



CLINICAL

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1. Introduction

1.1 Safeguarding is a term which is broader than ‘child protection’ and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, interns, students or anyone working for or on behalf of Freedom from Torture.

1.2 The purpose of this policy is to:

- To protect children and young people who receive Freedom from Torture services. This includes the children of adults who use the service.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guides our approach to protecting all children and young people from abuse.

1.3 Freedom from Torture believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people and keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

1.4 This policy applies to all Freedom from Torture staff and volunteers, and anyone doing any work for or on behalf of, FfT.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely:

- [Children Act 1989](#)
- [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#)
- [United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child 1991](#)(see also [unicef](#))
- [Data Protection Act 1998](#)
- [Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)
- [Children Act 2004](#)
- [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015](#)
- [Competence Still Matters 2014](#) (London)
- [Getting it right for Every Child](#) (GIRFEC) 2005
- [Sexual Offences](#) (Scotland) Act 2009
- [The Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\)](#) Act 2007



- [Child and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- [National Guidance for Child Protection Scotland \(2014\)](#)
- Relevant government guidance on safeguarding children.

See also [Safeguarding children and young people](#) on the gov.uk website.

The above statutory guidance defines child protection as part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. Child protection is the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. Child protection means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a *likelihood* or *risk* of significant harm from abuse or neglect.

For the purposes of child protection legislation the term ‘child’ refers to anyone under the age of 18 years as supported by the Children and Young Person Act (2014). The extension of the use of the term ‘child’ beyond 16 years of age is to ensure that there is not an abuse of the position of trust that exists in a position of trust relationship.

See the [Islington Continuum of Need](#) and the GIRFEC [My World Triangle](#) for overviews of children’s safeguarding.

3. Scope

3.1 We recognise that the welfare of the child is paramount in accordance with the Children’s Act 1989.

All children regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people’s welfare.

3.2 We will keep children and young people safe by:

- Recognising that all children have the right to freedom from abuse and harm
- Valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- Responding quickly and appropriately to all suspicions or allegations of abuse
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Ensuring that all our staff and volunteers are carefully selected and vetted through PVG (Scotland) and DBS (England), have the relevant qualifications and experience, and accept responsibility for helping to prevent the abuse of children in their care
- Proving parents / carers, children / young people with the opportunity to voice any concerns they have



- Appointing a **Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO)** in each centre and a organisation lead who will take specific responsibility for children's and young people's welfare, wellbeing and protection
- Sharing concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately when advice has been sought from other agencies.

4. Purpose

- To promote child welfare, wellbeing and to protect children and young people who receive Freedom from Torture services. This includes the children of adults who use our services
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to the welfare, wellbeing and protection of children and young people safeguarding (in Scotland within a GIRFEC framework)
- The training provided for all staff will be in line with *Competence Still Matters, 2014* issued by the London Safeguarding Children Board. This guidance lays out the minimum requirements for the provision of safeguarding training across London. It places staff and volunteers into groups (ranging from Group 1 to Group 8) based on the level of contact they have with children and families and their roles and responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding (see also Appendix B of the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014](#). Where training requirements differ, Freedom from Torture will require staff to adhere to whichever standard is *higher*).
- Academy 10 online training at level 1 and 2. Level 1 suitable for non-Clinical Services staff and level 2 suitable for Clinical Services staff.
- Team managers are responsible for ensuring that team members have the relevant training and refresher training and that this is recorded on People HR.

5. PREVENT

PREVENT is part of the Government's broader CONTEST strategy. PREVENT focuses on safeguarding interventions to stop people (adults and children) from being drawn into extremism through radicalisation and places specific duties on 'specified authorities' to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (Section 26, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015).

Freedom from Torture, as a charity, is not a 'specified authority' (Schedule 6, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015). However, FfT staff are required to consider risks of radicalisation and extremism as a safeguarding issue in relation to FfT clients and staff and in relation to public safety.

Freedom from Torture will support staff through training and information (see below, Section 10) in seeking to recognise when individuals are at risk of being exploited and/or radicalised as part of a broader safeguarding structure and will make safeguarding



referrals to statutory services regarding these concerns in the usual way. Statutory services will then be obliged to decide whether to treat a referral as a Prevent matter or not.

