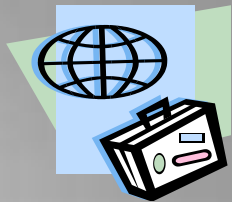


The movement of children for the purpose of exploitation and abuse



Child Trafficking: Glasgow's Response

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FOCUS FOR TODAY

- Glasgow's approach to addressing child trafficking
- Local authority responsibility – first responder
- Scotland (Glasgow) specific research findings
- Best practice identified to date
- Challenges and issues

Predominantly in the context of trafficking of children from outside the UK / non UK citizens

Evidence based response based on;

- comprehensive research programme
- multi-agency professional development and training
- practice knowledge
- positive and not so positive experiences !!

- **Case File Analysis 2009**

20-25% of UASCs in Glasgow have been trafficked (latest stats confirm this)

- **Views of Professionals 2010**

complex and ever changing issue

- **LSCB National Pilot 2011**

toolkit and guidance useful, challenges remain

- **Journey So Far 2012**

substantial progress, huge challenges

August 2012 nearly 150 children known to CP team as possibly trafficked or at risk

- **Care Provision: Towards Better Survivor Care 2012**

little or no evidence of what works in the UK

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY

Children Scotland Act s22(1)(a) - local authority shall safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need

Each state party shall take into account in particular the special needs of children, including appropriate housing, education and care.
(Article 6(4) Palermo Protocol 2000)

Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)

"Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age (article 4-d)

When the age of the victim is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the victim is a child, he or she shall be presumed to be a child and shall be accorded special protection measures pending verification of his/her age (article 10-3)

FIRST RESPONDERS

- First responders are the agencies who refer children to the Competent Authority and into the National Referral Mechanism
- Initially recommended that all referrals to the Competent Authority come from the child's lead professional in local authority social work departments (Scottish Government 2009)
- In practice social work, police, UKBA and now Reporter refer and the Competent Authority makes a decision as to whether they consider a child is trafficked

“....The British authorities decided to bypass the existing system and not task local authority children's services with the identification of trafficked children, despite their expertise in child protection and their statutory duty to safeguard children” (ATMG 2011a: 1).

THE JOURNEY SO FAR – 2012

- Responses informed by robust evidence base
- Multi-agency guidance and practice
- Child trafficking located in child protection
- **BUT – often responses are immigration focussed**
- Multi-agency referral to NRM
- **BUT – sometimes reluctance to refer and CP decisions overruled by Competent Authority**

- Reluctance to allow contradictions and anomalies in children's narratives
- Fear / panic for some professionals when faced with potential trafficking case
- Workers are reluctant to discuss 'cultural' and trafficking issues

- Assessments are limited – based on child's perception of events - rare to involve (international) agencies to provide additional information
 - what about pre UK information? – the whole picture / holistic approach

- Some children / young people have settled in Glasgow and progressed
- **BUT 25% have indicators of continued exploitation –**
trafficking is a process that doesn't necessarily end when in contact with authorities

NATIONAL PILOT MONITORING – LSCB 2011

Models of good practice:

- Engagement with UKBA/UKHTC by child protection services
- Multi-agency practice led by social work children's services
- Multi-agency child protection decision making before NRM referral (Glasgow model)
- Ensure child is safe before following trafficking process & assessment
- Peer support

Concerns and questions:

- What is the added benefit of NRM for children?
- Variable multi-agency buy in
- Full trafficking assessment overly complicated and repetitive
- Indicator matrix most useful tool (but it's not an assessment)
- Highly complex area of child protection practice



