

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 Children Board Procedures and Guidance found at www.suffolkscb.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.

See overleaf for Referral Process

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:

South Area Safeguarding Manager: ☎ 01473 583155
Detective Inspector, Public Protection ☎ 01284 774003
[Trafficking Lead]:

Make your referral to:

Children & Young Peoples Services:

Customer First ☎ 0808 800 4005
Out of Hours Emergency Duty Service ☎ 01473 299669

or

Suffolk Police: Force Operational Room ☎ 01473 613500

Further Guidance:

- The Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance '[Safeguarding Children Who May Have been Trafficked](#)'
- NSPCC Child Trafficking and information Line ☎ 0800107 7057
- UK Human Trafficking Centre ☎ 0114252 3891 www.ukhtc.org
- Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board linked policy - [Children Abused Through Sexual Exploitation](#)

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Further information about all Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board publications can be found at www.suffolkscb.org.uk or by contacting Shirley Coleman, SCB Business Manager by email - shirley.coleman@socserv.suffolkcc.gov.uk or ☎ 01473 264733