



Department  
for Education

# **Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery**

**Statutory guidance for local authorities**

**March 2017**

# Contents

Introduction	3
Status of this guidance	5
Who is this guidance for?	5
Definitions used in this guidance	5
Local authority responsibilities	9
Training and awareness	10
When is a child a victim of modern slavery?	11
Age determination	13
National Transfer Scheme	13
Assessment	14
Family reunification	16
Planning, protection and placement	17
Review, advocacy and wider support	21
Planning transition to adulthood	22
Annex A	27
Associated resources	27

## Introduction

1. Unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, are some of the most vulnerable children in the country. Unaccompanied children are alone, in an unfamiliar country and likely to be surrounded by people unable to speak their first language. Modern slavery includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Exploitation takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, and domestic servitude and victims may come from all walks of life.<sup>1</sup>
2. Child victims of modern slavery are likely to be uncertain or unaware of their rights, and whom they should trust. They are at increased risk of going missing, often leaving the care of those who would protect them to return to traffickers who will continue their exploitation. All groups may have experienced emotional trauma in their country of birth, in their journey to the UK or through their treatment by adults in the UK.
3. Local authorities have a duty to protect and support these highly vulnerable children. Because of the circumstances they have faced, unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, often have complex needs in addition to those faced by looked after children more generally. The support required to address these needs must begin as soon as the child is referred to the local authority. It will be most effective where this support is provided through a stable, continuous relationship with the child.
4. This guidance sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children, unaccompanied migrant children or child victims of modern slavery including trafficking. Elements of this guidance will also be relevant for the care of looked after UK nationals who may be child victims of modern slavery. It does not provide detailed guidance on steps that local authorities should take, in partnership with other agencies, to identify and protect child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, before they become looked after. This is described in practice guidance *Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked*,<sup>2</sup> published by the Department for Education and Home Office in 2011 and the Modern Slavery statutory guidance: Children's chapter – Identification and support of child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking (due to be published 2017).

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<sup>1</sup> For a full explanation of modern slavery, see Modern Slavery statutory guidance, due to be published in 2017.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance>

5. It is recognised that this is a complex area of practice, exemplified by the many different pieces of statutory and practice guidance, legislation and resources referenced below and at Annex A. There are a significant number of professionals who may be working with or have contact with an unaccompanied migrant child, who may be a victim or a potential victim of modern slavery, to whom this piece of guidance may be relevant.

This guidance should be read alongside:

- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review;<sup>3</sup> and,
- Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers.<sup>4</sup>
- Family and Friends Care: Statutory guidance for local authorities,<sup>5</sup> published by the Department for Education in 2011.
- Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care,<sup>6</sup> published by the Department for Education in January 2014.
- Working together to safeguard children,<sup>7</sup> published by the Department for Education in 2015.
- Interim Independent Child Trafficking Advocate Guidance: Early Adopter Sites,<sup>8</sup> published by the Home Office in 2017.
- Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance: Children’s chapter – Identification and support of child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking (due to be published by the Home Office in 2017). This new statutory guidance will provide extensive information for identifying and supporting all victims of modern slavery (not just looked after children).
- Victims of Modern Slavery – Competent Authority Guidance<sup>9</sup>

The following documents are not statutory guidance but local authority children’s services professionals may also wish to familiarise themselves with them:

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-transition-to-adulthood-for-care-leavers>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-family-and-friends-care>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-trafficking-advocates-early-adopter-sites>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/521763/Victims\\_of\\_modern\\_slavery\\_-\\_Competent\\_Authority\\_guidance\\_v3\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/521763/Victims_of_modern_slavery_-_Competent_Authority_guidance_v3_0.pdf)

- The National Transfer Protocol for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.<sup>10</sup>
- Guidance on Processing Children's Asylum Claims which sets out the process immigration officials follow in determining an asylum claim from a child and the possible outcomes for that child.<sup>11</sup>

## Status of this guidance

6. This guidance is issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, which requires local authorities, in exercising their social services functions, to act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State. This guidance must be complied with by local authorities when exercising these functions, unless there are exceptional reasons which justify a departure. This guidance is applicable in England only.

## Who is this guidance for?

7. The guidance is addressed to Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members for Children's Services. It will be of relevance to staff running local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, as well as Home Office staff, social care professionals, police, health, education and youth offender services practitioners and those who care for looked after children.

## Definitions used in this guidance

8. The cohort of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery includes a wide range of children with a variety of circumstances that a local authority will need to be aware of in order to ensure that the child receives appropriate legal advice and support. Some will have been trafficked and may have witnessed horrific acts of violence. Other migrant children may not be in need of protection or may not have been trafficked but may have been sent in search of a better life, or abandoned in the UK. The terms below are used throughout this document with the following definitions:

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-interim-national-transfer-scheme>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/537010/Processing-children-s-asylum-claims-v1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/537010/Processing-children-s-asylum-claims-v1.pdf)

- *Child*: anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ therefore means ‘children and young people under the age of 18’ throughout this guidance. Note that, where the person’s age is in doubt, they must be treated as a child unless, and until, a case-law compliant<sup>12</sup> age assessment shows the person to be an adult.
- *Unaccompanied child*: is used throughout this guidance to refer to children from outside the UK who fall into the categories below.
  - *Unaccompanied asylum seeking child*: a child who is claiming asylum in their own right, who is separated from both parents, and who is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so. Some will not qualify for asylum but may require “humanitarian protection”. Their status will be determined by the Home Office.
  - *Unaccompanied migrant child not seeking asylum*: a child who is not seeking asylum because their reasons for being here are not connected to seeking protection, or is not seeking asylum because they are undocumented,<sup>13</sup> or is not seeking asylum because they have not been advised of the need to do so. The child may be separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so. Such children may have begun their life in the UK with family or with relatives, and for a range of reasons these care arrangements are no longer working.

