

## 01 Background

Human trafficking is an increasing safeguarding issue, and it is important that staff in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors know:

- What human trafficking is
- Recognise the signs and indicators of human trafficking
- Understand their own role vis-a-vis human trafficking
- Know how to refer concerns about human trafficking into the appropriate system

## 02 Why it Matters

Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world (second only to drugs trafficking). It is very lucrative, and exploits the weakest members of society. Whereas immigration and smuggling are crimes against the state, this is a crime of control and exploitation against individuals. People (potential victims) are attracted because of promises of money, work and accommodation

## 03 Information

The definition of human trafficking is: The illegal recruitment of people and children by threat, deception or coercion for forced labour and/or sexual exploitation. There are several types of trafficking, for different purposes:

- Labour exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Organ harvesting

The National Referral Mechanism received 2,340 referrals in 2014, an increase of 34% on 2013. 1,432 females (61%) 906 Males (39%) and 2 transgender (<1%). 1,669 (71%) referred for adult exploitation categories and 671 (29%) for exploitation as minors.

## 07 Implementing Change

1. Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice.
2. Outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in line with the recommendations.

## 06 Questions to Consider

When might we come across human trafficking? Do we know enough about human trafficking to be able to spot it. National referral mechanism:

- [Gov UK Human Trafficking Victims Referral and Assessment Forms](#)
- [London Safeguarding Childrens Board](#)
- for first responders: [National Guidance for Child First Responders](#)

# Human Trafficking



## 04 Exploitation

The exploited person(s) are not free to leave or come and go as they wish, may be in the commercial sex industry involuntarily; are unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips; work excessively long and/or unusual hours; owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off, might have poor mental health, poor physical health, and lack of control in their lives. For children, they may be engaged in begging, CSE, performing excessive housework chores and rarely leave the residence, may be cared for by adult/s who are not their parents, may live among a number of unrelated children found at one address; not enrolled in school; not registered with GP. Trafficked children are generally found via the adult's presentation

## 05 What To Do

**Everyone** is responsible for staying alert to the possibility of human trafficking and reporting it on when they are concerned. Everyone needs to speak to their manager and/or their designated/named person to ensure that their concerns are passed on to the appropriate authorities. You need to work inter-agency to ensure that the family/child is referred through the referral mechanism on the appropriate form: The most important thing to remember is to do something.

