



Suffolk
Safeguarding
Partnership

Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked

Policy, Procedures and Practice Guidance

Version	Date of Review	Review Date	Author/Reviewer	Endorsed by LIG
1/2	November 2008	February 2010	Jean Driscoll	
3	February 2010	February 2013	Jean Driscoll	
4	December 2015	December 2018	Ben Hudson	
5	May 2020	May 2023	Steven Corbett and Tracy Murphy	N/A Minor change re Independent Commissioner and change from LSCB to SSP.

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Policy and Legislation
3. Definitions
4. Forms of trafficking
5. Recruiting & Controlling Children
6. Entering the UK
7. Children Already in the Country
8. Internal Trafficking
9. Children Who Go Missing
10. Responsibilities of Suffolk Safeguarding Board Partner Agencies
11. Supporting Child Witnesses
12. Returning Trafficked Children to their Country of Origin
13. Procedures

Appendix 1: The Impact of Trafficking on Children

Appendix 2: Factors Which Make Children Vulnerable and Risk Indicators

Appendix 3: Support Services Available

1. Introduction

This document provides guidance to professionals and volunteers from all agencies in Suffolk working to safeguard children, who are abused and neglected by adults who traffic them in and out of the UK in order to exploit them, and those children who are trafficked within the country.

This Procedure should be read in conjunction with the *Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership's Procedures* [Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership](#) and the practice guidance 'Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked'.

[Child Trafficking](#)

2. Policy & Legislation

The Modern Slavery Act 2015

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received royal Assent on 26th March 2015. The act will ensure that the National Crime Agency, the Police and other law enforcement agencies have the powers they need to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice those engaged in human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

The 2015 Act also introduced measures to enhance the protection of victims of slavery and trafficking. In addition, the 2015 Act includes provisions for a new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. This role has been undertaken by Dame Sara Thornton, DBE, QPM, ex Chief Constable of Thames Valley since 2018.

It concerns the exploitation of people who are coerced, deceived, forced into, or expected to accept, a life of abuse, servitude, inhumane and degrading treatment.

The modern slavery of children is child abuse, and safeguarding children from abuse procedures should be followed by all agencies and direct safeguarding steps must be taken by any agency that comes into contact with a child at risk.

People who become victims of modern slavery are exploited for many reasons including sex, labour, organ donation, domestic servitude, financial benefit to the exploiter, and other criminal purposes. They may become victims through circumstance or association and are vulnerable.

For the exploiters, modern slavery is a means of financial gain, and of exerting power and control over another human being who is used as a commodity. It is a profitable method of criminal activity for organised crime groups. Victims are often paid less than the minimum wage but do not recognise that they are exploited because the sum is more than they would otherwise be paid in their home country.

Investigations into modern slavery offences must be victim-focused but must also maximize the opportunities to identify and successfully prosecute or otherwise disrupt those responsible. The primary objective is to safeguard and support victims.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 encompasses two key offences:

Section 1: Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour. The Offence of Holding a person in slavery or servitude.

Sections 2-3: Human Trafficking. Offences of Arranging or facilitating the travel of another

person with a view to exploitation and Committing the offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of committing human trafficking offence.

It also defines the means of exploitation and travel.

Exploitation for the purposes of the offence

- Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour.
- Sexual Exploitation.
- Removal of Organs.
- Securing Services etc. by Force, Threats or Deception.
- Securing Services etc. from Children and Vulnerable Persons.

“Travel” means —

- Arriving in, or entering, any country.
- Departing from any country.
- Travelling within any country.

Civil Orders: -

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 has also introduced two new civil orders, slavery and trafficking risk order, and a slavery and trafficking prevention order. The orders aim to prevent modern slavery offenders and those who pose a risk of committing modern slavery offences from engaging in relevant activity, e.g. working with children or acting as a gang master.

A slavery and trafficking risk order restricts the activity of individuals who have not been convicted of a modern slavery offence but who pose a risk of committing any such offence. It has effect for at least two years or until further order.

Slavery and trafficking prevention order restricts the activity of those who have already been convicted of a modern slavery offence, and has effect for at least five years or until further order.

Both orders require evidence in line with the criminal standard of ‘beyond reasonable doubt’. Orders can be varied or renewed, and the Act provides a right of appeal. The breach of any aspect of these orders is a criminal offence, carrying a maximum penalty of five years’ imprisonment.

