PSCB
Portsmouth
Safeguarding
Children Board
Protecting Portsmouth's Children

Missing, Exploited & Trafficked (MET) Strategy

April 2018 - March 2020

Five Pillars for effective safeguarding around missing, exploited and trafficked children:

1. **Scrutiny and Oversight**
2. **Understand and Identify**
3. **Prevention**
4. **Intervention and Support**
5. **Disruption and Justice**

Introduction

Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB) continues to see addressing the risks to children from going missing, being exploited and/or trafficked as a priority. Agencies cannot address these issues alone or in isolation from other related safeguarding issues. The PSCB is committed to securing a robust multi-agency response to children vulnerable as a result of, or at risk of:

- **Exploitation** - including child sexual (CSE) and criminal (CCE) exploitation; as well as other forms of exploitation that involve coercion and control such as radicalisation and extremism; forced marriage, female genital mutilation.
- **Missing** from home or care
- **Trafficking** and/or Modern Slavery

Individuals (whether professionals or the public) can all play their part to protect children from harm. So it is vital that people know what to look for and what to do if they suspect a child is missing, being exploited or trafficked.

This strategy sets out the approach of the PSCB in which we aim to:

- Take a shared, coordinated multi-agency approach to raise awareness of the problem
- Intervene early
- Take a shared and coordinated multi-agency approach to deterring and disrupting exploitation and trafficking; and prosecuting potential and active perpetrators wherever possible.
- Provide targeted child-centred support and achieve good outcomes for those who are at risk of or already victims of exploitation and/or trafficking

This strategy is an update of our previous MET strategy and it now includes our strategic response to criminal exploitation, county lines and modern slavery.

There is a 4LSCB Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Children Information Guide, that all practitioners who work with (or routinely come into contact with) children and families in Portsmouth Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight are expected to be familiar with. The purpose of this information guide is to:

- Ensure that police, local authorities, education, health and other agencies work together and share a consistent approach to tackling these child protection issues.
- Define what is meant by missing, child exploitation and trafficking.
- Formalise the exchange of information between agencies.
- Provide a framework for the identification of risk.
- Establish a quality assurance process to monitor and evaluate arrangements.

This strategy is supplementary to the information guide and sets out the vision and ambition in Portsmouth; what our data tells us are the key priority areas to address; what services are available in Portsmouth to support delivery against this strategy; and what the governance arrangements are in order to monitor delivery against this strategy so that the Board is able to articulate what difference it is having for improving outcomes for children.

Vision

Our vision is simple: *to ensure that agencies (including adult services) understand their roles and responsibilities; and to secure a coordinated response to safeguard children and young people from harm as a result of going missing; being exploited; or from trafficking (or exploitation arising as a consequence of being the victim of trafficking).*

To achieve this 5 key pillars underpinning our local response have been identified:

1. Scrutiny and Oversight

We want to ensure that this strategy and the working action plan is making a positive difference to the safety of children in Portsmouth

We will achieve this by:

- Having coherent dataset across the partnership that forms a robust performance framework
- Scrutinising and challenging the strategy and the working action plan regularly in the MET Committee and through reporting the PSCB every 6 months
- Holding partners to account for progress
- Quality assure through audit and scrutiny that interventions are child focused and provides positive outcomes for children
- Learning lessons through multi-agency reviews and reflective practice meetings
- Ensuring that robust whistle-blowing and escalation policies are in place
- We will map links with other strategic groups addressing other related issues such as domestic abuse and gang activity to ensure there are protocols in place to ensure needs are met in a coordinated way

2. Understand and Identify

We want to use the latest research, techniques and guidance to understand the vulnerability factors to help the workforce identify children at risk of going missing, being exploited and/or trafficked. To use this knowledge to ensure that we have effective and well established information sharing and risk assessment mechanisms in place to identify those vulnerable children.

