



London Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit 2009

London Safeguarding Children Board

London Councils

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Note

The National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities will come into operation on April 1st 2009. Until this date, sections relating to these functions are subject to change and should be disregarded. This includes the requirement to send Section K of the Trafficking Assessment to the Central Competent Authority.

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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 [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Board, 2007\)](#) which can be accessed at www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/.
- 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).
- 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 5.4. UKHTC](#), below.

2. Definitions

2.1 Child 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)
- 2.1.2 The Palermo Protocol establishes children as a special case for whom there are only two components – movement and exploitation. **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.
- 2.1.3 'Child' refers to children 0 to 17 years and adolescents up to their 18th birthday. This definition is in accordance with London Child Protection Procedures (LSCB 2007).
- 2.1.4 See also [section 6.4.11 Age assessments](#).
- 2.1.5 A child may be trafficked for the purpose of:
- Sexual exploitation (including child abuse acts and images)

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).

- 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

2.1.6 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. This definition is in accordance with [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#). See [Appendix 2. Glossary and acronyms](#).

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);
- 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 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.

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

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 pickpocketing
 - 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 Why is trafficking 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 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 ports or other regional airports. Traffickers are also known to use the Eurostar rail service and ferries to UK sea ports.

4.4.3 Children enter the UK in two key ways, 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 even an absence of any knowledge of the sponsor. 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 children's social care 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 It is suspected that significant numbers of children are referred to LA children's social care 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 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. Although in some cases, such as contracting AIDS or the extreme abuse suffered by Victoria Climbié, fatal damage happens very quickly.
- 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 *
- * See the London Procedure for [Safeguarding children abused through sexual exploitation \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2006\)](#)
- 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); and
- * See the London Procedure for [Safeguarding Children at risk of Female Genital Mutilation \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)
- Stress / post traumatic stress (PTSD) related physical disorders such as skin diseases, migraine, backache etc.
- 4.5.4 Some forms of harm might be linked to a belief in spirit possession*
- * See [section 5.41 Spirit possession or witchcraft in the London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).

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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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 and [*Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education \(DCSF, 2006\)*](#)⁴.
- 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. Roles and Responsibilities in the [*London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)*](#).

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.

6. Action by professionals and agencies

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

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

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 [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).
- 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.
- 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 by persons the

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

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 Indicators are apparent symptoms of a situation. 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 entered the country illegally;
- 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; and/or
- Is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or other personal details.

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

6.3.4 The sponsor could:

- 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; and/or
- 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 resident 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 has an unwanted 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;

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

- Has not been enrolled in school;
- 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; and/or
- 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 unwanted 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; and/or
- 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.

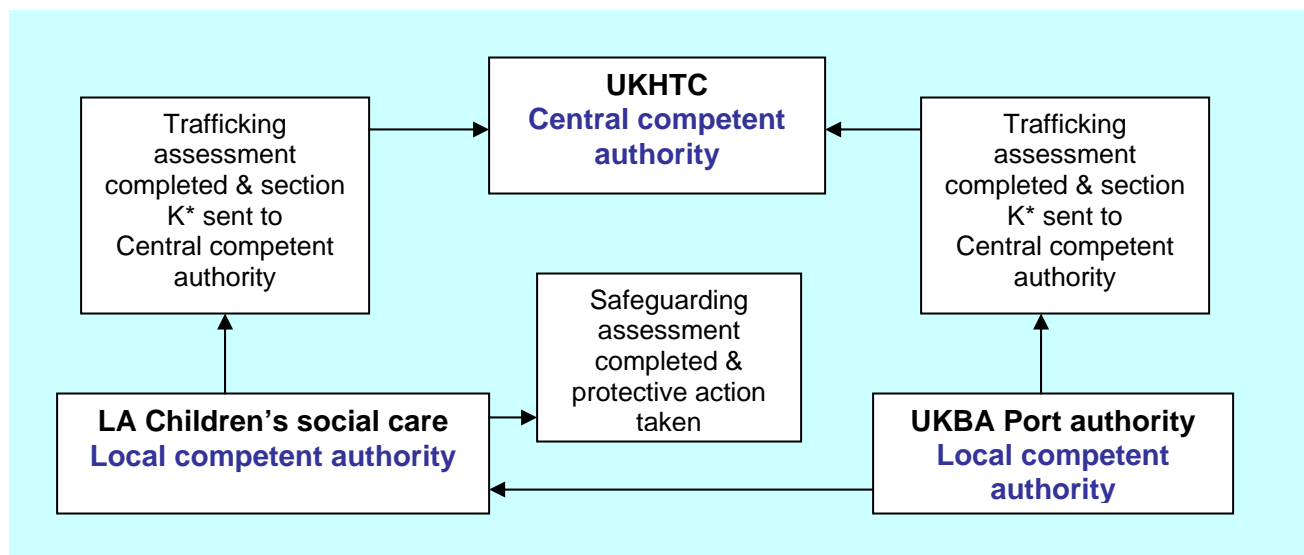
6.3.9 It is also important to note that trafficked children might not show obvious signs of distress or abuse and this makes identifying children who may have been trafficked difficult. Some children are unaware that they have been trafficked, while others may actively participate in hiding that they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

6.4 National Referral Mechanism*

*** The National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities will come into operation on April 1st 2009. Until this date, sections relating to these functions are subject to change and should be disregarded. This includes the requirement to send Section K of the Trafficking Assessment to the Central Competent Authority.**

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:



* Section K is the last page of the [Trafficking assessment tool \(ACPO / CEOP\) in appendix 16](#).

6.4.4 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 care (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.

Local competent authority: LA children’s social care, as the local competent authority, has responsibility for approving the frontline professional’s decision about whether a child is trafficked, based on the reasonable grounds’ test (see [section 6.4.8, below](#)).

- **Stage three:** in the third stage LA children’s social care refers the child’s case to the UKHTC (see [section 5.4 UK Human Trafficking Centre \(UKHTC\), above](#)) as the central competent authority.

Section K: to make the referral the frontline professional should send the last page only (Section K) of the completed Trafficking assessment tool (ACPO / CEOP) to the UKHTC.

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

Reasons for alerting the central competent authority in Stage one

6.4.6 When LA children’s social care 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](#))

6.4.7 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 care 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

- 6.4.8 The local competent authority (LA children's social care and UKBA) and the central competent authority (UKHTC) '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".

- 6.4.9 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](#)).
- 6.4.10 The centralised competent authority will advise the Local Competent Authority whether any further action needs to be taken.

Age assessments

- 6.4.11 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.
- 6.4.12 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.
- 6.4.13 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.
- 6.4.14 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.
- 6.4.15 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 (see [section 8.6. Lead professional](#)) in cases where the concerns in relation to a child are related to trafficking. This postholder could support staff in more than one local authority area.

