

BARNARD'S

**National
Counter
Trafficking.
Centre**

Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship

Welcome!





- Look after yourself - some topics or discussions can be difficult



- Be respectful of each other's views and experiences



- Confidentiality



- Safeguarding



- Online etiquette

The ICTG Service

The Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) Service - set out in Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

2017 - Pilot areas

2019 - Review of the Modern Slavery Act

2021 - ICTG Service rolled out further across the UK - now operates in 2/3 UK LA area's





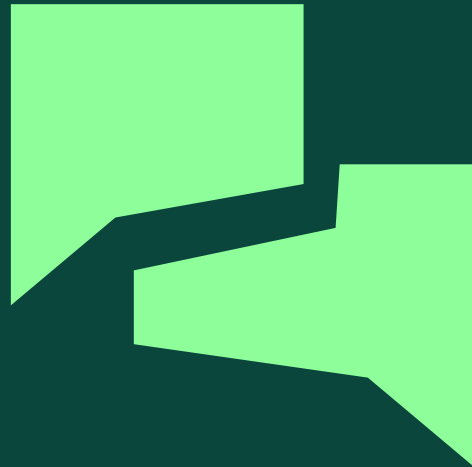
Interim Guidance for Independent Child Trafficking Guardians

May 2024

The ICTG Service



Guardianship Assessment
Team: Initial response



ICTG support: direct and
indirect



National training and
practice development

ICTG Support

Direct Support

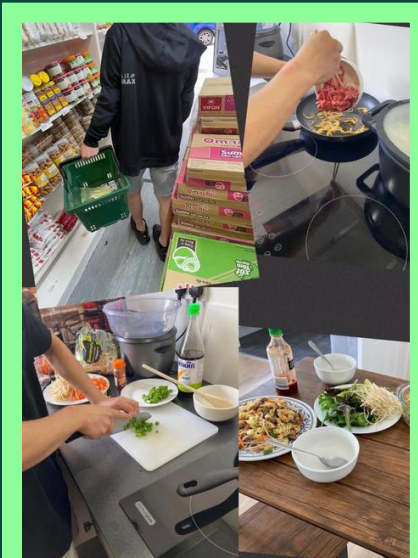
- Face to face and virtual
- Without adult with parental responsibility in UK
- Working to ensure the child is protected from further harm, preventing repeat victimisation, re-trafficking or going missing and promoting the child's recovery.

Indirect Support

- Part of professional group around the child
- With adult with parental responsibility in UK
- Providing specialist advice and guidance to professionals to reduce risk and prevent re-trafficking

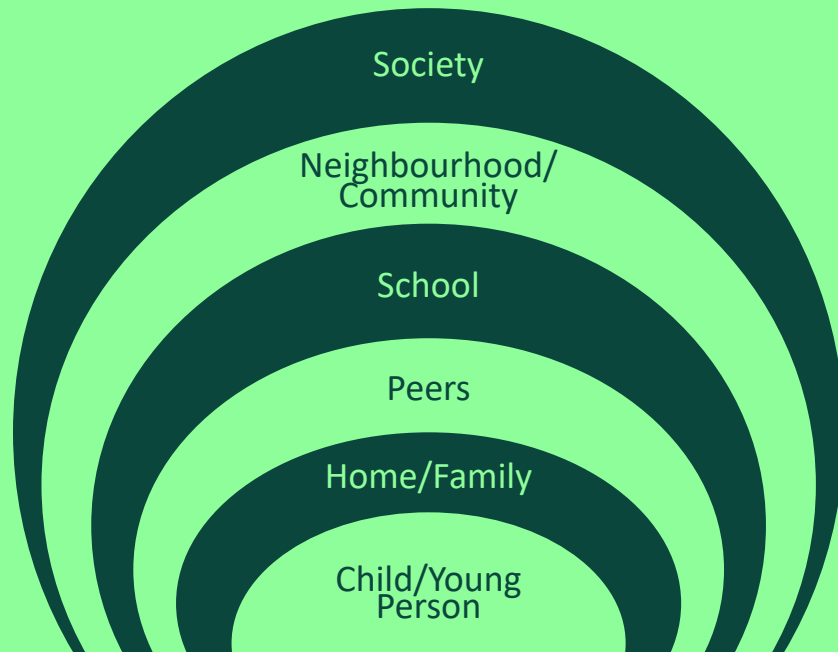
ICTG Direct Support

- Direct, face to face support
- Ensuring the child is protected from further harm, preventing possible repeat victimisation, re-trafficking or going missing and promoting the child's recovery



ICTG Indirect Support

- Indirect support - professionals around the child
- Providing advice and guidance to professionals to reduce risk and prevent re-trafficking



BARNARDOS

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Counter
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Centre

ICTG Roles and Pathways



24 Hour Support Line - 0800 0434303

Section 48 : Independent Child Trafficking Guardians

Support children with indicators of trafficking—no NRM needed for referral

Promote the child's well-being and act in the child's best interests.