We will achieve this by:

- Ensure our risk assessment tool for identifying children at risk of sexual and/or criminal exploitation reflects the findings of the latest research; is well understood by multiagency workforce; and identifies additional needs of young people.
- Ensuring our systems to record missing episodes is robust and reportable
- Ensuring that information and intelligence relating to victims, perpetrators and locations is shared effectively
- Ensuring that there are effective transition arrangements in place between children's services and adult safeguarding services for those at risk at risk of going missing, being exploited and/or trafficked when they turn 18, to manage ongoing risk and vulnerability.
- Raising awareness across professionals, young people, parents and carers, residential and foster care settings so that all know how to recognise the signs and take appropriate actions to keep themselves and others safe

3. Prevention

We want to prevent children experiencing any issues of MET in the first place.

We will achieve this by:

- Raising the awareness of issues associated exploitation, missing from home, education and care; and trafficking

- Training frontline practitioners to identify the indicators of exploitation and trafficking and intervening quickly and effectively when there are concerns about individual or groups of children or suspected perpetrators.
- Engaging schools, youth provision and voluntary sector agencies in helping children understand the risks associated with online communication or behaviours such as going missing
- Engaging and empowering our diverse communities to play a key role in raising awareness of exploitation and trafficking
- Ensuring relevant members of the children's workforce staff are aware of strategies they can use in direct work with children and young people to reduce risk as well as knowing how to involve services which can help with specific situations
- Sharing information and intelligence that result in identification of perpetrators, disruption, prosecution and conviction
- Effective use of independent return interviews is key, so that additional interventions are in place to identify potential exploitation and prevent persistent missing episodes.
- Reducing the number of children and young people who go missing – through early prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases of repeated missing episodes and patterns.

4. Intervene and Support

We want to intervene at the right time and provide appropriate support for children and their families.

We will achieve this by:

- Ensuring that preventative, early help services have a good awareness of MET issues/ plans and are supporting those children who might be identified as at risk of MET
- Ensuring that services are mobilised to reduce the risk of MET and to empower children and young people to improve their safety with support from their family network.
- Ensuring that the workforce are aware of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and their duty under Section 52 of the Act to use the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to report individuals who they suspect are a victim of slavery and/or trafficking. That all children who are victims of trafficking (be that from another country to the UK or internally within the UK) be referred to the Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service.
- Ensuring that we complete health and wellbeing checks for all children and young people reported as missing from home or from care.
- Ensuring that return interviews are used to collate information about the push and pull factors locally and that services are provided that address the issues identified.
- Providing accessible services for children who have been sexually exploited.
- Reducing the risk of harm to those who go missing – by ensuring local agencies provide a tailored, risk based response and work together to find the person, to investigate cases and causes, sharing key information.
- Providing missing children and young people and their families/carers with support and guidance – by referring promptly to other agencies (if appropriate) and ensuring they understand how and where to access help and support

5. Disrupt and Bring to Justice

We want to identify, disrupt and prosecute those who are intent on exploiting children

We will do this by:

- Developing a problem profile of perpetrators that can be shared with multi-agency partners

- Ensure there is an appropriate response and effective management in place for perpetrators of exploitation who are under the age of 18; and for victims who may also be perpetrators (as children may be coerced to act as exploiters, as well as acting as exploiters under their own volition)

- Ensuring that information and intelligence relating to victims is shared

- Ensuring that disruption activity is undertaken to break the patterns/ cycle of offending

- Support the development of a risk mapping database to identify particular "hotspots" and emerging concerns about particular localities, addresses, businesses or professions, particularly those related to the night time economy.

- Coordinate multi-agency activities targeted in identified 'hotspots' to providing information to young people to improve their resilience and stay safe; and equip parents and carers with simple strategies to keep their children safe

- Using Civil Orders to assist investigations, restrict and manage perpetrators, and safeguard victims/ potential victims.

- Investigate each episode of missing to understand the causes and to establish reasons for it. Where criminality is identified, ensuring that investigation, and disruption, of the criminal activity takes place.