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 guidance, which is in accordance with the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).

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 (the term includes unqualified managers, staff and volunteers) 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 A professional may have a lot or a very little information indicating that a child has been or is being trafficked. The professional should look across the whole matrix and tick 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.

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

- 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).
- 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 LA children's social care, in line with [section 9.1 Referral to LA children's social care](#), 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.
- 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.
- 8.2.10 The tools for gathering information and making an assessment are:
- The Common Assessment Framework; and
 - A specialist / statutory assessment (including LA children's social care 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 care assessment
 - Level 4: Acute – LA children's social care 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 (level 2) or at risk of harm (levels 3 or 4).

8.3 Vulnerable children (and some children with complex needs) – Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

8.3.1 To assist in completing a CAF, professionals should refer to 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 2: Vulnerable – common assessment and Level 3: Complex – common assessment or LA children’s social care assessments).

Deciding to undertake a CAF

8.3.2 A common assessment should be undertaken by the service or agency which first has concerns that a child may be at risk of being trafficked, or has been trafficked. There may be a need to assess (and convene meetings) about more than one child.

8.3.3 A professional who has concerns about a child should discuss these with his/her immediate / line manager, nominated safeguarding children adviser¹⁰ and local professional with specialist knowledge in relation to trafficked children (see [section 7. Local trafficked children lead](#), above). The decision to undertake a common assessment is a matter for professional judgement, taking into account whether:

- The child appears to have needs which are not being met but it is not clear what these are;
- A child is not progressing as expected and the reasons for this are not clear;
- It appears likely that the child will need help from more than one agency;
- Additional information is required to meet needs which have already been identified; and/or
- A parent, carer or child requests an assessment.

8.3.4 Where available, a pre-assessment checklist can be used to assist the professional in deciding whether or not a common assessment would be appropriate. The professional should check whether a CAF has already been done by contacting the local officer responsible for co-ordinating the CAF (or using ContactPoint when available), or asking the child and parents.

8.3.5 If a CAF already exists, the professional will need the consent of the child / family to access information from the lead professional (see [section 8.6. Lead professional, below](#)) about the child’s needs and about services already in place or adding information.

Child and parent consent issues

8.3.6 The exception to seeking consent and sharing information with the child and family throughout this guidance is where professionals have concerns that to involve

¹⁰ Section 2.3.4 Nominated safeguarding children adviser in Chapter 2 Roles & Responsibilities, [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)

parents / carers / adults accompanying the child would risk further harm to the child. All decisions to gather information and share it with other agencies without consent should be authorised by a first line manager or above, and the reasons recorded.

Undertaking a CAF

- 8.3.7 Professional should first discuss the benefits of the CAF with the child / family and offer the assessment. If the child / family consent, the assessment can go ahead.
- 8.3.8 The professional undertaking a CAF should:
- a) Use the local CAF form as a prompt:
 - aim to gather information about all aspects of the child's life, not just those that fall within their service's remit;
 - concentrate on information which is most relevant to this episode (additional information for other sections of the CAF form can be included later by other professionals);
 - focus on strengths and positives in the child's life as well as concerns;
 - base the assessment on evidence (what has been observed or what the child or parent has said) rather than opinion.
 - b) Record the results of the assessment and decide, in discussion with his/her immediate/line manager and nominated safeguarding children adviser, on the level of response needed (see [appendix 10. Quick guide to assessments](#));
 - is the child trafficked
 - is this a level 2a case: single agency or maximum 2 agencies; is it a level 2b case: multi-agency or is it level 3 complex or level 4 (see [section 9. Children at risk of / or experiencing significant harm](#), below)
 - c) Agree and record the actions, timescale and anticipated outcomes on the CAF form (e.g. if the child needs multi-agency support, who will convene the multi-agency / team around the child (TAC) meeting, see also [section 8.4 Multi-agency professionals / team around the child meeting](#), below);
 - d) Record consent to share the assessment information with other agencies and any limitations on that consent;
 - e) Check that consent has been obtained to send a copy to the local officer responsible for co-ordinating the CAF;
 - f) Give a copy of the assessment to the child and family;
 - g) Agree a meeting date to review progress against the CAF action plan;
 - h) Review progress against the CAF action plan.

Referring the child's case under the national referral mechanism

- 8.3.9 If one of the conclusions from the common assessment is that there are reasonable grounds to believe a child is trafficked (see section 8.3.8 e) above), then the

professional must follow [section 9. Children at risk of / or experiencing significant harm](#) and refer the child to LA children's social care. In addition to undertaking a safeguarding assessment, LA children's social care will act as the local competent authority under the national referral mechanism, in line with [section 6.4 National referral mechanism](#), above.

Reviewing the CAF Action plan

8.3.10 The outcomes could be one of the following:

- a) Child and family are now receiving the services identified and there are no more additional or unmet needs. No further action required at present. Consult with manager and agree decision. Close CAF;
- b) Not all the actions agreed have been carried out and some needs remain:
 - record non-completed actions
 - identify people and resources needed to complete them
 - set a date for completion and arrange a further review meeting;
- c) Needs have changed or further needs have been identified and other support or services required:
 - continue with CAF process
 - complete revised action plan
 - arrange a further review meeting;
- d) Circumstances have changed and/or needs have become more severe. Consult with manager and make referral to the appropriate agency. Record their response and set date to review.

8.4 Multi-agency professionals / team around the child meeting

8.4.1 If a common assessment indicates that more than two agencies should be involved in meeting the child's needs, then the initial CAF holder (the person starting the CAF) should set up a 'team around the child' (TAC) meeting. The professional will need to reach agreement with the child and family about which agencies will be invited. The professional should also consult the local professional with specialist knowledge in relation to trafficked children, if there is one (see [section 7. Local trafficked children lead](#)).

8.4.2 Agencies invited to attend the meeting may include:

- Local professional with specialist knowledge in relation to trafficked children, if there is one (see [section 7. Local trafficked children lead](#));
- School the child is enrolled at and the school attendance improvement service (SAIS);
- LA children's social care;
- LA housing;
- Health services;
- Metropolitan Police; and

- The referrer.

8.4.3 Agencies currently involved with the child, or agencies who have previously worked with the family and who have appropriate contributions to make, will also be invited to attend (e.g. voluntary sector services).

8.4.4 The child and family will also attend TAC, and professionals must ensure that they are able to participate fully in the meeting.

8.4.5 The purpose of this meeting is to enable professionals to work together with the child and family and agree a co-ordinated plan of action to meet the needs identified. At the first TAC, a lead professional should be appointed (see [section 8.6 Lead professional](#)).

