

## **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/experiencing significant harm in the Safeguarding Trafficked Children Guidance (London Board 2008)).

### **PURPOSE**

This multi-agency assessment and referral form is designed to assist practitioners (Children's Services, Law Enforcement,) 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 and other relevant agencies. (Lead Professionals on behalf of the LSCB refer to competent authority).

The competent authority 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 assessment, a referral is immediately made to the UKHTC.

This assessment should be undertaken inline with the Safeguarding Trafficked Children Guidance (London Board 2008).

**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 in 2007. This provides detailed advice for practitioners from all agencies on how to respond to children who they suspect have been trafficked.
- London Child Protection Committee London Procedure for Safeguarding Trafficked and Exploited children 2007.

**UK trafficking legislation** and guidance relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:-

- The children Act (1989)
- Working together to Safeguard Children and its supplement Safeguarding Children involved in Prostitution (1999) – to be replaced by "Working together to Safeguard Children from Sexual Exploitation" early in 2009.
- The National Plan for Safeguarding Children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation (2001-5),
- The Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003.

## 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 offences of trafficking for exploitation covering types of non sexual exploitation, including forced labour and removal of organs. These offences also carry a maximum 14 Year sentence.

**International Trafficking** legislation relevant to trafficked and exploited children includes:

United Nations Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Conventions 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.
- The 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 subjected 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 United Kingdom is Domestic and Internal Trafficking.
- Trafficking can involve children from any country, including children both born and raised in the UK (UK Nationals) e.g. Young Women and Boys Trafficked domestically into prostitution from one UK city to another.
- The exploitation of trafficked children may be progressive. Children trafficked for domestic work may be later vulnerable to prostitution or children initially trafficked for prostitution may be resold.
- Children from different countries, communities and cultures may be particularly vulnerable to specific forms of exploitation (e.g. the Trafficking of Eastern European young women into prostitution). These patterns can shift over time as traffickers 'wise up' to new immigration or safeguarding anti-trafficking measures.

**The council of Europe Convention of Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings was signed by the UK Government in 2007 ratified in December 2008 and fully implemented in to UK domestic law on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 if 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 residence permit when there are "reasonable grounds to believe that the person concerned may be 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 (e.g. child prostitution, child abuse acts and images)
  2. Domestic Servitude (e.g. Domestic chores, looking after young children)
  3. Labour exploitation (e.g. working in restaurants, building sites, cleaning)
  4. Enforced criminality (e.g. 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 (e.g. Cannabis Cultivation), and those that are individually opportunistic and have trafficked a child on a more informal basis (e.g. 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 (e.g. on Lorries) and by train (e.g. Euro rail).

## **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 smuggler ends.

Child trafficking however must involve intent to exploit the child at their destination and can also include the movement of a child within the UK. On arrival in the UK or after being moved to a new city or town within the UK the trafficked child is forced into exploitation by the traffickers 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 the UK Borders may have been trafficked between a number of countries in the EU or globally, prior to being trafficked in the UK.

## **UK Nationals**

Smuggling and Trafficking can affect children born and raised in the UK (UK Nationals) e.g. 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 the 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 the 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's 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???)

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 may 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 the 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 THE SUBJECT**

**POLICE ONLY TO COMPLETE SECTION A1**

**ALL AGENCIES COMPLETE SECTION 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

**SECTION A2 DETAILS OF YOUNG PERSON**

Insert photograph

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 Number

11. Home Phone Number

12. Current Address

13. Previous Address/es

14. Home Office Immigration No

15. Port Reference

16. National Insurance No

17. Date of Arrival in the UK

18. Date left country of Origin

19. Is this accompanying person known to your agency? (Check information systems e.g. Database)

**INDICATOR TABS**

**SECTION A3 DETAILS OF ACCOMPANYING ADULT OR YOUNG PERSON**

The name of the accompanying person 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 Number

11. Home Phone Number

12. Current Address

13. Previous Address/es

14. Home Office Immigration 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 e.g. Database)

20. Insert Photograph

**INDICATOR TABS**

**SECTION A4 EDUCATION**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES**

**INDICATOR TABS**

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 the school

Address of the school

Teacher's Name

If No why not:

**SECTION A5 INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES**

**INDICATOR TABS**

**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?  
(E.g. 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 to 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 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

**GENOGRAM** – details the relationships between adults, siblings, extended family and the child an 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 an agent to take their child/ren to a 'better life' Less commonly children may be sold.

4. Circumstances in which or reasons why the young person left their family.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU UPLOAD A GENOGRAM AND ATTACH TO THE FILE.**

**SECTION C RELATIONSHIPS**

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

**INDICATOR TABS**

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 the 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 the 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 relationship between the person's and the child? (How does the child behave in relation to this person/s)

5. Does the child have any 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 the 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 the 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 UK.**
- **A child may be trafficked into the UK through legitimate routes under passports and travel visas – though documentation can be fraudulent.**
- **A child may also be smuggled through covert routes into or within the UK and or 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 circumstance 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 on going 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 demonstrates 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 e.g. heating, running water, furnishings and cleanliness?

5. Does the child have freedom of choice about where they choose to live?

6. Does the child have to pay/do favours for the accommodation?

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

**SECTION E2 – Daily Living Routine**

1. Describe the current routine e.g. sleep patterns, self-care, and meal times – do they have sufficient food?

2. What activities did the child do at home in their country of Origin and what do they do now?  
Is the child spending time alone?

3. Who does the household chores e.g. 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 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 TO COMPLETE QUESTION 1**  
**CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE TO COMPLETE QUESTION 2 TO 5**

**INDICATORS TAB**

1. Observations of the child's physical presentation? (if seen on 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 the Accident and Emergency Department?

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 THE APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDING ACTIONS.**

**THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL AGENCIES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. What would the child do in an emergency? E.g. If there was a fire or an intruder in the home?

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

**SECTION G1 – EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

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

**SECTION G2 – QUALITY OF SLEEP**

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

**SECTION G3 – SEXUAL EXPERIENCE AND HEALTH**

1. Explore if the young person has had any sexual experiences and give consideration to contraception, abortion, STI's 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 with 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 and 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 or travel with:

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

5. Did the child know them:

Yes

No

6. By what means of transport did they travel:

7. Route of travel, length and any stopovers:

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

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

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

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

**SECTION J – ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RISKS**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL THE 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 a viable and safe option. In responding to children who have been trafficked it is essential that the child is cared in a safe and secure environment, that the child’s physical and mental health needs are met, the child is given support to recover and that the risk of re-trafficking and further exploitation is minimised.

**Section J (a) Give an analysis of the information gathered during the Trafficking Assessment**

**Section J (b) Conclusions and Risks**

**OUTCOMES**

- Agency accepts this case as a case of Child Trafficking (**Complete and send the referral to the competent authority for a decision form and send to [nrm@ukhtc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nrm@ukhtc.pnn.police.uk)**)
- Agency does not accept this case as 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 obtained: Further information 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 over 18 or over.)**

Name:

Signature:

Date:

**Name of the worker completing the Trafficking Assessment.**

Name:

Allocated to:

Team:

Signature:

Date:

**Manager's Signature and Comments**

Name:

Signature:

Manager's Action:

Date: