

Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked

This Quick Guide and the full Policy [Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked](#) must be used together with the full Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership's Procedures and Guidance found at <https://suffolksp.org.uk/>

Child trafficking involves moving children across or within national or international borders for the purposes of exploitation.

- Children can be trafficked into the country from abroad or children resident in the UK can become victims of trafficking too and be moved within a town or between locations for the purposes of exploitation.
- Exploitation includes children being used for **sex work, domestic work, restaurant/sweatshop, drug dealing, shoplifting and benefit fraud.**
- Often children and young people do not know that they have been trafficked. They may not want to tell their story for fear of not being believed, not knowing they are victims of crimes or fear of getting into trouble. They may still be under the control of their traffickers/exploiters.
- 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 and can be difficult to identify without the support of local communities.
- Risk indicators can include children who have unexplained moves, have not been enrolled into school or attended a GP practice, are being cared for by adult/s who are not their parents, are not in possession of their own travel documents, children who go missing from home or care, or unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

If you suspect that a child may have been trafficked or be at risk of trafficking:

- Discuss your concerns with your manager or designated colleague
- Take advice before any involvement with 'family members/carers' – *you may heighten the risk of abduction or harm to the child/young person.*

You can get advice from the following specialists:

Children & Young People's Services:

Fostering Central Communications Team foster@suffolk.gov.uk

Police:

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Team - 101 or 01473 613500

Suffolk Police: Force Operations Room - 101 or 01473 613500

Make your referral to:

Customer First - 0808 800 4005 (24 hours). Further details on making a referral can be found here:

[Making a Referral](#)

Further Guidance:

- The Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance: '[Safeguarding Children Who May Have been Trafficked](#)'
- [NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre](#) - 0800 107 7057 or 0808 8005000
- The UK Human Trafficking Centre is now part of the Organised Crime Command in the National Crime Agency (NCA) – 0844 7782406 (24 Hours)
[Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#)
- [Crimestoppers](#) - 0800 555 111
- Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership linked resources - [Child Exploitation](#)

Further information about all Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board publications can be found on the website. [Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership](#)