8.5 Multi-agency decision making and signposting

8.5.1 The multi-agency meeting has a number of responsibilities and functions to fulfil:

- Share information about the child. Under Section 115 of *the Crime and Disorder Act 1998*, all agencies are empowered to share information without permission for the purpose of crime prevention (although obtaining consent is good practice);
- Identify key contacts and the lead professional;
- Plan the most appropriate services to intervene and support the child;
- Modify plans in the light of information shared;
- Ensure accountability;
- Increase mutual understanding and the use risk assessment techniques;
- Identify other children who might be at risk;
- Increase understanding of different agencies' ability to and constraints of taking action; and
- Increase understanding of the success of different interventions.

8.5.2 The outcome of meeting may be that:

- There is no need to proceed further at this point;
- There is a need to initiate child protection procedures;
- There is a need for further assessment;
- There is a possibility of criminal action against an adult;
- Counselling is required for the child;
- There is insufficient information at this stage, but concerns remain and further work is required to clarify them; or
- A referral to a voluntary project / agency should be made.

8.5.3 Multi-agency case plans should have clear outcomes, assigned responsibilities and be led by the lead professional.

8.6 Lead professional

- 8.6.1 The lead professional¹¹ will be chosen from among those professionals forming the team around the child, to take the lead in co-ordinating provision and to be a single point of contact for a child for the range of services represented by the TAC.
- 8.6.2 It is the responsibility of the initial CAF holder (in agreement with his/her line manager) to ensure that there is a clear handover of responsibility to the lead professional or to another professional¹². This ensures continuity and is part of ordinary good practice.
- 8.6.3 Some examples of the tasks a lead professional may need to carry out are:
- Build a relationship with the child to secure their involvement and engagement in the process;
 - Co-ordinate the delivery of a set of actions which provide a package of support and a process by which this will be regularly reviewed and monitored;
 - Support the child through key transition points and, where necessary, ensure a careful and planned handover takes place if it is more appropriate for someone else to be the lead professional; and
 - Identify where additional services may need to be involved, including making a referral to LA children's social care if they think that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm (see [section 9.1 Referral to LA children's social care](#), below).
- 8.6.4 Other members of the team around the child are expected to support the lead professional in carrying out their role by:
- Delivering the specific actions they agreed to in the plan;
 - Keeping the lead professional up-to-date with developments, actions and any delays relating to the plan;
 - Attending meetings called by the lead professional;
 - Contributing to the planning, delivery and review of actions agreed; and
 - Contributing to decision making around closing the CAF.
- 8.6.5 All staff undertaking the role of lead professional need to have access to suitable professional support and supervision.

9. Children at risk of or experiencing significant harm

9.1 Referral to LA children's social care

- 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 care assessments and Level 4: Acute – LA children's social care assessments).

¹¹ It is MPS policy that this will not be a police officer

¹² Responsibility remains with the person who started the CAF until either the CAF is closed or a Lead Professional is appointed.

- 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 care, in line with section 6. Referral and assessment and section 7. Child protection enquiries, in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).

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 care 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 [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)).
- 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 care response

Referral and information gathering

See section 6.5 Receiving a referral in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)

- 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 illegally;
 - 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 care.

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 ways forward:

- a) An initial assessment to decide whether:
 - appropriate arrangements for the child have been made by her/his parents
 - there are grounds to accommodate the child
 - the child is in need of immediate protection
 - 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:
 - The child is lost or abandoned
 - There is no person with parental responsibility for the child
 - 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 of which plan is in place.

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 meet with the referrer.
- 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 6.6 Initial assessment and 7.7 Involving parents, family members and children in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)
- 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); and
 - 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 care or the police should request this information from their equivalent agencies in the country or countries in which the child has lived. See section 5.45 Accessing information from abroad in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).¹³
- 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.

¹³ Information about who to contact can also be obtained via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 0207 008 1500

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 7.5 Strategy meeting / discussion in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)
- 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 care 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 7.2 Immediate protection, 7.3 Section 47 enquiry thresholds and the core assessment, in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)
- 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 7.7 Involving parents, family members and children and 7.8 Visually recorded interviews / Achieving Best Evidence in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#). In particular, the child should be seen alone and in a safe environment.
- 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. See section 5.47 Working with interpreters / communication facilitators in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#). 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; and
 - 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).
- 9.2.33 See also the London Guidance for [Safeguarding Children Missing from School \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2006\)](#).

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;
 - Medical services;
 - Sexual health services;
 - Education;
 - Family tracing and contact (unless it is not consistent with their welfare); and
 - If appropriate, repatriation.
- 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
- 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 talking to children using the phone, e-mail, text;
- Ensure that carers are not in the proximity; and
- 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 care 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 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 care. 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 care 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 need to be 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 care should continue to share information with the police. This 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 5.45 Accessing information from abroad in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).¹⁴

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

¹⁴ Information about who to contact can also be obtained via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 0207 008 1500

- children go missing (back into the care 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 care 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](#)).
- 10.4.7 If a child does go missing, professionals should follow the London procedure for [Safeguarding children missing from care and home \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2006\)](#).
- 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 an agreed process to inform the appropriate authorities.

- 10.4.10 See also the London Procedure for [Safeguarding Children Missing from School \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2006\)](#).

11. Information sharing

- 11.1 Professionals in all agencies should be confident and competent in sharing information in line with section 3. Information sharing, in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#).
- 11.2 Professionals should make all efforts to share information, where appropriate, with other professionals to avoid repetition for 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 care 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, make 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. This may include public awareness work. The LSCB may publicise sources of help for child victims.
- 12.4 **This Guidance:** LSCBs should adopt this Guidance as a means of supporting the professionals in all the agencies and the community 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 - sample TOR](#)).
- 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 legislation¹⁵

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).

¹⁵ 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:
 - in accommodation provided by or on behalf of any voluntary organisation;
 - in any school in which he is receiving full-time education;
 - in any health service hospital;
 - in any care home or independent hospital;
 - in any home or institution not specified above but provided, equipped and maintained by the Secretary of State; or
 - 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

Extracted from the *London Child Protection Procedures (LSCB 2007)* which can be accessed at: www.londonscb.gov.uk

Child	Children 0 to 17 years and adolescents up to their 18th birthday
Common Assessment Framework (CAF)	<p>The CAF 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.</p> <p>All local authority areas are expected to implement the CAF between April 2006 and the end of 2008</p>
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 care 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

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CTN	Coming To Notice
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CROP	Coalition for the Removal of Pimping
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
DCSF	Department for Children, Schools and Families
DH	Department of Health
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
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
YOT	Youth Offending Team

Appendix 3 - LSCB Trafficked Children Sub-group

Sample Terms of Reference

- To work towards an integrated strategy to identify and address child trafficking
- 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 Service and the Police
- To share information with a view to tracing 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 Islington
- To support young people in identifying trafficked children and in identifying themselves as trafficked children

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 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

London Trafficked Children Toolkit for piloting January 2009

At the local level LSCBs to lead in the provision of multi-agency training in relation to child trafficking also be responsible for raising awareness locally of child trafficking issues.

It is recommended that specific LSCB child trafficking sub-groups be created to administer and implement the child trafficking agenda at the local level.

LSCBs should ensure that local multi-agency training programs for professionals cover trafficking issues as required, either as part of safeguarding training or as additional training.

London Trafficked Children Toolkit: when designing training modules trainers should reference this London Trafficked Children toolkit Guidance.

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. This may include public awareness work. The LSCB may publicise sources of help for child victims.

Support for staff & the community: LSCBs should adopt this Guidance as a means of supporting the professionals in all the agencies and the community their local area, to identify and respond appropriately to safeguard children who are or are at risk of being trafficked.

Children's Social Care to attend LSCB Child Trafficking training, and to develop a Child Trafficking assessment-training module in order to identify victims of child trafficking.

It is recommended the [*London Trafficked Children Toolkit \(LSCB, 2009\)*](#) reference and the trafficking assessment tool be utilised in the process of identifying victims.

UK Border Agency (UKBA) to devise and provide Child Trafficking awareness training to all staff in contact with children and provide training for staff in relation to the implementation of the trafficking assessment tool to enhance the identification process of victims.

Law Enforcement: through the local Public Protection Desk and Child Abuse Investigation Teams develop specific training around the national pilot scheme for the identification of child trafficking victims.

For all competent agencies responsible for the identification of trafficking victims, the relevant guidance should be utilised and referenced when using the trafficking assessment tool.

Appendix 5 - Role of specific agencies and services

A. Statutory services

1. LA children's social care

1.1 LA children's social care 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 care duties to undertake an initial assessment and, where appropriate, section 47 enquiries, in line with sections 6.6 Initial assessment and 7.3 Section 47 enquiry thresholds and the core assessment, in the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007\)](#)

2. Local authority asylum teams

2.1 Many local authorities have asylum teams who have responsibility for families, single adults and unaccompanied young people for whom there are no concerns in addition to their migrant status. Where there are specialist asylum teams, there should be a locally agreed joint protocol with other children's social care teams and relevant agencies. Some local authorities offer services to children seeking asylum within their mainstream children's social care teams.

3. Local authority children missing education teams

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 \(DCSF, 2007\)](#)¹⁶. The named contact or team responsible for identifying children missing from education should be competent and confident to respond to children who may have been trafficked.

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 care are contacted immediately. Children trafficked

¹⁶ See: www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources/IG00202/

into the country may be registered at a school for a term or so, before being moved to another part of the UK or abroad again. Schools therefore need to be alert to this pattern of registration and de-registration. This pattern has been identified in schools near ports, however it could happen anywhere in the UK.

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 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 teams

- 6.1 Staff working in Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) 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 YOT professional suspects a child may have been trafficked, safeguarding procedures should be followed immediately, and the LA children's social care 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. There are a number of specialist teams, which are separate from the child abuse investigation teams, in police services across the UK 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.

- 7.2 In addition to having child abuse investigation teams, the Metropolitan Police Service have a lead child trafficking team named 'Paladin'. This is a partnership team of MPS and immigration officers whose prime function is to safeguard children at London's ports. They have a permanent presence at Heathrow Airport and the Asylum Screening Unit at Croydon, where they work closely with the specialist children's services teams also based at those two locations. Paladin also covers the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras and City Airport.
- 7.3 Paladin undertakes proactive and preventative initiatives against the trafficking of children. The team also investigates specific trafficking and migration offences, as well as providing an advisory service to child abuse investigation teams and all relevant agencies at London's ports on child trafficking issues.
- 7.4 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 and appropriate safeguarding processes should be followed. A designated police officer will act as a single point of contact for considering any issues related to child trafficking. 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 available on the Home Office crime reduction website.

8. Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

- 8.1 The *Code for Crown Prosecutors*¹⁷ 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. Professionals should refer to the London Procedure [Safeguarding children abused through sexual exploitation \(London Safeguarding Children Board, 2006\)](#). The same consideration will be given to those who are coerced into committing crimes or used by adults to commit offences. CPS will prosecute people who organise sexual exploitation and who benefit financially from abusing children.

¹⁷ See : www.cps.gov.uk/Publications/docs/code2004english.pdf

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 Borders Agency (UKBA)

9.1 UKBA is a new executive agency of the Home Office which has assumed responsibility for managing immigration control in the UK. It may be the first official agency to have contact with child victims of trafficking. Its interventions may be triggered by the particular circumstances of the case or by international intelligence about trafficking. UKBA is likely to be a source of referrals to child welfare agencies.

9.2 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. They should ensure that immigration processes and decisions made in respect of children take into account their individual situation, views and welfare.

9.3 When working with children, officers should operate in accordance with the UKBA code of practice *Keeping Children Safe from Harm*¹⁸. 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.

9.4 It is important for all agencies concerned with protecting children who have been trafficked to develop good working arrangements with UKBA. In addition, it is important that UKBA establishes good contacts with LA children's social care services and, where appropriate, takes part in LSCBs.

9.5 Immigration officers identify children from abroad who may be at risk of being trafficked. Children who, irrespective of their immigration status, are believed to be at risk of harm, are referred to agencies with statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children's welfare, primarily the LA children's social care and/or the local police. Records for these children exist both within UKBA and with the receiving agency. 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.

9.6 Applications for immigration status made on behalf of children may give rise to concerns that they are victims of trafficking. UKBA caseworkers will not only be a source of referral to children's social care or the police but may assist with developing child protection and care plans.

9.7 The UK Borders Act 2007 refers to UKBA code of practice *Keeping Children Safe from Harm* which UKBA officials are required to have regard to when dealing with any child identified as being at risk of harm at a port of entry into the UK.

¹⁸ See : www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk

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 NSPCC, ECPAT UK¹⁹, 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. The Trafficking Advice and Information Line can be accessed either by telephone or face-to-face by appointment through their Case Consultancy Service.

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 still 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.

¹⁹ *End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children:*
www.ecpat.org.uk

- 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:
- 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.
- 4.2 The support provided by the advisers includes:
- Assisting children in accessing legal representation;
 - Guiding children through the asylum procedures;
 - If necessary, accompanying children to asylum interviews, tribunal and appeal hearings, magistrates and crown court appointments;
 - Building up a support network for children involving a range of statutory and non-statutory service providers; and
 - Accompanying children to appointments with GPs, hospitals, LA children's social care or other agencies.
- 4.3 The Panel also offers support to children at a drop-in advice service where they can get good quality meals, showers, second-hand clothes and help with tracing missing relatives. The nature of the work of the

Children's Panel is such that they may well gather information which enables them to identify and refer children who are trafficked.

