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**Introduction to Child Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)**

**When does trafficking of children take place?**

Whenever a child (i.e. anyone under 18) is moved from one place to another for the purposes of being exploited.

**When is a person considered to be trafficked?**

The [Modern Slavery Act 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents) establishes that a person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another with a view to being **exploited**, this involves cases where:

* the person intends to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel, or
* the person knows or ought to know that another person is likely to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel

**Doesn’t trafficking just relate to people trying to get into the country?**

A popular media image portrayed for trafficking of human beings involves the transportation of children and adults using covert methods such as cargo containers, etc., (this is actually smuggling which is a different issue) . However, wherever a child has been **recruited**, **transported** or **transferred** for the **purpose of exploitation**, **they should be considered to be a victim of trafficking**, this includes **whether or not** they have been forced, deceived or the child/young person believes that they are traveling willingly from one location to another, for example, where a child takes a bus or walks from one location to another for the purpose of exploitation.

**Remember: A child cannot legally give consent to being trafficked.**

**Is there something I should be doing?**

Any agency and organisation that has concern for a child they believe may be a victim of human trafficking should make a referral immediately to [Hull Children Social Care](http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/portal/page-_pageid%3D296%2C653227%26_dad%3Dportal%26_schema%3DPORTAL) and notify Humberside Police. This is to ensure that arrangements can be put in place to safeguard the child or young person and the police are made aware that a potential crime has been committed. When age is in doubt, the presumption has to be that the person is a child.

**What else should happen?**

Organisations like Local Authorities (Hull City Council), the Police (Humberside Police) and the NSPCC are ‘**first responder’** organisations. When Hull’s Children Social Care and Humberside Police have assessed the indicators of trafficking and arrangements have been put in place to safeguard the child, **first responders should refer the child to the National Referral Mechanism** (NRM) using the [referral form](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery).

**Does that mean any arrangements put in place will be superseded?**

No, a referral into the NRM and **any subsequent decisions do not replace or supersede established child protection processes**, which should **continue in tandem**.

**What happens next?**

Once a referral has been made, trained decision makers will assess and make a decision on whether an individual is a victim of trafficking or modern slavery. There is a **two stage** process where a trained decision maker will decide if there are ‘**reasonable grounds’** to believe the child/young person has been the victim of trafficking (normally within 5 working days of receipt of the referral). The first 5 days also provides for a child to be kept in safe accommodation (i.e. away from the trafficker). A ‘conclusive decision’ will be made regarding whether the child has been the victim of trafficking after a 45 day reflection period.

**Where can I find out more information?**

Further information is available in the HSCB Practice Guidance at [HSCB - CSE Guidance](http://hullscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_ch_sexual_exploit.html) and [HSCB – Modern Slavery and Child Trafficking](http://hullscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_modern_slavery.html) and the [Humber Modern Slavery Partnership](http://www.humberantislave.com/).