Work alongside other partners to safeguard and disrupt

ICTG service can support children directly and professionals, indirectly to advise and signpost

Referral to ICTG service "as soon as reasonably practicable" where there are indicators of trafficking

Public authorities must "pay due regard" to the ICTG role and share all relevant information to enable them to carry out their role

Outcomes for children and young people affected by modern slavery

An analysis of Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship
service support in England and Wales

Research Summary

March 2024

Authors: Dr Anna Skeels and Dr Katy Huxley, SPARK, Cardiff University and Hannah Stott,
Safe to Grow

What Children and Professionals say about the ICTG Service

"I just wanted to tell you how positive it has been having (ICTG) work with my young people over the past year"



"Thanks, for your involvement and knowledge that has contributed to our trying to get to grips with understanding (the Young Person) and the worries we all share about his lived life"

"I don't know how to thank you for what you do with me"
"Thank you for taking care of me"

"I was a ruined person. You made me enjoy life again"

"You're welcome, I'm happy with you"
"You're so kind"
"Thank you so much"

Understand what the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is

Overview of the decision-making process

Overview of how to make an NRM referral

Understand how the NRM can be of benefit to a child

Overview of what the SCA are looking for when making NRM decisions



What is the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)?

Framework for the identification and mapping of potential victims which informs the strategic response

Triggers a modern slavery criminal investigation

UK's official statistics and data recording system

Gateway / Access to support

Duty to notify

Consent

What is the Single Competent Authority (SCA)?

Responsible for all child NRM decisions

Serious and Organised Crime Directorate of the Home Office

Devolved NRM decision making pilots

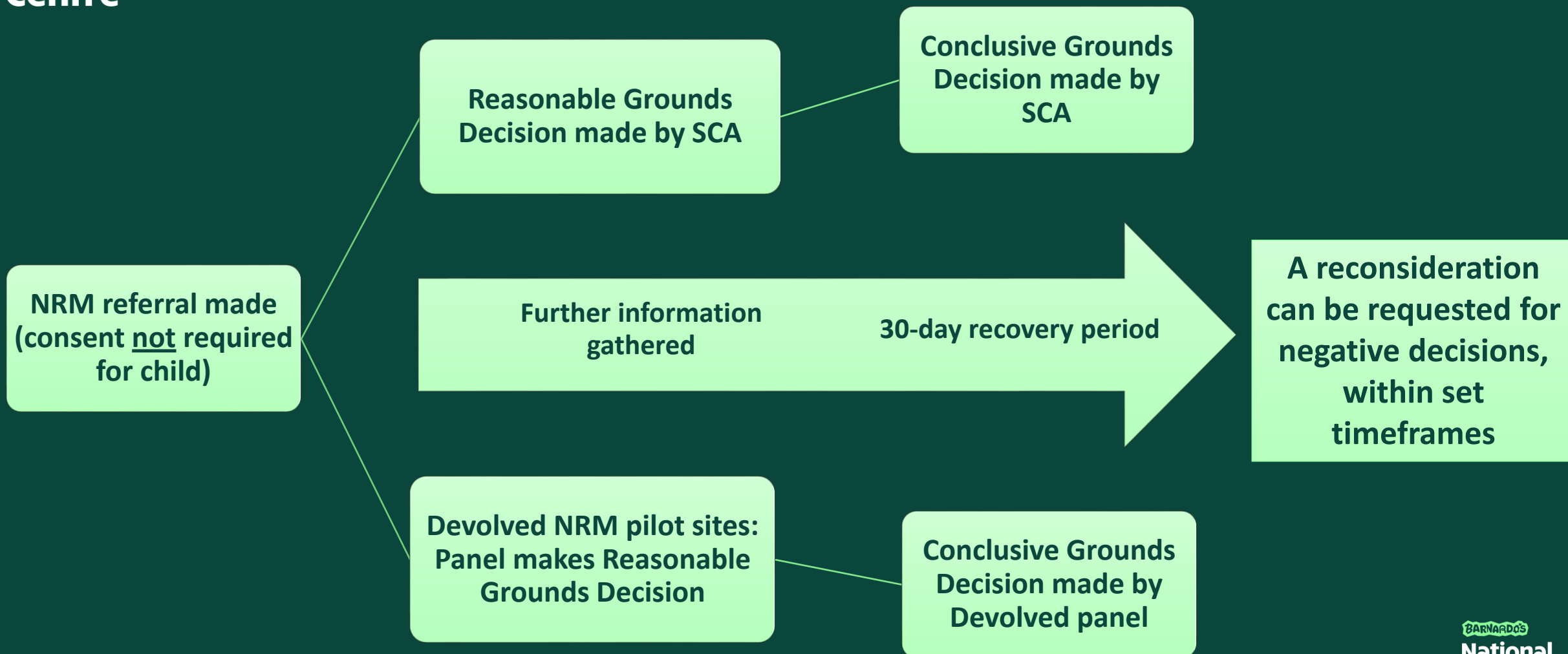
Safeguarding Children and NRM

NRM sits alongside existing child safeguarding procedures – it does not replace them