3. Definitions

The two most common terms for the illegal movement of people – ‘trafficking’ and ‘smuggling’ are very different.

In human smuggling, immigrants and asylum seekers pay people to help them enter the country illegally; after which there is no longer a relationship.

Trafficked victims are coerced or deceived by the person arranging their relocation. On arrival in the country of destination the trafficked child or person is denied their human rights and is forced into exploitation by the trafficker or person into whose control they are delivered

4. Forms of Trafficking

Most children are trafficked and exploited for financial gain. Some trafficking is by organised gangs, in other cases individual adults traffic children to the UK or within the UK for their own personal gain. Exploitation includes children being used for:

- Sex work
- Domestic servitude
- Forced labour - sweatshop and restaurant work,
- Forced criminality - drug dealing, begging or pick pocketing
- Drug mules or decoys for adult drug traffickers
- Trade in human organs; and in some cases, ritual killings

Younger children are often trafficked to become beggars and thieves or for benefit fraud. Teenagers are often trafficked for domestic servitude or sexual exploitation.

5. Recruiting and Controlling Children

There are 3 phases to the process of trafficking into the UK:

1. Recruitment is usually through coercive or subversive methods.
2. The transit phase involves travelling with a fake identity and false documents and,
3. The destination phase.

Even before they travel, children can be subjected to various forms of abuse and exploitation, to ensure that the trafficker’s control over the child continues after the child is transferred to someone else’s care:

- Confiscation of the child’s identity documents.
- Threats of reporting the child to the authorities.
- Violence, or threats of violence, towards the child.
- Threats of violence towards members of the young person’s family.
- Keeping the child socially isolated.
- Keeping the young person locked up.

- Some children are told that they owe large sums of money for their air fares, accommodation and food, and that they must work to pay this off – however they never earn enough to do this.
- Depriving the child of money.
- Voodoo is used to frighten children (usually girls) into thinking that if they tell anyone about the traffickers, they and their families will die. They will also be forced to take part in a ceremony whereby fingernail clippings and or pieces of their hair will be taken and placed in a glass jar within the holy serene. They are told that if they disobey their handlers or run away then the glass jar will be broken and they will die. The belief in this power is real and very strong within the child to the extent that some rescued children found within the UK have had to be taken back by the authorities to their country of origin and their glass jar removed from the holy serene before they would assist and make disclosure against those involved in their abuse and trafficking.

Many children travel on false documents or traffickers may take any documents they may have possessed.

6. Entering the UK

Children are trafficked into the UK using a number of routes and methods of transportation. Children may be accompanied by adults, (who are not always related to them), or they may be on their own. Children on their own may claim asylum and become Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), or they may come to attend school or join family. They may be privately fostered. Even children who arrive unaccompanied and subsequently cared for by Suffolk County Council may be found by the traffickers and then disappear.

Unaccompanied children arriving in Suffolk are normally ‘clandestine entrants’ having come via any of the UK seaports and found aboard or having exited lorries in Suffolk. The current trend is for young people to be travelling as part of a group. In these scenarios children and young people are likely first of all to come to the attention of the Police.

7. Children Already in the Country

Trafficking into the UK is highly organised and children who are already in the country may have been told not to bring themselves to the attention of authorities or simply may not be aware that they can seek help. Some are enrolled at school and concerns are only raised when they leave unexpectedly, and there is no trace of them or their ‘family’ at their home address. Others are never registered at school or with a GP. These children do not come into contact with the statutory services that could raise concerns about their welfare. Younger children may be known to local housing or benefits services. However, most trafficked children are ‘invisible’. Protecting them and promoting their welfare depends on the awareness and co-operation of community groups, neighbours and the public. This has implications for awareness raising campaigns.

Private Fostering:

There are occasions when a child who has been trafficked may be privately fostered. Private fostering is defined in the Children Act 1989, as occurring when a child under 16 years (or under 18 if disabled), is placed for more than 28 days in the care of someone who is not a close relative, guardian or someone with parental responsibility (close relatives are defined by the Act as parents, step-parents, siblings, siblings of a parent and grandparents).

The current system relies on the parents and the foster carers to notify the local authority of a private fostering arrangement, (preferably before, but certainly within 48 hours, of the child arriving to stay).