The circumstances of unaccompanied children may be that they have parents and family members who are not in the UK. Being unaccompanied is not necessarily a permanent status and may change, particularly if the child has other family members in the UK. “Unaccompanied child” is used with the same meaning throughout the guidance for brevity.

- *Asylum seeking child*: such a child is in the UK with family members and may have been transferred to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation<sup>14</sup> to join a close family member and have their claim for asylum processed here. For further guidance on the Dublin III family reunion process see the Department for Education (2010) *Family and Friends Care: Statutory guidance for local authorities*.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> ‘Merton compliant’ is often used to describe whether an age assessment is case law compliant. All local authority age assessments must be compliant with the case law of Merton and case law following this judgment.

<sup>13</sup> ‘Undocumented’ children are unable to show any identity documents or immigration status documents to prove that they are allowed to remain in the UK. Once this has been uncovered, the child may have to apply for asylum or otherwise seek to regularise their immigration status.

<sup>14</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1481188565896&uri=CELEX:32013R0604>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288483/family-and-friends-care.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288483/family-and-friends-care.pdf)

- *Unaccompanied EEA national child*: a child who is a national of a European Economic Area country and who has entered the UK with a family member and has been separated from them, or has entered independently. They have a right to reside in the UK for an initial period of three months. After this time, an EEA national child will only have a right to reside in the UK if they are exercising their free movement rights or they are the family member of an EEA national exercising free movement rights in the UK.<sup>16</sup>
- *EEA family member*: a child may also be the family member of a national of an EEA state without being a national of that country themselves. They may come to the UK with an EEA national family member, or come to the UK to join them. If the child is a direct family member (spouse or child) then their right to reside in the UK will depend on their family member exercising free movement rights. If the child is an extended family member then they are required to be dependent on the relative, or in that relative's household, in order to have a right to reside in the UK.
- *Child victim of modern slavery*: Modern slavery includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour for the purpose of exploitation. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (section 56(3)) defines a child as anyone under the age of 18. For the purposes of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) the UK recognises that slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour have the same meaning as they do under Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).<sup>17</sup> Trafficking is defined within Article 4 of the European Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings.<sup>18</sup> However, for the purposes of trafficking, in the case of a child there is no requirement to meet the 'means' component within that definition as a child is not able to give informed consent. Therefore, any child who is recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received for the purposes of exploitation is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived.
- *Looked after child*: a child who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989.
- *Care leaver*: an eligible, relevant or former relevant child as defined by the Children Act 1989.
- *Entry local authority*: the local authority where an unaccompanied child first presents.
- *Receiving local authority*: a local authority which accepts the transfer and legal responsibility of an unaccompanied child from an entry local authority through the

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<sup>16</sup> Treaty (free movement) rights are acquired where someone is working or self-employed, or self-sufficient, studying, or retired provided that they have comprehensive sickness insurance

<sup>17</sup> [http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/236093/8414.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236093/8414.pdf)

National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, as described in paragraph 33.

- *Best Interests principle*: Any child has the right in international law (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) to have his or her best interests assessed and taken into account as a primary consideration in all actions or decisions that concern him or her. It is a general principle for interpreting and implementing all the rights of the child and a holistic concept, embracing the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral, psychological and social development. For further information on the Best Interest Principle see UNICEF & UNHCR: *Safe and Sound*.<sup>19</sup>

Guidance on taking into account the wishes and feelings of the child, and how the child's best interests should be included in all decisions regarding their welfare is embedded in the following UK legislation, regulations and guidance:

- Section 1(3) of the Children's Act 1989,<sup>20</sup>
- The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 2: care planning, placement and case review;<sup>21</sup> and
- Working together to safeguard children,<sup>22</sup> published by the Department for Education in 2015.

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5423da264.html>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/1>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

## Local authority responsibilities

9. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a general duty on every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need within their area by providing services appropriate to those children's needs.
10. An unaccompanied child will become looked after by the local authority after having been accommodated by the local authority under section 20(1) of the Children Act 1989 for 24 hours. This will mean that they will be entitled to the same local authority provision as any other looked after child. Assessment and care provisions for the child should commence immediately as for any looked after child, irrespective of whether an application (e.g. an asylum claim) has been submitted to the Home Office.
11. The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 set out local authorities' duties with regard to providing for looked after children and care leavers who are eligible children. The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 likewise set out duties regarding care leavers who are relevant or former relevant children. These regulations were amended in 2014 to require that those duties are fulfilled with particular regard to the child's circumstances and needs as unaccompanied or trafficked children. The regulations apply to all children, regardless of their immigration status, nationality or documentation.
12. Local authorities should ensure that they have processes in place to monitor their policies and performance relating to both unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, and should record modern slavery concerns on the child's care plan. They should ensure that responsible managers look beyond this guidance to understand the risks and issues facing unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery and to review best practice in planning for the care of these children.
13. A cohesive multi-agency approach is essential to protecting child victims of modern slavery from further risk from their traffickers and preventing trafficking from taking place. In particular, there should be a clear understanding between the local authority and the police of roles in planning for this protection and responding if a trafficked child goes missing. Local area multi-agency safeguarding arrangements should play a central role in providing oversight of local multi-agency arrangements.
14. For unaccompanied children and for children trafficked into the UK, a number of immigration outcomes may be possible depending on the individual case. The importance of planning for different outcomes and what these may be, including return to the individual's country of origin, are described at paragraphs 74-77 below.

15. The needs of both unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficked children, may require specialist support. This may be best provided by voluntary organisations, a number of which are referenced in this guidance.