An NRM referral alone will not safeguard a child – it is not meant to



NRM Process



NRM Statistics 2023 - 2024

Figure 3: Number of NRM referrals by age group of referral

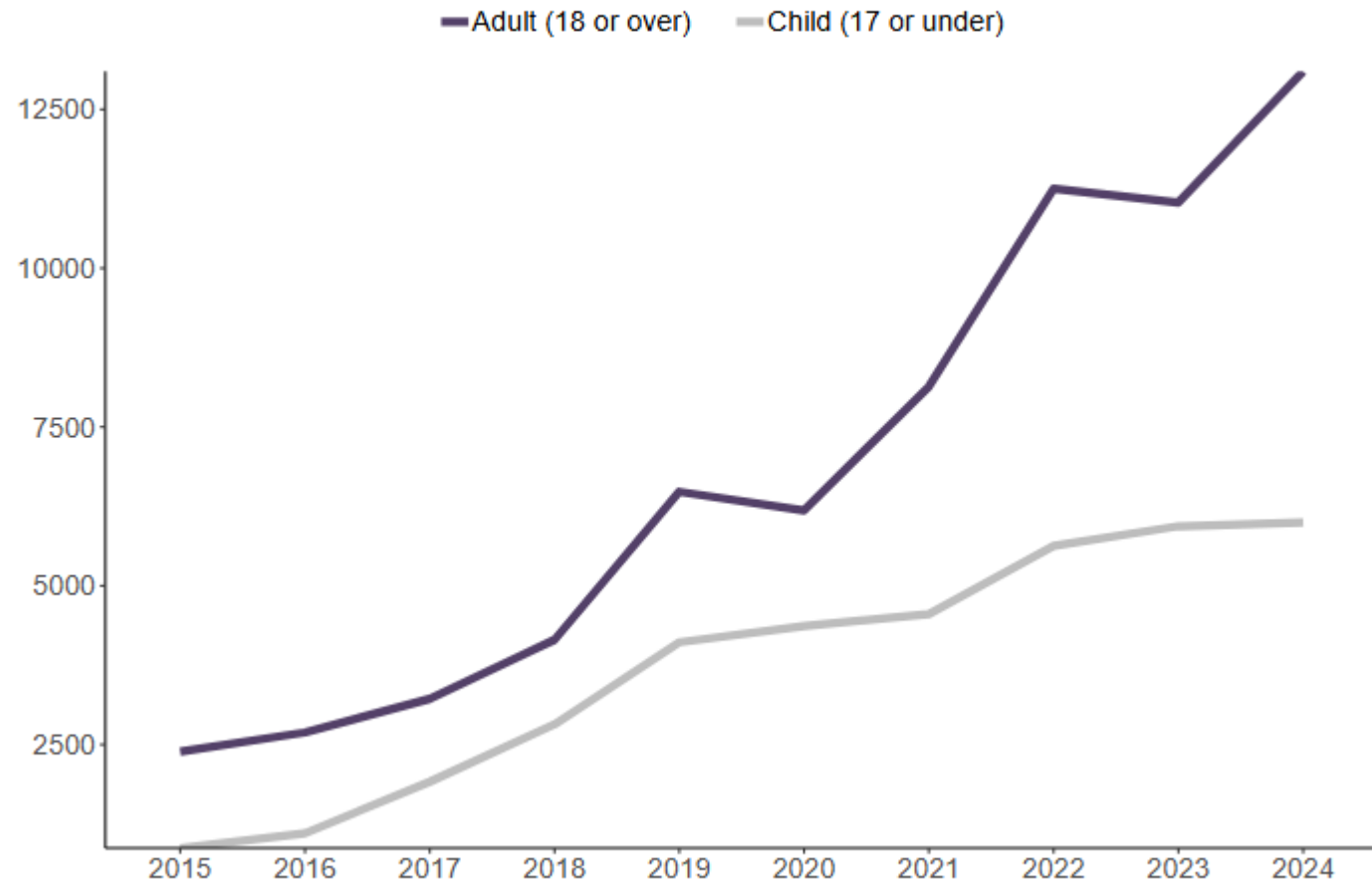


Figure 7: Number of NRM referrals, by exploitation type and age at referral

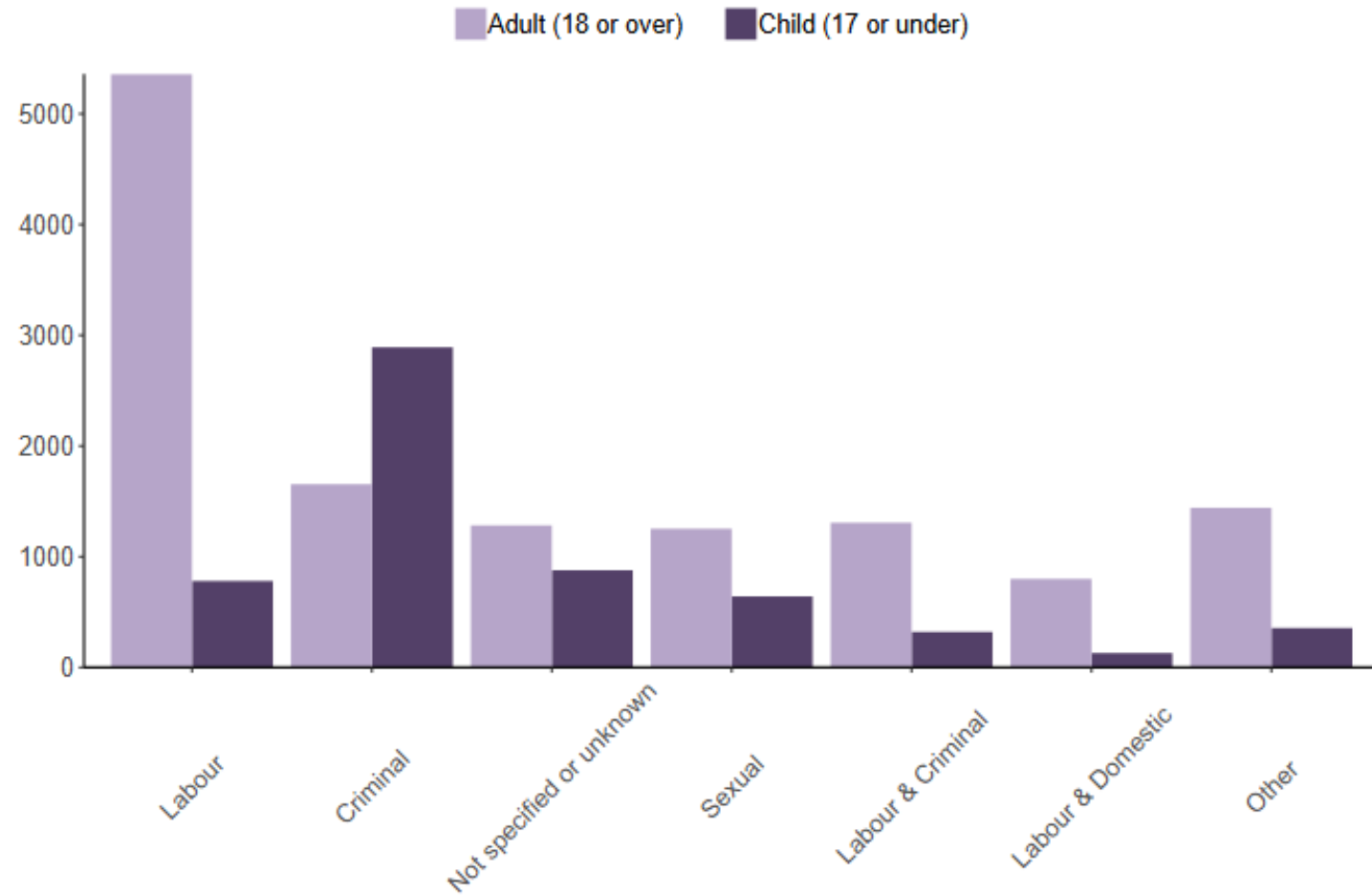
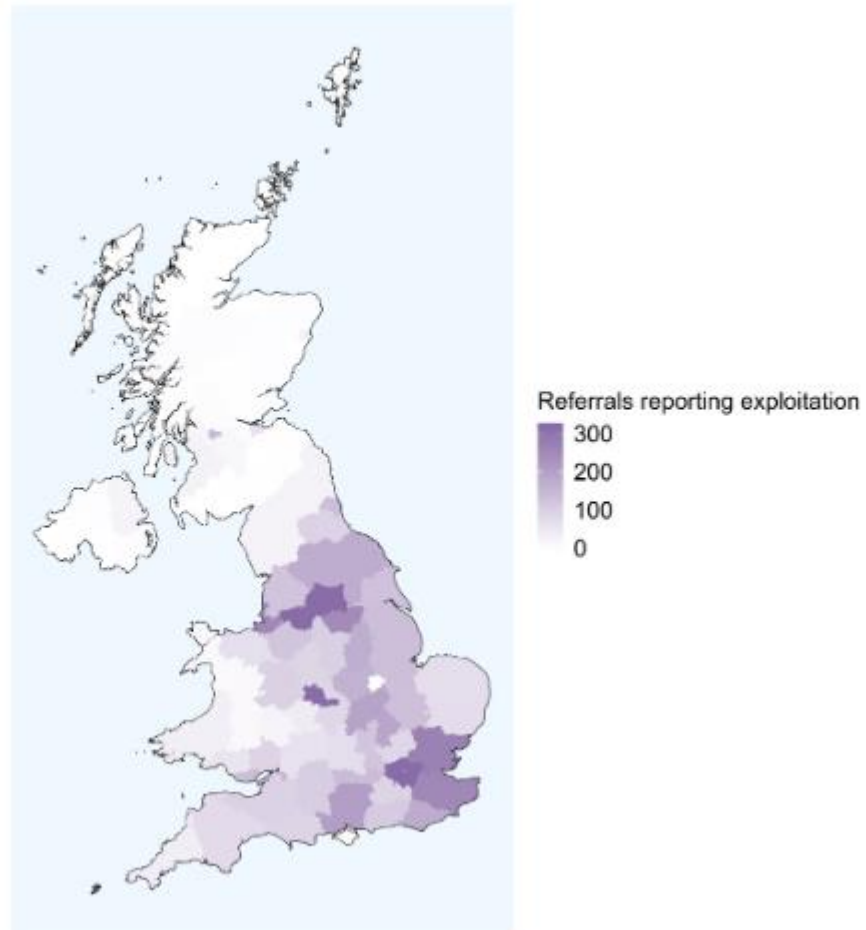