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.
- 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 *London Child Protection Procedures (London Safeguarding Children Board, 2007)* 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

Dora Addei
Amadeus House
Mondial Way
Hayes
UB3 5AR
Tel: 020 3014 8012
Fax: 020 3014 8186
Email: Dora.Addei@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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 care when any of their 'looked after' children go missing. LA children's social care 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 Freefone 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 freefone 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

33 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2WG

Tel: 020 7238 2320/2307

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

AFRUCU - Africans Unite Against Child Abuse was established in May 2001 as a platform for advocating for the welfare of African children. In particular, AFRUCU 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.

Appendix 6 - Competent Authority considerations

This section will be drafted once the National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities have come into operation on April 1st 2009.

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 care • See actions for LA children's social care 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 care • See actions for LA children's social care in this column

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>Police</p> <p><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 care • Where immediate action is needed the CAIT will have a strategy discussion with Social Services • See actions for LA children's social care in this column
<p>LA Children's Social Care</p> <p><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/administrator, residential worker, children's rights officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA children's social care 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 care 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 Asylum Team</p> <p><i>(The child, accompanied or unaccompanied, is referred by LA children's social care 'intake team' to their Local Authority's asylum team)</i></p>	<p>Asylum team social worker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum 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 care (Child Protection team) in this column

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>Youth Offending Teams, youth clubs & Connexions</p> <p><i>(The child, accompanied or unaccompanied, commits an offence and is referred to the YOT, joins or attends a youth club, receives services from Connexions)</i></p>	<p>YOT practitioner, youth worker, youth work volunteer, Connexions Personal Advisor, reception/ administrator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOT 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 care • See actions for LA children's social care in this column
<p>UKBA, Asylum Screening Unit</p> <p><i>(Adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child present at port of entry or at Lunar House in Croydon after entering the UK. In the latter case they may have first made contact with another service e.g. LA children's social care)</i></p>	<p>Ports immigration officer, asylum screening staff at Lunar 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 care and the Police • See actions for LA children's social care 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>Fire Service</p> <p><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 care • See actions for LA children's social care in this column
<p>Local Authority Housing</p> <p><i>(Homeless adult(s) and child/ren or an unaccompanied child apply for to be housed)</i></p>	<p>Housing officer, reception/administrat or</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 care • See actions for LA children's social care 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>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/administrators</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 care • See actions for LA children's social care 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 care • See actions for LA children's social care 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 care 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 care • See actions for LA children's social care in this column

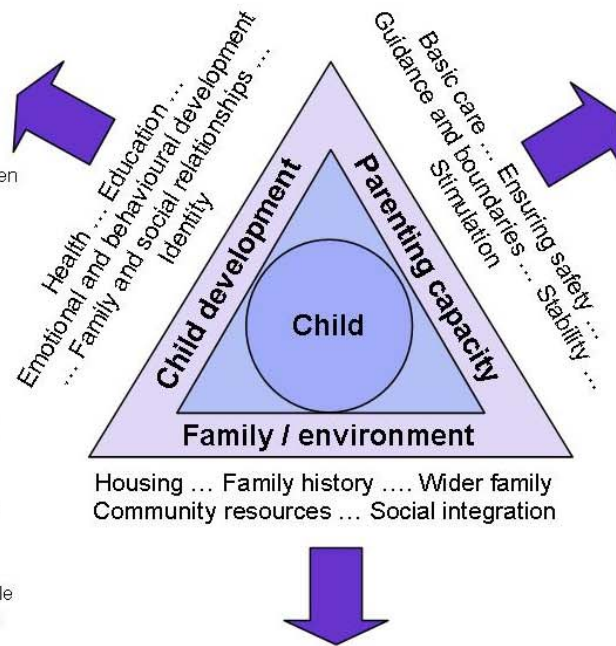
London Trafficked Children Toolkit for piloting January 2009

<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>Community, faith groups and others</p> <p><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 care • See actions for LA children's social care in this column

* Where a child is not already receiving a service from the local LA children's social care, 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 care. Agencies' will need to have access to a CAF Assessor by 2008, when all local authorities implement the CAF.

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 9 - Risk assessment matrix for children who may have been trafficked

Child development

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

Parenting capacity

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

Family / environment

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

Y = yes, S = suspected

Appendix 10 - Quick 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 2a - VULNERABLE</u> Single agency or maximum 2 agencies.	Child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met. Child's needs <u>are</u> known but not being met.	Common Assessment Framework	Universal or targeted services.	Child with additional needs – requiring additional help from the assessing and/or one other agency. Likely to be short-term.
<u>Level 2b - VULNERABLE</u> Multi-agency CAF, LPR & TAC	Child's needs are not clear, not known or not being met. Suspect or CAF shows that response from a number of agencies will be needed.	Common Assessment Framework	Universal or targeted services.	Child with additional needs – requiring multi-agency intervention. Likely to be short-term.

SPECIALIST / STATUTORY ASSESSMENT (including LA children's social care)

