

Briefing for Practitioners: Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation

What is Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation?

Trafficking is the recruitment and movement of a person by use or threat of force or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. Victims of trafficking are often subject to high levels of physical, sexual and psychological violence. For this reason, and because they may be afraid of the police (and other agencies), it may take individuals time to disclose the full extent of their experiences. Individuals do not have to have entered the UK illegally to have been trafficked; however, they may have done so either knowingly or without their knowledge. They may also have had their passport or other forms of identification taken from them.¹

Prevalence of trafficking

- There were 447 trafficking for sexual exploitation offences reported to the Metropolitan Police Service in 2012/13
- The National Referral Mechanism received referrals for 2,077 potential victims of trafficking in 2011 – 54% were female and sexual exploitation was the most common form of referral²
- Between April 2011 and March 2012 the Poppy Project received a total of 61 referrals from London boroughs of women suspected to have been trafficked into prostitution.³
- The Salvation Army has had 1255 potential victims referred to them in the first 2 years of their trafficking services⁴.

Questions to help practitioners establish whether someone has been trafficked...

- Is the victim in possession of a passport, identification or travel documents? Are these documents in someone else's possession?
- Does the victim act as if they were instructed or coached by someone else? Do they allow others to speak for them when spoken to directly?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in a different job?
- Does the victim receive little or no payment for their work? Is someone else in control of their earnings?
- Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
- Is the victim under the impression they are bonded by debt, or in a situation of dependence?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Can the victim freely contact friends or family? Do they have limited social interaction or contact with people outside their immediate environment?⁵

¹ Information from The Poppy Project

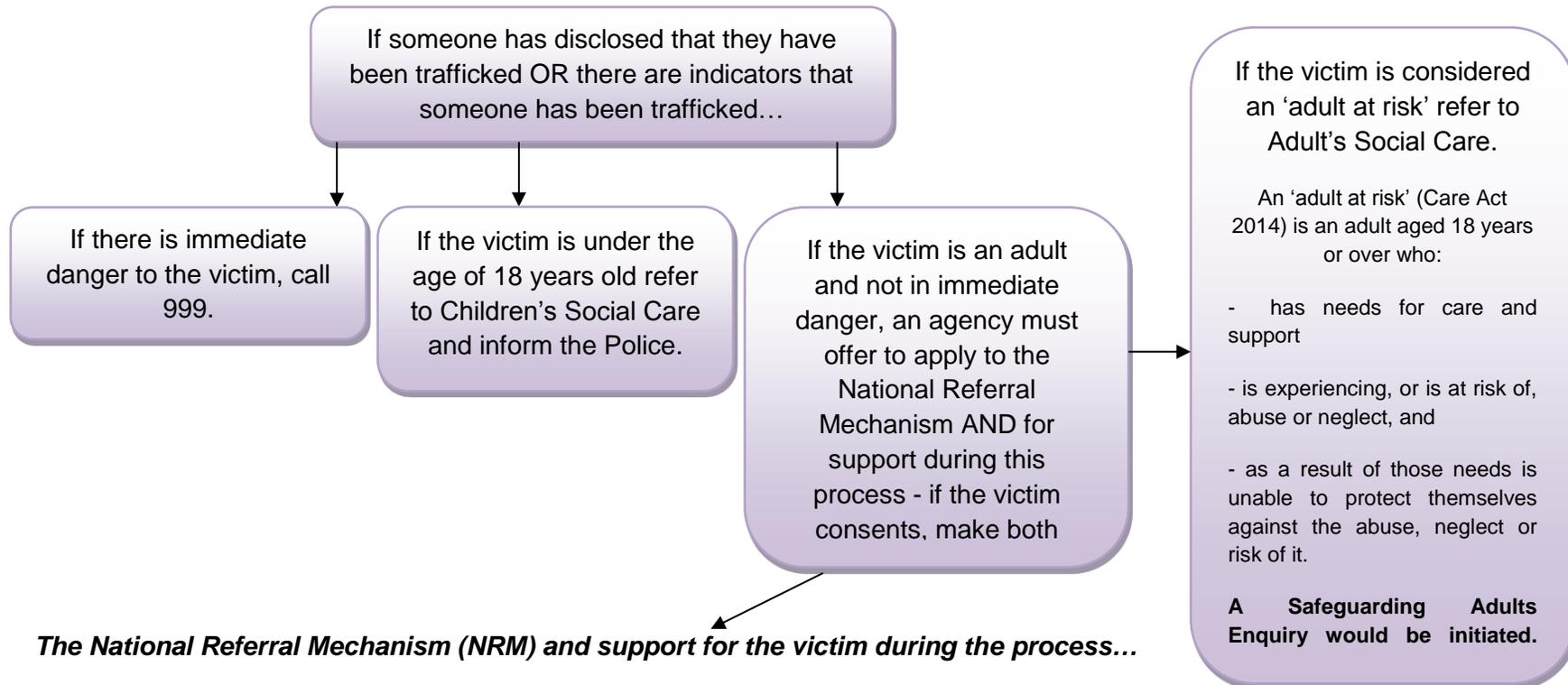
² UKHTC: A Baseline Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2011 SOCA (2012)

³ Bindel, J, Breslin R, Brown L *Capital exploits: A Study of Prostitution and Trafficking in London* (2013)

⁴ Provided by the Salvation Army - this number represents both male and female adult victims of all types of trafficking.