## Training and awareness

16. All those involved in the care of unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery should be able to recognise and understand the particular issues likely to be faced by these children. This includes recognising the indicators of trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour as a child's previous history or current experience of being a victim of modern slavery might not be apparent to begin with.
17. Social workers, personal advisers and their managers should understand how the child's experiences, vulnerabilities and immigration status may impact on assessment, care planning and delivery, and planning for the transition to adulthood.
18. Social workers' knowledge of the immigration application process should include an understanding of the Statement of Evidence Form, the purpose of the asylum case review, the importance of the substantive asylum interview, the different possible outcomes of a child's asylum claim and how that impacts on pathway planning, and how to access specialist immigration legal advice and representation for unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery. This specialist advice will be required to ensure the child can fully present their case for asylum or leave to remain. Legal advice about immigration must be provided by a registered immigration adviser, who is either a regulated solicitor or registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)<sup>23</sup> to provide immigration advice to the relevant level. For example, to advise on issues such as asylum applications, out-of-time applications for leave to remain or applications for citizenship, the adviser would need to be competent to provide advice to OISC level 2. Ideally, the adviser would specialise in working with children as well. Details on where to find legal representation can be found using the Adviser Finder function on the OISC website.<sup>24</sup>
19. Social workers will be approached by the Home Office to participate in a case review, which is intended to explain the asylum process, ensure the child has legal representation, check progress in completing the Statement of Evidence Form (SEF) and confirm that the child is ready to be interviewed. The review will

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<sup>23</sup> <http://oisc.homeoffice.gov.uk>

<sup>24</sup> [http://home.oisc.gov.uk/adviser\\_finder/finder.aspx](http://home.oisc.gov.uk/adviser_finder/finder.aspx)

normally consist of a telephone call or conference call. Social workers will also be asked to complete the Current Circumstances Form – Part 2. These forms are normally used where a child has been refused asylum and the Home Office is considering returning the child to their home country. This form provides the social worker with an opportunity to contribute any information that may be relevant about the child and the proposed return to their home country.

20. The Home Office is under a duty to take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in carrying out its asylum functions. These processes are therefore intended to create opportunities for those working with unaccompanied children to be able to provide information about the child, which may be relevant to their asylum decision.
21. Further information on the asylum decision making process can be found in *Processing Children's Asylum Claims* published by the Home Office in 2016 for Home Office staff.<sup>25</sup>
22. Social workers should also be aware of the wider child protection system around child victims of modern slavery, including how and when to refer a child to the National Referral Mechanism and what detail to include in any referral. See paragraph 26 for further detail on the National Referral Mechanism.
23. Independent reviewing officers should be aware of the need to have regard to the child's needs as an unaccompanied child or child victim of modern slavery including trafficking, when planning and providing care. They must also have an awareness of the particular needs and issues children may face as a result of being an unaccompanied child or child victim of modern slavery so that they can provide appropriate challenge at review. Service providers should ensure that foster carers and all other care staff in placement settings are aware of appropriate steps to reduce the risk of trafficked children returning to their traffickers.
24. A number of organisations can provide relevant training, either face-to-face or online. Some examples of the training available are included at Annex A.

## **When is a child a victim of modern slavery?**

25. A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 as per section 56(3) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

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<sup>25</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/537010/Processing-children\\_s-asylum-claims-v1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/537010/Processing-children_s-asylum-claims-v1.pdf)

26. Potential child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, must be referred to the NRM by a first responder and assessed by a competent authority within the UK. Having been assessed, children will be issued with a positive reasonable grounds decision indicating they are considered to be a potential victim of modern slavery or a negative decision determining there are no reasonable grounds to believe they are a victim of any form of modern slavery.
27. If the child has been issued with a positive reasonable grounds decision a further assessment is carried out to provide a conclusive decision. Whilst awaiting this decision, the child should be treated as if they have the status of a child victim of modern slavery.
28. If the child receives a positive conclusive grounds decision they should continue to be treated as if they have the status of a child victim of modern slavery and receive all the relevant support associated with that status.
29. To understand more about possible indicators of modern slavery, see the *Modern Slavery: frontline staff guidance*.<sup>26</sup>
30. In addition, whether a child is a potential victim of modern slavery, or not, any child who has been groomed and coerced into sexual exploitation, including UK nationals, should be subject to the safeguarding measures outlined in *Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation* (2010),<sup>27</sup> the Department for Education's supplementary guidance to *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, revised in 2015.<sup>28</sup>
31. For more information on referring to the NRM, please see the *National Referral Mechanism: guidance for child first responders*, published by the Home Office in 2016.<sup>29</sup> Referral forms are available online and provide a comprehensive list of indicators of children who may have been trafficked.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509326/victims-of-modern-slavery-frontline-staff-guidance-v3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509326/victims-of-modern-slavery-frontline-staff-guidance-v3.pdf)

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/278849/Safeguarding\\_Children\\_and\\_Young\\_People\\_from\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278849/Safeguarding_Children_and_Young_People_from_Sexual_Exploitation.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/419595/Working\\_Together\\_to\\_Safeguard\\_Children.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/510091/NRM\\_-\\_guidance\\_for\\_child\\_first\\_responders\\_v2.0\\_EXT.PDF](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510091/NRM_-_guidance_for_child_first_responders_v2.0_EXT.PDF)

Further guidance may also be found on the ECPAT UK website: <http://new.ecpat.org.uk/content/national-referral-mechanism>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

## Age determination

32. Many unaccompanied and trafficked children arrive in the UK without documentation or with forged or counterfeit documents. Where the age of a person is uncertain and there are reasons to believe they are a child, that person is presumed to be a child in order to receive immediate access to assistance, support and protection in accordance with section 51 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Where an age assessment is required, local authorities must adhere to standards established within case law. Age assessments should only be carried out where there is reason to doubt that the individual is the age they claim. Age assessments should not be a routine part of a local authority's assessment of unaccompanied or trafficked children. Further advice and guidance can be found in the *Age Assessment Guidance*, published by the Association of Directors of Children's Services in October 2015.<sup>31</sup>

## National Transfer Scheme

33. The National Transfer Scheme was created to enable the safe transfer of unaccompanied asylum seeking children from one UK local authority (the entry authority from which the unaccompanied child transfers) to another UK local authority (the receiving authority) from 1 July 2016.

