

SOLACE Local Authority Victim Identification Audit

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) has prepared a victim identification checklist to assist local government staff in recognising the signs of trafficking that they may encounter during their daily work¹.

Child Victims

Where do we look?	What do we look for?	Who is likely to be the first point of contact?	How do we ensure that we are picking up the signs?
Care homes and foster families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a history of going missing and of unexplained moves Received unexplained phone calls Possesses money and goods not accounted for Adults loitering outside the place of residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster carers Children's Services LSCBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSCB sub-group on child trafficking formed Training provided for foster carers and social workers on victim identification
Private homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different children living in the same home at different times Child has limited freedom of movement Performs excessive housework chores and rarely leaves home Child is malnourished Has not been registered with or attended a GPs practice Has not been enrolled in a school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social workers trained in identification of trafficked children
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unexplained periods of absence from school Signs of physical/sexual abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and information materials provided for teachers

¹ Sources: The information included here draws upon the UKHTC Blue Blindfold Campaign and the London LSCB Trafficking toolkit.

Where do we look?	What do we look for?	Who is likely to be the first point of contact?	How do we ensure that we are picking up the signs?
Hospitals and GPs surgery	Shows signs of physical/sexual abuse	Children's Services A&E staff and GPs	Protocol between Children's services and PCT to ensure checks against Child Protection Register are made
Interviews with unaccompanied asylum seeking children	Has prepared a story similar to those other children have given Mistrust of authority figure Has mobile phone but no money	Children's Services	Social workers trained in identification of trafficked children
On the streets	Children begging Children committing petty crime, e.g. pick pocketing Underage street prostitution	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships Youth Offending Teams	CDRPs and Youth Offending teams build awareness of child trafficking

Adult Victims

Where do we look?	What do we look for?	Who is likely to be the first point of contact?	How do we ensure that we are picking up the signs?
Massage parlours	<p>High security measures exist in the work/living quarters (e.g. opaque windows, board up windows, bars, barbed wire, security cameras, etc)</p> <p>Women are not free to come and go as they wish or to take breaks</p> <p>Women appear to be under 18</p> <p>Women show signs of physical/sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture</p>	Licensing officers Prostitution outreach teams	<p>Training for licensing officers</p> <p>Prostitution outreach strategy includes identification and assistance of trafficked victims</p>
On the streets	<p>The woman appears unhappy and fearful</p> <p>Women show signs of physical/sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement or torture</p> <p>Special services are offered, included unprotected sex at a low price</p> <p>Woman only knows how to say sex-related words in English</p> <p>Women appear to be controlled closely by a pimp</p>	Prostitution outreach teams Gender equality officers	Prostitution outreach strategy includes identification and assistance of trafficked victims

Where do we look?	What do we look for?	Who is likely to be the first point of contact?	How do we ensure that we are picking up the signs?
Shops, restaurants and factories	<p>Staff show signs of physical abuse or restraint</p> <p>Poor or non-existent safety equipment</p> <p>Workers do not have suitable clothing for their work</p> <p>Workers have no days off or holiday time</p> <p>Employer is holding their identification documents</p>	<p>Health and Safety Inspectors</p> <p>Environmental Health Officers</p> <p>Trading Standards Officers</p>	<p>Health and safety officers, environmental health officers and trading standards officers are trained in victim awareness</p>
Private homes	<p>Overcrowded conditions, with many people sharing 1 room</p> <p>Occupants do not know their own address</p> <p>Occupants are not allowed outside the house unless their 'employer' is with them</p> <p>Minibuses pick up occupants at unusual times</p>	<p>Housing officers</p> <p>Adult social services</p> <p>Migrant integration teams</p>	<p>Housing officers trained in victim awareness</p> <p>Migrant integration strategy includes awareness of human trafficking issues</p>
Local Authority Premises	<p>Workers on cleaning contracts arrive in minibuses and appear to be fearful</p> <p>Workers on building contracts arrive in minibuses and appear to be controlled</p> <p>Workers do not have their own identification papers</p> <p>Workers have no days off or holiday time</p>	<p>All council staff</p>	<p>Distribution of Blue Blindfold/ STOP THE TRAFFIK pamphlets on victim identification to all council staff</p>

Whilst each of these indicators alone is not sufficient to verify that a person has been trafficked, the presence of a number of indicators should raise suspicion and the member of staff concerned should follow internal and national procedures on trafficking.