

SOUTH DARTMOOR

What is Modern Slavery?

One Minute Guide



Modern slavery is a serious crime. It encompasses slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Modern slavery victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

A person is trafficked if they are brought to (or moved around) a country by others who threaten, frighten, hurt and force them to do work or other things they don't want to do.

When does trafficking of children take place?

Whenever a child (i.e. anyone under 18) is moved from one place to another for the purposes of being exploited.

When is a person considered to be trafficked?

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 establishes that a person commits an offence if the person arranges or facilitates the travel of another with a view to being **exploited**, this involves cases where:

- the person intends to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel
- or the person knows or ought to know that another person is likely to exploit the person being trafficked (in any part of the world) during or after the travel

Doesn't trafficking just relate to people trying to get into the country?

A popular media image portrayed for trafficking of human beings involves the transportation of children and adults using covert methods such as cargo containers, etc (this is actually smuggling which is a different issue). However, wherever a child has been **recruited, transported or transferred** for the **purpose of exploitation, they should be considered to be a victim of trafficking**, this includes **whether or not** they have been forced, deceived or the child/young person believes that they are traveling willingly from one location to another, for example, where a child takes a bus or walks from one location to another for the purpose of exploitation. **Remember: A child cannot legally give consent to being trafficked.**

Is there something I should be doing?

Any agency and organisation that has concern for a child they believe may be a victim of human trafficking should make a referral immediately to the Children and Families Service

and notify the police. This is to ensure that arrangements can be put in place to safeguard the child or young person and the police are made aware that a potential crime has been committed. When age is in doubt, the presumption has to be that the person is a child.

What else should happen?

Organisations like Local Authorities, the Police and the NSPCC are “**first responder**” organisations. When the Children and Family Service and the Police have assessed the indicators of trafficking and arrangements have been put in place to safeguard the child, **first responders should refer the child to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)** using their referral form.

What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, trained decision makers will assess and make a decision on whether an individual is a victim of trafficking or modern slavery. There is a **two stage** process where trained decision maker will decide if there are “**reasonable grounds**” to believe the child/young person has been the victim of trafficking (normally within 5 working days of receipt of the referral). The first 5 days also provides for a child to be kept in safe accommodation (i.e. away from the trafficker). A “conclusive decision” will be made regarding whether the child has been the victim of trafficking after a 45-day reflection period.

Where can I find out more information?

Watch the video clip ‘Modern slavery is closer than you think’ using the link below;

<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/advice/threat-assault-abuse/modern-slavery/>

Devon Safeguarding Children Board

<http://www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org/uncategorized/be-curious/>

GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

How do I report concerns?

Modern Slavery Helpline: 0800 0121 700

MASH – Multi – Agency Safeguarding Hub: 0345 155 1071

Non-emergency 101

999 for someone who is in imminent danger

Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111