34. The National Transfer Protocol sets out the process to be followed in transferring children between participating local authorities and forms the basis of a voluntary agreement made between local authorities to ensure a fairer distribution of unaccompanied asylum seeking children between local authorities and across all parts of the UK.<sup>32</sup> It is intended to ensure that no local authority faces an unmanageable responsibility in accommodating and looking after unaccompanied asylum seeking children pursuant to its duties under parts 3, 4, and 5 of the Children Act 1989 or equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, simply by virtue of being entry authority for a disproportionate number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and in doing so to ensure that appropriate services are available to all unaccompanied children.

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<sup>31</sup> [http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/Age\\_Assessment\\_Guidance\\_2015\\_Final.pdf](http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/Age_Assessment_Guidance_2015_Final.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-interim-national-transfer-scheme>

## Assessment

35. When an unaccompanied child presents in a local authority area (either at a port or airport or if they are found in other circumstances and taken to a police station) all agencies dealing with the child should be alert to the possibility that the child may have been a victim of modern slavery, including the possibility the child has been trafficked, and ensure that all relevant information about the child's circumstances is communicated to the entry local authority social worker. Information should be shared with consent where appropriate and where possible, but information can be shared without consent if the professional judgement is that there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. For further guidance on information sharing, refer to the Department for Education, *Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers* (2015).<sup>33</sup>
36. Where there are safeguarding concerns relating to the care and welfare of any unaccompanied child, including where modern slavery is suspected or a risk of modern slavery is identified, these should be investigated in line with the *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (2015) statutory guidance and locally agreed protocols and processes. The opportunity to intervene to prevent any further exploitation is very narrow, so the entry local authority should convene a strategy discussion as soon as possible and take any necessary immediate action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. This strategy discussion should involve the police, immigration officials and any other relevant agencies and plan rapid further action if concerns are substantiated. Many unaccompanied and/or trafficked children are at risk of going missing from care, often within the first 72 hours, whilst others may be at risk of repeated missing episodes due to ongoing exploitation.
37. Provision may need to be made for the child to be in a safe place before any further assessment takes place and for the possibility that they may not be able to disclose full information about their circumstances immediately. The location of the child should not be divulged to any enquirers until their identity and relationship with the child have been established and the local authority is assured of their motives, if necessary, with the help of police and immigration officials.
38. Before the entry local authority refers a child victim of modern slavery to the National Transfer Scheme, they must consider whether it is in the best interests of the child to do so. If the initial strategy discussion has led to the decision to initiate section 47 enquiries, the transfer should not be implemented if the

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<sup>33</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

completion of these enquiries and subsequent assessment process would be hindered.

39. The local authority in whose area the child is has legal responsibility for the child<sup>34</sup> and therefore undertakes the single assessment conducted as the first step in the care planning process (and if appropriate an enquiry under section 47 of the Children Act 1989). They should undertake such an assessment with reference, where relevant, to the child's needs as an unaccompanied child victim of modern slavery. Particular account must be taken during the assessment of any specific needs the child has. Children may have experienced conflict in their country of origin, their journey to the UK is likely to have been traumatic, and they may have been abused by traffickers or perpetrators of modern slavery and may be subject to the risk of ongoing exploitation as a consequence.
40. Child victims of modern slavery may not initially recognise that they are victims of a crime. They may have been told that the authorities will try to put them in prison, or have been passed from one unknown adult to another. They need to know they can trust their social worker and others involved in their care, and that they will be able to rely on support from allocated workers over time.
41. The assessment should ascertain any particular psychological or emotional impact of experiences as an unaccompanied child or child victim of modern slavery. These experiences can be severe and traumatic, although in many cases these symptoms may not be immediately apparent and instead come to the surface some months later. They should be noted, along with any consequent need for psychological or mental health support to help the child deal with them. As for any child, the assessment should also cover the child's needs in relation to their health, disability, education, religious persuasion, racial origin, and cultural and linguistic background.
42. No assumptions should be made about the child's language skills. Where interpreters are required, they should be appropriately trained to understand the particular issues the child may face. In particular, "trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour" may not translate literally or easily as concepts, and may need to be expressed in a different way to ensure the child fully comprehends their situation. Care should be taken and appropriate checks made to ensure that the interpreter is not linked in any way with those who may have been involved in the child's trafficking or exploitation.
43. The assessment should establish that the child fully understands their situation and how they will be supported. This includes ensuring they understand the risks

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<sup>34</sup> This may be the entry local authority if the child remains there or the receiving local authority if they are transferred.

they may face, particularly from traffickers. An assessment of their continued vulnerability to the influence or control of their traffickers and the risks of them going missing from care should be recorded and kept under review.

44. The assessment should also establish whether the child knows where they are (for example, children trafficked from overseas may have had this information kept hidden from them or been told by their traffickers that they are in a country other than the UK). For unaccompanied children and children trafficked from overseas, the assessment should seek to establish the circumstances which led to the child coming to the UK. The roles of those involved in their care should be explained. In particular, where immigration officials are involved it should be made clear that they have a separate role from those who provide for their care.
45. Unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, may have experienced or witnessed extreme trauma which is difficult for them to recount. Throughout the child's assessment, steps should be taken to minimise distress caused by asking them to repeat information they may already have provided, for example, to border officials, police or social care staff assessing their safeguarding needs. Care must be taken to ensure that the child does not become lost between the agencies involved and their different systems and procedures. This can be achieved through establishing clear processes for multi-agency working and transfer of all relevant information.