Governance

The PSCB is the responsible body for the strategy and action plan which supports and influences work across Portsmouth to safeguard children who are victims or at risk of exploitation, missing from home or care, and child trafficking. The PSCB will hold partner agencies to account for their own agency's plan and actions.

Progress of this strategy will be monitored by the PSCB MET Committee which reports directly to the Board and provides regular 6 monthly progress reports. This group has multi-agency representation and is responsible for the policy and performance of the work to address these issues and improve practice. This is achieved by developing and monitoring progress against an agreed detailed action plan, taking into account local need and learning from national research and practice.

A multi-agency, operational MET group has also been established to monitor and develop the front-line practices across Portsmouth in relation to the five key areas above. The chair of this group is a member of the strategic group to ensure there is a clear join up of the strategic direction and operational delivery.

Principles Underpinning the Work of the PSCB MET Committee

➢ We will have the safety and wellbeing of the child at the centre of everything we do

➢ We will focus our work on prevention, early identification and intervention as well as disruption and bringing perpetrators to justice

➢ We will analyse the family circumstances of children affected by MET to identify if there are any themes or trends that can help ensure services and support are directed to those most vulnerable

➢ We will continue to enhance our partnership model for MET arrangements in Portsmouth and keep a working action plan

➢ We will scrutinise, challenge, monitor and review our work to ensure that it is making a positive difference in the lives of children and families.

➢ We will report to the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Board on a 6 monthly basis

➢ We will continue to liaise with neighbouring authorities to share good practices and that we are strengthening safeguarding arrangements across borders.

Strategic Objectives for:

Exploitation

- All relevant professionals have a good understanding of the prevalence, risk factors and indicators of exploitation and have a good understanding of the referral pathways to use when they are concerned about a child

- Children and young people, parents and carers, and members of the wider community have increased awareness of exploitation

- Children and young people at risk of exploitation and other related risks are identified and effectively supported to prevent them from becoming victims of exploitation

- Victims of exploitation are supported towards positive outcomes

- The activities of perpetrators are either effectively disrupted or result in successful prosecutions.

Missing

- Effective use of performance data, return interviews and advocacy services to better understand the needs of children who go missing.

- Improved risk assessment procedures to provide a better co-ordinated response to cases of missing children.

- Strengthening of partnership working to ensure consistent and robust information sharing and pooling of resources to provide support to children at risk .and their families.

- Alignment of practice and recording data.

- Improving our strategic approach to addressing the needs of missing children.

- Strengthened strategic planning and preventative work to inform practice and reduce the number of missing children.

Trafficking

- Ensure professionals have the understanding, knowledge and access to clear procedures to ensure they can act swiftly and with confidence to protect vulnerable children and young people.

- Recognises the danger of trafficked children being criminalised and will assist professionals to identify those victims and facilitate their access to, safe accommodation advice and support.

- Ensure thorough and holistic assessments on arrival into the UK are provided so as to ensure safety from trafficking and exploitation.
- Implement interim safety packages for all children and young people who arrive in Portsmouth from overseas where trafficking may be a concern, whilst further assessment is undertaken.

Priority Areas for Portsmouth MET Strategy

By analysing the PSCB dataset and reviewing national and local research; the MET Committee has identified 3 priority areas and 2 areas of focus for the next two years (2018-2020)

Priorities:

1. **Exploitation**

   The learning and best practice in place around Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) should be extended to victims of all forms of exploitation, including Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

2. **Trafficking**

   Any child (0-17 years) transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim. This includes children moved from area to area within the UK for the purposes of exploitation are victims of trafficking, as are those who are brought into the UK from other countries

3. **Radicalisation**

   Portsmouth continues as a Tier 2 priority site for Prevent. We know the children who display the vulnerability factors for exploitation are as likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation and engaging in extremist behaviours.

