

BACKGROUND

Human trafficking is a safeguarding issue and it is important that everyone:

- recognises what human trafficking & modern slavery are
- can identify the signs & indicators
- knows how to refer concerns into the right system.

Modern slavery includes trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced manual labour, sham marriage, domestic servitude and organ harvesting. People may not be victims of human

trafficking but are still victims of modern slavery and can come from all walks of life.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER & DISCUSS

- How might I recognise an adult or child victim of trafficking and modern slavery?
- Where might our team come across them?
- Am I confident that I would know what to do if I suspected that someone was a victim?
- Do I know where to get further help and advice?

WHY IT MATTERS

Trafficking & modern slavery are serious, brutal crimes in which both adults & children are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. People may be forced to work by mental or physical threat; bought and sold as 'property'; physically restrained or have restriction placed upon their freedom of movement.

The scale of modern slavery in the UK is significant and there have been year on year increases in the number of victims identified. There are few other crimes where people are used as commodities over & over again for the profit of others.

In the UK the vast majority of known trafficking is for the purpose of sexual exploitation

INFORMATION

Obstacles to coming forward may include fear of:

- punishment at the hands of traffickers; including reprisals against their children & family
- reprimand at the hands of the authorities or deportation
- discrimination from their community and families
- Juju or witchcraft rituals
- spoiling attachment to their traffickers.

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Victims may:

- be reluctant to come forward with information
- not recognise themselves as being enslaved
- tell their stories with obvious errors (these stories are often created by others and learnt)
- appear malnourished, unkempt or show signs of bruises or other injuries
- be isolated from the local community
- have tattoos indicating ownership (as will people who are working & living at the same place).

THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM

(NRM) is a victim identification and support process. It is designed to make it easier for the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking case to co-operate, share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support.

There is a duty on first responders such as local authorities and police to complete

[a National Referral Mechanism](#)

(NRM) form in all cases of suspected trafficking - the forms (child or adult) can be found at www.gov.uk

NOTE: children do not have to consent to the referral.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Everyone is responsible for staying alert to the possibility of human trafficking & modern slavery and reporting on it if they are concerned.

Look at resources on the:

- [NSSP website](#)
- Modern Day Slavery Helpline
- 08000 121 700
- www.modernslaveryhelpline.org
- ICTA information (advocacy)

