If you suspect that a person is a victim of modern slavery, this is a safeguarding issue. Trust and act on your professional instinct that something is not quite right. It is usually a combination of an inconsistent story and a pattern of symptoms that may cause you to suspect trafficking.

If you have any concerns about a child, young person or adult take immediate action to ask further questions and get additional information and support:

- try to find out more about the situation and speak to the person alone and in private
- reassure them that it is safe for them to speak
- only ask non-judgmental relevant questions
- allow the person time to tell you their experiences do not make promises you cannot keep
- do not let concerns you may have about challenging cultural beliefs stand in the way of making informed assessments about the safety of a child, young person or adult
- speak to your manager, colleagues or local safeguarding leads for advice.

In all cases for children, young people and adults:

- do not raise your trafficking concerns with anyone accompanying the person
- think about support and referral
- think safeguarding and safety.

Modern slavery

13,000 men, women and children are trafficked for exploitation in the UK

1 in 5 victims report coming into contact with health care services during the time they are trafficked

1 in 8 NHS staff in England think they have seen a victim of trafficking in their clinical practice (NHS England, 2016)

What to do next

Try to find out about the situation and speak to the person alone and in private.

To ensure as a child safety of a child, young person or adult.

Speak to your manager, colleagues or local safeguarding leads for advice.

Modern slavery What to do next Useful resources


Modern slavery www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery

Draft Northern Ireland Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016-2017

For further information go to:

www.rcn/modern.slavery

Publication code 005 984. Printed May 2017

Modern slavery

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Consider trafficked?

Consider trafficked?
If the person:
• is accompanied by someone who appears controlling, who insists on giving information and speaking for them
• is withdrawn and submissive, seems afraid to speak to anyone in authority
• provides vague and inconsistent explanations of where they live, employment or schooling
• has old or serious injuries left untreated
• provides vague information, is reluctant to explain how the injury occurred or reluctant to provide a medical history
• is not registered with a GP, nursery or school
• has experienced being moved locally, regionally, nationally or internationally
• appears to be moving location frequently
• has an unclear relationship with the accompanying adult
• goes missing quickly (sometimes within 48 hours of seeking care) and repeatedly from school, home and care
• gives inconsistent information about their age
• displays an unusual attachment to those around them.

Signs of trafficking
• domestic work
• rural work, farms and agricultural work, factories, construction, food processing, hospitality industries, plantations, fishermen, beauty industry, shops
• sex work
• criminal activity (including cannabis cultivation, street crime, forced begging and benefit fraud)
• forced or sham marriages
• organ removal.

Why people are trafficked
In addition, children and young people might show the following signs:

Over 45 million people are trapped in modern slavery across the globe. (Global Slavery Index, 2016)

Recruitment or acquisition of a man, woman or child means, through the use of force, deception or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation or forced labour. United Nations Palermo Protocol (UN, 2003)

Key legislation
Modern Slavery Act 2015
Endangered Species and Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015
Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

Trafficking or modern slavery is defined in three phases:
1. Recruitment or acquisition of a man, woman or child
2. Transport
3. Use for forced labour

Trafficking may include:
• long-term multiple injuries
• mental, physical and sexual trauma
• sexually transmitted infections
• pregancy, or a late booking (over 24 weeks)
• disordered eating or poor nutrition
• self harm, including atempted suicide
• dental pain
• fatigue
• non-specific post-traumatic stress disorder
• psychiatric and psychological distress
• vague symptoms such as back or stomach pain, skin problems, headaches and dizzy spells.

Health issues may include