## Family reunification

46. The local authority's duties to looked after children under the Children Act 1989 apply equally to unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery who are looked after as they do to any other looked after child. This includes the duties to return a looked after child to their family where possible and to allow contact between the child and their parents if this is consistent with safeguarding and promoting their welfare. Planning for permanence should therefore include consideration of reunification with the child's birth family.
47. Regulation 6 of the Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 places a positive duty on the Secretary of State to endeavour to trace the members of a child's family as soon as possible after they make their claim for asylum, whilst ensuring that those enquires are conducted in a way that does not jeopardise the safety of the child or their family. In assessing the family tracing action that is appropriate the Home Office will seek the view of the local authority looking after the child. Children should always be informed if family tracing is being undertaken or commissioned on their behalf. Children should also be informed of the family tracing services available through the British Red

Cross.<sup>35</sup> Instances where this signposting may not be appropriate include cases where the child has expressed a fear of certain close family members or where the child becomes distressed at the idea of contact with their family.

48. The scope for family tracing will depend on the individual circumstances of the child and reflect the principles set out in the Home Office's *Family tracing* guidance.<sup>36</sup> In deciding whether it is appropriate to initiate contact with a child's family, child protection considerations must be paramount. The child's family may have been involved in trafficking or exploiting the child or subjecting them to child-specific forms of persecution such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage or involvement in armed conflict. The wishes and feelings of the child and the circumstances in which they came to the UK will be important in establishing the steps to take when undertaking family tracing. If the child has made an application for international protection, it might compromise the safety of the child and/or family members if social workers were to initiate contact with anyone in the country of origin. If such contact is being considered, social workers must first discuss the situation with the child's legal representative.
49. Guidance on local authority roles and responsibilities towards children reunited with family under the Dublin III regulation is described in the Department for Education (2010) *Family and Friends Care: Statutory guidance for local authorities*.<sup>37</sup>

## Planning, protection and placement

### Care planning

50. If a child is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child or there is reason to believe they are a child victim of modern slavery, including trafficking, this must be recorded on their care plan. The plan should include a description of how the child's needs in relation to being unaccompanied or trafficked will be met. This is to ensure that everyone involved in providing the child's care is aware of their circumstances and able to provide for any needs resulting from them. The plan should note the key stages of the process for resolving the child's asylum claim or immigration status and ensure that the child receives the advice and support they need in order to engage in a timely and effective way with that process and

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<sup>35</sup> The British Red Cross is an independent humanitarian organisation and does not undertake family tracing on the request of a third party, including the Home Office, local authority children's services or legal representatives. For further details please visit: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Find-my-missing-family>

<sup>36</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/537730/Family-tracing-v1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/537730/Family-tracing-v1.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/288483/family-and-friends-care.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288483/family-and-friends-care.pdf)

understands the outcome of it. The risk of the child going missing may increase as they approach the age of 18 due to concerns they may have over their immigration status; this risk should therefore be recorded on their care plan.

51. Unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery will need access to specialist legal advice and support. This will be in relation to immigration and asylum applications, and decisions and any associated legal proceedings. If they have been a victim of modern slavery, it may also be in relation to criminal proceedings or compensation claims. The plan should note that legal support is required and how it will be provided. The child's social worker should ensure that the child is accompanied in all meetings with legal professionals, though the accompanying person does not have to be the child's social worker.
52. As for any looked after child, a health plan and a personal education plan should be produced as part of the overall care plan. The health plan should cover the children's state of health, including their physical, emotional and mental health. This should include detail of how any psychological issues will be addressed. For example, these may result from the child's experiences in their country of origin, on their journey to the UK or at the hands of traffickers overseas or in the UK. The health and education plans should also take into account any developmental or learning difficulties.
53. Perpetrators of modern slavery, including traffickers, may have sought to control the child by telling them that their family will come to harm if they do not co-operate with them, which are often believed to be credible threats by the child. Child victims of modern slavery should be provided with ongoing support to help them cope with the emotional impact of this kind of coercion. This may require referral to specialist mental health assessment and treatment. The health plan should set out the objectives, actions, timescales and responsibilities arising from the health assessment.
54. The education plan should include a clear education pathway for securing high quality education provision in school or other education setting and details of particular support the child may need, for example, where the child has a special educational need. With children for whom English is not their first language, this may also include support both to learn English and to develop literacy skills in their mother tongue.
55. All looked after children must be given priority in school admissions, as set out in the School Admissions Code. This code applies to all maintained schools as well as academies and free schools. Social workers and carers should understand local arrangements for priority admissions and ensure that the child gains a place at the most appropriate school for them. Schools may require support to

understand the particular needs and issues faced by unaccompanied children or child victims of modern slavery.

56. The local authority should also take steps to ensure robust procedures are in place to monitor educational progress and a culture of proactive commitment to secure the highest educational outcomes for unaccompanied children or child victims of modern slavery. This should be monitored by a senior manager, such as the virtual school head, who is responsible for making sure their local authority promotes the educational achievement of its looked after children.

## Protection and placement planning

57. A child protection plan may be required to protect children from further harm. This is particularly likely where there is reason to believe the child is a victim of modern slavery (or at risk of being so) or where the child is a witness to serious organised crime. In such cases, there is a high risk that the child will go missing from care and return to those who wish to exploit them. In these cases, the plan should include what steps will be taken by carers, the local authority and police to reduce the risk of the child going missing, and to recover the child if they do go missing, in accordance with local Runaway and Missing from Home and Care protocols. A photograph of the child should be kept on file for use if they do go missing. More detail on dealing with a child victim of modern slavery who has gone missing is contained in the Department for Education statutory guidance on *Children who run away or go missing from home or care* (2014).<sup>38</sup>
58. Steps to build, quickly, a stable and trusting relationship with any looked after child are important to planning for their protection. Children need to be told they are safe and be supported in keeping themselves safe. As part of planning for their protection, the child should be asked about what would help them to feel safe. Involving the child in this way can help them regain a sense of control over their life. It can also help to build the relationships that can form a protective factor, reducing the risk of the child going missing.
59. Social workers should be aware of the child's immigration status at each stage of the asylum or immigration process. The possible outcomes of this process are set out on page 24 below. If the child receives a negative asylum or immigration decision, discussions about their status will need to be handled sensitively and social workers should be alert to a heightened risk of the child going missing and take all necessary steps to prevent this.