Figure 5: Number of NRM referrals reporting exploitation in UK counties



BETA This is a new service – your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

Report modern slavery

If you're a first responder working for a [designated organisation](#) like the police, you can use this service to:

- refer potential victims of any age to the National Referral Mechanism
- help potential victims receive support and medical care
- notify the Home Office of potential victims (Duty to Notify)

If you do not do anything for 60 minutes while using this service, we will sign you out to keep your information secure. You will lose any unsaved progress.

You can save your progress for up to a month.

You'll need to give your email address to securely access the service.

Start now >

Report as a member of the public

You can still report modern slavery as a member of the public. Call the modern slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700 or [report it online](#).

First responder guidance

[Guidance on NRM and Duty to Notify](#)

[Find a support provider](#)

[Download report questions](#)

[NRM Toolkit for First Responders in Scotland](#)



Interviewing a potential victim offline: prompt sheet

Home Office

Section 1 – Age confirmation

Is the potential victim under 18?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

If Yes or Not sure is selected complete Section 2 - Local Authority.

If No please continue to Section 3 - Potential Victim's background.

Were they under 18 at any time during the exploitation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

Section 2 – Local authority (for child referrals only)

You must contact the relevant local authority to safeguard the child before you continue.
You must do this even if they're in detention.

If the child is in an Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (ICTG) area you will also need to refer them to the ICTG service.

Name of local authority

Phone number of local authority contact

Email address of local authority contact

First name of local authority contact (if known)

Last name of local authority contact (if known)

Updating the SCA to Aid NRM Decisions

To Single Competent Authority <nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk> X

Cc

NRM Ref. No.

