider 24/7 monitoring, as full risks may not be apparent. • Consider cultural needs – is it appropriate to place the child with carers of the same cultural background, or does this create anxieties about association with past experiences, links to cultural community and risk of being recognised etc. Also consider issues of stigma, and whether the child feels comfortable associating with their cultural group.

	<p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child's placement must be secret. Should not be revealed to alleged relatives/friends/contacts until a full risk assessment has been carried out. The same precautions are required for any contact with the child's family of origin. • If the child is newly arrived in the UK, consider the account of their journey – is their physical presentation consistent with their account of travel? Are there indications that the child may have been in the UK for some time? Is the child's clothing likely to have been purchased in the UK, is the child familiar with the local area, transport, currency, language, food? If so, the child may have local connections – consider the risk of placing the child in local area if the child is already known locally by individuals/traffickers. • Consider potential or existing links to trafficking networks. Is there a large local community of the child's ethnic/cultural group – is there a risk that the child may be recognised in public or establish unsafe connections? <p>Safety in placement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there additional precautions required such as CCTV? • Carers must be fully aware of child's background and make immediate contact with police if there are concerns about danger. • Consider child's history – does the child pose a risk to other children? • Consider risk of placing child with another child of same cultural background or trafficking background - one child may re-establish contact with traffickers or may have never ceased contact, which could put the second child at risk. • Carers/residential staff must be alert to any loitering adults/young people/cars. Be vigilant and note down any details such as car registration/description, names and descriptions of any loitering individuals.
<p>Phones</p>	<p>Mobile phone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the child arrive with a mobile? Consider removal of mobile phone or replacing SIM card until risk has been assessed. Consider taking a separate record of any names/numbers stored in the mobile, and recent call history. If replacing SIM card bear in mind that the child may have memorised contact numbers of traffickers. • In some circumstances a mobile may be a means to track (triangulate) the child's location if he/she has gone missing <p>Phones in placement :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess whether access to a phone/internet places the child at risk of contacting traffickers and compromising their location. • If placed with other children, can the child access other children's mobile phones?
<p>Carers/staff</p>	<p>Monitor child for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxieties/trauma/injuries/signs of abuse • Is the child preoccupied with money or work, making contact with someone? • Does the child appear to be acting under the instruction of an adult? • Is the child guarded about their relationships and daily activities? • Evidence of substance misuse

	<p>Monitoring work/exploitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the child indebted? • Patterns of movement - leaving early/coming home late, consistently out on weekends? Physical indications of working - overly tired, back aches, head aches, skin irritations (consider manual labour, long hours, poor or unhygienic working conditions). • Indications of sexual exploitation?
<p>Clothing/possessions</p>	<p>On arrival check possessions and clothing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact numbers (can be concealed in clothing) • coached accounts on paper • names of people • medical papers or information about blood group type (possibility of trafficking for organ removal. Whilst there are no recorded cases in the UK, there are suspicions that child trafficking for organ removal may occur in other European countries) • possessions that may seem inappropriate for the child's age, culture or account of travel <p>Ongoing monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the child acquiring new possessions and money with no plausible source? • Has the child obtained one or more mobile phones without explanation? • Is the child being contacted by unknown persons?
<p>Access in placement to documents etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider any access the child may have to documents, money, Oyster cards (opportunity to travel). Does access to such items enable the child to utilise them to go missing? • In some circumstances an Oyster card may be a means to track the child's journey if he/she has gone missing • Control of immigration papers/ passports – if there is a risk that the child may travel abroad, consider who should hold these documents.
<p>Movement outside placement</p>	<p>Consider whether to control or supervise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the child be permitted out alone, with other children? • Should movement be supervised by carers? • Restriction of movement and visitors? (who their contacts are, what their activities are) • Is it appropriate for the child to attend religious institutions, community centres etc? Is it safe for child to be making links with their own cultural group? (consider private religious tuition, other peer activities that engage a wider cultural representation)
<p>Missing Episodes</p>	<p>Trafficked children are at high risk of going missing, and while the full risks to a child may not be clear, it is imperative to remember that the potential for harm could be immediate and long lasting. The child's care plan must include a risk assessment, and a contingency plan if the child goes missing. Refer to the [1] London Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009 and the [2] London Procedure for Safeguarding Missing Children from Care and Home.</p>
<p>Age Disputes</p>	<p>Where there is concern that a child may have been trafficked and an age dispute arises, the child should be given the benefit of the doubt as to their age until his/her age is verified – refer to the [1] London Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009 and local Children's Social Care age assessment/dispute procedures.</p>