Staff or volunteers in an agency, who have concerns that a child may be trafficked and privately fostered, should contact Children & Young People's Services who can investigate under their regulatory duties in relation to private fostering (Children Acts 1989 & 2004). These duties are to identify private fostering arrangements, inspect the home and assess the suitability of the arrangement in terms of the child's welfare, visit the child regularly, and monitor and keep records of the placement.

There is also a new requirement on local authorities to raise awareness of the notification requirements within local communities, (Section 7A of the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Children Act 2004) and to ensure that staff or volunteers in all agencies encourage notification. See Suffolk County Council's Children & Young People's procedures for private fostering.

[Suffolk County Council Fostering and Adoption](#)

8. Internal Trafficking

In addition to children being trafficked into the country from abroad, there is growing awareness of the incidence of children born, normally resident in the UK or who have been trafficked and are living in the country undetected, becoming victims of trafficking within the UK. This is often identified in situations where the victims are moved from one location to another irrespective of distance, within a town or between towns and cities in the UK, very often for the purposes of sexual exploitation. This is a serious organised crime, often involving a network of abusers. Following a grooming process the victim will be encouraged to go missing from home and cut off all contact with friends and relatives.

See SSP procedures and resources on the Child Exploitation page on the SSP website [Child Sexual Exploitation](#) which identifies risk factors and sets out requirements to convene Multi-agency Risk Management Meetings for young people about whom there are concerns.

9. Children Who Go Missing

Children who go missing are extremely vulnerable to trafficking. A monthly Missing Tactical and Tasking Co-ordination Group (TTCG) is held by the Suffolk MASH to review and risk assess the top ten missing children and young people.

10. Responsibilities of Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board

All Agencies

If staff or volunteers in an agency come into contact with a child who has arrived unaccompanied in the country and is not in contact with Children & Young People's Services or is accompanied, but for whom they have concerns regarding their welfare or safety, or they are concerned that a child may have been internally trafficked, they should not do anything which would heighten the risk of harm or abduction.

They should consult and follow one of the following:

- The actions indicated in the accompanying Procedure.
- Their own agency's Safeguarding Children Policy.
- The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership Child Protection Procedures.
[Child Protection](#)
- The Government Guidance - 'What To Do If You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused' (DfES, 2015)
[Child Abuse Concerns: Guide for Practitioners](#)
- Government Guidance - 'Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation'
[CSE Definition and Guidance](#)
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership page 'Child Sexual Exploitation'
[Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

The Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership subgroup 'Exploitation Group':

- Monitor policy and practice development.
- Raise awareness of trafficking amongst all agencies and within the community.
- Identify areas for service development.

Children & Young People's Social Care Services

Local Authorities have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Suffolk regardless of their immigration status. They also have responsibilities for unaccompanied children, as well as those who arrive in the UK with their parents, for whom there are concerns regarding their safety and welfare. They have a duty to identify children who are being internally trafficked.

In Suffolk, the County Private Fostering and Asylum Team has a dual role to meet the needs and statutory requirements of the Local Authority in respect of privately fostered children and unaccompanied minors.

Police

All children suspected of being a victim of Modern Slavery will be referred to the Suffolk MASH. Through a multi-agency discussion, the most appropriate investigative unit within the Constabulary will be allocated the investigation.

Police Officers have a duty under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 when they believe that unless they take action a 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. Once in place of safety they must inform the duty Inspector and contact Social care at the earliest possible opportunity.

Health Services

Trafficked children who need healthcare are more likely to be seen at Emergency Departments, walk-in centres, Minor Injury Units or Sexual Health Clinics, than by primary care services. Reception staff need to be alert to inconsistencies in addresses, deliberate vagueness and children or carers being unable to give details of next of kin, names, telephone numbers etc.

When children or their carers give addresses in other countries, with the information that the child is resident outside of the UK, reception staff should always record the current holiday address, as well as the home address in the other country. Staff need to be alert to 'local holiday' addresses in case patterns emerge that would suggest large numbers of children moving in and out of one address. Home visitors, such as Health Visitors, who may follow up visits to Emergency Departments and walk-in centres, should also be alert to the moving in and out and rapid turnover of different children to any one address.

Education Services

Children trafficked 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 although it could happen anywhere in the UK.

There is general agreement that children who have experienced certain life events are more at risk of going missing from education. Trafficked children are particularly vulnerable. Schools therefore need to be alert to the possibility that a child who goes missing from school, may be, or have been, a trafficked child, who is living with or is running away from an exploitative situation.