Good Morning SCA

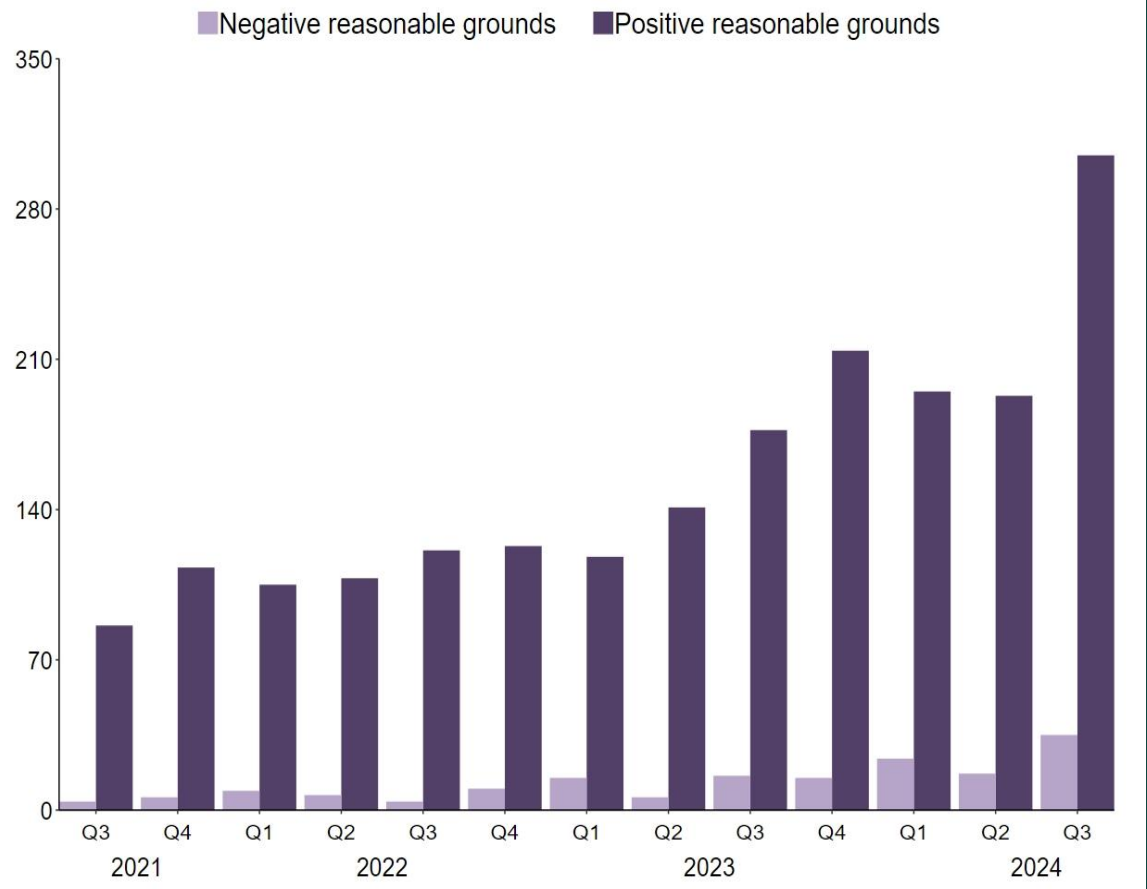
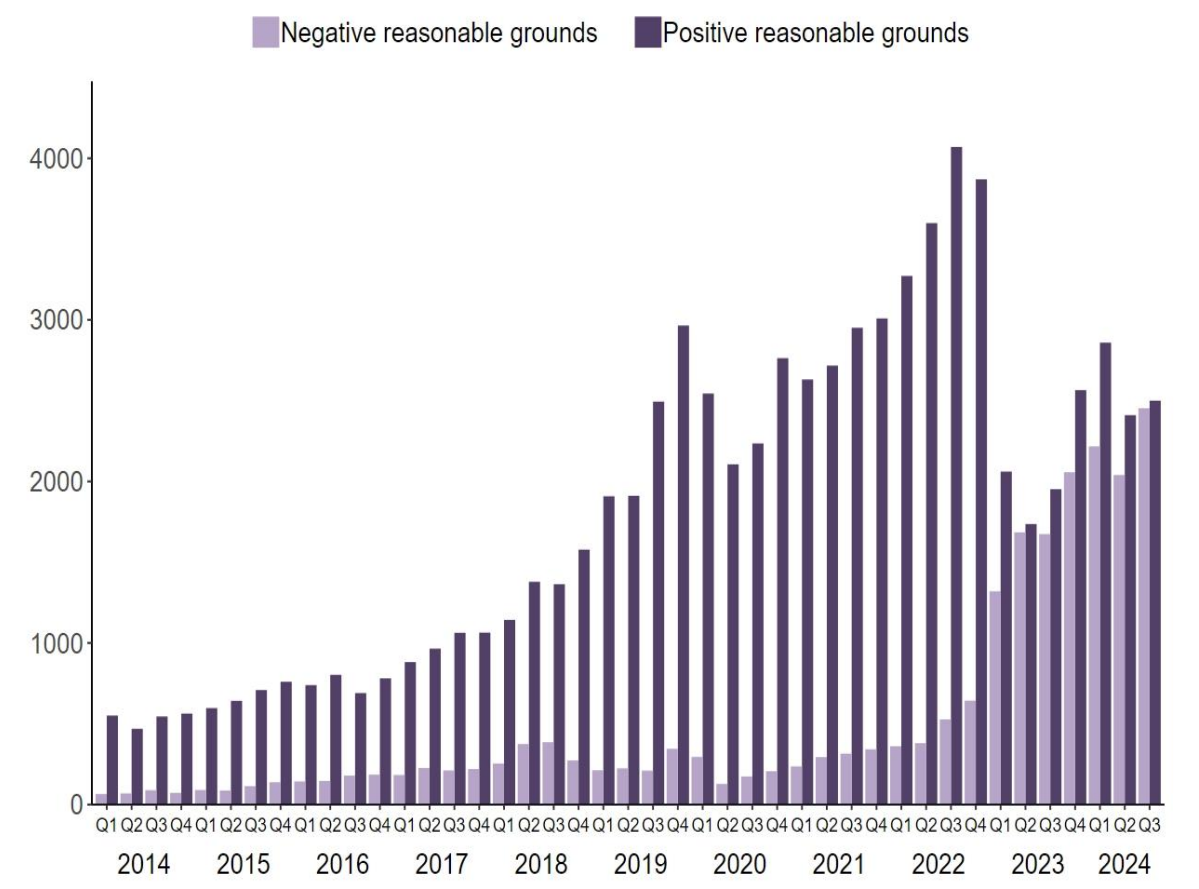
Re. NRM Ref No. **Name.** **DOB.**

