



Home Office

Modern Slavery: Child Focus

Tackling Child Modern Slavery Workbook

This workbook contains additional case studies, advice and support. You can explore it on your own, but are encouraged to share it with peers and colleagues.

There are opportunities to review cases and decide on the next steps you would take, as well as text entry boxes where you can write your answers, if you decide to print the workbook.

Successfully tackling child modern slavery requires collaboration, so gaining others' opinions and experiences can prove invaluable.

For the first time, from April – June 2020, there were more potential child victims than adults referred in the NRM.



Ali's Story

Ali, whose age is not given, was smuggled out of Afghanistan to avoid him being forced into the Taliban, as his brothers and father had. The journey to the UK was long and dangerous. He travelled in the back of lorries and in over-crowded minibuses, where he suffered regular sexual and physical violence.

Upon arrival, Ali was forced to work in brick-making and construction. The work was hard and the days long. He was not paid for the work but was told it was payment for his journey, even though his mother had already paid the smuggling fee in Afghanistan.

Ali was injured a number of times while working but was not able to access any medical treatment for his injuries. He was beaten if his traffickers thought he was not working hard enough.

When he arrived in the UK, he was very scared of professionals, particularly police and other uniformed services. Ali believed they were all corrupt and violent because of what he had experienced in the past.

He continues to have nightmares, as well as physical pain caused by the injuries he sustained when he was being forced to work.

From the information you have, do you think Ali has been smuggled, trafficked or both, and what makes you think this?

What disruption techniques would you employ in Ali's case?

Who would you refer Ali to?

What indicators would Ali likely be displaying?

Unaccompanied Migrant Children: Operation Innerste

This page details the multi-agency safeguarding response when practitioners encounter an unaccompanied migrant child.

Unaccompanied migrant children can be some of the most vulnerable children in the country. They are alone, in an unfamiliar country and may be surrounded by people unable to speak their first language. They are likely to be uncertain or unaware of their rights and whom they should trust, and are at increased risk of going missing, often leaving the care of those who would protect them to return to traffickers who will continue their exploitation. They may have experienced emotional trauma in their country of birth, on their journey to the UK or through their treatment by adults in the UK.



Operation Innerste is the multi-agency response to better safeguard unaccompanied migrant children*. The process is supported by legislation and clearly details the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies, namely police, children's social care, Immigration Enforcement and the ICTG service (Independent Child Trafficking Guardians).

The operation is primarily focussed on securing the welfare of the child, and there are no questions about asylum claims, or any other immigration applications. It enables agencies to build trust and rapport with the child with the view to prevent missing episodes and potential further harm through re-trafficking and re-exploitation.