Children Missing from Education

[Suffolk County Council Children Missing from Education](#)

UK Border Agency

The UK BA has two functions –

Border Control: dealing with people at the border. Suffolk ports are the responsibility of UK BA Border Control based in Harwich.

Enforcement and Compliance: dealing with people within the country. The local Enforcement & Compliance Office for Suffolk is based in Felixstowe. The Immigration Officers within this team receive referrals from Police and Children & Young People's Services when a young person is found. In Suffolk, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children are usually found having already passed the border.

The Immigration's 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.

11. Supporting Child Witnesses

No child should be coerced into giving evidence in court against a trafficker. Assessing the willingness and capacity of a child to give such evidence is complicated. The threat of repercussions and reprisals against the child and family either in the UK or in the home

country may be realistic. Support is available to child witnesses and if it is felt that a child could benefit from specialist support, either during a police investigation or during a court trial, a referral for therapy can be made.

12. Returning Trafficked Children to their Country of Origin

Once identified, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, including those who may have been trafficked, will be offered legal advice arranged by Children and Young People's Services. All relevant information about the child, family and general conditions in their country of origin will be gathered when considering such an application. There is close liaison between the Home Office, Children and Young People's Services and the child's lawyer. If any application made is unsuccessful, a period of discretionary leave can be granted until the young person is 18, at which time a further application can be submitted.

A child can return on a voluntary basis, which is always the preferred option. It is important to try and ensure a child does not go missing before leaving the UK, as they will be very vulnerable should that occur.

13. Procedures

If you Suspect That a Child May Have Been Trafficked/ be at Risk of Trafficking

Discuss your concerns with your manager, named health professional or designated teacher and refer.

Professionals should consider carefully any involvement with "family members/carers" before making a referral as to do so may heighten the risk of harm or abduction to the child/young person.

However, this should not delay you. If you suspect that a child has been trafficked, you should make a referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub MASH and clearly identify your concerns around trafficking:

If you have an **immediate** safeguarding concern you should contact **Customer First** on **0808 800 4005** (24 hours).

All referrals should be followed up by completion of a multi-agency referral form via the secure Portal. Details of how to do this can be found on the 'Concerned page of the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership website.

[Concerned](#)

Suffolk Police: Force Operational Room **01473 613500**

Following referral, a decision will be made within 24 hours as to the course of action that is necessary. As the referrer you should be included in any discussions that take place, as well as other relevant agencies.

When it is suspected that a child may have been or is being trafficked and exploited.

- The social worker should obtain as much information as possible from the referrer, including the child's name, date of birth, address, name of guardian, address if

different, phone number, country of origin, home language and whether he/she speaks English, names of any siblings or other children.

- 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 status of the child/children and the adult/adults caring for them.
- Immediate Protection may be required to ensure the child is in a safe place and beyond the reach of suspected traffickers. Police powers, under Section 46 Children Act 1989, will last up to 72 hours.
- Any concerns that a criminal offence has been committed e.g. trafficking, illegal entry, fraud or deception, is the remit of the Police.

All Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children are to be regarded as vulnerable to trafficking. The CYP County Asylum and Private Fostering Team will be responsible for assessment, decision-making and planning for these young people.

Following the location of an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child, UK BA will conduct identification checks. Children & Young People's Services carry out age assessments and make arrangements to accommodate children where necessary. All agencies will consider any evidence of trafficking.

Information about who to contact in the child's home country can be obtained via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (0207 008 1500) or the appropriate Embassy or Consulate (for further information: www.fco.gov.uk).

All documentation held by the referrer and other agencies should be checked by the social worker. This should include, if available:

- Passport (check date of issue; length of visa; whether picture resembles child; name in passport is same as alleged mother/father, and if not why not; whether it appears to be original and take copies to ensure further checks can be made if necessary).
- Home Office papers.
- Birth certificate
- Proof of guardianship.
- Any papers/documentation relating to their home country.
- Place of birth – town.
- National identity number.

A new or recent photograph of the child should be included in the social work file. Immigration staff from the United Kingdom Border Agency will be able to provide information regarding the child, if known.

If a child is not known to the UK BA, this agency will take forward the immigration processes required in liaison with Children & Young People's Services.

If there are no concerns, all involved agencies should continue to monitor the situation until the child is appropriately settled. The referrer should be advised of the outcome by the social worker.

