**Lincolnshire Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and**

**National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Guidance**

If a victim of MDS/ trafficking is under 18, this is child abuse and exploitation. Any professional that is concerned that a child is a victim of MDS/trafficking must follow their organisational safeguarding procedures and make a referral to the Local Authority (Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Children Services [Referrals Procedure](https://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_refer_proce.html)), this is to ensure that Local Authorities are aware of the child and can put in place any necessary measures to safeguard and that the police are made aware that a potential crime has been committed.

Organisations defined as First Responders also have a Duty to Notify the Home Office of potential victims of Modern Day Slavery (MDS) and human trafficking. For potential victims under 18, this Duty is satisfied through the completion of the NRM which is a framework for identifying and recording victims. For details including the list of First Responder Organisations, referral process and online referral form please refer to [**National Referral Mechanism Guidance**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales)**.** The completion of the NRM does not replace organisations statutory safeguarding duties under [*Working Together to Safeguard Children*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2), the referral to the Local Authority should be completed immediately, taking priority over an NRM referral.

If the professional who has concerns about MDS/ trafficking is not from a First Responder Organisation they cannot complete an NRM to notify the Home Office. On completion of the safeguarding referral to LCC Children Services if it is agreed that the child is a potential vicitm of MDS/ trafficking threshold for Children Services intervention will be met and the completetion of the NRM will be the responsibility of the allocated Children Services worker.

NRMs which have been completed regarding MDS/ Trafficking concerns in Lincolnshire are shared from the Home Office to Lincolnshire Police who are responsible for determining the necessary crime investigations. When a Positive Reasonable Grounds decision is made and the potential victim is under 18 years old Lincolnshire Police will request a [Strategy Discussion](https://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_strategy_dis.html) to ensure multi agency response and decision making in regards to the safeguarding concerns. The victim will be discussed at MACE Pre-Screening after the completion of the Strategy Discussion or when the Strategy Request has been considered and the decision has been taken not to progress to a Strategy Discussion. At the MACE Pre-Screening meeting the victim and circumstances of the trafficking concerns will be discussed to inform the wider understanding of exploitation within Lincolnshire and consider if there is an identified need for a full MACE discussion.

* Please see also: [Multi Agency Child Exploitation Meeting Arrangements](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/10908/multi-agency-child-exploitation-meeting-arrangements.docx)

[Guidance for Children's Services Representatives](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/10908/multi-agency-child-exploitation-meeting-arrangements.docx)

* Please see [Appendix 1: Lincolnshire Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms2/media/11405/appendix-1-mace-nrm-process-v40.pdf)

[National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Process](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms2/media/11405/appendix-1-mace-nrm-process-v40.pdf)