

Child trafficking and modern slavery

Child trafficking and modern slavery are when young people are tricked, forced or persuaded to leave their homes and are moved and then exploited, forced to work or sold. Child trafficking and modern slavery are child abuse.

Some of the things children could be forced to do are:

- have sex or perform sexual acts – this is sexual exploitation
- work (for example in a factory, restaurant or someone's house)
- beg, steal or commit crime
- grow, carry or deal drugs
- sell their organs
- forced to marry someone.

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another with some of these children enrolled at school.

Signs of exploitation

Some of the ways children are exploited and forced to do things includes:

- being given nice things and then being told that 'owe' the person, someone they may have thought was their boyfriend
- organising for the child to be robbed of a drugs package and then telling them that they 'owe' the person/their 'friend'
- having control of their ID documents or money
- blackmailing the child because they have sexual videos or pictures of them
- threatening the child or their family.

If you're worried someone you know is experiencing or could be at risk of child trafficking or exploitation, it's important to know what to look out for. Signs that this might be happening include:

- their behaviour has changed, they could be more aggressive or more withdrawn.
- you're seeing less of them
- they're anxious to respond to phone messages quickly
- they have new friends that pick them up from school
- they have new gifts like a phone and clothes, and can't explain where they got them



Child Trafficking Advice Centre

If you work with children or young people who may have been trafficked into the UK, contact our specialist service for information and advice.

Call us or email help@nspcc.org.uk for more information.

0808 800 5000

How to get help

If you suspect a child may be at risk, or have any information relating to child sexual exploitation, call the Designated Safeguarding Lead at school, Emma Quartey 07908 277 599 or the Police on 101. If a child is in immediate danger, dial 999 straight away.

The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) is there for any adult who is worried about a child and needs advice or information - 24 hours a day by email help@nspcc.org.uk or on 0808 800 5000 Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm and 9am to 6pm at the weekends.

Childline is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people and can be reached on 0800 1111 or online at Childline.org.uk.