<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the child's ability to engage in education and any specialist support required which may result from the child's experiences of trafficking/abuse/separation Consider any risk that the child's attendance at school may pose to other children Staff to be alert to adults/ young people or cars loitering near school or contacting child. Staff to be aware of risk of abduction or intimidation of child. Specialist education support – consider language, gaps in education or lack of education. Monitor indications of work/exploitation - explore truancy, poor attendance, tiredness at school
<p>Legal advice/representation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source specialist legal advice/representation in relation to trafficking, immigration and forced criminality Provide fact sheet/timeline about immigration process to minimise anxieties. A child should never be coerced into cooperating with criminal proceedings against traffickers, and must be fully informed about risks and proceedings before deciding whether to testify. Refer to [3] UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking.
<p>Money</p>	<p>Consider controlling pocket money or monitoring the use of money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the child using the money for unauthorised contact purposes? Internet access, phone calls, purchasing phone cards? Unexplained use of savings/allowance – is the child giving his or her allowance to someone else? Does the child want more than one bank account? For what purpose? Is the child trying to avoid monitoring of their finances? Consider money laundering – others may use child's account. Is the child saving money for any purpose (ie victims known to Harrow have saved to travel internationally)
<p>Health</p>	<p>Physical Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health checks and responses need to account for the child's journey, exploitation, abuse and neglect Consider the child's treatment, hazardous conditions, access to necessities such as food, water and shelter, malnourishment, exposure to extreme weather, exposure to unhygienic conditions or contagious illnesses, injuries, experiences of isolation Dental checks – trafficked children's dental needs are often neglected Immunisations Sexual health checks Breathing or respiratory problems (consider children in cannabis factories) If substance misuse highlighted, consider a Young People's Substance Misuse Initial Assessment <p>Emotional/Psychological:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapeutic/psychological services for the child to explore her/his experiences of trafficking/abuse/separation Develop child's awareness of risks and understanding of abuse/exploitation Consider trauma, sleep disturbances, depression, low self esteem Use of normalisation to reduce shame and stigma

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop child's ability to appropriately express emotions • Develop child's problem solving skills and ability to respond to challenges
Behaviour	<p>Consider support for appropriate socialisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child may have been subjected to lengthy abusive or exploitative experiences and may not have an understanding of appropriate behaviour. Children who have been sexually exploited or groomed may lack awareness of boundaries. • Behavioural difficulties in placement or at school - consider whether child is being pressured by a trafficker to be moved to their care, and whether child is intentionally trying to sabotage a placement, or whether an older child is being pressured to leave school to work. • Consider normalisation of abusive relationships and whether the child has developed a dependant relationship with his/her trafficker. • Consider child's ability to determine risk, and to differentiate between benevolent and sinister intentions of others. • Consider cultural and gender differences. • A child may have been forced into adult roles/work, and may not behave as a child. • Clandestine nature of trafficking can create an 'underworld mentality' – child may engage in subterfuge behaviour. <p>Develop protective factors – a sense of physical and emotional safety, positive relationships with peers, aspirations, interests and activities, role modelling/mentoring, personal safety skills</p>
Work/exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make child aware of UK law re employment and what constitutes exploitation • Develop child's aspirations (consider mentoring) • Explore child's perceptions regarding work/obligation to provide for family, child's perceptions re exploitation/abuse • Pursue any indicator that a child may be working
Contact with relatives/friends in UK from child's country of origin	<p>Explore risk. Consider controlling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical access • Telephone/internet access • Movement (see 'Movement outside placement')
Contact with broader community or cultural group of origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider risk if a child is placed in a location where there is large community of their cultural group, consider whether they will be recognised (eg at mosque, local shops, youth group etc) – will they start to establish unsafe connections with community members? • Consider child's public profile – ie if placing child in small rural community, is the child easily identifiable by virtue of his/her differences? • Consider risk to child of any media attention (eg publicity, recognition of sporting or educational achievements through the media) – is there a risk that the child's identity and location will be compromised? • All necessary measures must be taken to protect the privacy of the child and his/her family to ensure their safety and security
Family Tracing and Repatriation	<p>Efforts should be made to contact the child's family except where it is determined that to do so would be contrary to the best interests of the child. Details of the child must not be revealed to the family until a full risk assessment has been carried out. Repatriation and family reunification may not be in the child's best interests. A risk assessment must consider vulnerability</p>

factors that may lead to re-trafficking and /or exploitation and abuse, as well as issues of stigma that the child may face if returned.

- [1]** London Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009 available online:
http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/resources/trafficking/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_toolkit_january_19th_2009.pdf
- [2]** London Procedure for Safeguarding Missing Children from Care and Home available online:
<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/procedures/SafeguardingChildrenMissingfromCareandHomeProcedure.doc>
- [3]** UNICEF Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking available online:
http://www.unicef.at/fileadmin/medien/pdf/UNICEF_Guidelines_on_the_Protection_of_Child_Victims_of_Trafficking.pdf



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