Where a member of staff has a concern about risks relating to radicalisation and/or extremism, they should raise it in the same way as other safeguarding concerns and according to this policy.

6. Procedure

6.1 Disclosure of Abuse - what to do

We recognise that as well as disclosure the vast majority of children will not disclose and therefore staff should always be observant for any concerns.

If a child makes a disclosure of abuse the following actions are to be taken:

- React calmly so as not to frighten or deter the child / young person
- Listen carefully to what the child / young person tells you without interrupting and take it seriously
- Ask questions for clarification only. Avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer and do not investigate the allegation
- Do not stop a child / young person who is freely recalling significant events. Allow them to continue at their own pace
- Acknowledge how difficult it might be for them to share this with you
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in disclosing
- Tell the child / young person they are not to blame
- Never promise a child / young person that what they have told you can be kept a secret. Explain to the child/ young person that you have a responsibility for their safety and therefore have to tell someone in authority. Let them know there are others who can help them and that they are not alone
- Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared
- Ensure the safety of the child / young person
- If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999 straight away
- Contact the Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) for support and advice of the next steps or the London and South East Centre Manager. If not available then call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 500 8000 365days/24hours. The London and South East Centre Manager is the Designated Child Protection Lead for the organisation.
- As soon as possible take care to record (see form in Appendix 3) in writing what was said using the child's own words. Record the date, time, setting, any names mentioned, to whom the information was given and other people present. Sign and date the record.
- Record any subsequent events and actions at the advice of the DCPO if no further action at that time.
- It is not your responsibility to investigate if a child has been abused however it is your responsibility to report concerns to the appropriate authorities including named person, social work or police (Police Scotland). The organisation's Designated Child Protection Lead must be informed of any disclosure or concerns.



See also:

[What to do if you're worried a child is being abused](#)
[Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services](#)

A child may recall former abuse once in a safe situation. Although they may be under no current threat to their safety, any disclosure must be raised with the Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and followed through appropriately.

You may also have concerns about a child's welfare where there has not been any disclosure or allegation. In the best interests of the child / young person, these concerns should be raised with the Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and followed through appropriately, this may be through the child's named person (Scotland).

Consent is required for s.17 (Children Act 1989) referrals unless there is a concern that seeking consent will increase risk, in which case the referral should be discussed with the duty social worker prior to referral.

See Appendix 4 for contact details/websites for local authority Safeguarding Children Teams, NSPCC helpline and Childline.

DCPO Responsibilities

Name	Office	Tel/ext	Mobile	Email @freedomfromtorture.org
Robin Ewart-Biggs	London & SE + National Lead	020 7697 7781	07718 981 933	rewartbiggs
Simon Postlethwaite	Manchester	0161 236 5744	07983563260	spostlethwaite
Tamara Jaftha	Newcastle	0121 314 6825	0787 2507 082	tjaftha
Joanne Adams	Birmingham	0121 314 6825	0787 2507 082	jadams
Norma McKinnon	Scotland	0141 420 3161	07843470834	nmckinnon

6.2 Roles and responsibilities of employers

- To ensure that all relevant staff and volunteers receive child protection training within any appropriate service framework
- To ensure that staff are competent and confident in carrying out their responsibilities for promoting children's welfare, wellbeing and protection.
- To ensure that all relevant staff receive a mandatory induction, which includes familiarisation with their child protection responsibilities and the policies and procedures to be followed if they have concerns about a child's safety or welfare. Regular refresher training should also be provided at least every three years.



- To ensure that that appropriately qualified staff undertaking specialist roles in both children's and adults' services receive the necessary specialist training.
- To ensure there are clear whistleblowing procedures in place, to support the protection of staff/volunteers and service users as reflected within which reflect the principles in Sir Robert Francis's Freedom to Speak Up review and are suitably referenced in staff training and codes of conduct, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed
- Safe recruitment practices for individuals whom the organisation will permit to work regularly with children, including policies on when to obtain a criminal record check (PVG or DBS)
- clear policies in line with those from local safeguarding boards for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:
 - Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
 - Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
 - Any concerns regarding allegations against staff members will be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or Police Scotland by the DCPO or the London and South East Centre Manager.

7. Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment

7.1 Freedom from Torture is committed to equality in both employment and the provision of services. All forms of discrimination are against the code and core values of Freedom from Torture. No job applicant, employee, service referral or service user shall be the subject of discrimination in any form. Any practice which may result in the provision of sub-standard service due to unfair or unlawful discrimination will not be tolerated.

8. Monitoring & record keeping

8.1 The Director of National Clinical Services is responsible for the organisation's delivery of services in accordance with this policy. Centre Managers are responsible for monitoring implementation of and compliance with this policy. All operational managers are responsible for ensuring staff who report to them are familiar with this policy and all operational staff are expected to comply with this policy.

Each manager is responsible for:

- The implementation and evaluation of child protection policies and procedures
- The supervision of staff in the use of procedures and child protection tools
- Contributing to the audit programme / clinical incident review process which will inform the continual process to improve practice



The London and South East Centre Manager will be the link with all outside agencies and maintain the record of all child protection cases which will be updated at least once a month or more often as the case progresses.

8.2 The London Centre Manager, as the organisational DCPO, will gather and collate all child protection cases across the organisation. The DCPO will prepare and submit a quarterly report to the Clinical Secretariat on all CP cases across the organisation.

9. Policies/procedures that strongly impact

CSP01 - Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
CSP02 - Professional Boundaries
CSP06 - Managing Incidents
CSP08 - Clinical Risk and Management
CSP10 - Clinical Supervision Policy
CSP19 - Working with Perpetrators
ORG01 - Whistleblowing
ORG02 - Health & Safety

10. External Resources

Prevent guidance

Scotland:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445978/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_Scotland_V2.pdf

England& Wales:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

Gov e-learning training: <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

11. Supporting documents

CSP05-A1 - Types of Abuse
CSP05-A2 - Spirit possession or witchcraft
CSP05-A3 - Child Protection Pathway
CSP05-A4 - Child Protection Concern Form



Types of Abuse

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. But it isn't just physical violence - domestic abuse includes emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological abuse.

It can happen in any relationship, and even after the relationship has ended. Both men and women can be abused or abusers.

Domestic abuse can seriously harm children and young people. Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse, and teenagers can suffer domestic abuse in their relationships.

Domestic abuse can include:

- sexual abuse and rape
- punching, kicking, cutting, hitting with an object
- withholding money or preventing someone from earning money
- taking control over aspects of someone's everyday life, which can include where they go and what they wear
- not letting someone leave the house
- reading emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill or harm them, a partner, another family member or pet.

Children and young people witnessing domestic abuse

Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing and scary for a child, and causes serious harm. Children living in a home where domestic abuse is happening are at risk of other types of abuse too. Children can experience domestic abuse or violence in lots of different ways. They might:

- see the abuse
- hear the abuse from another room
- see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards
- be hurt by being nearby or trying to stop the abuse

Teenagers experiencing domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can happen in any relationship, and it affects young people too.

They may not realise that what's happening is abuse. Even if they do, they might not tell anyone about it because they're scared of what will happen, or ashamed about what people will think.

[Download Information for local areas on the change to the definition of domestic violence and abuse \(PDF\)](#)

English Legislation:
[Serious Crime Act 2015 section 76](#)



Freedom from Torture

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

[Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004](#)

[Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims \(Amendment\) Act 2012](#)

[Adoption and Children Act 2002 section 120](#)

[Children Act 1989 section 31](#)

Scottish Legislation:

Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 section 24

[View the Family Law \(Scotland\) Act 2006 section 24](#)

[View the Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995 section 11](#)

Additional resources:

[Download Improving safety, reducing harm: children, young people and domestic violence: a practical toolkit for front-line practitioners \(PDF\)](#)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/advice-for-victims-of-crime/domestic-abuse/>



Sexual Abuse

A child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities.

This doesn't have to be physical contact and it can happen online.

Sometimes the child won't understand that what's happening to them is abuse.

They may not even understand that it's wrong.

There are 2 different types of child sexual abuse. These are called **contact abuse** and **non-contact abuse**.

Contact abuse involves touching activities where an abuser makes physical contact with a child, including penetration. It includes:

- sexual touching of any part of the body whether the child's wearing clothes or not
- rape or penetration by putting an object or body part inside a child's mouth, vagina or anus
- forcing or encouraging a child to take part in sexual activity
- making a child take their clothes off, touch someone else's genitals or masturbate.

Non-contact abuse involves non-touching activities, such as grooming, exploitation, persuading children to perform sexual acts over the internet and flashing. It includes:

- encouraging a child to watch or hear sexual acts
- not taking proper measures to prevent a child being exposed to sexual activities by others
- meeting a child following sexual grooming with the intent of abusing them
- online abuse including making, viewing or distributing child abuse images
- allowing someone else to make, view or distribute child abuse images
- showing pornography to a child
- sexually exploiting a child for money, power or status (child exploitation).

See the brook [Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool](#) for help to identify and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours.

English Legislation:

[Sex Offenders Act 1997](#)

[Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

[Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)

[Criminal Justice Act 2003 Part 13](#)

Scottish Legislation (Additional to those above):

[Protection of Children \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#)

[Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)

[Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)

[Management of Offenders etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 Sections 10 and 11](#)



Neglect

- Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse.
- A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care.
- A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm.
- They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents.
- A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Types of neglect:

Physical neglect

Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child, or provide for their safety.

Educational neglect

Failing to ensure a child receives an education.

Emotional neglect

Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them. It's often the most difficult to prove.

Medical neglect

Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.



Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting a child causing injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns or cuts.

It isn't accidental - children who are physically abused suffer violence such as being hit, kicked, poisoned, burned, slapped or having objects thrown at them. Shaking or hitting babies can cause non-accidental head injuries (NAHI). Sometimes parents or carers will make up or cause the symptoms of illness in their child, perhaps giving them medicine they don't need and making the child unwell - this is known as fabricated or induced illness (FII).

There's no excuse for physically abusing a child. It causes serious, and often long-lasting, harm - and in severe cases, death.

Official definitions of physical abuse:

England

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

English Legislation

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

Section 58:

[Non Accidental Head Injury Cases \(NAHI, formerly referred to as Shaken Baby Syndrome \[SBS\]\) - Prosecution Approach](#)

Working together to safeguard children:

[Download Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children \(PDF\)](#)

Scotland

Physical abuse is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person.

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.

Scottish Legislation:

[Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#)

Policy and guidance

[National guidance for child protection in Scotland \(PDF\) \(Scottish Government, 2010\)](#)



Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development.

Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.

Children who are emotionally abused are usually suffering another type of abuse or neglect at the same time - but this isn't always the case.

What does emotional abuse include?

Because there's an element of emotional abuse in all other types of child abuse and neglect, it can be difficult to spot the signs and to separate what's emotional abuse from other types of abuse.

Emotional abuse includes:

- humiliating or constantly criticising a child
- threatening, shouting at a child or calling them names
- making the child the subject of jokes, or using sarcasm to hurt a child
- blaming, scapegoating
- making a child perform degrading acts
- not recognising a child's own individuality, trying to control their lives
- pushing a child too hard or not recognising their limitations
- exposing a child to distressing events or interactions such as domestic abuse or drug taking
- failing to promote a child's social development
- not allowing them to have friends
- persistently ignoring them
- being absent
- manipulating a child
- never saying anything kind, expressing positive feelings or congratulating a child on successes
- never showing any emotions in interactions with a child, also known as emotional neglect.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/334290/0109279.pdf>



Online Abuse and grooming

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyberbullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse.

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).

Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse - abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

Cyberbullying is an increasingly common form of bullying behaviour which happens on social networks, games and mobile phones. Cyberbullying can include spreading rumours about someone, or posting nasty or embarrassing messages, images or videos.

Children may know who's bullying them online - it may be an extension of offline peer bullying - or they may be targeted by someone using a fake or anonymous account. It's easy to be anonymous online and this may increase the likelihood of engaging in bullying behaviour.

Cyberbullying includes:

- sending threatening or abusive text messages
- creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 'trolling' - the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- encouraging young people to self-harm
- voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name
- sending explicit messages, also known as sexting
- pressuring children into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual conversations.

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Children and young people can be groomed online or face-to-face, by a stranger or by someone they know - for example a family member, friend or professional.

Groomers may be male or female. They could be any age.

Many children and young people don't understand that they have been groomed or that what has happened is abuse.