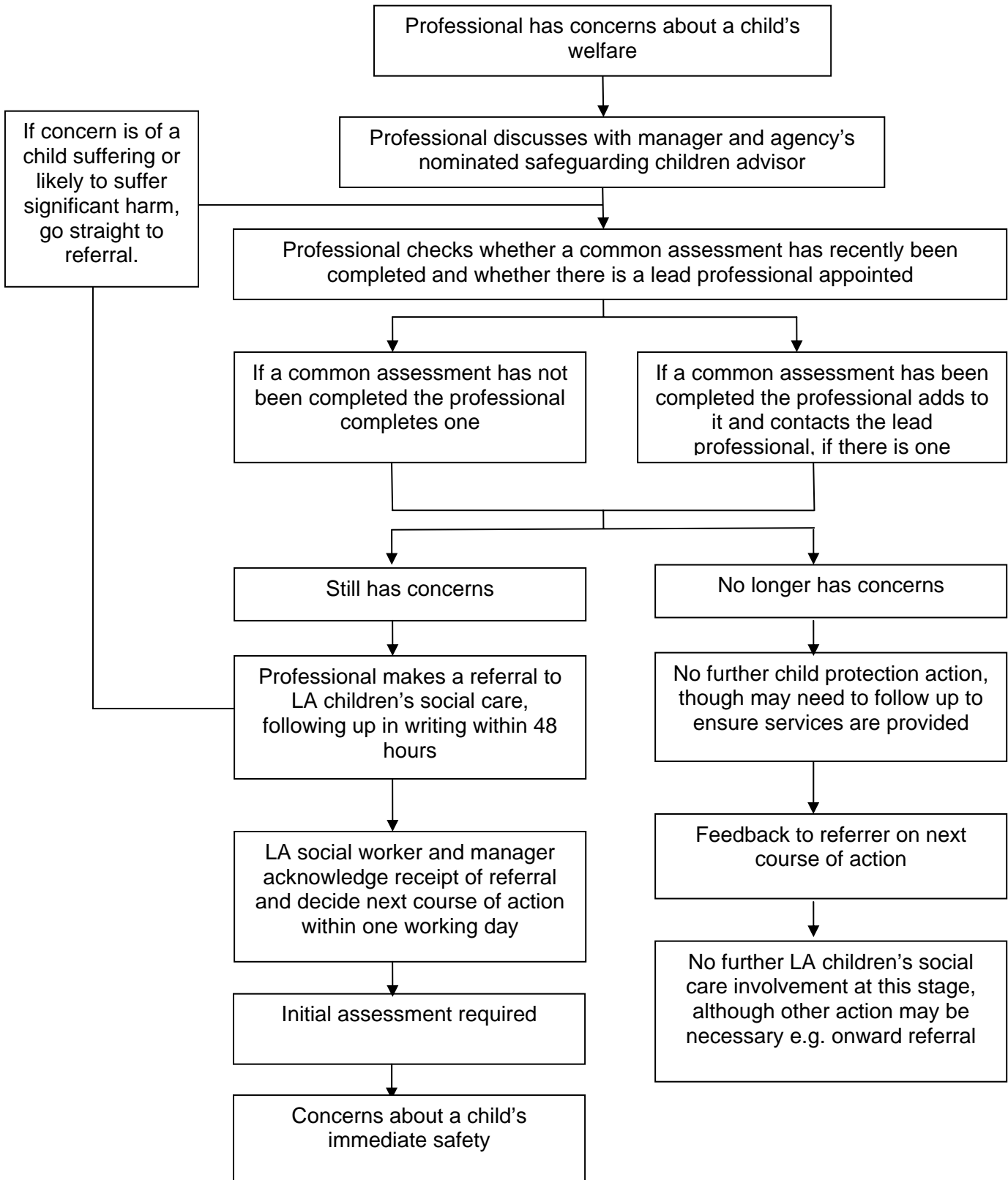
<u>Level 3 - COMPLEX</u>	Complex needs likely to require longer term intervention from statutory and/or specialist services	Statutory or specialist services	LA children's social care. Other statutory service e.g. SEN services. Specialist health or disability services. Youth Offending Team.	Child in need. Child in care. Child with significant disability/ies or complex health needs. Child involved in criminal or offending behaviour.
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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	LA children's social care Police	Child suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm and in need of urgent protection.
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Appendix 11 - Quick 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 care in line with the [London Child Protection Procedures \(London Board, 2007\)](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk): www.londonscb.gov.uk

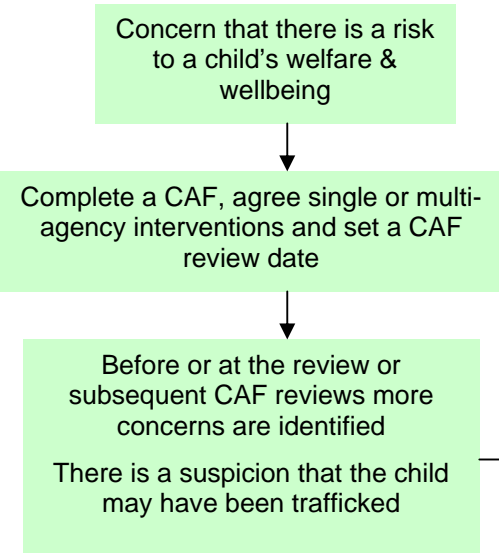


Appendix 12 - Flowchart for safeguarding a trafficked child

The National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities will come into operation on April 1st 2009. Until this date, sections relating to these functions are subject to change and should be disregarded. This includes the requirement to send Section K of the Trafficking Assessment to the Central Competent Authority.

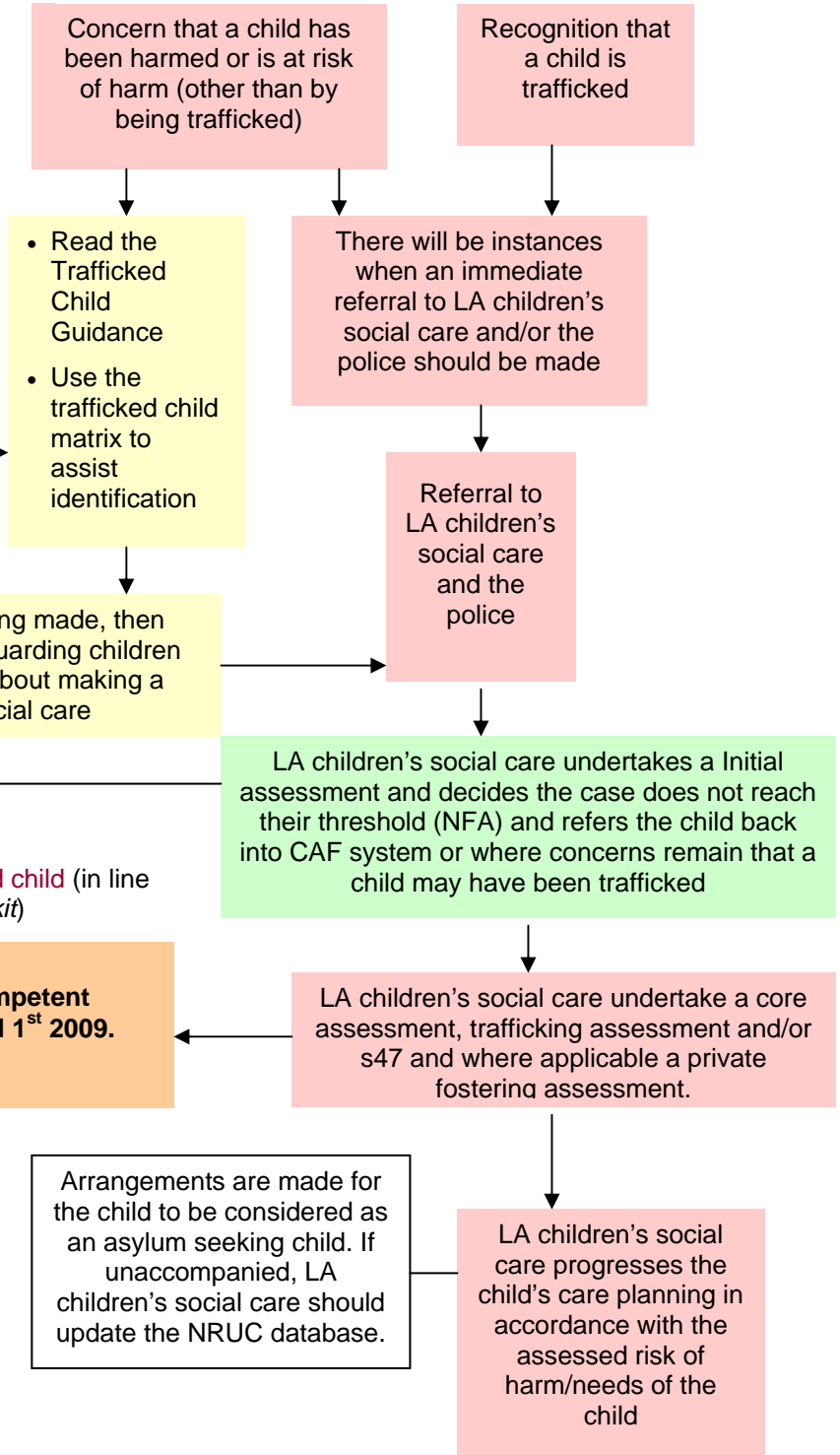
COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

