

Trafficking Protocol

- All new arrivals need to be screened for risk of trafficking as part of the new arrivals Front Door assessment.
- The child must not be left alone once a risk of Trafficking has been identified. RoEC can be contacted to help with supervision/supervised activities if required. Any phones should be removed temporarily and quickly.
- Age - where there is uncertainty over a suspected trafficked victim's age, it is now a statutory requirement to presume that the victim is under the age of 18 initially. This presumption only ends when a full Local Authority age assessment takes place or the person's age is otherwise determined.
- Social workers alert a senior practitioner and a manager that a potentially trafficked young person has been identified.
- A senior practitioner or manager is identified as the Coordinator and overseer of the Trafficking Protocol.
- The Coordinator ensures that they and the social workers read the Trafficking Toolkit and Trafficking Protocol briefly to refresh their knowledge and clarify roles and tasks to be carried out.
- Interpreters should be sought, if applicable.
- **The Coordinator initiates a Section 47 strategy meeting with the police, which needs to be chaired by the Assessment team. This needs to be convened within two hours of the young person coming to our attention.**
- The Coordinator completes a National Referral Mechanism Form this may include British national children, such as those trafficked for child sexual exploitation or those trafficked as drug carriers internally in the UK. This needs to be completed within a maximum of two hours.
- Placement Services are alerted, given any information collected which may initially be brief and they start to identify possible placements. The Coordinator will keep them informed of any further information gathered from the young person to help inform the type of placement needed.
- The Coordinator ensures the social workers are working through the Trafficking Toolkit with the young person.

Checklist of social worker tasks for the Coordinator to oversee:

- Toolkit read again by social workers.
- Refreshments offered to young person.
- Photo of young person taken.

- Interpreter briefed about trafficking.
 - Role of authorities in the UK explained to the young person.
 - Information gathered that allows the social worker to complete the trafficking checklist.
 - Trafficking checklist completed.
 - Talk directly to the young person about trafficking -what it is and why we think they may be at risk.
 - Talk to the young person about how traffickers may be controlling them.
 - Explain to the young person how we can help.
 - Discussion about the creation of a safety plan.
- The Coordinator checks with Placement Services what the possible placement options available are. The Assessment Centres should be the first option considered- they are well staffed and local.
- **Section 47 strategy meeting** is held. The information gathered from the Checklist informs the discussion. The safety plan is agreed for the next 48 hours. This needs to be informed by initial information from Placement Services about the placements available. The support of Edge of Care services and their role is agreed.
- The Coordinator completes a **National Referral Mechanism form (NRM)** The NRM form can take up to five days to get a response. Click on link to see the steps process. <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/content/national-referral-mechanism>
- A placement is agreed by the Coordinator with Placement Services. The carers are given the Information about Trafficking for Carers toolkit and this is discussed with them.
 - The individual situation and the safety plan is discussed and agreed with the carers.
 - The safety plan beyond the first 48 hours is discussed and agreed. The arrangements for the young person safely leaving the placement temporarily for education are discussed and agreed. Not to be put in place if it is felt the young person cannot be kept safe outside the placement.
 - The young person is taken to their placement.
 - Strategy Review meeting to take place within 72 hours and must include an update on the safety planning.

June 2016

To be reviewed June 2018