If there are concerns, following the initial assessment, a decision will be made regarding Section 47 enquiries, a Strategy Discussion and subsequently a Strategy Meeting will be held:

Practitioners should:

- Consider interviewing children in school, as they may feel more able to talk.
- Consider talking to children and young people using phone, email and text.
- Ensure that carers/sponsors are not in the proximity.

Questions should focus on the following:

- Family composition, brothers, sisters, ages.
- Parent's employment.
- Tasks they do around the house.
- Length of time in this country.
- Where they lived in their country of origin.
- Where they went to school in their country of origin.
- Who cared for them in their country of origin.

The adults in the family should be interviewed, (separately if possible), on the same basis, using the same questions. A comparison can then be made between the answers, to ensure they match.

- 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 'the passport is missing' or 'I can't find the paperwork right now'. It is extremely unlikely that a person does not know where their paperwork/official documentation is kept.
- This interview should be conducted as fully and complete as possible, to ensure accuracy and to avoid intrusion on the family over a longer period than is absolutely necessary.
- 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 to establishing status and assisting the child as an Unaccompanied Minor.

Any action regarding fraud, trafficking, deception and illegal entry to this country is the remit of the Police and the Home Office. The local authority should assist in any way possible, however, the responsibility for legal action usually remains with the other agencies (exceptions include benefit fraud, the responsibility of the Department of Work and Pensions, and Education offences, pursued by Children & Young People's Services).

Issues for Consideration by Agencies Working with Trafficked Children

Children who have been trafficked and exploited need:

- Practitioners 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.
- Professional interpreters who have been CRB checked.
- A 'safe house' if they are victims of an organized trafficking operation.
- Access to medical advice/treatment.
- Legal advice about their rights and immigration status.
- Their whereabouts to be kept confidential.
- Discretion and caution to be used in tracing their families.
- A risk assessment to be made into the danger they face if they are repatriated.
- Accommodating under Section 20 Children Act 1989 or Section 38 Children Act.
- To be interviewed separately. Children and young people will usually stick to their account and not speak until they feel comfortable.
- Access to therapeutic services.

Looked After Children

A statutory assessment of the child's needs must be undertaken immediately by the social worker and residential worker/carer, to include:

- Establishing relevant information about the child's background.
- Understanding the reasons, the child has come to the UK.
- Assessing the child's vulnerability to the continuing influence/control of the traffickers.

Planning and actions to support the child must minimize the risk of the traffickers being able to re-involve a child in exploitative activities. Thus:

- The location of the child must not be divulged to anyone making enquiries until they have been interviewed by a social worker and their identity and relationship/connection with the child established, with the help of the Police and immigration services, if required.
- Foster carers/residential workers/school staff must be vigilant about anything unusual e.g. waiting cars outside the premises and telephone enquiries.
- The social worker must immediately pass to the Police, any information on the child, (concerning risks to her/his safety or any other aspect of the law pertaining either to child protection or immigration or other matters), which emerges during the placement.

The child's social worker must try to make contact with the child's parents in the country of origin (immigration services may be able to help), to find out the plans they have made for their child and to seek their views. The social worker must make steps to verify the relationship between the child and those thought to be her/his parent/s.

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 social worker, the Police and immigration service. If the supervising manager is satisfied that all agencies

have completed satisfactory identification checks and risk assessments, the child may transfer to their care.

Children Who Go Missing

Children who go missing may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking. A missing person report must be made to the Police and if the child is an Asylum-Seeking Child, to the UK Border Agency.

See Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership guidance '*Children Missing from Home or Care*'.

The Police will follow the guidance 'The Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons' whereby:

- Every missing person's 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.
- Children who go missing from care are vulnerable and the level of risk does not diminish because of frequency of absence.

Appendix 1: The Impact of Trafficking on Children

Inadequate local laws and regulations:

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 and ignorance of the law.

Trafficked and exploited children are not only deprived of their rights to health and freedom from exploitation and abuse – they are usually also deprived of their right to an education and the life opportunities this brings.

Once children have been trafficked and exploited, they are vulnerable to:

Physical Abuse and Neglect

- Physical beatings, sensory deprivations and food deprivation.
- No access to 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*.
- 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 addictions.
- Physical disorders, such as skin diseases, migraine, backache etc.