Groomers can use social media sites, instant messaging apps including teen dating apps, or online gaming platforms to connect with a young person or child.

They can spend time learning about a young person's interests from their online profiles and then use this knowledge to help them build up a relationship.

It's easy for groomers to hide their identity online - they may pretend to be a child and then chat and become 'friends' with children they are targeting.

Groomers may look for:

- usernames or comments that are flirtatious or have a sexual meaning
- public comments that suggest a child has low self-esteem or is vulnerable.

Groomers don't always target a particular child. Sometimes they will send messages to hundreds of young people and wait to see who responds.

Groomers no longer need to meet children in real life to abuse them. Increasingly, groomers are sexually exploiting their victims by persuading them to take part in online sexual activity

When sexual exploitation happens online, young people may be persuaded, or forced, to:

- send or post sexually explicit images of themselves
- take part in sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone
- have sexual conversations by text or online.

Abusers may threaten to send images, video or copies of conversations to the young person's friends and family unless they take part in other sexual activity.

Images or videos may continue to be shared long after the sexual abuse has stopped.

Legislation - England

[Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

[Malicious Communications Act 1988](#)

[Communications Act 2003 Section 127](#)

Legislation - Scotland

[Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#)

Policy and guidance

[National Action Plan on Child Sexual Exploitation \(Scottish Government, 2014\)](#)

Public Petitions Committee

[Public Petitions Committee: 1st report, 2014 \(session 4\): report on tackling child sexual exploitation in Scotland](#) (Scottish Parliament, 2014)

[Guidance on the Sexual Offences \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) (Scottish Government, 2009)

[Three year strategy 2012-2015](#) (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), 2012)



Child trafficking

Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation.

Children are trafficked for:

- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs, working on cannabis farms, selling pirated DVDs, bag theft.

Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another. Any movement of a child without consent is classed as trafficking not only in / out of the country.

Official definition of child trafficking:

Council of Europe, ratified by the UK government in 2008

'The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered 'trafficking in human beings'.

[Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings, was ratified by the UK government in 2008.](#)



Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

Legislation on Forced Marriage

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. This includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not)
- Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence
- The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced Marriage Protection Order through the family courts will continue to exist alongside the new criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be assisted
- Details of the new law can be found on the [Legislation website](#)

Forced marriage Scotland

Forced marriage is not condoned in Scotland and is considered to be an abuse of human rights. Children who are forced or subjected to emotional, physical or sexual abuse as a result, are protected by the **Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011**. Further information can be found by calling the forced marriage Helpline on **0800 027 1234** which is open 24 hours or by visiting:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/crimes/forced-marriage>

Guidance for professionals

[Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance for dealing with forced marriage 2014](#)

Guidance is for all persons and bodies who exercise public function in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

[Multi-Agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage 2014](#)

Step-by-step advice for frontline workers. Essential reading for health professionals, educational staff, police, children's social care, adult social services and local authority housing.



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision or cutting.

Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It's dangerous and a criminal offence.

There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It doesn't enhance fertility and it doesn't make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health.

FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985. In 2003 it also became a criminal offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to take their child abroad to have female genital mutilation. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

From July 2015 anyone can apply to the court for an FGM Protection Order if they are concerned that someone is at risk of FGM. Breaching an FGM Protection Order is a criminal offence with a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment.

From October 2015, the FGM Act 2003 (as amended by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) introduced a mandatory reporting duty for all regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales. Professionals must make a report to the police by calling 101, if, in the course of their duties:

- they are informed by a girl under the age of 18 that she has undergone an act of FGM

or

- they observe physical signs that an act of FGM may have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18.

[\(Home Office, 2015\)](#)

[\(Department of Health FGM Safeguarding Pathway\)](#)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Scotland -

It is an offence in Scotland to carry out this procedure or carry it out (or arrange to carry it out) abroad, even in countries where it is legal. Further information on FGM can be found at:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/resourcesforprofessionals/minorityethnic/female-genital-mutilation_wda96841.html

A 24 hour FGM advice line is available through the NSPCC by calling: 0800 028 355

Honour Based Violence

There is no specific offence of "honour based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. Honour based violence (HBV) can be described as a collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no, and cannot be, honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

The CPS, National Police Chiefs Council and support groups have a common definition of HBV:

"'Honour based violence' is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community."