Areas of Focus:

a. **Cyber enablers**

   Understanding the role of electronic communication as an enabler for exploitation, trafficking and/or radicalisation

b. **Additional vulnerability factors**

   Understanding the potential impact of deprivation and neglect in communities and families to help identify children at risk of exploitation, trafficking and/or radicalisation

MET Operational Group

The Multi-Agency Operational MET Group's purpose is to monitor and develop the front-line practices across Portsmouth. The chair of the MET Operational Group is a member of and reports to the Strategic MET Group to ensure that:

    a. the strategic direction is relevant operationally;

    b. to highlight problematic areas and delivery issues across the City; and

    c. to report cases that are not making sufficient progress and key challenges to the Strategic MET Group.

Membership

The MET Operational Group is co-chaired by the Edge of Care Service Leader, from the Local Authority's Children and Families Service and a Detective Inspector from Hampshire Constabulary's Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team. The following services all contribute to the group either through attendance at the meeting or by submission of written updates in advance of the meeting:

- Barnardo's
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Children's & Families Service
- Education
- Licencing

- Health
- Substance Misuse
- Youth Offending Team
- Housing
- CAMHS

Structure

The MET Operational Group structure comprises of two meetings:

1. **Quality assurance discussion** between the co-chairs considering information, updates and new referrals received from case holders in order to agree risk ratings for children. The purpose of this is to:

   - Maintain an agreed grading (between Police and Children & Families Services) of all children considered to be at risk of criminal and sexual exploitation, those regularly going missing and those who are at risk of or have been trafficked.
   - To problem-solve any cases that are not making sufficient progress and to consider how best this will be addressed so as to ensure risk is reduced.
   - Ensure that a current risk assessment has been completed using the Portsmouth Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool.
   - Ensure that each Medium and High risk child has an appropriate Early Help or safeguarding response including a lead professional and a multi-agency plan in place.

2. **Information and intelligence sharing meeting** to support disruption and policing activity and will consider:

   - New persons of interest to include victims and perpetrators,
   - Ongoing investigations,
   - Locations of concern
   - Emerging issues
   - Gaps in service provision and how agencies attending the meeting might be able to respond to the outstanding need
   - Impact analysis

How will we know we are being effective?

Through our concerted and coordinated drive to effectively tackle the risks posed to children from going missing, being exploited and/or trafficked, we expect to be able to demonstrate ongoing progress towards the following outcomes:

- All relevant professionals have a better understanding of the risk factors and prevalence of all forms of exploitation in their area

- Children and young people, parents, carers and the wider community have an increased awareness of risks relating to all form of exploitation

- There is improved identification of children and young people at risk of all forms of exploitation and other related risks – measured by the number of contacts made with Exploitation leads and MASH from all relevant agencies

- More young people are disclosing being at risk of exploitation

- There is increasing evidence of effective prevention of all forms of exploitation of those at risk - vulnerabilities in individual young people have been addressed leading to their category of risk reducing over time

Appendix 1 - Dataset

Performance management of the MET Strategy will be the responsibility of the Portsmouth Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Committee (PMET Committee - previously the CSE Committee).

Primary indicators:

- Proportion of children and young people identified as being at risk of CSE who move from 'high' risk to 'low risk'.
- Proportion of children and young people thought to have been trafficked who are effectively safeguarded.
- Proportion of suspected perpetrators successfully disrupted, prosecuted and convicted.
- Proportion of children and young people who have an independent return interview having gone missing.
- Proportion of frontline staff that have been effectively trained in identifying the signs of CSE and trafficking.
- Impact evaluation of training and awareness-raising activity.

Data requirements:

- Number of children and young people identified as being at risk or the victim of exploitation or trafficking;
- Number of risk assessments completed*;
- Number of NRM referrals
- Number of children and young people identified as trafficked (or suspected to be trafficked);
- Number of children going missing once in 90 days, twice in 90 days, three times in 90 days
- Number of independent return interviews offered and completed;
- Use of disruption techniques e.g. number of Child Abduction Warning Notices issued;
- Number of frontline staff trained*;
- Number of awareness-raising activities delivered*;
- Number of CPI forms completed and passed to Police Intelligence Team*.
- Number of prosecutions brought;
- Number of children who are smuggled
- Number of convictions secured.

