



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Context

Child trafficking is a global business that targets and victimises the most vulnerable children for transportation, abuse and exploitation across the world. It is a largely hidden problem and is often described as a form of modern-day slavery. The children involved are in no way responsible for their predicament, having been coerced, bribed or forced into, and unable to escape from, the control of traffickers. The effect of trafficking on children is wide-reaching; many will experience significant harm as a result of their situation, and outcomes for them may be extremely poor as a result of lack of proper care or access to universal services such as health and education as traffickers seek to avoid contact with the authorities.

Therefore, those agencies involved in their protection will need to develop strategies to actively identify, protect, support and, where possible, investigate and prosecute those who exploit them.

## 1.2 The Guidance

This guidance has been developed to support front line practitioners and their managers who are working with children and young people who may be suffering significant harm or at risk of suffering harm through child trafficking and exploitation. It will enable identification and inform appropriate

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Argyll & Bute Multi Agency Child Protection Procedures and [Inter-Agency Guidance For Child Trafficking - Child Trafficking Assessment National Referral Mechanism \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/inter-agency-guidance-for-child-trafficking)

While this guidance is in respect of trafficking and exploitation, Argyll & Bute has specific guidance relating to children at risk of sexual exploitation. Practitioners need to give consideration to all forms of exploitation when considering Trafficking.

## 1.3 Scope of Guidance

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This multi-agency guidance is for all staff working in children and adult services (including voluntary sector workers) working with young people under the age of 21 years.

This guidance also applies to children and young people 16 years and over who are not looked after and dn 595.32 841.92 reW\*nBT/F1 18(a)6(f)-11(te)JTJETQ1(tcia)6(n)-g129ffrs. 87

## **2. Child Trafficking**

### **2.1 Defining Human Trafficking**

assessment (Appendix 1) should be undertaken and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism seriously considered.

The matrix is not an exhaustive list of factors and other concerns may be present. For UK national children especially movement may involve that between and within cities, between accommodation, places of abuse within a city and movement between different people. The indicators may apply to both UK nationals and/or migrant children and to both boys and girls and should be kept in mind when working with children when making an initial assessment. They are not questions to be directly asking children at the initial stage of enquiry. The indicators do not replace child protection investigations and the presence, or otherwise, of trafficking suspicions should not preclude the standard child protection procedures being implemented.

#### Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)

The exploitation of young and vulnerable persons is a common feature in the facilitation of county lines drugs supply, whether for the storage or supply of drugs, the movement of cash, or to secure the use of dwellings held by vulnerable people in the marketplace (commonly referred to as cuckooing). (Police Scotland)

### 2.3 Additional Powers under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 contains preventative measures in the form of orders that can be applied to restrict the activities of those who have been suspected of or convicted of human trafficking.

#### Trafficking and Exploitation Orders (TEPOs)

TEPOs are available to the court for any accused convicted of a relevant offence.

#### Trafficking and Exploitation Risk Orders (TEROs)

Section 26 of the act introduces TEROs which can be applied for by the Chief Constable only and can be made by the Sheriff where

- a) There is risk the accused may commit a trafficking or exploitation offence
- b) Each prohibition or requirement in the order is necessary for the purpose of protecting persons generally from the physical or psychological harm which would be likely to occur if the offence was committed.

The sheriff can also make an Interim Risk Order whilst consideration is being given to the granting of a risk order.

### 2.4 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Trafficking

Due to the manner in which exploitation occurs, a continuum of exploitation often means that children and young people may be forced to commit crimes whilst under the control of others. The legal framework for human trafficking recognises this and where there is a link to human trafficking, children and young people may benefit from the principle of non-prosecution.

## 2.5 Information Sharing

This guidance sits within child protection procedures and as such;

Sharing relevant information is an essential part of protecting children. Although those providing services to adults and children may be concerned about balancing their duty to protect children from harm and their general duty towards their patient or service user, **the over-riding concern must always be the safety of the child.** (National Child Protection Guidance 2021)

## 3. Trauma Informed Approach to Support and Intervention

Trauma informed practice means considering the impact of trauma and making adjustments to fit

with child protection procedures.

Having an understanding of this and ways to respond can help the child or young person feel supported and safe, and help the workers to gather the required information.

The Scottish Child Interview Model, which is currently being implemented across Scotland, provides guidance on Joint Investigative Interviewing of Child Witnesses in a way that considers developmental factors, the impact of trauma and using a systemic approach to support children before, during and after required processes.

The trauma informed practice framework is organised around 5 R s.

Firstly that **Relationships matter**. Experiences of the interpersonal trauma of abuse and violence involved in child trafficking can have a lasting impact on relationships. But recovery can be helped through repeated experiences of safe, trustworthy and supportive relationships. This includes encounters with professionals through the child protection procedures. Good relationships can be



what they need to help support them through the process, if they already have coping strategies that they can use.

### **Trust**

That interactions support a child or young person being able to trust the professionals involved. For example, being consistent and reliable in your interactions. This can include how the child protection process is explained to them and being clear about your role and doing what you say you will do so that this is predictable for the child or young person. It is also being clear about when there are things that you are not able to do and explaining the reasons for this. It is important to check that the child understands what is happening. In addition, making sure the child or young person understands that you care about them and you want what is most helpful for them.

### **Empowerment**

It is important to involve the children in all aspects of the process and listen to what they are communicating. Working with children and young people in a way that empowers them to make active decisions about the support they receive. For example, that they can put forward their views about what would be helpful and can have their interests, personal strengths

to their being moved elsewhere. It is therefore recommended that unless there is clear evidence consent or consult with parents / carers at the initial stage.

For young people aged 16-18 years it





## 4.4 Other Considerations

## 5. Contact Details

**Police Scotland: 999 or via 101**

**A&B Children & Families Social Work**

During office hours 01546 605517

Evenings and weekends - 01631 566491 or 01631 569712

**Guardianship Service** [Scottish Guardianship Service - Aberlour](#)

**Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance**

# Appendix 1.

## Child Trafficking Assessment Questions

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This Child Trafficking Assessment is designed to assess potential victims of trafficking and / or future risk of trafficking. The questions below should be considered and answered as part of the comprehensive assessment of risk and needs. If initial concerns are about trafficking it is likely that the child trafficking assessment is completed first; if other child assessments are being undertaken and suspicions about trafficking become apparent the child trafficking assessment should be completed in conjunction with them to focus on trafficking specific concerns.

It is likely the Child Trafficking Assessment will be informed by the use of the Child Trafficking Matrix (appendix 2) - the matrix is not an exhaustive list of indicators, or an assessment of future risk. Other factors

3. **Exploitation / abuse**(detail evidence and / or suspicions; types of exploitation; locations; length of exploitation; freedom of movement)

4. **Trafficker(s)**(description; relatives; gender; title; job; names; relationship to child; still in contact etc)