Women and girls may lose honour through expressions of autonomy, particularly if this autonomy occurs within the area of sexuality. Men may be targeted either by the family of a woman who they are believed to have 'dishonoured', in which case both parties may be at risk, or by their own family if they are believed to be homosexual.

Common triggers for HBV include:

- Refusing an arranged marriage
- Having a relationship outside the approved group
- Loss of virginity
- Pregnancy
- Spending time without the supervision of a family member
- Reporting domestic violence
- Attempting to divorce
- Pushing for custody of children after divorce
- Refusing to divorce when ordered to do so by family members



Spirit possession and witchcraft

Child Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession and Witchcraft

A Parents' Belief

In such cases of child abuse, a parent / carer has come to view a child as 'different'. They have attributed this difference to the child being possessed and as such, will attempt to exorcise the child.

Reasons for the child being identified as 'different' may be a disobedient or independent nature, bedwetting, nightmares or illness. Attempts to exorcise the child may include:

- Beating
- Burning
- Starvation
- Cutting / Stabbing
- Isolation within the Household

Children with disabilities may also be viewed as different, and various degrees of disability have previously been interpreted as 'possession', from a stammer to epilepsy, autism or a life limiting illness.

What is Witchcraft?

Witchcraft is known by many terms; black magic, kindoki, ndoki, the evil eye, djinns, voodoo, obeah or child sorcerers. All link to a genuine belief held by the family or carers (and in some cases, even the children themselves) that a child is able to use an evil force to harm others.

While these beliefs are not confined to any particular countries, cultures or religions, one message is clear; Child Abuse is never acceptable in any community or culture, under any circumstances.

Procedures, Policies, Guidance and Good Practice documents:

BSCB Procedures

[Child Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession and Witchcraft](#)

Department of Education

[Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of 'Possession' and 'Witchcraft' - Eleanor Stobart Report](#)

[Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of 'Possession' and 'Witchcraft' - Government Response](#)

HM Government

[Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession](#)

National Working Group on Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief

[Action Plan 2012](#)

NSPCC

[Response to Working Together: Safeguarding Children from Abuse linked to a belief in Spirit Possession and Witchcraft](#)

Useful websites or links:

[Victoria Climbe Foundation](#)



Freedom from Torture

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Victoria Climbié Foundation National Action Plan on Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief
and Why It Matters

