Different methods of transport are used by traffickers to bring children in to Scotland and children may be detected as being at risk when they enter the country, but often go missing within 48 hours as their trafficker finds them. Traffickers will use force if necessary to recapture individuals.

**Useful numbers:**

If you suspect a child or young person is a victim of trafficking, contact the police immediately on Tel: 0131 311 3131

National Child Trafficking Advice & Information Line
Tel: 0800 107 7057

Contact your local Integrated Children’s Services Office.

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**Child Trafficking**

Is the movement of children and young people for exploitative purposes.

**Child Trafficking**

Is not about migration or immigration – a child can find him or herself a victim of trafficking whatever their nationality or immigration status.

**Child Trafficking**

Is defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation”.

*Palermo Protocol*

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Child Trafficking

Children and young people often do not know they have been trafficked. They may have arrived with adults they know, and may still be under the control of their traffickers/exploiters. Traffickers use deception, violence, threats and debt bondage to control the children.

Most children are trafficked for financial gain – sometimes by organised gangs and in other cases individual adults or agents traffic children for their own personal gain.

All children and young people who are identified as having been trafficked fall within the local Child Protection Guidelines.

Child Trafficking

is the exploitation of children and is a serious organised crime, usually linked to other crimes such as drug trafficking, prostitution and money laundering.

Children may be trafficked for:

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labour, eg agricultural work, fishing, sweat shop, restaurant or other catering work
- Domestic work
- Drug trafficking
- Petty criminal activity (begging, pick pocketing)
- Benefit fraud
- Forced marriages
- Illegal inter-country adoption
- Other criminal activities

A trafficked child may ...

- Not have money but does have a mobile phone
- Have gone missing from local authority care
- Work in various locations
- Have limited freedom
- Be malnourished and/or neglected
- Not be registered with a GP nor enrolled in a school
- Possess money and goods not accounted for
- Exhibit self-assurance, maturity and self-confidence not expected in a child that age
- Perform excessive household chores

Do you know a child or young person that may have been trafficked or is at risk of being trafficked?

- Have they been brought or moved from another area or country?
- Is the child missing?
- Is the child homeless?
- Is the child working in unsuitable conditions or suspected of being exploited?
- Is the child being looked after by adults who are not family/relatives and this concerns you?
- Are they separated children and young people?
- Is this child being looked after by adults who are not family / relatives?

Scotland is:

- A destination country – for children trafficked from other countries
- A transit country – for children to stop in, on their way to other countries
- A source country – where children are sent to other countries

Little is known about the children being trafficked ...... but even less is known about the traffickers