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<sup>38</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/298718/statutory\\_guidance\\_missing\\_from\\_care.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/298718/statutory_guidance_missing_from_care.pdf)

60. Placement decisions should take particular account of the need to protect the child from any risk of being exploited, and from a heightened risk of them going missing. Transfer to the care of another local authority or an out of area placement might in some cases be appropriate to put distance between the child and where their traffickers expect them to be. Specialist accommodation should be considered, for example, in settings that specialise in dealing with child victims of modern slavery.

61. Older children in particular may appear independent but often lack the skills to keep themselves safe from those who may exploit them. Efforts to protect the child need to be implemented in such a way that they do not replicate those that may have been used by traffickers to control the child. Engaging effectively and involving the child in the development of their care and protection plan can help reduce the risk that children consider such protective measures to be punitive. Steps to keep trafficked children safe in their care setting could include, amongst others:

- temporarily removing mobile phones to prevent traffickers making contact with the child and putting in place other methods for the child to stay in touch with friends or family if required;
- checking clothes for phone numbers which may have been sewn into them;
- encouraging the child to memorise a phone number so that, if they do go missing from care, they can contact the local authority or carer;
- allowing access to the internet only in group settings and monitoring the use of social media;
- providing 24 hour supervision whenever the child leaves their care setting for the first 4-12 weeks in care; and
- providing appropriate training to previously trafficked children so that they can talk to trafficked children newly taken into care about the risks they face.

62. All residential home staff, foster carers or support workers of semi-independent accommodation caring for unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery (including independent advocates where appropriate) should be aware of any particular risks of them going missing, or of any risk to the child from those who wish to exploit them. They should also know what practical steps they should take in the event that the child does go missing, or if they suspect that someone is trying to lure the child away from their care placement. Carers should also be fully aware of the child's past experiences and any psychological issues they face, which may not be immediately apparent, as well as understanding cultural issues, which may put them at greater risk of going missing. This may include the potential negative impact of protection measures

which may appear to the child to replicate methods used by their traffickers to control them.

63. It is important that suitable emergency accommodation can be accessed directly at any time of the day or night where there is sufficient supervision and monitoring by on-site staff to keep the child safe. Bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation is not suitable for any child, even on an emergency accommodation basis. Such accommodation can leave the child particularly vulnerable to risk from those who wish to exploit them and does not cater for their protection or welfare needs.

## Review, advocacy and wider support

64. Additional advocacy support in the form of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) is available in Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and across Wales. These areas are also known as Early Adopter Sites.<sup>39</sup> Interim guidance has been provided to these Early Adopter Sites to support and enable their public authorities and other relevant agencies there to undertake their respective roles and to be aware of their responsibilities.<sup>40</sup>

65. Case reviews chaired by the child's independent reviewing officer must consider whether their needs related to their circumstances as an unaccompanied migrant child or child victim of modern slavery are being met. A child's needs, including their protection needs, will change over time and should be kept under regular review.

66. Throughout all assessment and care planning processes, children should have the opportunity to make their wishes and feelings known. All looked after children must be made aware of their entitlement to independent advocacy support. Unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery, including trafficking, may benefit in particular from independent advocacy support. The local authority should facilitate this access where required. This entitlement is not just for when the child has a complaint, but includes where the child needs to make representations about their care and support. The Independent Advocate (IA) should have an awareness of the particular needs and issues a child may face as a result of being an unaccompanied or child victim of modern slavery, including trafficking, so that they can provide appropriate support and challenge at any review. Support from an IA can also help overcome cultural or language barriers so that the child can express their wishes and feelings appropriately.

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<sup>39</sup> The Government has committed to national roll-out of ICTAs as stipulated in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (s48).

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-trafficking-advocates-early-adopter-sites>

67. Unaccompanied children and children trafficked from overseas are likely to be a long way from home and family and can feel isolated from their peers. An independent visitor can help bridge this gap and provide informal support. The child should be offered an independent visitor, ensuring that they understand the role the independent visitor could play in providing support. If they decline this offer, their reasons for doing so should be recorded. Any independent visitor appointed should have appropriate training and demonstrate an understanding of the needs faced by unaccompanied or trafficked children. In addition, the Refugee Council runs the Children's Panel Advice Service, which offers advice and information directly to unaccompanied children as well as their carers and other professionals working with them. Further information about this service is available on their website.<sup>41</sup>

## Planning transition to adulthood

68. Former unaccompanied children who have been granted leave to remain, or who have an outstanding asylum or other human rights claim or appeal, are entitled to the same level of care and support from the local authority as any other care leaver, as set out in the Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations, *Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers*. The extent of care leaver duties on local authorities to provide support to former unaccompanied children who have exhausted their appeal rights and established no lawful basis to remain in the UK is currently subject to a Human Rights Assessment by the local authority, under the restrictions on local authority support for adults without immigration status in Schedule 3 to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

69. A child's needs related to being an unaccompanied child or victim of modern slavery must be considered in the assessment of needs undertaken as part of the pathway planning process, and by the independent reviewing officer in any review of the pathway plan. For unaccompanied children or children trafficked from overseas, this will be likely to include issues relating to their immigration status and to the advice and support they need to engage in a timely and effective way with the process for resolving their status. For all child victims of modern slavery it will be likely to include assistance in continuing to keep themselves safe from risk of further exploitation or trafficking.