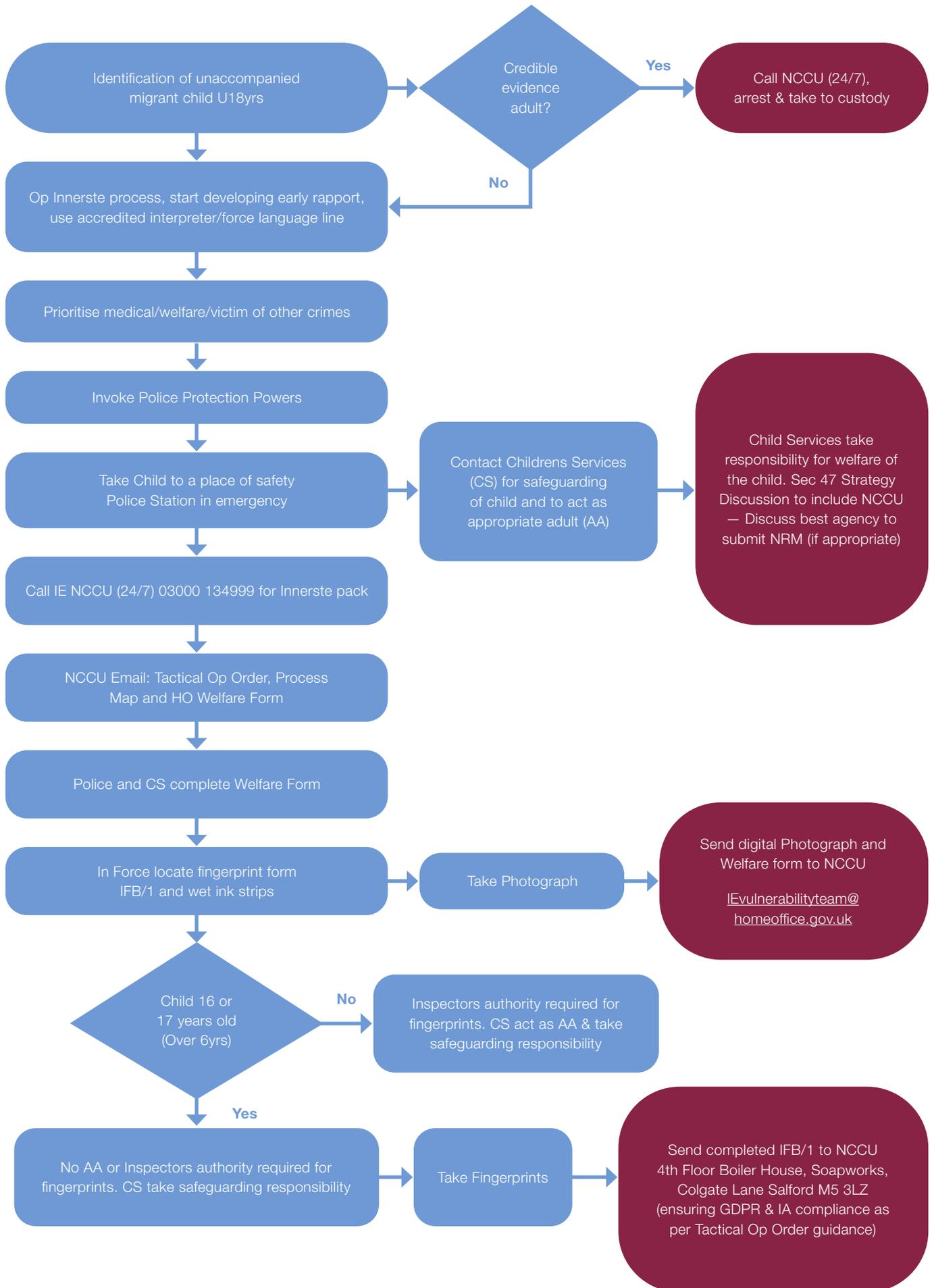
Operation Innerste provides the child with the appropriate immediate safeguarding response, ensuring they are not arrested and allowing them to express their needs and concerns. Authorities should provide the appropriate support, services and protection all children are entitled to. Police should take fingerprints and photographs as reference points if the child later goes missing, is trafficked, commits a crime or is found in distressing circumstances. It is important to note, the obtaining of fingerprints and photographs from a child must only be completed by police in accordance with Immigration legislation.

Practitioners should refer to local procedures when dealing with children. Safeguarding should be undertaken by Local Authority Children's Services using statutory guidance as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children Guidance 2018.

Any general questions about Operation Innerste can be directed to The Immigration Enforcement Vulnerability Team at IEVulnerabilityTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk.

*Currently applies to England and Wales only

Operation Innerste Process Map



Case-studies

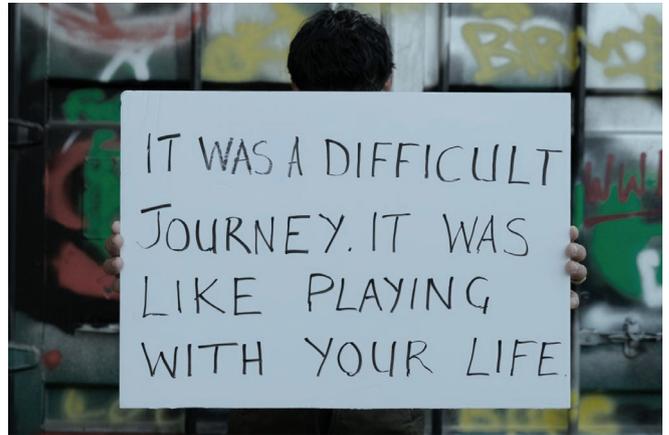
This and the following page contain case-studies taken from real cases. Only half of each story is presented. It is up to you to think about the type of exploitation the victim is experiencing, indicators that each victim might be displaying, disruption techniques, powers you could use and support you could offer.



Skylar

Skylar (15) was with her friend Ella when she first met Ella's boyfriend. He drove them back to a flat where they met a group of his friends (age 18-39). Soon the men were meeting Skylar and Ella most nights, picking them up to drive around, taking them back to a flat, and providing them with cannabis and alcohol. The men visited Skylar's parents to introduce themselves, leading them to believe they didn't pose any threat to the girls. The girls believed they were in consensual relationships with the men.

However, over time, the men began to control the girls. In addition to forcing Skylar into sexual acts, she was forced to carry Class A drugs to assist the men's drug dealing operations.