Data collected for the outputs marked with * will be triangulated to help identify where focussed work may be required with a particular agency.

Appendix 2 - National and Local Context

<u>**Child Sexual Exploitation**</u>

National Context: In February 2017, the UK government identified CSE as a national threat in the UK. The government have also launched the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. The centre is funded by the Home Office, led by Barnardo's, and works to help bring about significant and system wide change in how child sexual abuse is responded to locally and nationally by generating and sharing high quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle child sexual abuse in regards to policy and practice. In the centre's first publications in 2017 they identified that:

- 785,000 children aged 11-17 experienced any type of sexual abuse during childhood. 228,000 experienced contact sexual abuse in childhood (2009).

- • 53,811 child sexual abuse offences were recorded by police in England & Wales in 2015/16.

- • 10.5% girls and 2.6% boys had experienced any form of sexual abuse by an adult before the age of 16.

- • 3.4% girls and 0.6% boys had experienced penetrative offences (including attempts by an adult before the age of 16). In addition the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse identified that there was mixed data regarding perpetrators. The police recorded information suggests there were 6,107 CSE offenders in 2017; 93% were male and 7% were female. The average age of a perpetrator was 26 years old.

Profile in Portsmouth: The issue of sexual exploitation is present in every town and city across the United Kingdom. There is no more or less of an issue with child sexual exploitation in Portsmouth than in any other Local Authority. There is a culture within Portsmouth of listening to children and young people and taking allegations of abuse seriously, ensuring concerns are investigated and addressed.

The PSCB MET Committee are working hard to develop a multi-agency agreed data set which reflects the nature and level of sexual exploitation. The table below shows the data provided from the Operational MET Group of the number of children for whom they'd received a CSE risk assessment during Apr 2016-Mar 2017

Number of children identified as being at:	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4		
	Apr	**May**	**Jun**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**
(a) high risk of CSE	5	2	2	3	2	2	4	6	5	5	7	5
(b) medium risk of CSE	24	32	33	24	27	25	28	27	29	24	20	17
(c) low risk of CSE	13	22	23	14	15	17	20	27	24	17	18	15
Total number identified at risk of CSE	42	56	58	41	44	44	52	60	58	46	45	37

We know from the data provided by Hampshire Constabulary that only 13 people were arrested for offences linked to CSE, and of these only 2 were charged with crimes linked to CSE during 2016-17.

<u>**Criminal Exploitation and County Lines**</u>

There is currently no legal definition of criminal exploitation. However in the Home Office publication *Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults: County Lines Guidance* (July 2017) it is described as 'criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults is a geographically widespread form of harm that is a typical feature of county lines activity. It is a harm which is relatively little known about or recognised by those best placed to spot its potential victims. It can be best understood as 'involving exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person/s receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them

completing a task on behalf of another individual or group of individuals; this is often of a criminal nature. Child criminal exploitation often occurs without the child's immediate recognition, with the child believing that they are in control of the situation. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young persons limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability'.

Radicalisation and Extremism

Safeguarding children from radicalisation and extremism is no different from safeguarding them from other forms of harm. In a number of cases the concerns around the individual may go beyond being vulnerable to extremism.

Channel is the name for the multi-agency process of identifying and referring a person for early intervention and support for those at risk of radicalisation. It is a key element of the Prevent strategy.

Missing

National Context: There are no exact figures for the number of children who go missing or run away. The Children's Society "Still Running" survey estimates around 100,000 children under the age of 16 go missing from home or care every year across the United Kingdom. Children in local authority care are particularly vulnerable to going missing. Research called "Heading back to harm" by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT) and Missing People published in November 2016 discovered an alarmingly high number of children go missing from care. Between September 2014 10 and September 2015, 28% of trafficked children (167 children) in care and 13% of unaccompanied children from abroad (593 children) in care went missing at least once.