70. For former unaccompanied children whose long-term future is in the UK, transition planning will need to consider the challenges and issues facing any care leaver, such as education or preparing for independent living. Planning for

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<sup>41</sup> [https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/childrens\\_services/the\\_childrens\\_panel\\_-\\_advice\\_service](https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/childrens_services/the_childrens_panel_-_advice_service)

a care leaver who has recently entered the UK from overseas may need to cover additional support in understanding the institutions and systems that they will need to deal with in the UK.

71. Unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery from overseas can be at particular risk of becoming isolated on leaving care. When planning for transition, the local authority should ensure that language or cultural factors are taken into account to reduce this risk. A victim of modern slavery may still be at risk of exploitation on leaving care. This risk should be considered, particularly with regard to arranging accommodation.

### **Advice and support**

72. Where an unaccompanied child or child victim of modern slavery leaves care or reaches the age of 18 and qualifies for local authority care leaving support, a personal adviser must be appointed to support them. For care leavers who were unaccompanied asylum seeking children, the personal adviser should have a basic understanding of the issues that may be facing the young person in settling into this country. For care leavers who have been victims of modern slavery, the personal adviser should be aware of any continued risk the care leaver may face from those who may wish to exploit them.

73. If further support with immigration or asylum processes is required, the person providing this advice should be a registered solicitor or registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) as set out in paragraph 18 above.

### **Immigration status and transition planning**

74. Planning transition to adulthood for unaccompanied children is a particularly complex process that needs to address their developing care needs in the context of their immigration status. Social workers and personal advisers should work with the care leaver's legal representative and the Home Office decision maker to ensure that the young person can engage in a timely and effective way with the asylum or immigration process, and understands and is prepared for the possible outcomes. Pathway planning to support an unaccompanied child's transition to adulthood should cover the areas that would be addressed within any care leaver's plan as well as any additional needs arising from their immigration status and the action required to resolve this. Pathway plans should always seek to identify a durable solution as planning for this will have a fundamental positive impact on the wellbeing of the child and their successful negotiation of the transition to adulthood.

75. There are four main possible outcomes of the asylum or immigration process for an unaccompanied child, which will determine what the durable solution might be, and they are outlined below including the impact they may have on care and pathway planning.

- I. Granted refugee status (i.e. granted asylum), with limited leave to remain for five years, after which time the young person can normally apply for permanent residence (i.e., settlement: indefinite leave to remain).
- II. Refused asylum but granted humanitarian protection, with limited leave to remain for five years, after which time the young person can normally apply for permanent residence (i.e. settlement: indefinite leave to remain). This is most commonly granted where the person is at risk of a form of 'ill treatment' in their country of origin but which does not meet the criteria of the Refugee Convention.

Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection are normally granted five years' limited leave, after which time they can apply for permanent residence. As it is very likely that they will qualify for permanent residence, their care and pathway planning should primarily focus on their long-term future in the UK, in the same way as for any other care leaver.

- III. Refused asylum but granted Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) Leave. This is normally for 30 months or until the age of 17½, whichever is the shorter period. This form of leave is granted to unaccompanied children where they do not qualify for refugee status or humanitarian protection, but where the Home Office cannot return them to their country of origin because it is not satisfied that safe and adequate reception arrangements are in place in that country. It is a form of temporary leave to remain. Before the child's UASC leave expires, they can submit a further asylum claim or other human rights application for further leave to remain, which will be considered. It is important that planning should cover any action or support required to enable the child to do so in a timely way, in conjunction with their legal adviser.

In such cases, care and pathway planning should therefore consider the possibility that the young person may have to return to their country of origin once their current leave expires or that they may become legally resident in the UK long-term (if a subsequent application or appeal is successful). Planning should also cover the possibility that they reach the age of 18 with an outstanding application or appeal and are entitled to remain in the UK until its outcome is known.

- IV. Refused asylum and granted no leave to remain. In this case the unaccompanied child is expected to return to their country of origin and their care plan will need to address the relevant actions and the support required. The Home Office will not return an unaccompanied child to their country of origin unless it is satisfied that safe and adequate reception arrangements are in place in that country. Any

appeal or further application should be submitted where appropriate by the child's legal adviser.

Pathway plans should always consider the implications for the young person if their asylum claim is refused without a grant of leave, if their application to extend their leave is refused or if their appeal against a refusal is dismissed. In such circumstances, the person will become unlawfully present in the UK and be expected to make plans for a return to their country of origin. A plan for a return to their country of origin may also need to be made at any other point, should the care leaver decide to leave the UK.

76. Initial planning may have to be based around short-term achievable goals whilst entitlement to remain in the UK is being determined. For the majority of unaccompanied children who have not yet received an immigration decision, transition planning should initially include a contingency plan to reflect all the relevant potential outcomes of the immigration process and which, over time, should be refined as the young person's immigration status is resolved. Planning cannot and should not pre-empt the outcome of any immigration decision and should always include a transitional plan during any period of uncertainty when the young person is waiting for their status in the UK to be determined. Planning for a return to the child's country of origin may be difficult, but care and pathway plans should include contingency plans reflecting durable solutions and the best interests for unaccompanied children who may have to return to their country of origin.

77. Former unaccompanied children who have failed to establish any lawful basis to remain in the UK as an adult, as well as those who are in the asylum process, will generally be eligible for practical and financial assistance and support in returning to their home country from the Voluntary Returns Service, run by the Home Office. Further information is available online.<sup>42</sup>

### **Access to welfare benefits and other public funds**

78. Financial support for care leavers who are former unaccompanied children should reflect their needs and their immigration status. Financial policies should highlight any entitlements and how their immigration status may impact on these. Pathway plans should address employment opportunities and funding arrangements for education and training, taking account of the young person's immigration status.

