



## Safeguarding update January 2015 Theme : Child Trafficking

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### What is child trafficking?

*Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.*

#### *Children are trafficked for:*

- sexual abuse
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs, bag theft.

### Who trafficks children?

#### *Traffickers may be:*

- individuals or small groups: who recruit a small number of children - often from areas they know and live in
- medium-sized groups: who recruit, move and exploit, often on a small scale
- large criminal networks: that operate internationally, can deal with high-level corruption, money laundering and large numbers of victims.

**Respect Believe Achieve**

## What do we need to look for?

Signs that a child has been trafficked may not be obvious – but you might notice unusual behaviour or events.



*These include a child who:*

- spends a lot of time doing household chores
- rarely leaves their house, has no freedom of movement and no time for playing
- lives apart from the family and in substandard accommodation
- isn't sure which country they're in
- is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or personal details
- doesn't appear to be registered with a school or a GP practice
- has no documents or has falsified documents
- has no access to their parents or guardians
- is seen in inappropriate places such as brothels or factories
- is permanently deprived of a large part of their earnings, required to earn a minimum amount of money every day or pay off an exorbitant debt.

## What can we do?

*If a UK agency and organisation thinks a child has been trafficked they should:*

- follow child protection procedures to ensure the child's safeguarding needs are assessed and addressed, speak to the designated staff in school (VS,PS, SC,RH)
- report their concerns to a first responder for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) such as the NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice Centre.

## Effects of child trafficking

**Child trafficking can have long-lasting and devastating effects.**

Being kept captive or living or working in poor conditions can have a serious impact on a child's mental and physical health. They might also be suffering from the effects of multiple forms of abuse and neglect.

Children may feel distressed and alienated if they have been separated from their families, friends, communities and cultures.

They will often have had no access to education or opportunity for social and emotional development.



## Effects of domestic servitude and forced labour

Children exploited for domestic servitude and forced labour can suffer physical and developmental injuries.

## Effects of sexual exploitation

Children trafficked for sexual exploitation are at high risk of prolonged periods of sexual violence causing physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections and, for girls, multiple pregnancies.



### **Designated staff in school**

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