

The Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy Service launched across 3 Early Adopter sites (Wales, Greater Manchester, Hampshire and Isle of Wight) in January 2017. The ICTA Service has now expanded with the service extended to include West Midlands, East Midlands, and the Local Authority of Croydon due to launch in April 2019.

The Home Office announced a change to the current ICTA model at the end of 2018 following extensive independent data analysis and evaluations with stakeholders across the UK. Following this announcement each Early Adopter Site (Wales, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight & Greater Manchester) has recruited a Regional Practice Co-ordinator (RPC) who will work alongside existing ICTA's to deliver the service. Guidance will be published shortly by the Home Office outlining the updates to the ICTA Service.

ICTA's support all potentially trafficked children up to 18 years of age through direct and indirect support.

The Role of the ICTA Direct Support:

One-to-one ICTA's will provide support on an individual basis to trafficked and potentially trafficked children within the Early Adopter Sites where there is nobody who has effective parental responsibility for that child. This includes:

- Any child from outside the UK who is separated from their family or any person who has parental responsibility for them
- Any child from outside the UK whose parents, or those assuming parental responsibility for them, are suspected as being involved in their trafficking.¹

ICTA support is offered as part of a multi-agency safeguarding approach and includes one to one support for young people, alongside support for professionals involved with their care.

The Role of the ICTA Regional Practice Co-ordinator (RPC):

The RPC will work with professionals to support them in recognising and responding to exploitation and trafficking for internally trafficked children. They will offer individual case consultation for professionals delivering direct work, with a focus on safeguarding within the context of exploitation; and will support in the submission of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism. They will contribute to best practice and strategy development; and support professionals through training and awareness raising sessions to staff teams.

The role of the 24/7 ICTA Support Line:

We offer a 24/7 support line for all ICTA early adopter sites; providing consultation, advice & guidance to professionals who have trafficking concerns for **any** young person who is a potential victim of trafficking including guidance on immediate safety planning.

Referrals for young people eligible for direct work will be allocated to an ICTA who will make contact with the young person within 24 hrs to offer support; they will offer specialist trafficking support for professionals involved with the young person's care.

Referrals for young people eligible for indirect work will be allocated to the RPC who will offer specialist trafficking and exploitation support for professionals involved in the young person's care.

**To make a referral call our 24/7 Support Line on:
0800 043 4303**

¹ This definition is subject to change on publication of updated ICTA guidance from the Home Office

Referral Pathway:

