Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (children)

Warwickshire Safeguarding

Background

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery are thought to be amongst the most widespread crimes in the world, affecting children/ young people every day. This involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.
A child has been trafficked if he or she has been moved within a country, town or city, or across borders whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child. This includes sexual exploitation, forced labour such as domestic servitude and forced criminality.

Where can I find more information?

- Warwickshire Safeguarding
- Coventry & Warwickshire ICB
- Child Victims of Modern Slavery in the UK
- West Midlands Interagency Safeguarding Procedures
- NSPCC
- Anti-Slavery

What are the UK statistics?

- Between April 2016 and March 2021, the Crown Prosecution Service completed 185 modern slavery-related prosecutions involving a child victim in England and Wales – with a 51% conviction rate
- An increase of 9% in the number of potential child victims referred compared with the previous year (from 5,028 to 5,468)

How do I report concerns?

If you suspect a child/ young person may be experiencing Modern Slavery or is at risk of Human Trafficking, report your concerns immediately:

- Contact Warwickshire Police
- Contact Triage Hub
- Contact Modern Slavery Helpline

The Law

- The Modern Slavery Act (2015) gives law enforcement the tools to fight modern slavery, ensuring perpetrators can receive suitably severe punishments for these appalling crimes and enhance support and protection for victims.

What is the National Referral Mechanism?

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. If the potential victim is under 18, or may be under 18, an NRM referral must be made by. Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM and must first be safeguarded and then referred into the NRM process. Referrals can be made by designated First Responder organisations.

What should I look out for? Further examples

- A child who appears is malnourished, unkempt, and appears withdrawn or frightened.
- 'Hidden' children who are missing from education
- A child who possesses large amounts of money, expensive clothes/ mobile phones without plausible explanation
- A child who has entered the country illegally with no means of identification or may be accompanied by an adult who is not the parent