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<sup>42</sup> [www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily](http://www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily)

79. If the care leaver's immigration status remains unresolved, pathway plans should consider the implications for them if their outstanding application or appeal is refused. Subject to a Human Rights Assessment by the local authority, they may then cease to be eligible for care leaver support under the restrictions on local authority support for adults without immigration status in Schedule 3 to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. A template for human rights assessments is published by the No Recourse to Public Funds Network.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> <http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

# Annex A

## Associated resources

### General guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) clarifies the core legal requirements on individuals and organisations to keep children safe, including the legal requirements that health services, social workers, police, schools and other organisations who work with children must follow.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2: Care Planning, Placement and Case Review  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review)
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-transition-to-adulthood-for-care-leavers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-transition-to-adulthood-for-care-leavers)
- Joint statutory guidance, DCLG and DfE, Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation, (April 2010)  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child  
<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

### Best Interests Principle

- General comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1)  
[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGC%2f14\\_&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGC%2f14_&Lang=en)
- Safe & Sound (What States Can Do To Ensure Respect For The Best Interests Of Unaccompanied And Separated Children In Europe)  
<http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5423da264.pdf>

## Child trafficking

- Modern Slavery Strategy (2014),  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/383764/Modern\\_Slavery\\_Strategy\\_FINAL\\_DEC2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/383764/Modern_Slavery_Strategy_FINAL_DEC2015.pdf)
- Duty to notify guidance and forms:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-to-notify-the-home-office-of-potential-victims-of-modern-slavery>
- Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked Practice Guidance (2011)  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-who-may-have-been-trafficked-practice-guidance)
- Interim Independent Child Trafficking Advocates Guidance – Early Adopter Sites (2017)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-trafficking-advocates-early-adopter-sites>
- Independent Child Trafficking Advocates Service Provider – Early Adopter Sites (Barnardo's) – [details to be provided].
- NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (providing specialist advice and information to professionals who have concerns that a child may have been trafficked)  
Phone: 0808 800 5000 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm)  
Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
Web: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/services-for-children-and-families/child-trafficking-advice-centre-ctac/>
- On the Safe Side: Principle of Safe Accommodation of Child Victims of Trafficking (ECPAT UK, 2011):  
[www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/on\\_the\\_safe\\_side.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/on_the_safe_side.pdf)
- London Safeguarding Children Board toolkit and resources on trafficking:  
[http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_safeguarding\\_trafficked\\_children\\_toolkit\\_feb\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/london_safeguarding_trafficked_children_toolkit_feb_2011.pdf)
- ECPAT UK website for links to specialist training, resources, best practice and research on child trafficking and slavery:  
<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/>
- FAQs on Child Trafficking, ECPAT UK (2014):  
[http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/ecpat\\_faqs\\_on\\_child\\_trafficking\\_2014.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/ecpat_faqs_on_child_trafficking_2014.pdf)

## Immigration issues and refugee or migrant children

- Refugee Council – Children’s panel  
Phone: 0808 808 0500 (free to call from landlines and most mobile networks) or 0207 346 1134  
Email: [children@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:children@refugeecouncil.org.uk)  
Web: [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/childrens\\_services](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/childrens_services)
- The Children’s Society provide specialist services supporting refugee and migrant children and young people in London, Leeds, Birmingham, Coventry, Blackburn, Newcastle, Oxford and Manchester  
Phone: 020 7841 4400  
Email: [supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk)  
Web: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/in-your-area](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/in-your-area)
- The No Recourse to Public Funds Network provides focusing on the statutory duties to migrants with care needs who have no recourse to public funds  
[www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx](http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx)
- The Migrant Children's Project advice line at Coram Children's Legal Centre Provides specialist advice to professionals, young people and families on the rights and entitlements of asylum-seeking, refugee, trafficked and migrant children and young people:  
Phone: 0207 636 8505 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm)  
Email: [mcp@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:mcp@coramclc.org.uk)
- The Immigration Law Practitioners’ Association provides information and training on immigration, asylum and nationality law  
[www.ilpa.org.uk/](http://www.ilpa.org.uk/)
- Coram Children's Legal Centre, 'Seeking Support: A guide to the rights and entitlements of separated children'  
[www.seekingsupport.co.uk](http://www.seekingsupport.co.uk)

## Online training resources

- ECPAT UK has produced a free-learning package around child trafficking that can be used individually, in small groups or during training sessions.  
<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/content/e-learning-courses>
- Children Families Across Border (CFAB) offer training courses for all staff who may come across trafficked children. They are designed for social workers, police officers, teachers, school support staff, housing officers, health staff, early years workers and NGO Staff. <http://cfab.org.uk/training>

## Missing children guidance, strategy and police resources

- Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care (2014) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care>
- Authorised Professional Practice (APP) Guidance on Missing People <http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/missing-persons/>
- Missing Children and Adults strategy (2011) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy)
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) website [www.ceop.police.uk/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/)
- UK Human Trafficking Centre, National Crime Agency: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre>
- CPS guidance on human trafficking, smuggling and slavery: [http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/h\\_to\\_k/human\\_trafficking\\_and\\_smuggling/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/h_to_k/human_trafficking_and_smuggling/)

## Child sexual exploitation

- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation (2009) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people-from-sexual-exploitation-supplementary-guidance)
- What to do if you suspect a child is being sexually exploited: A step-by-step guide for frontline practitioners (June 2012) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-you-suspect-a-child-is-being-sexually-exploited)
- National Working Group website, a UK network of over 1000 practitioners working on the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and trafficking within the UK. includes relevant resources for practitioners [www.nationalworkinggroup.org](http://www.nationalworkinggroup.org)
- Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE) [www.paceuk.info](http://www.paceuk.info)



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