This is a safeguarding assessment (in line with the *London CAF Guidance*)



CHILD PROTECTION PROCESS

This is a safeguarding assessment (in line with the *London Child Protection Procedures*)

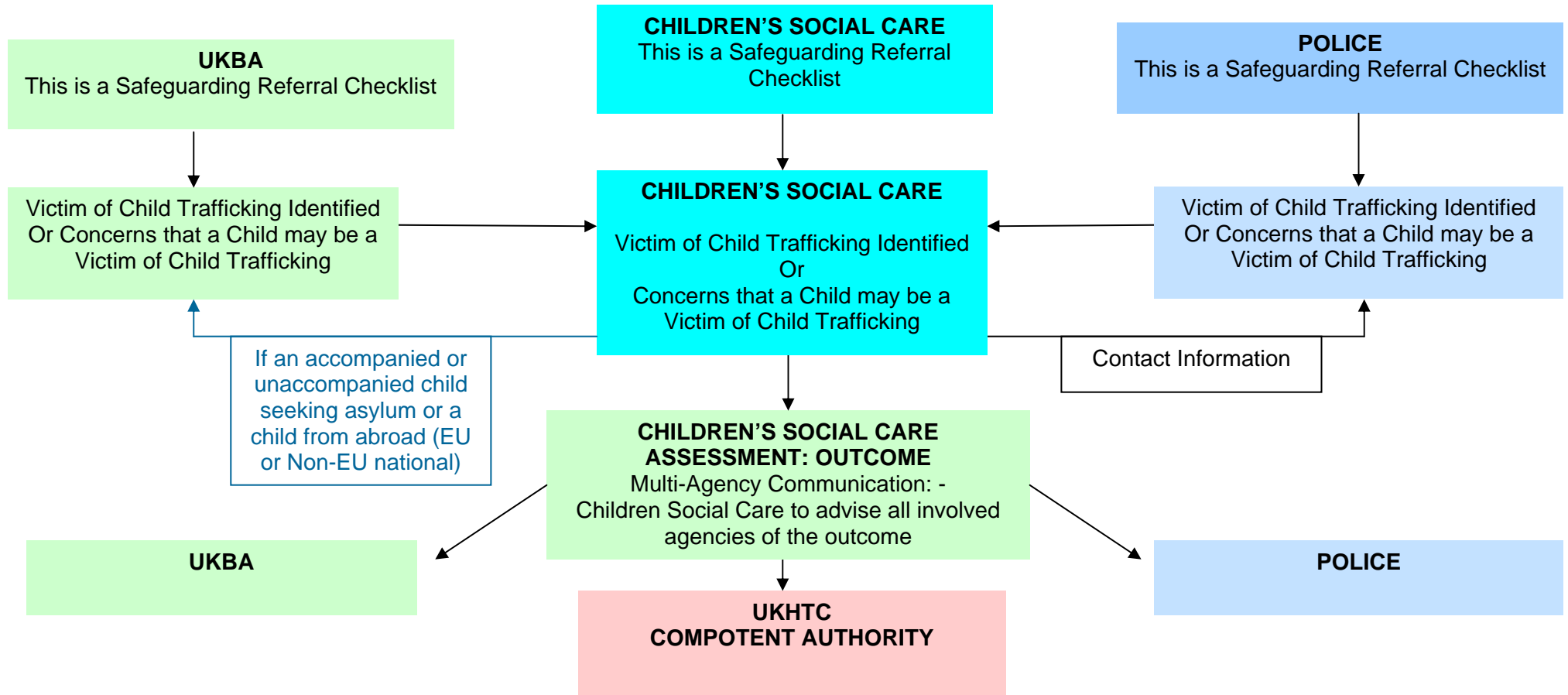


COMPETENT AUTHORITY

This is an assessment to identify a trafficked child (in line with the *Trafficked Children Toolkit*)

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

Appendix 13 - Child trafficking referral checklist



Are you talking to the right people?

Check your London-SCB-Child Trafficking Guidance

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/supplementary_procedures/safeguarding_trafficked_and_exploited_children.htm

Appendix 14 - Use of indicators to complete the trafficking assessment

Indicators that can assist in establishing 'reasonable grounds' of child trafficking	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	E1. CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES (ACCOMMODATION)	E2. CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES (DAILY LIVING ROUTINE)	E3 - CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES (FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT)	F. HEALTH	G. SAFETY	G1. EMOTIONAL HEALTH	G2. QUALITY OF SLEEP	G3. SEXUAL EXPERIENCE AND HEALTH	H. ABUSE	I. JOURNEY
	MOVEMENT INTO THE UK																
has entered the country illegally;	Q20						Q1										Q2-11
is unable to confirm the name and address of the person meeting them on arrival;						Q1-4	Q1-3										
has had their journey or visa arranged by someone other than themselves or their family;						Q1-6	Q1-3										Q1-11
has a history with missing links and unexplained moves;					Q4		Q1-4	Q2,3,5,6		Q2-4	Q2,4						Q1-11
has a prepared story very similar to those that other children have given perhaps hinting they have been coached;	Q1-11	Q1-9		Q1-5	Q1-4	Q1-6	Q1-3	Q2,3,5,6,7	Q1-5	Q1-5	Q2-4						Q1-6,8-11
MOVEMENT WITHIN THE UK																	
has gone missing from local authority care;								Q2,3,5,6				Q1-6					
is registered at a number of different addresses.	Q5	Q12,13					Q1,3,4	Q1-7									
has a history with missing links and unexplained moves;			Q1,2				Q1-4	Q2,3,5,6		Q2-4							Q1-11
Returning after having been missing, looking well cared for despite having no known base;						Q5	Q2	X		Q5	Q1	Q1-3			Q1	Q1	
Pattern of street homelessness;								Q1-7	Q1	Q4	Q1-5	Q1,2			Q1	Q1	
has a prepared story very similar to those that other children have given perhaps hinting they have been coached;	Q1-11	Q1-9		Q1-5	Q1-4	Q1-6	Q1-3	Q2,3,5,6,7	Q1-5	Q1-5	Q2-4						Q1-6,8-11

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EXPLOITATION																	
claims to have been exploited through sexual exploitation, criminality (i.e. cannabis farms, petty street crimes, begging, etc), labour exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage, illegal adoption, drug dealing by another person.				Q1-5	Q3,4	Q1-7		Q1-7	Q1-4	Q2-4	Q3-5	Q1-4	Q1		Q1	Q1	Q8-10
is located or recovered from a place of exploitation (brothel, cannabis farm, involved in criminality etc).				Q1-5	Q3,4	Q1-7		Q1-7	Q1-4	Q2-4	Q3-5	Q1-4	Q1	Q1	Q1		
shows physical symptoms of exploitative abuse (sexual, physical etc)										Q1		Q1	Q1	Q1	Q1	Q8	
Reports from reliable sources suggesting the likelihood of involvement in sexual exploitation;												Q1			Q1	Q1	
is involved in criminality that highlights the involvement of adults e.g. is recovered from cannabis farm/factory, street crime, petty theft, pick pocketing, begging		Q19		Q1-5	Q3	Q1-6			Q1,2			Q1-3				Q1	
involved in underage marriage.	Q16				Q1-4	Q1-7											
is permanently deprived of a large part of their earnings by another person; and/or				Q1-5	Q3,4	Q1-7		Q6									
CONTROL																	
is accompanied by an adult who may not be legal guardian and who insists on remaining with the child at all times;						Q1-7			Q5	Q1-5		Q5					
is unable, or reluctant to give details of accommodation or other personal details.	Q3-7,9-13,16 - 18,21, 22				Q1	Q1-5	Q1-4	Q1-7		Q1-5	Q2	Q3,5,7					Q1-11
claims to be in debt bondage or "owes" money to other persons				Q1-4	Q3,4	Q1-7		Q5,6				Q1-3,7	Q1			Q1	Q9,10
has a prepared story very similar to those that other children have given perhaps hinting they have been coached;	Q1-11	Q1-9		Q1-5	Q1-4	Q1-6	Q1-3	Q2,3,5,6,7	Q1-5	Q1-5	Q2-4						Q1-6,8-11
has no passport or other means of identification;	Q18-20						Q1										Q11
has 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.	Q18-20			Q3			Q1										

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claims to have been in the UK for years but hasn't learnt the local language or culture	Q13-15,17		Q1,2					Q1,2,5	Q2-5							
is excessively afraid of being deported.	20			Q1-5		Q1					Q1					Q9-11
receives unexplained/unidentified phone calls whilst in placement/temporary accommodation									Q5							
OTHER RISK INDICATORS																
in a private fostering arrangement which has not been registered		Q9,19		Q1-4	Q1-7		Q1-7									
is malnourished;								Q1	Q1-5						Q1	
Possible inappropriate use of the internet and forming on-line relationships, particularly with adults.					Q1-7				Q2,3,5				Q1	Q1		
exhibits self-assurance, maturity and self-confidence not expected to be seen in a child of such age;								Q2,3								
does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone; and/or	Q6		Q1-3						Q5							
has not been registered with or attended a GP practice;									Q2							
has not been enrolled in school;			Q1,2					Q2								
Prevalence of a sexually transmitted infection or unwanted pregnancy;									Q1-5				Q1	Q1		
is withdrawn and refuses to talk or appears afraid to talk to a person in authority;	X				Q1-6						Q1			Q1	Q1-11	
Evidence of drug, alcohol or substance misuse;									Q1-5					Q1		
Accounts of social activities with no plausible explanation of the source of necessary funding			Q1		Q5			Q2	Q3							
Acquisition of money, expensive clothes, mobile phones or other possessions without plausible explanation;	Q6		Q1					Q2	Q5	Q3,5						
Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour including cutting, overdosing, eating disorder, promiscuity										Q1-5		Q1		Q1	Q1	
Truancy/disengagement with education;			Q1,2					Q2								
Entering or leaving vehicles driven by unknown adults;									Q1-5							
receives unexplained/unidentified phone calls whilst in placement/temporary accommodation									Q5							
Young person known to be sexually active;										Q1-5			Q1	Q1		
Adults loitering outside the child's usual place of residence							Q2		Q2-4							

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 care

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			✓ Include Genogram
C	Relationships			
D	Recent travel history	✓		
E	Current circumstances	✓		
E1	Current Accommodation	✓		
E2	Daily living routine	✓		
E3	Freedom of Movement	✓		
F	Health	✓ Question 1 only		✓ Questions 2 to 5
G	Safety		✓ Child protection Police officers	✓
G1	Emotional Health			✓
G2	Quality of Sleep			✓
G3	Sexual Experience and Health			✓
H	Abuse		✓ Child protection Police officers	✓
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 TO YOUR LOCAL CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING ACTIONS.

(see [section 9. Children at risk of / or experiencing significant harm in the *Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit \(London Board, 2009\)*](#)).

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 [Safeguarding Trafficked Children Toolkit \(London Board, 2009\)](#).

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

GUIDANCE

Guidance: - Completing the Trafficking Assessment TAB

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 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).

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.

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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:

- '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.

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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)
- 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 [Safeguarding Trafficked Children Guidance \(London Board, 2008\)](#).

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

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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:

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.

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

SECTION A4. EDUCATION

TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

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 or 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

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

- 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**

INDICATORS TAB

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) Question on other persons associated or involved with this child. Who are they, what is the relationship to the child?

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

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

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

7) 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

INDICATORS TAB

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

INDICATORS TAB

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.

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

INDICATORS TAB

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.

OUTCOME

- Agency accepts this case as a case of child trafficking (**COMPLETE SECTION K**)
- 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

Name:

Allocated to:

Team:

Signature:

Date:

Manager's Signature and Comments

Name:

Signature:

Manager's Actions:

Date

SECTION K. DECISIONS and REFERRAL

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 REFERRAL (not all the form) should be shared with the Competent Authority.

The National Referral Mechanism and Competent Authorities will come into operation on April 1st 2009. Until this date, sections relating to these functions are subject to change and should be disregarded. This includes the requirement to send Section K of the Trafficking Assessment to the Central Competent Authority.

Date of Assessment

Name of Child

Date of Birth

Female

Male

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