



WFI 2

Human Trafficking Information for Children's Workforce Induction

Definition

Human trafficking is the recruitment, movement and receipt of a person, with deception or coercion, into a situation of exploitation. Trafficking can be cross-border or internally within one country

The Palermo Protocol establishes children as a special case. Any child transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived. This is partly because it is not considered possible for children to give informed consent. 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

"Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

Why do people traffic children?

Children are trafficked for many reasons, including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, labour, benefit fraud and involvement in criminal activity such as pick-pocketing, theft and working in cannabis farms. There are a number of cases of minors being exploited in the sex industry.

How are children recruited and controlled?

- confiscating the child's identity documents;
- threatening to report the child to the authorities;
- violence, or threats of violence, towards the child;
- threats of violence towards members of the child's family;
- keeping the child socially isolated;
- keeping the child locked up;
- telling children that they owe large sums of money and that they must work to pay this off;
- depriving the child of money; and
- frightening children with threats based on cultural or belief systems, for example, witchcraft or spirit possession.

Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked–Practice Guidance (DFE 2011)

Includes:

- Introduction
- Definitions
- The problem of child trafficking
- Role of Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Role of specific agencies and services
- Support services
- Action for services

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre [UKHTC] is a multi-agency centre that provides a central point for the development of expertise and cooperation in relation to the trafficking of human beings [THB], working together with other stakeholders from the governmental, non-governmental and inter-governmental sectors in the UK and abroad.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a procedure that is managed and overseen by the UKHTC. The Government is committed to minimising the impact on child victims and to ensuring that child victims are not unnecessarily asked to recount their experiences to different agencies. The NRM provides a valuable and useful tool for agencies to gather and share information on potential victims and, through work aimed at raising the awareness of the NRM, this strategy will help to ensure that agencies coordinate and share information to ensure the needs of child victims are appropriately assessed and met.

What should I do? How to deal with disclosure

Your attitude and approach towards the child will be pivotal in whether the person feels able to disclose fully, and for you to direct them to the necessary sources for help. Think about your gender, appearance and behaviour and the effect of all three on the distressed and traumatised child. The difference between human trafficking cases and most other criminal investigations is the complex need to remain victim-focused, the safety and welfare of the child is paramount.

The child may:

- be suffering from post-traumatic shock
- be suspicious of your intentions
- be in fear of authority figures
- lie to you initially

The victim will be in fear of their traffickers, use non uniform personnel wherever possible.

- Demonstrate an acceptance of what is being disclosed
- Do not judge; Believe; Be supportive
- Listen and give the person time to talk, asking open and not closed questions
- Tell them that it is not their fault; they are not to blame

- Explain that you will want to ask a few questions about their experiences, so that you can direct them to the right help and support both in your own organisation and in the community
- Provide information about where to go for help, and refer to relevant agencies when and if requested
- Take detailed notes about the disclosure following agreement from the individual
- If appropriate, and agreed, refer the individual through the National Referral Mechanism.

Induction Checklist Child Trafficking

Question	Answer	Date achieved	Further reading	Managers signature on completion
How do I recognise a child who has been trafficked?				
What is my initial response if I think a child has been trafficked?				
Who are the key contacts and agencies, in this area, for me to use when I identify a child that has been trafficked?				

Further Information: Trafficking

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre [UKHTC]

<http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP)

<http://ceop.police.uk>

Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked – Practice Guidance (DFE 2011)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011.pdf

ECPAT <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/>