

Referring Cases of Suspected Child Trafficking to UK Human Trafficking Centre

1. Introduction

The Home Office & DCSF introduced a requirement from 1st April 2009 for all suspected cases of human trafficking to be referred by frontline agencies for assessment by designated Competent Authorities- based in the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) [United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre](#). There will be a decision made regarding whether there are reasonable grounds for the person to be considered and recorded as a victim of human trafficking. There is provision for a reflection period and temporary residence to enable further investigation of the trafficking, an assessment of the victim's needs and where children are concerned, that they can be safeguarded from further harm.

Local Authorities will assess the needs of the child using a referral format based on a set of evidence-based indicators to help the professional involved with the child to develop their report.

2. Suffolk Procedures

The Policy, Procedures can be found at [Safeguarding Children Who may Have Been Trafficked](#)

The duty to refer to UKHTC will be included in the procedures as follows:

- Any case of suspected child trafficking, including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, will be referred to Children's Social Care.
- A Section 47 Strategy Meeting will be convened to include

CYPS Social Care, Area Safeguarding Manager, Police Officer Public Protection, UK Border Agency, the County Asylum and Private Fostering Team and the Safeguarding Named Nurse from Suffolk Community Refuge Team. As part of the considerations for safeguard the child, the arrangements for referral to UKHTC will be confirmed, with support to the social worker to complete the forms and forward to UKHTC.

- Notification of each referral – a copy of the referral document -will be sent to the Head of Safeguarding to enable monitoring of the process and collection of data.
- Ongoing work to safeguard the child is likely to entail liaison with UKHTC

3. Assessment and Referral [See links for forms below]

[UK/human trafficking child assessment](#)

[UK/human trafficking referral form: children](#)