⁵ Provided by the Salvation Army

What to do

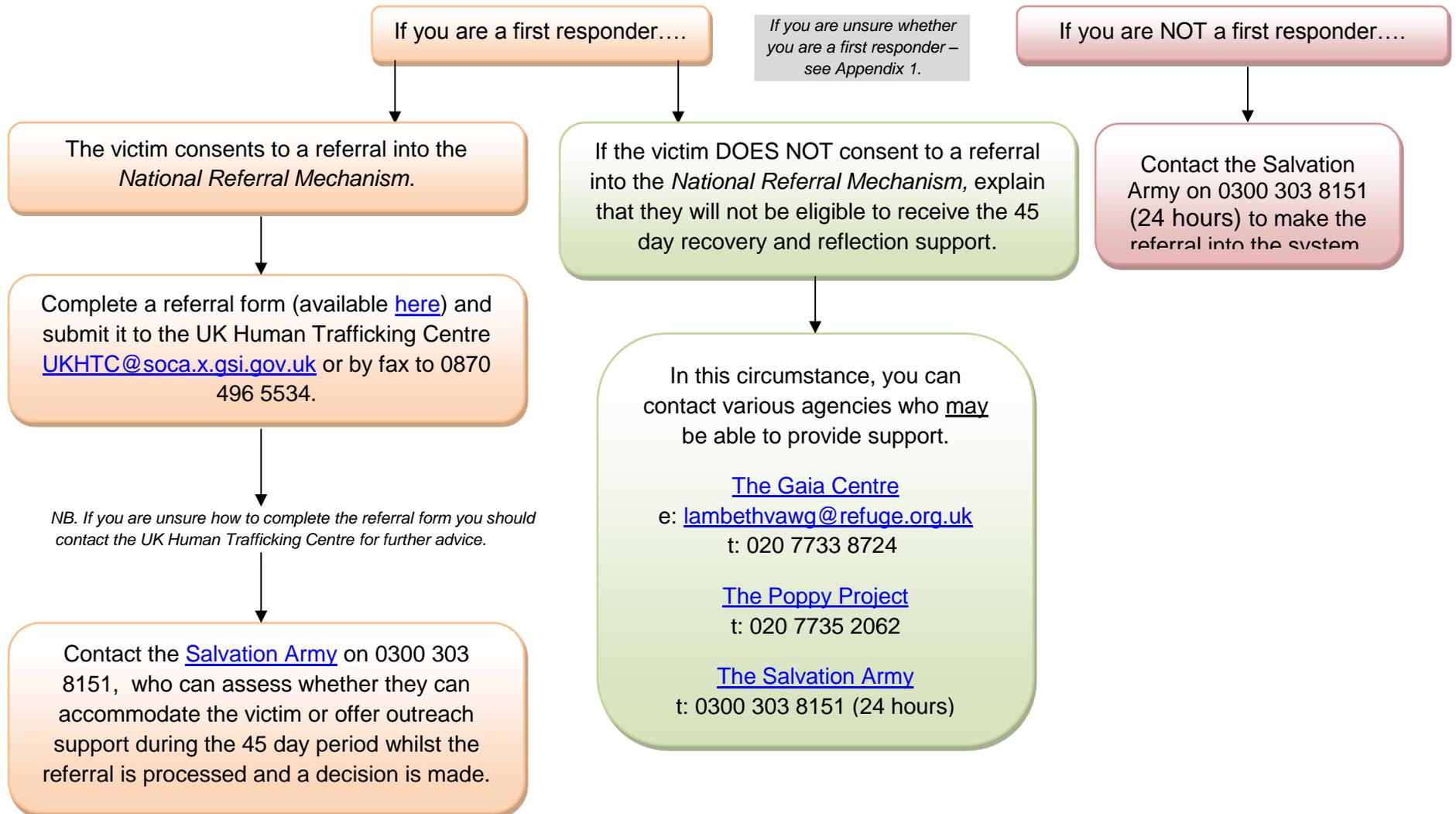


A referral into the NRM is processed by either of two possible 'Competent Authorities'; The UK Visas and Immigration or the UK Human Trafficking Centre. They will decide whether the person is a potential victim of trafficking and thus has the right to remain in the UK for a period of recovery and reflection, and to access support during this time. It takes 45 days to process the referral and make a decision.

The Salvation Army delivers support services for adult victims of human trafficking during this 45 day process. The services they provide include accommodation (to individuals who do not have any other entitlements to housing or where current accommodation is not safe or appropriate), outreach support and recovery services during the 45 day period, and if the potential victim receives a 'positive conclusive grounds decision', support moving on.



Making a referral to the NRM



Appendix 1. Who are First Responders?

- The Serious Organised Crime Agency
- UK Human Trafficking Centre
- Local Authorities
- UK Border Agency
- The Gangmasters Licensing Authority
- UK police forces
- Local Authority Children's Services
- Local Safeguarding Children Board
- The Poppy Project
- Migrant Helpline
- Kalayaan
- The Medaille Trust
- The Salvation Army
- Barnardo's
- Unseen
- NSPCC National Child Trafficking Advice Centre