Arben

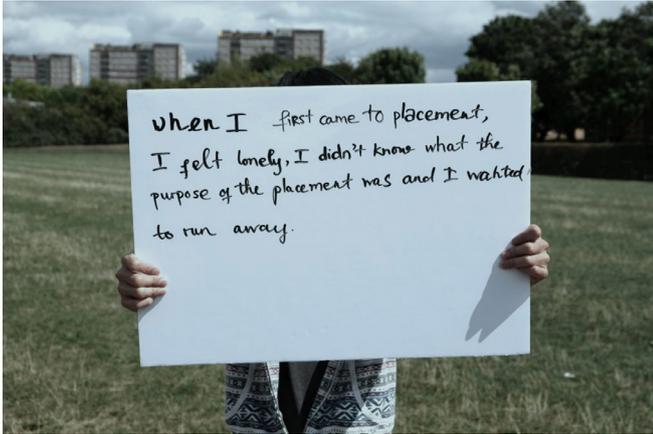
Arben (16) was originally handed to traffickers to pay off a debt. After a week in Belgium, Arben was ordered into a lorry with other Albanian boys and driven to the UK.

When he arrived, Arben was taken to a house where there were other Albanian people. He was told that if he did not do as he was told, he would be hurt and his family in Albania would be killed. He was also told that if the UK Police found him, they would beat him and put him in prison.

Arben was taken to the carwash every day from 7am to 8pm. He was not given any money, and had no protective equipment. The work was cold and repetitive, and the chemicals hurt his skin and eyes.

Based on your current role, what steps would you take to support these children?

Case-studies



Linh

Linh (15) is from Vietnam. There, Linh lived with her mother and three younger siblings. The family lived and slept in one room, and struggled financially, often going without food.

One night, Linh and her mother were loaded into a lorry. At some point, Linh fell asleep and when she awoke, she could not find her mother. Linh was transported through many countries, eventually arriving in the UK.

Since Linh has been in the UK, she has been held captive in premises and made to cook and clean for others, and more recently she has been made to work for long hours with no pay or protective equipment at a nail bar in a local town. She has been beaten and is not allowed to move freely within the premises without permission from the adult males there. She says rice and bottled water are delivered every couple of days and she is told that the work she is doing is paying off her debt to be brought to UK.



Le

Le (12) was raised in an orphanage in Vietnam. He was made to work in terrible conditions in Russia for three years, earning no money, before being brought to UK where he was made to work in a cannabis farm, tending to the plants.

One day, he was stopped by police in a car with other Vietnamese children and adults, and was referred to children's services.

At the time, he still had the phone that he was given by the traffickers and received lots of calls and texts stating that if he did not come to them, they would find him. He felt really scared and confused.

Based on your current role, what steps would you take to support these children?

Useful Tips

Modern slavery, especially modern slavery concerning children is a sensitive and challenging subject at the best of times. It is only natural as a frontline First Responder to feel emotionally drained or upset by certain cases. The role requires you to have empathy and a constant thick skin, but it is unrealistic to expect that nothing will break through that internal armour, especially when trying to relate and understand another's situation and how they may feel.

This page shares mental wellbeing tips, as well as suggestions for how to hold sensitive conversations. There are questions and text boxes on the following page that you can fill in alone or in groups. Sharing and discussing answers is encouraged.



5 coping techniques to ensure mental wellbeing

1. Good relationships are important for mental wellbeing, so try to meaningfully connect with others where possible
2. Physical activity causes chemical changes in the brain that can help to positively lift your mood as well as raise your self-esteem. Even a short walk in the fresh air can make all the difference
3. Being mindful and paying attention to the present moment can help you ground yourself, as well as bring clarity to your own thoughts and feelings
4. Creativity helps focus the mind, releases dopamine, reduces anxiety and depression and, can even help process trauma
5. Disconnect yourself from your technology. This can help remove unhealthy feelings and improve sleep



5 tips for facilitating sensitive meetings effectively

1. Set a convenient time for the meeting and ensure that the space is comfortable, warm and private
2. Come prepared with stories or anecdotes to share that will encourage discussion
3. Be direct and factual. Acknowledge feelings, but avoid debating a point or perspective
4. Be empathetic, knowing when to lead and when to listen
5. If you take meeting notes, share them. It shows that discussions are transparent

Reflection Points

How do you cope with the emotional drain from working on child modern slavery cases?

How do you start hard conversations and keep them on track?

Do you have a particularly memorable case that achieved a positive outcome?

Why did you become a First Responder in the first place?