For your consideration, please find attached Strategy Meeting Minutes and completed Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Tool to aid decision

Regards

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Issues Affecting Decision Making





- Whilst a full chronology and overview can be important, NRM referrals often need to be more than this



- Provide a professional view and why you are submitting the referral/additional information



- Highlighting which elements represent the relevant components of modern slavery makes technical decision making easier



- Human Trafficking vs Slavery, Servitude, Forced/Compulsory Labour (SSFCL)

How Does NRM Help the Child?



Recognises the child as a victim rather than an offender which helps us work in a more child centred way

Triggers a police investigation into modern slavery offences

Supports police to consider trafficking offences and disruption measures

Triggers a multi-agency safeguarding approach via mapping and disruption plans

Section 45 defence

Supports evidence led prosecutions

Can support young people in criminal justice system

Can support asylum claims

Submitting an NRM referral fulfils the 'Duty to Notify' (S.52)

Evidences the scale of the problem in the UK

NRM - Useful Reminders

Negative decisions can be challenged

Once 18 years of age, signed consent required from them to remain in NRM process

Consider the language you use – is it placing blame on the child?

Very important to record all information about the NRM on a child's records

You can contact SCA for an update on the progress of an NRM referral or to submit additional information

Email: nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk (always include the NRM reference no)

Public authority First Responders have a statutory obligation to refer to the NRM where modern slavery is suspected

[Home](#) > [Crime, justice and law](#) > [Crime prevention](#) > [Modern slavery victims: referral](#)



[Home Office](#)



[UK Visas and Immigration](#)

Guidance

National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales)

Updated 14 May 2024

[Home](#) > [Crime, justice and law](#) > [Crime prevention](#) > [Piloting devolving decision making for child victims of modern slavery](#)



[Home Office](#)

Guidance

Decision making guidance for pilot sites in England and Wales

Updated 5 December 2023

[Home](#) > [Crime, justice and law](#) > [Crime prevention](#)

> [An evaluation of the pilot to devolve decision-making for child victims of modern slavery](#)



[Home Office](#)

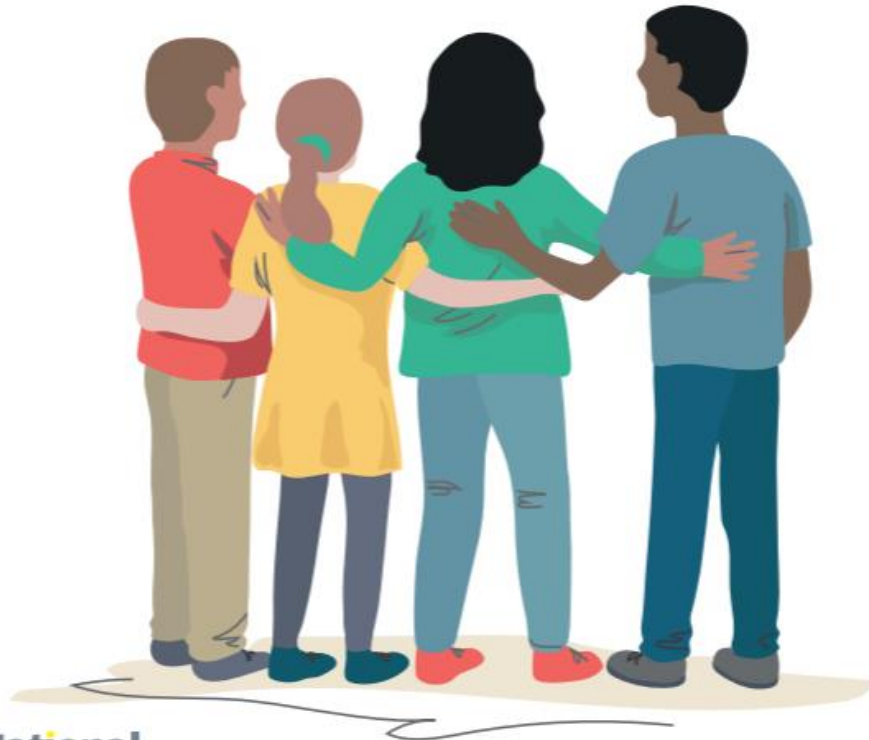
Research and analysis

An evaluation of the pilot to devolve decision-making for child victims of modern slavery

Published 21 May 2024

What is an NRM?