GLASGOW CPC GUIDELINES 2011

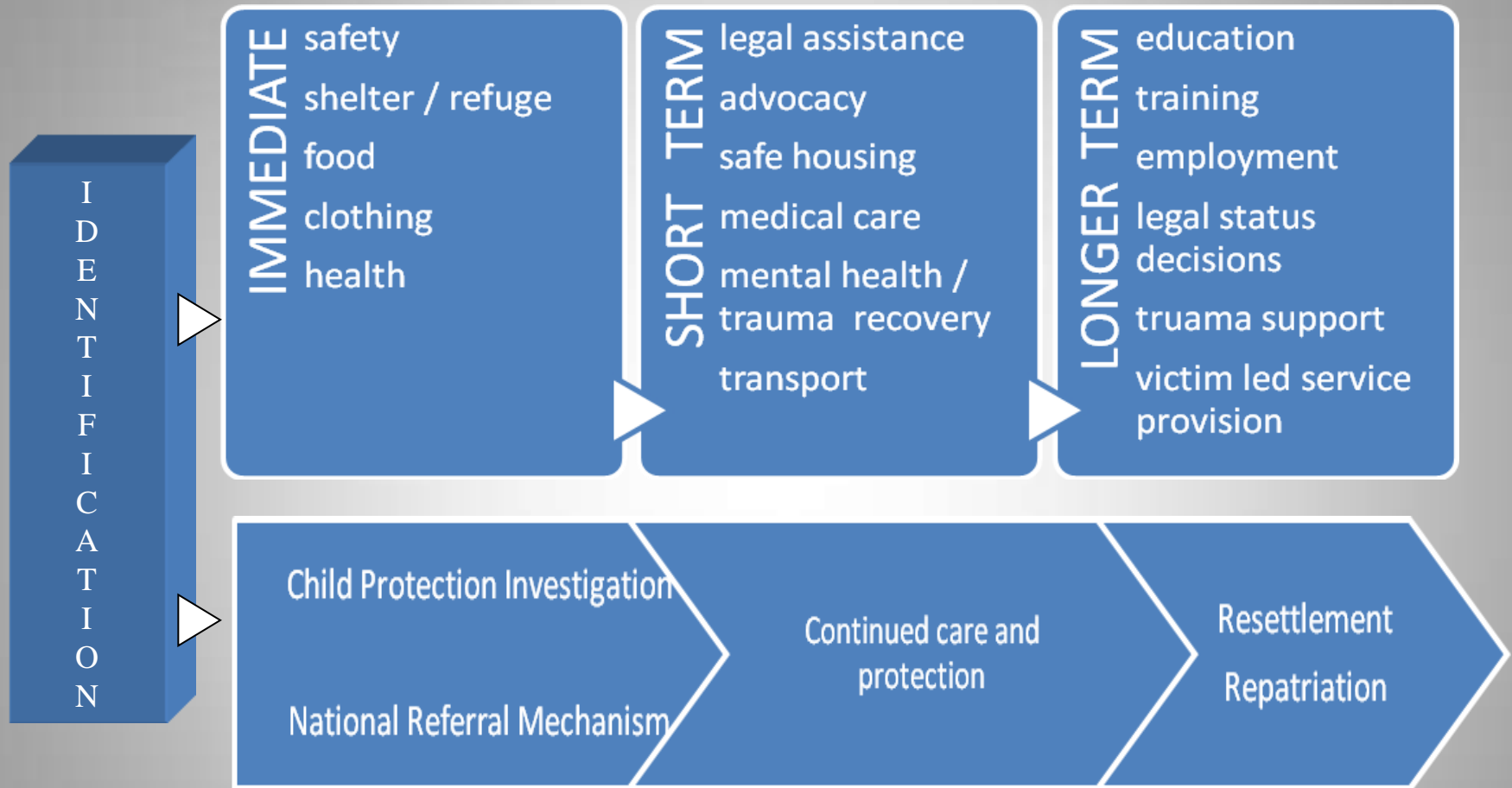
- Manage trafficking under **child protection**
- Multi agency case discussion (include UKBA if immigration issues) considers the C/YP circumstances – decision will be reached re referral to NRM
- NRM completed jointly by police and social work
- Core group may be identified and child's plan managed by multi agency group
- Trafficking assessment (CTA) to support **ONGOING** risk assessment processes in conjunction with broader child protection assessment (Integrated Assessment Framework)



CHILD TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT (CTA)

- **Brief background details** (of young person within their family / country of origin)
- **Movement** (within countries; across borders; across UK; how travelled; timescales; time at locations etc; entry into trafficking process;– eg sold; passage bought; abducted; escape; present accommodation)
- **Exploitation / abuse** (evidence and / or suspicions; types of exploitation; locations; length of exploitation; freedom of movement)
- **Trafficker** (description; relatives; gender; title; job; names; relationship to child; still in contact etc)
- **Means of control** (how child controlled; threats (to child & family); grooming; violence, voodoo, oaths, captivity, debt)
- **Additional risk factors** (likely to be from indicator matrix; include health; other contacts)
- **Agency contact / actions taken** (police; social work; UKBA; voluntary; overseas)
- **Views of young person** (if appropriate)
- **Analysis / Assessment of Needs and Risks in relation to trafficking**
(why believe trafficked / not; present safety; future risk of trafficking)
- **Conclusion & recommendation** (CP required, action plan, outcomes)

NEEDS AND PROCESS



COMPONENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICE ?

- Basic safeguarding and child protection practice
- Accommodation – safe & secure
- Welfare & development – life story / history / chronology
- Legal / immigration support
- Advocacy
- Peer support
- Trauma / mental health support

BUT No evaluation of these in the UK to date

MAJOR CHALLENGES

VIEWS OF PROFESSIONALS - 2010

- The impact of trauma and fear experienced by trafficked children on their engagement with agencies and provision of services
- Identification, assessment and service delivery when information is limited and children often do not understand the roles of agencies within either the immigration or child protection systems
- Relationships as a key factor in effective practice - including the recognition of a child's [negative] relationship with traffickers
- Children's cultural experiences and how these impact on notions of victimhood, exploitation, rehabilitation and support.

CONCLUSIONS & CONTROVERSY

**There has been substantial progress in identification and responses
BUT significant challenges remain**

- We don't have a conceptual understanding of trafficking within an international and national framework that can adequately inform local responses
- We don't have a Scottish evidence base of child trafficking and effective responses (beware of folk devils and moral panics – sensationalising, misrepresenting)
- Child trafficking represents the internationalisation of child protection – is our CP system equipped to deal with it?
- Rehabilitation - (re)-integration ? repatriation ?

BE AWARE:

- Most children 'on the move' are not victims of trafficking, although many have substantial support needs
- Emphasis on the legal and technical aspects of child trafficking overshadows the importance of a human rights / child development response
- There is no classic model or classic victim of child trafficking

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