Profile in Portsmouth:

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Total number of missing episodes of persons under 18;	292	427	424	434
Number of children going missing - 3 times in 90 days or more	51	62	48	40

Trafficking

National Context: The National Crime Agency established in 2009 the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which provides a way for all agencies to share information across the country for greater detection of victims and perpetrators regarding trafficking. From July 2015 the NRM was extended to all victims of modern slavery following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The number of children referred to the National Referral Mechanism identified as being trafficked was 1,278 in 2016. The majority of children were reported to have been exploited through forced labour, including forced criminality such as cannabis cultivation. The most prominent country of origin for trafficked children was the UK, with a total of 255 reported cases, followed by Albania (227), Vietnam (227), Afghanistan (74), and Eritrea (48). The largest increase was in the number of UK national children reported to have been abused through sexual exploitation. There was a 104.8% rise from the previous year, reflecting the growing awareness of trafficking offences being closely linked to sexual exploitation.

"Heading back to harm" by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT) and Missing People (2016), identified an alarmingly high number of unaccompanied children from abroad who are located in the UK and who go missing from care very quickly. Many have not been

found after they go missing. Between September 2014 and September 2015, 207 missing, trafficked or unaccompanied children had not been found.

Profile in Portsmouth:

There is a growing understanding that trafficking can be both internal and external, yet there appears to be a gap in identification at the moment, with few internal trafficking cases being identified. The training offer around trafficking this year will be reviewed to ensure that it covers new developments in legislation, understanding and provision.

The Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy (ICTA) Service delivered by Barnardo's launched on 30th January 2017. Portsmouth is part of the early adopter site of Hampshire County and to date has received to date 56 referrals, 29 of these have been from Portsmouth. The ICTA Service is the statutory provision for the next 2 years with the Home Office contract of specialist support as there is now the duty to notify in line with the Modern Slavery Act.

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
No. of Victims of Trafficking offences under 18	0	0	1	11
Number of NRM referrals relating to those U18	0	0	1	26
Number of U18 brought into police custody relating to illegal immigration.	3	1	0	4

Unaccompanied Minors (UAMS)

Between April 2016 and March 2017, 39 unaccompanied minors (UAMs) were located in Portsmouth and subsequently accommodated by Portsmouth City Council. The number has significantly increased over the last four years, from just 9 in 2012-13. The Local Authority has continued to develop targeted services with Barnardo's, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army so as to promote inclusion and community cohesion. The table shows the breakdown of sex, age and ethnicity of UAMs arriving in Portsmouth during 2016-17.

Sex		**Age**		**Ethnicity**	
Male	38	10yrs	1	Afghan	4
Female	1	13yrs	1	Albanian	10
		14yrs	4	British	1
		15yrs	3	Eritrean	1
		16yrs	15	Iranian	2
		17yrs	14	Iranian Kurd	3
		18yrs	1	Iraqi	3
				Iraqi Kurd	7
				Libyan	1
				Sudanese	3
				Syrian	2
				not recorded	2

It is interesting that the largest cohort of unaccompanied minors continue to be Albanian - albeit that this seems to be reducing (43% 2015/16 to 26% 2016/17). A pattern of missing behaviours is emerging with this cohort of young people and this is currently under investigation so as to consider the connections between these young people - pre and post accommodation by Portsmouth City Council.

Appendix 3 - Operational Tools

CSE Risk Assessment Toolkit

Based on the Derby Tool and developed for Portsmouth by a small multi-agency working group, Portsmouth's CSE risk assessment toolkit is intended to:

- Enable professionals to assess a child or young person's level of risk of CSE in a concise and consistent manner;
- Provide guidance on effective interventions to safeguard children;
- Improve how the city disrupts exploitation and how agencies work together to secure the prosecution of perpetrators.