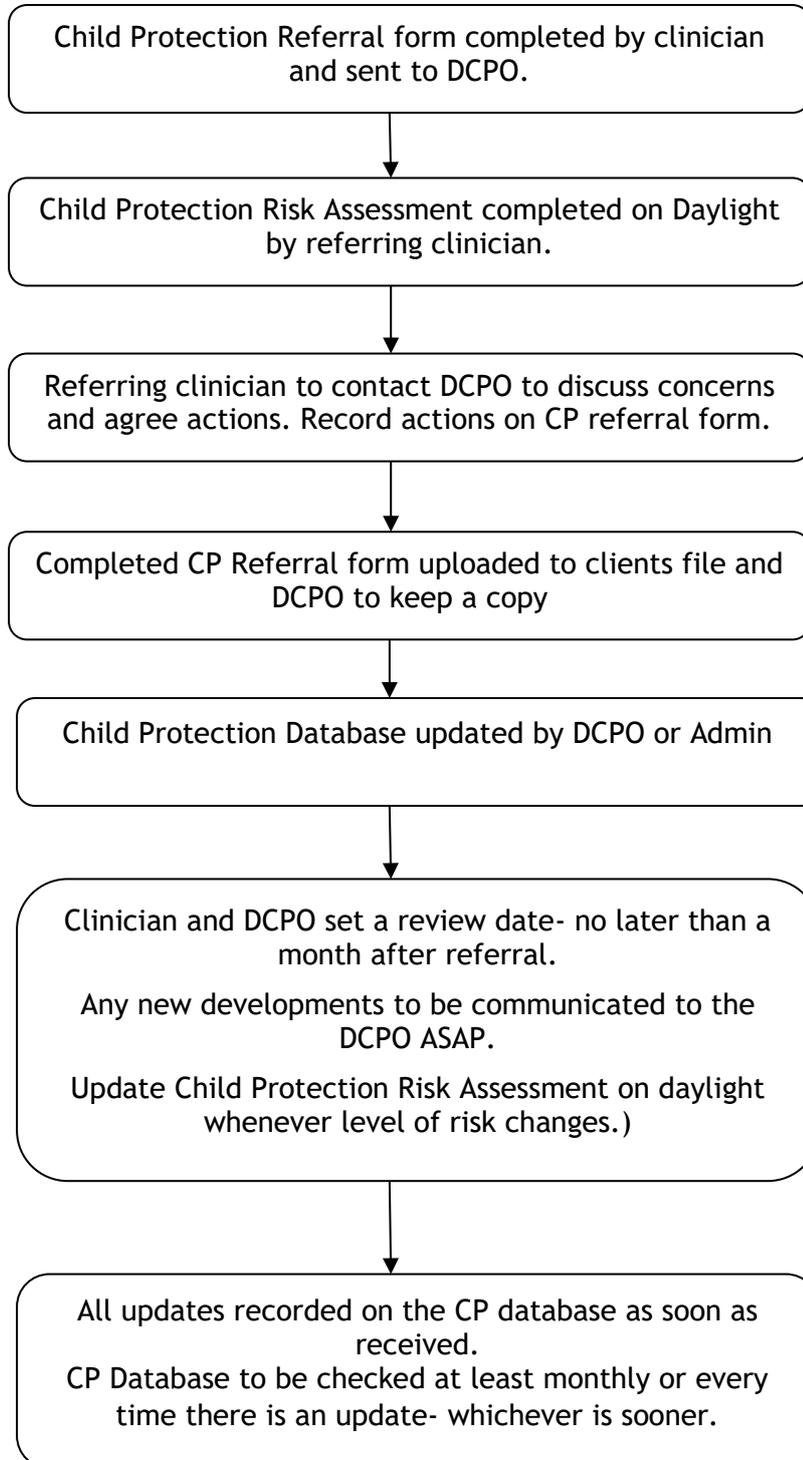
<https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Safeguarding-summary.pdf>



CSP05-Appendix 2 - Child Protection Referral Pathway

If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999 straight away

Child Protection Referral Pathway





Child Protection Concern Form

**In order to report a child protection concern, please fill in this form and ensure that the Designated Child Protection Officer (DCPO) is informed immediately.
If you think a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999 straight away**

Full Name of the Child: _____

Male / Female Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

Contact Number _____

FfT client ID (if a client): _____

FfT client ID(s) of client(s) that the child is linked to: _____

Who has the responsibility for this child?

Parent

Carer

Local authority

Name and contact details: _____

Other services involved:

Service (GP, Health visitor, social worker, school /nursery)	Details (Names / Addresses)	Telephone

Details of Concerns

Please provide specific facts - what you have seen, heard and / or been told and when you last saw the child/ young person and parents?



The child is now (describe current conditions and whereabouts)

What are the child / young persons' views?

Specific family factors making this child / young person at risk of harm / significant harm are: (include parental substance abuse, domestic abuse, mental health issues, patterns of family life, employment, standard of accommodation, income, who is known to live or is a regular visitor to the home or any other factors that may impact on parenting.

Have there been previous concerns? If so please provide details and actions taken

What actions have been taken so far?

Additional factors creating vulnerability? (include any risk taking behaviour by the child / young person)



The strengths / protective factors in the family situation are:

Are the Parent aware of this referral YES / NO

What are their views?:

If they are not aware why not:

Name of Person Making the Report: _____

Signature:

Designation:

Contact Number:

Email:

Date:

Follow Up:

Signature of Line Manager

Name

Date

Email



CSP05 - Appendix 4 - Referrals to Local Authorities

London Boroughs	Duty Number - Office hours	Duty Number - Out of office Hours	Website
Barking and Dagenham	0208 227 3811	0208 227 3811	http://newsite.bardag-lscb.co.uk/
Barnet	020 8359 4066	020 8359 4066	https://thebarnetscp.org.uk/bscp/parents/worried-about-a-child
Bexley	020 3045 5440	020 8303 7777 or 020 8303 7171	https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/childrens-social-care/worried-about-child
Brent	020 8937 4300	020 8863 5250	http://www.brentlscb.org.uk/article.php?id=509&template=solo
Bromley	020 8461 7373 / 7379 / 7026	030 0303 8671	http://www.bromleysafeguarding.org/articles.php?id=600
Camden	020 7974 3317 020 7974 6600 or 020 7974 4094	020 7974 4444	https://cscb-new.co.uk/?page_id=7058
City of London	0207 332 3621	0208 356 2710	http://www.chscb.org.uk/
Croydon	0208 255 2888	0208 726 6400	http://croydonlscb.org.uk/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-about-a-child/#child-protection-and-safeguarding-contact-numbers
Ealing	020 8825 8000	020 8825 8000	https://www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/ealing/directory/advice.page?id=HmORtqsNW2A&escb=true
Enfield	020 8379 5555	020 8379 1000 select option 2	https://new.enfield.gov.uk/enfieldlscb/children-young-people/worried-about-the-safety-of-a-child-report-it-now/
Greenwich	020 8921 3172	020 8854 8888	http://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/safeguardingchildrenboard/info/200131/the_safeguarding_children_board/70/report_child_abuse-contact_details
Hackney	0208 356 5500	0208 356 2710	http://www.chscb.org.uk/
Hammersmith and Fulham	020 8753 6600	020 8748 5588	https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/children-and-family-care/child-protection
Haringey	020 8489 4470	020 8489 0000	http://www.haringeylscb.org/
Harrow	020 8901 2690	020 8424 0999	http://www.harrowlscb.co.uk/report-a-concern/general-referral-form-for-practitioners/
Havering	01708 433222	01708 433999	https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20083/safeguarding_children/412/report_a_concern_with_a_child
Hillingdon	01895 556633	01895 556633	http://hillingdonlscb.org.uk/
Hounslow	020 8583 3200 / 6600 and choose Option 1	020 8583 2222	http://www.hscb.org.uk/article.php?id=442&template=solo
Islington:	020 7527 7400	020 7226 0992	http://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/Pages/Are%20you%20worried%20about%20a%20child.aspx



Islington: LADO	Lado@islington.gov.uk Tel: 0207 527 8066/8102		
Kensington and Chelsea	020 7361 3013	020 7361 3013	https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/information-professionals-and-volunteers/contacts-safeguarding-kensington-and-chelsea
Kingston	020 8547 5008	020 8770 5000	https://www.kingston.gov.uk/info/200235/supporting_and_safeguarding_children/473/concerned_about_a_child
Lambeth	020 7926 5555	020 7926 5555	https://www.lambethscb.org.uk/
Lewisham	020 8314 6660	020 8314 6000, ask for the emergency duty team	https://www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lscb/lscb/parents-carers/worried-about-the-safety-of-a-child
Merton	020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227	020 8770 5000	https://www2.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children-family-health-social-care/safeguardingchildren/worriedaboutachild.htm
Newham	020 3373 4600	020 8430 2000	https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Child-protection.aspx
Redbridge	020 8708 3885	020 8708 5897	https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/adult-and-childrens-services/child-protection/
Richmond	020 8547 5008	020 8770 5000	http://www.richmond.gov.uk/single_point_of_access
Southwark	020 7525 1921	020 7525 5000	http://www.southwark.gov.uk/childcare-and-parenting/child-protection/child-protection-referral-and-assessment
Sutton	020 8770 6001	020 8770 5000	http://www.suttonlscb.org.uk/#gsc.tab=0
Tower Hamlets	020 7364 5601 / 5606		http://www.childrenandfamiliestrust.co.uk/report-concerns/
Waltham Forest	020 8496 2310	020 8496 3000	https://directory.walthamforest.gov.uk/kb5/walthamforest/directory/advice.page?id=5ILArmjPvHo
Wandsworth	020 8871 6622	020 8871 6000	http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/info/83/need_to_talk_to_someone
Westminster	020 7641 4000	020 7641 4000	https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/lscb/about-us

NSPCC HELPLINE - 24/7 - 0800 800 5000

You may also contact the NSPCC for advice or in order to make a referral

Children and young people can contact Childline on **0800 1111**. Childline is a free and confidential service.

