



CHILD TRAFFICKING GUIDANCE FOR MULTI-AGENCY PRACTITIONERS

Author	Human Trafficking Working Group
Governance	Moray Child Protection Committee
Presented at Moray Child Protection Committee	18 February 2019
Effective date	
Review date	No later than 1.12.19, then annually
This version	Version 1

DEFINITION OF CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

In relation to Child Trafficking and for the purposes of this document, references to a 'child', 'children' and/or 'young people' includes all those up to their eighteenth birthday.

DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Child Trafficking is a crime and involves the illegal trade and exploitation of children. It is defined by the Scottish Government as 'a global business that targets and victimises the most vulnerable children for transportation, abuse and exploitation across the world.' It is a real and escalating problem with a threefold rise in cases of child trafficking in Scotland since 2011. Child trafficking does not necessarily mean that a child has to cross international boundaries. They may simply be moved from one location to another within towns and cities across Scotland for the purposes of exploitation.

Trafficking of children is a process, not a single event. It combines three constituent parts, listed below:

1. The Act (what is done)

This involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and receipt of children for the purposes of exploitation.

2. The Means (how this is done)

This may be achieved through use of threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving of payments or benefits to a person in control of the child.

3. The Purpose for which a child may be trafficked is far ranging and may be one or a combination of categories below:

- child labour
- debt bondage
- domestic servitude
- begging
- benefit fraud
- ritualistic violence
- illegal adoptions
- forced / illegal marriage
- sexual abuse
- sexual exploitation
- organ donations, radicalisation, sport and military conscription

EXTENDED GUIDE TO CHILD TRAFFICKING FOR PRACTITIONERS

1. Audience

This document applies to all professionals across Children's Services in Moray. It sets out the overarching roles and responsibilities of the Police, relevant local authority services within Moray Council, NHS Grampian and the Third Sector who are working with children and young people who may be at risk of child trafficking and exploitation.

This document compliments existing child protection procedures. It should be read in conjunction with all agencies' own child protection guidelines, as well as the published multi-agency Guidance for Child Protection. All child protection guidelines should adhere to National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014.

The procedures and guidelines stated within this document are compatible with the national guidance published by the Scottish Government.

All children and young people are susceptible to Child Trafficking as it is not restricted to children being trafficked from a foreign country. It is happening here and also applies to UK citizens and children who can also be trafficked and exploited within and between wider communities in Scotland. It is a complex crime that can be perpetrated by individuals from all sections of society and often goes unnoticed. Trading children as commodities and exploiting them for profit or personal benefit can cause lasting physical and psychological damage.

It is known that some young people are more vulnerable than others including those where there is existing abuse, neglect, domestic violence and parental difficulties. The risks are increased by factors such as going missing, placement breakdown, disengagement from education, drug/alcohol misuse, homelessness, peer involvement in prostitution and association with 'risky' adults.

2. Purpose of this document

The Scottish Government Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy contain a section which specifically addresses Child Trafficking. Working with children, young people and adults who are or have been trafficked is a complex area.

This strategy is designed for all staff that may have contact with victims of human trafficking in Moray. The identification or lack of identification of victims should not preclude or override any child or adult protection investigations. This document sets out the roles and responsibilities of agencies in working towards:

- Preventing child trafficking.

- Identifying victims and supporting them to safety and recovery by virtue of a consistent response and approach.
- Raising awareness of human trafficking and its potential indicators among staff from all organisations.
- Supporting and encouraging staff from all relevant organisations across Moray to work together in developing and delivering appropriate and effective services to individuals with experience of trafficking.
- Supporting the investigation and prosecution of those who coerce, exploit and abuse people.
- Identifying perpetrators and disrupting their activities.
- Addressing the conditions that foster trafficking and exploitation.

3. Prevention of Child Trafficking

In order to prevent children and young people being sexually exploited, all agencies should:

- Gather data and information in order to understand as much about CT in our area as possible; the scale, nature, locus, victims and perpetrators.
- Ensure that above information is shared with other agencies as appropriate, in line with information sharing protocols.
- Challenge and change negative perceptions of children and young people who are trafficked, which may be held by the media, the general public and agencies collectively, in order to pursue cultural change and safeguard children and young people.
- Identify and consolidate best practice already in operation, and build on it.
- Work with all young people to help them identify and report grooming, abusive and exploitative behaviours which in turn may lead to trafficking.
- Recognise that some children and young people are more vulnerable to CT than others such as those who are looked after and accommodated, and those with disabilities.
- Recognise that timely and effective online safety education with children, young people, and their families will help shape a society with a zero tolerance to CT.
- Involve the young person wherever possible and consult them on their views.
- Intervene as early as is needed to ensure a proactive service.
- Refer young people, families and others to on line supports.

4. Identification and Support for Victims

Identification of victims is necessary for a variety of reasons, but critically, in order for an inter-agency assessment of risk to be initiated and for consideration of any protective measures to be taken. The route to achieving this will be the Inter-agency Referral Discussion (IRD).

Where appropriate, the IRD will identify and direct victims to services, including health care, support and accommodation, and access to legal advice. Failure to identify an individual could compromise their safety and access to support. It can also mean that unidentified victims of human trafficking with irregular immigration

status, may be labelled as criminals, detained and deported, without consideration of risks they face, particularly that of re-trafficking.

There are a range of services available to support and encourage a child/young person's recovery from child trafficking and exploitation and to offer protection from further abuse. Agencies and individuals should bear in mind that it is essential to take timely and decisive action where child trafficking is suspected because of the risk of the child being moved. In terms of supporting them to recovery the following points are significant:

- People who encounter victims of child trafficking should understand the signs, know what to do and have access to specialist advice and support and signpost and support them appropriately.
- Coherent child centred approach process that enables victims to build resilience and recover from the effects of trauma should be taken.
- Victims are made aware of the support available and trust it enough to ask for help.
- Work in partnership to improve services for children and young people affected by child trafficking and exploitation.
- Partners will ensure that local services work better together to plan and monitor the delivery of services to tackle prevention, early intervention and support for potential and actual victims of child trafficking and exploitation.

4.1 Obstacles to victims coming forward

Victims of trafficking may initially be unable to disclose details of their experience or identify themselves as a victim for a variety of reasons, including physical isolation, language and cultural barriers. They may also fear:

- Punishment at the hands of their traffickers.
- Punishment at the hands of the authorities.
- Deportation.
- Discrimination by their community and families.
- Dependency on controller for survival.
- Being accused of being complicit in criminal activity.
- Reprisals against family or friends.

5. Address Conditions That Foster Child Trafficking and Exploitation

The following points should be addressed to assist in dealing with trafficking:

- Awareness raising regarding the extent of child trafficking and exploitation in Scotland and in the wider communities in Grampian and Moray.
- People and businesses to be aware that what they buy and how they operate, can contribute to this crime.
- People at most risk get help to increase their resilience against trafficking and exploitation.

6. Vulnerability and Risk Indicators of CT

For the purposes of this guidance, a 'child' is a person under the age of 18. It is important to note that trafficked children may not be aware of nor understand that they are being abused and may even think they play a role in this. There are a number of factors which make children vulnerable to trafficking. The factors listed below are not exhaustive and may be present in both the country of origin and here in Scotland.

Children who:

- Come from impoverished backgrounds.
- Do not attend school.
- Are from an ethnic minority who are victims of social discrimination.
- Originate from a country with cultural values which endorse child labour.
- Have a dysfunctional, chaotic home life and may already be subject to child abuse/neglect.
- Originate from a country with political conflict.
- Originate from a country with inadequate legislation and enforcement of law to protect them.
- Inappropriately use the internet and form online relationships, particularly with adults.

9. Action To Be Taken

It is essential to take timely and decisive action where human trafficking is suspected because of the high risk of the person being moved.

For cases involving **children and/or pregnant women**, the Moray Child Protection Procedures must be followed and a referral made to **Social Work**. The Council's Social Work service is the primary service provider for safeguarding and responding to the needs of child victims of trafficking in Moray, regardless of their nationality or immigration status. Potential victims under 18 must be referred to the Council's children's services. It can be difficult to establish the age of a potential child trafficking victim. If someone's appearance and presentation very strongly suggests they are significantly over the age of 18, you may treat them as an adult. In all other cases, the applicant must be given the benefit of the doubt and treated as a child until a detailed assessment of their age is completed by the Council. [The Age Assessment Pathway for Social Workers in Scotland](#) and the Information Guide provide more information.

Qualified translator: Only professional, independent translators who have no links with the victim's friends / relatives / companions must be used, even if this causes delay. It needs to be made clear to translators that their role is to translate verbatim and not "interpret" the message or censor / omit any of the information.

Recording information: All the information provided by a potential victim of trafficking must be included on the NRM form and should also be recorded according to agencies' standard procedures.

Sharing data and maintaining confidentiality: Information should not be shared with family / friends / community members and victims should be reassured about this. As with all cases, information should only be shared with other practitioners / agencies if this is necessary to protect victims, and potential victims. The consent of children is not required. The consent of adults is not required if there is concern that the individual, or someone else, may be at risk of harm. As with all records belonging to individuals, human trafficking cases should be kept secure to prevent unauthorised access by anyone other than those dealing directly with the case.

Checklist

There may only be one chance to speak to a potential victim of child trafficking and the following guidance is important:

- See the victim on her/his own – even if she/he is accompanied by others.
- See her/him immediately in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard; try to limit the number of professionals in the room and create a supportive environment.
- Reassure her/him that you will not give information to her/his family/friends or community.
- Take seriously what s/he says.
- Ensure an independent interpreter is available if necessary and provide guidance to avoid disclosure. Use telephone interpreters if there is an unacceptable delay.
- Be aware a woman may not be allowed or willing to speak to a male worker alone. Offer a choice of a female/male worker as far as possible.
- Recognise and respect her/his wishes.
- Obtain as much information as possible from her/him about the situation and the risks faced.
- Agree a way to contact her/him safely (for example, agree a code word).
- Obtain full details and record these safely to pass on to TARA, Migrant Help and/or Social Care Direct or the police with consent if possible and ensure the victim is aware of the role of the different organisations.
- Explain all the options to her/him and their possible outcomes as much as you are able to.
- Give her/him (or help her/him memorise) your contact details and/or those of a support agency. Consider the impact of trauma on memory and that individuals may be overwhelmed.
- Consider the need for immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the current place and arrange this if necessary. This includes any action to stop her/him from being removed from the UK
- Do everything you can to keep her/him safe.

Do not:

- Send her/him away, and try not to let them leave without a safety plan and follow up arrangements.
- Approach her/his companions.
- Share information with anyone without her/his expressed consent (unless there is a risk of immediate harm to her/him or any children or other vulnerable person or she/he lacks capacity to give consent or she/he is unable to give informed consent).

Essentially:

Follow your usual child protection procedures:

Your response to a disclosure:

- Be calm.
- Tell the young person they have done the right thing by talking to you
- Do not make any promises to keep a secret.
- Tell them that help is available.

If you think a young person is at risk of trafficking or has been trafficked, write down:

- What you have seen.
- What your concerns are.
- What the young person has told you.

Report your concerns. These people know what to do next:

- Your Child Protection Co-ordinator or line manager.
- The child's Named Person.
- Joint Child Protection Unit.
- Emergency Out of Hours Social Work.
- Police 101.

All agencies can engage with parents, carers, community, businesses and young people to look out for and raise awareness of Child Trafficking and Exploitation. **All have responsibility to promote our zero tolerance approach to Child Trafficking and Exploitation.**

9.1 The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The NRM is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. A range of agencies may be involved in a trafficking case, such as the police, UK Border Agency, local authorities and non-governmental

organisations. The NRM makes it easier for these agencies to co-operate, share information and facilitate access to advice, accommodation and support. Formally identifying a person as a victim of trafficking helps to ensure the person is appropriately safeguarded and protected and helps the UK to tackle human trafficking.

Referrals to the NRM must be made by 'First Responders'. In Scotland, these are police, designated non-governmental organisations (TARA and Migrant Help), local authorities (Children's Social Work Services) and the UK Border Agency... Referrals should be made to the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). The quality of the information submitted is vital to the investigation and the outcome for the victim.

Once a decision has been reached, the referring agency and the potential victim will be notified. A referral to the NRM does not require a criminal level of 'evidence', as a decision can be made where there are suspicions and reasonable grounds to believe that a child or adult has been trafficked. Indicators of trafficking, which merit further investigation should be identified. The threshold for referring a case is low and there is no minimum requirement for justifying a referral. Consent is not required for a child. All the information provided by a potential victim of trafficking must be included on the NRM form and should also be recorded according to agencies' standard procedures.

9.2 NHS Grampian

Children and young people for whom there are concerns regarding indicators of child trafficking and exploitation may come to the attention of a range of universal services provided by NHS Grampian. Concerns which will require multi-agency planning and intervention may come to the attention of health professionals, including general practitioners, midwifery, health visiting, school nursing, accident and emergency staff, mental health services, child protection services and community child health.

Raising awareness of child protection and child trafficking is a key component of workforce development and is undertaken through a programme of child protection training and education for all staff working with children and families. A key practice message to professionals working with the child or young person is that they should continue to provide appropriate health interventions to the child and continue established trusting and respectful relationships wherever possible. The child or young person will have access to specialist medical examinations as required.

Child trafficking and exploitation is child abuse and health professionals are expected to refer suspected incidents of such to Social Work and Police Scotland in keeping with national and local child protection guidance.

The Specialist Child Protection Team is available to advise and assist any health practitioner to make a referral.

9.3 Education

Education staff can respond in a variety of ways to the issue of children and young people involved in child trafficking and exploitation. There are opportunities to raise awareness, identify indicators, share concerns and support pupils.

- Daily contact with children and young people allows teachers to recognise concerning behaviour and respond. Every school has a trained Child Protection Co-ordinator who provides support/advice to school staff.
- Schools should implement a long term strategy to change attitudes and raise awareness with pupils, staff and parents. Abuse prevention programmes would go some way in achieving this aim, alongside the issue based work already being done in Personal and Social Education.
- Providing intelligence.
- Raising awareness amongst staff, young people, parents and carers.
- Concerns about a child or young person's involvement in child trafficking and exploitation will be reported to the Designated Child Protection Co-ordinator who will follow the Education Department's Child Protection Guidelines. For children who are not open cases to social work, this will involve contacting the Children and Families Access Team, in order to ascertain the best course of action for the young person involved. For children who are open cases to social work, the allocated worker will most commonly be the lead professional and concerns should be discussed with the lead professional. Many children suspected of being involved in child trafficking and exploitation will be of school age and the Education Department will provide the Named Person service for these children. As Named Person (NP), education staff should be involved in IRDs and other multi agency planning meetings. Arrangements should be made to ensure that the Named Person is represented during school holidays via the Duty Named Person Service. Duty Named Persons will attend IRDs, Case Conferences etc. and feedback to school staff on their return..
- Education should remain a priority for children and young people involved in child trafficking and education staff should be closely involved with any Child Protection Plan/ Assessment.

9.4 Police Scotland

Children and young people who are being trafficked and exploited will be treated as victims and local child protection procedures will be followed. All efforts will be made to identify who is coercing the child/young person into that situation and the circumstances will be fully investigated. Details of the vulnerable child or young person will be recorded on the Vulnerable Persons Database and shared with the named person and/or lead professional.

A full criminal investigation will be conducted in respect of any offences committed against any young child, including and sexual offences against any child as described in the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009. In these circumstances and where sufficiency of evidence exists, the circumstances will always be reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. The child/young person may be required as a witness and support through the criminal justice process will be considered at all times, with due consideration to their safety and welfare.

Where intelligence is received about perpetrator activity Police will consider preventative activity and disruption using partner agencies where necessary. Police also retain responsibility for monitoring referrals which present via 999 calls, calls to 101 or Crimestoppers as well as for the gathering of intelligence about perpetrators or victims.

All children and young people who have been reported missing will be subject of a return home discussion. This will not always be conducted by Police Officers and the most appropriate professional to undertake this process will be identified. Whilst such a discussion is voluntary it provides an important opportunity to discuss the activities of the child or young person during their period of absence and assess factors which led them to go missing as well as identifying any further risk of harm. Suggestions of sexual abuse will be dealt with through Child Protection procedures. Children and young people identified as regularly going missing will be prioritised and where that child is looked after a joint response will be agreed with the local authority.

- Should offences be suspected a joint investigation may be undertaken to establish the facts, gather and share information and to inform the assessment of risk to that child and an action plan.
- Where appropriate following an IRD, a Joint Investigative Interview or Medical Examination may be carried out.
- In some cases, urgent action may be required to protect a child from actual or likely significant harm or until compulsory measures of supervision can be put in place by the Children's Hearing System.
- Officers can act use emergency powers to protect children at risk.
- Details of child protection concerns will be recorded on the Vulnerable Persons Database and shared with the relevant partner agencies.
- Any intelligence obtained will be submitted onto the Scottish Intelligence Database.

For further information in relation to Child Protection Guidance, Officers can make reference to [Police Scotland, Child Protection Standard Operating Procedure](#).

9.5 Children's Social Work

The [Eligibility Criteria](#) sets out the circumstances in which children and young people may be entitled to a service from Children's Social Work.

Where the referral relates to a child or young person who is not already open to the social work service, the entry point to the social work service will be within the Intake Services, in the case of child trafficking being either the Protecting Children Team or the Children and Families Access Team.

The threshold for receiving a specialist social work service is consistent across all teams and units and therefore is the same in both the JCPT and the Children and

Families Access Team. The remit for the respective teams is divided with the JCPT focusing on referrals where a joint Police/social work response is deemed likely, and the Children and Families Access Team on all other cases where child care and protection concerns are indicated. As you might expect, there is fluidity between the two teams and anyone unsure about what team to refer to, should speak with the duty social worker in either team to discuss further.

Where a child/family has previously been open to a social work unit or team within the previous 3 months, then in the spirit of offering some consistency for children and their families, the previous case holding team may be best placed to pick up the new referral. A flexible child centred approach will be adopted across children's social work in line with best practice. This is a possibility if the trafficking is localised.

Children's Social Work has particular duties and responsibilities in relation to young people who have been trafficked and exploited. These include a duty and responsibility:

- To give paramount consideration to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of such children and young people. There is also a duty to promote children remaining within their family and kin, in so far as this is consistent with the duty to safeguard welfare. In trafficking cases however this may not be possible if members of the family have been involved in the trafficking of the child or young person.
- To properly consider how best to intervene in the life of the child or young person and his or her family.
- To contact the Named Person to ensure all information held is given due consideration.
- To seek the views of the child or young person and take account of these.
- To inform and involve parents/guardians/those caring for children and young people if appropriate.
- To refer a child or young person to the Reporter if he or she may be in need of compulsory measures of supervision.
- To develop and implement, along with other agencies, a child protection plan for those young people deemed to be at risk of significant harm. This plan to include references to how a trafficked and exploited child or young person should be supported in recovery from the trauma of being trafficked.

The first priority will be the safety of the child. If assessed to be unsafe, appropriate interventions will be taken immediately. When the safety of the child has been considered and addressed, then a fuller assessment of the child's circumstances and the risks to the child will proceed. Liaison with other agencies will be instigated

at an early stage and arrangements will be made for the staff involved to maintain contact with each other throughout the joint investigation.

Following the initial inquiry and assessment phase of the work, where concerns regarding child trafficking and exploitation are validated, Children's Social Work Services will action appropriate and proportionate responses to safeguard the wellbeing of the child or young person. This will involve IRD's and potentially Child Protection Case Conferences. Such meetings will be arranged to share information, consider the circumstances and establish an intervention plan and to consider whether it is necessary to make a referral to the Reporter. The IRD should include all relevant agencies.

The IRD should consider ongoing risks, agree actions and consider the need for a multi-agency response. The discussion should also agree whether the case requires to be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (see Section 7 below) and which agency is going to make the referral. There are separate forms for adults and children (attached at Appendices 2 and 3). Before a referral is made, adult victims who have capacity to do so must give their consent and confirm this in writing. This is not required for children. The agency making the referral will need to send the form by email to the UKHTC. The UKHTC then logs the referral and, if it is for the Home Office, sends to the appropriate team.

The multi-agency child protection and adult support and protection procedures remain the primary documents for actions to protect people in Moray.

Any trafficked individual, regardless of the existence of a medical condition or disability will be vulnerable by the very nature of the trafficking experience. All individuals will be subject to inter-agency referral discussion and multi-agency supportive approach, as outlined in this protocol.

If a victim requires urgent medical assistance, arrangements must be made for them to see a medical professional immediately. Victims or potential victims of human trafficking are entitled to free healthcare.

Other needs of potential victims of trafficking may include:

- A mobile phone and credit so services can keep in touch with them a victim's current phone may be used by traffickers to maintain influence / control / location via apps etc.
- Material assistance, including assistance for a person with special needs caused by pregnancy, physical or mental health, disability, or being the victim of psychological, physical or sexual violence.
- Access to health services.
- Information, including expectations within the National Referral Mechanism process (reflection and recovery period, the possibility of granting international protection and refugee status).
- Translation and interpretation services.

- Access to education for child victims and children of victims.
- Legal advice and/or representation, either through legal aid or other means.
- Job and life skills training.
- Substance misuse services (drugs are often used to help victims deal with their situation, or in some cases, victims may be coerced to use drugs or alcohol by traffickers).
- Family reunification or repatriation

Victims have a valuable role to play but often their focus is on keeping themselves and their family safe rather than bringing traffickers to justice. Support and assistance may be necessary to enable victims to engage with the criminal justice system. The effective protection of victims is key to combating trafficking and ensuring successful prosecution. Where a victim has entered the UK illegally, it is important they are treated as a victim of human rights violations not as an offender. It is also important to remember that a UK citizen or a person with a legal entitlement to reside in the UK may be trafficked.

When families with children or pregnant women have no recourse to public funds, the welfare of the child and child protection remain paramount. Social work can support families financially via section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The Council's procedure on support for adults with care needs and for families who have no recourse to public funds provides further details.

NB. Where children and/or adults are assessed as not having been trafficked, there may still be child / adult protection concerns. The possibility of trafficking should not be dismissed at this point, as it may be that further information becomes apparent at a later stage.

9.6 Scottish Children's Reporter Administration

The role of the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) is to:

- Receive referrals for children and young people who are believed to require compulsory measures of supervision.
- Decide whether the child or young person needs to be referred to a Hearing.
- Draft the appropriate statement of grounds to refer the child into the Hearing.
- Provide administration to Children's Hearings and keep a record of proceedings at Hearings.
- Maintain the independence of Hearings and support fair process.
- Conduct Children's Hearings court proceedings which involve leading evidence to establish the statement of grounds.

In relation to neglect a number of different grounds under the Children's Hearing's (Scotland) Act 2011 could apply as follows:

- s.67 (2)(a) that the child is likely to suffer unnecessarily, or the health or development of the child is likely to be seriously impaired, due to a lack of parental care.
- S.67(2)(b) that a schedule one offence has been committed in respect of the child (wilful neglect in terms of section 12 of the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937 is an offence under schedule one of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995.
- S.67(2)(c) that the child has or is likely to have a close connection with a person who has committed a schedule one offence.
- S.67(2)(d) that the child is or is likely to become a member of the same household as a child in respect of whom a schedule one offence has been committed.
- S.67(2)(e) that the child is being or is likely to be exposed to persons whose conduct is or has been such that it is likely that the child will be abused or harmed or the child's health, safety or development will be seriously adversely affected.

The statutory criteria for referral to the Reporter are:

- (a) the child is in need of protection, guidance, treatment or control.
- (b) It might be necessary for a Compulsory Supervision Order to be made in relation to the child.

Where voluntary engagement is not sufficiently addressing the child's needs or is thought unlikely to be able to do so, a referral to the reporter should be considered. Before making a referral, the referrer must have considered the criteria and believe that they apply. Any person can refer a child to the Reporter although the GIRFEC approach means that the decision to refer will often be made on a multiagency basis. Referrals should be made in writing. Information held on the child's circumstances by a number of agencies can be used effectively in order to inform a decision to refer

to the Reporter. When referrals are made by the local authority or police they must give the Reporter such information as is relevant and proportionate about the child. The information should be collated in a way that gives a clear picture of the needs, concerns and risks which require to be addressed.

9.7 Third Sector

The Third Sector offers provision throughout Moray. Voluntary and statutory sector agencies are committed to partnership working within a framework which respects each agency's role and remit and confidentiality policy, working within local strategies and frameworks.

The Third Sector has a significant part to play in identifying and working with children, young people and their families who are/have been trafficked and exploited. Much of this support will be carried out through single agency provision, however where concerns trigger child protection thresholds, Third Sector agencies will follow their own Child Protection procedures and work within multi-agency planning and intervention. As a result of their lifestyle and past experiences many children and young people are reluctant to engage with statutory services and find voluntary agencies more approachable sources of help. By working in partnership with statutory bodies voluntary agencies are able to offer support and services to reduce the harm to children and young people and protect them from further exploitation.

Eliminating Child Trafficking: Our Strategy in Action

We treat Child Trafficking seriously within Moray and are committed to this strategy. We aim to identify and respond to child trafficking and exploitation with a shared understanding of thresholds for intervention across all partnership services, at the earliest possible time and provide effective support from services.