The toolkit has been designed to assist assessment and planning for vulnerable children. It does not replace existing single assessment processes or Asset +. The toolkit enhances these assessments and assists practitioners in both the exercise of their professional judgement and decision-making.

Children Missing From Home or From Care Toolkit, Safe & Well Checks and Return Interviews

A missing toolkit has been developed to provide

a) A simple risk assessment tool so we can have a shared understanding about children going missing from home or care and assist police in grading the incidence as high, medium or low risk.

b) Guidance for practitioners in identifying children at risk of going missing

c) Guidance and tools for practitioners to support children making different decisions and reducing the incidents of missing, particularly repeat missing episodes.

Safe and well checks are carried out by the police as soon as possible after a missing child has been found and are intended to check for any indications that the child has suffered harm, establish where they have been and with whom and provide the child with an opportunity to disclose any offending by or against them.

Subsequently - and within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care setting - the child is offered a return interview, which provides an opportunity to uncover information that can help to protect the child from: the risk of going missing again; risks they may have been exposed to while they were missing; and/or risk factors in their home or care setting.

The return interview should be completed by a worker independent of the care arrangements (e.g. social worker, police officer, independent visitor, but not the foster carer or residential worker)

Following completion of these, the responsible agencies should work together to build up a comprehensive picture of: why the child went missing; what happened to them while they were missing; who they were with and where they were; and what support they will need following their return. The information collated will allow practitioners to grade ongoing risk of missing episodes.

The outcomes of both the check and the interview should be recorded on the child's case file to ensure that the information can be shared with professionals to assist in case planning and wider strategic planning and that the child's views are taken into account.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

As part of its implementation of the Council of Europe Convention, the UK Government created a National Referral Mechanism (NRM):

The NRM is a victim identification and support process which is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking case – e.g. police, Home

Office UK Visas and Immigration Directorate, local authorities, Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in Northern Ireland, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – to co-operate; to share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support.

For children, a formal referral into the NRM is made by a first responder. In England, these include local authority children's services, the UK Border Force, Home Office Immigration & Visas, the Police, and certain NGOs including Barnardo's.

Completion of the NRM is intended to help children's services put a focused and appropriate response in place for the child by ensuring that all of the available information is gathered and shared quickly between partners. It is also an important tool in the fight against those who commit the crime of trafficking; evidence collected from referrals helps to build a national picture and informs the decisions of policy makers and operational staff.

A referral into the NRM and the subsequent decisions do not replace or supersede established child protection processes, which should continue. Any disclosure of information by the victim of trafficking following submission of the NRM, that are relevant to the trafficking claim should be submitted to the NRM Hub by the First Responder, so that an informed decision can be made by the Competent Authority.

Appendix 4 - Hampshire Constabulary Community Partnership Information AD362 Guidance

This form is for the sharing of non-urgent information by partner agencies that relates to the Missing, Exploited and Trafficked agenda and related issues; such as **Modern Slavery.** This form can also be used for information relating to Community Cohesion and related concerns such as **Tensions, Political Unrest, Racial** and **Religious** issues, **Immigration, Asylum** and **Refugees,** and **Anti-Social Behaviour.** Information associated with **Organised Crime** activity, including rual is also sought. This form is not a referral form, nor does it replace any pre- existing referral or notification mechanism. This information may be sanitised and used in subsequent partnership forums for the purposes of identifying and mitigating risk. Any questions or concerns regarding this form can be raised with your Police contact, or to the FIB. Completed forms should be sent electronically to 24/7-intel@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Your details			
Name			
Organisation			
Telephone		**Email**	
Information Including date & location			
Information Source			
Where did this information come from?			
Name			
Date of Birth		**Email**	
Address			
Can they be re-contacted? If yes provide details	O Yes O No Telephone Email		

How did they find this information out?
When did they find this information out?
Who else have you shared this information with?