A guide for children and young people



The National Referral Mechanism

A guide for parents

Language

What we say
and write **MATTERS**

Children hear and read what we say about them

Shift the narrative:

Child making their
own choices

VS

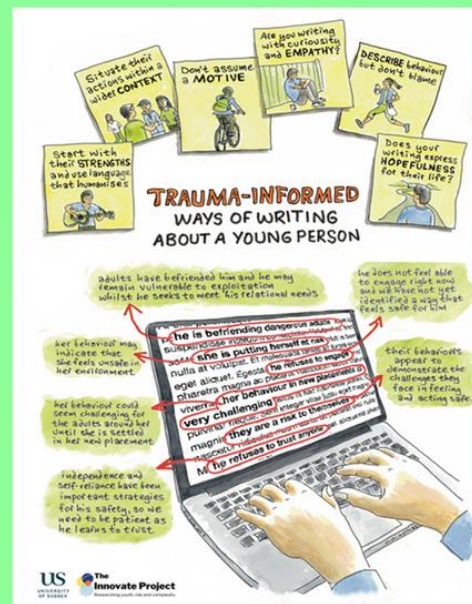
Child being exploited and needing
support and safeguarding action
from professionals

Language matters

Use of language in child sexual abuse & exploitation practice

2024 Review

Created by The Core Priority Programme for Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation



Challenging victim blaming language and behaviours when dealing with the online experiences of children and young people

UK Council for Internet Safety

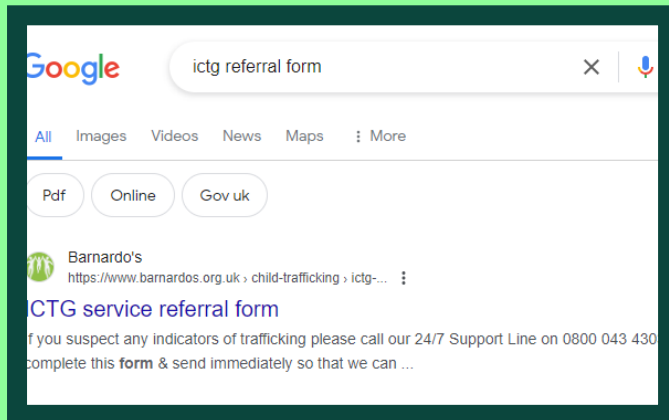
The Children's Society

Appropriate Language in Relation to Child Exploitation

Guidance for Professionals

How to Refer to ICTG?

Online form - Google
Search: ICTG Referral
Form

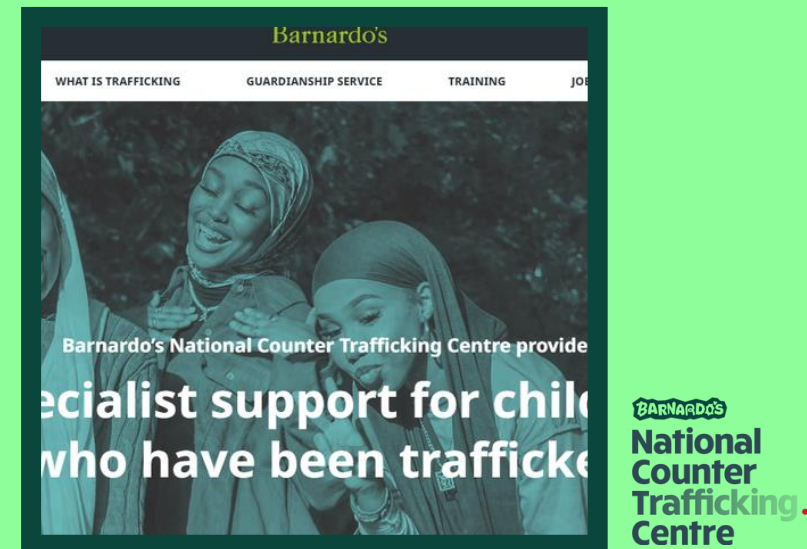


**24/7
Support**



0800 043 4303

More info about
the service:
www.nctc.org.uk



**PLEASE
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YOUR
FEEDBACK**



**FOLLOW OUR
LINKEDIN PAGE**

ANY QUESTIONS?

FURTHER QUESTIONS:

ICTGREFERRALS@BARNARDOS.ORG.UK

**CHECK THE NATIONAL COUNTER
TRAFFICKING CENTRE WEBSITE FOR
MORE SESSIONS:**

[HTTPS://NCTC.ORG.UK/TRAINING](https://nctc.org.uk/training)