*See also the Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership Protocol for “Safeguarding Children Through Sexual Exploitation”

Emotional and Psychological Abuse

- Children become disorientated after leaving their family environment, however impoverished and difficult, and arriving in another country. This disorientation can be compounded for some children, who have to assume a new identity or have no identity at all.
- Children can be isolated from the local community in the UK, by being kept away from school and because they cannot speak English.
- Trafficked and exploited children are living in fear both of the adults who have control of them and of the discovery of their illegal immigration status.
- Victims lose their trust in all adults.
- Trafficked and exploited children will all suffer from a form of post-traumatic stress relating to their sense of powerlessness and the degree of violence they experienced at the hands of their traffickers, which can be extreme.
- Many trafficked and exploited children develop dependent relationships with their abusers.

- They suffer flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety attacks, irritability and other symptoms of stress, such as nervous breakdowns.
- Trafficked and exploited children experience a loss of ability to concentrate.
- They can become anti-social, aggressive and angry, and/or fearful and nervous – finding it difficult to relate to others, including in the family and at work.
- Victims have very low self-esteem and believe that the experience has ‘ruined’ them for life psychologically and socially. They become depressed and often suicidal.
- The children worry about people in their families and communities knowing what has happened to them and become afraid to go home.

Sexual Abuse

Children who have been trafficked, 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 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.

Appendix 2: Factors Which Make Children Vulnerable & Risk Indicators

Factors Which Make Children Vulnerable

- Poverty: poverty provides a vulnerability that the traffickers exploit.
- Lack of education: attendance at school has proven to be a key means of protecting children from all forms of exploitation, including trafficking. Traffickers sometimes promise to provide/pay for education for children.
- Discrimination: this can be based both on gender and ethnicity. 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 countries, the rights of children are ignored; they are traded like commodities as they already work as domestic servants.
- Dysfunctional families: children may choose to leave home as a result of domestic abuse and neglect.
- Political conflict and economic transition: conflict almost inevitably leads to large-scale people movements and the erosion of economic and social protection mechanisms, leaving children vulnerable.

Risk Indicators

There are a number of circumstances, which could indicate that a child may have been trafficked to the UK or be trafficked within the UK and may still be being controlled by the traffickers or receiving adults. These include situations in which the child:

- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone.
- Is driven around by an older male or 'boyfriend'.
- Is withdrawn and refuses to talk.
- Shows signs of sexual behaviour or language.
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted disease.
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves.
- 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.
- Is being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents. The quality of the relationship between the child and their adult carer is not good.
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice.
- Has not been enrolled in school.

- Has to pay off an exorbitant debt, perhaps for travel costs, before being able to have control over her/his earnings.
- Hands over a large part of their earnings to another person.
- Is excessively afraid of being deported.
- Has had their journey or visa arranged by someone other than them or their family.
- Does not have possession of their own travel documents.
- Has false papers, and these have been provided by another person.
- Is unable to confirm which adult is going to accept responsibility for him/her.
- Fits current profiles for those at risk of exploitation.
- Has entered the country illegally or, the person:
 - in control of the child, has applied for visas on behalf of many others, or acts as guarantor for other visa applications.
 - who guarantees the visa application and has acted for other visitors, who have not returned to their countries of origin on the expiry of the visa.
 - in control of a young person, or more than one young person, and moving them internally.

Appendix 3: Information, Advice and Support

National:

NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice and Information Line: 0800 107 7057

UK Human Trafficking Centre: 0800 800 4005 www.unseenuk.org/

National Crime Agency: www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk

Foreign & Commonwealth Office: 020 7008 1500 www.fco.gov.uk

CEOP [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre]

Tel: 0207 2382320/2307

www.ceop.gov.uk

Suffolk:

Suffolk County Council's Make A Change Team - working to support staff working with Children & Young People, who are at risk of sexual exploitation.

Tel: 01473 282352/ 07872 699619

Refugee Council Children's Panel:

The Refugee Council Children's Panel of Advisers comprises of approximately 30 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.
- Are living on the streets or are already in the care of Children's Social Services, carers or community groups.

The support includes:

- Assisting children in accessing quality legal representation.
- Guiding children through the complexities of the asylum procedure.
- 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.
- Accompanying children to appointments with GP's, hospitals, Children's Social Care Services or other agencies.

Contact: Refugee Council: 01473 400785