

Child Trafficking, Modern Slavery and the NRM

What is child trafficking and modern slavery?

Child trafficking and *modern slavery* are child abuse. It is when children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.

Children can be trafficked for:

- Child sexual exploitation
- Criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs and bag theft
- Benefit fraud
- Forced marriage
- Domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- Forced labour in factories or agriculture

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. Trafficking does not have to occur over national borders, so children can be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. According to latest child trafficking statistics, the most common countries for children to be trafficked from are UK, Albania, Vietnam, Sudan, Romania and Eritrea.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The government created the NRM in 2009.

The NRM is a victim identification and support process which is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking and modern slavery case.





First responders (including Local Authorities and police) have a legal duty to refer anyone who they believe to be a victim of trafficking or modern slavery to the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). This duty is discharged via completion of a NRM referral.

Referrals to the NRM should be for all potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery, who can be of any nationality, and may for example include British national children, such as those trafficked for child sexual exploitation or those trafficked as drug carriers internally in the UK.

Potential child victims do not need to consent to their referral however safeguarding processes must take priority. A referral into the NRM and the subsequent decisions do not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue in tandem.

[The First Responder Guide for England and Wales](#) sets out more information on how to approach referring victims to the NRM. There is also government guidance about the [National Referral Mechanism](#).

[Unseen](#) is a UK charity with its head office in Bristol. There is lots of further information and resources relating to trafficking and modern slavery contained on their website.

If you are worried about a child in South Gloucestershire, you should contact Access and Response (ART) on 01454 866000.

Need Training?

- Bitesize Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Online Session (1 hour) – [Book Here](#)
- Risk Outside The Home (ROTH) Multi-Agency In Person Training (1 day) – [Book Here](#)