**Brief Enquiry (As to Age)**

**Guidance on making a provisional decision on age**

**This guidance should be considered where assessors are determining whether a decision can be made about a person’s age based on their presentation and a brief enquiry or whether a full age assessment is required. The principle that the appearance and demeanour of a person may justify a provisional view that they are a child or an adult is supported by the judgment in the *Merton***​ **case. The guidance is not intended to be exhaustive and assessors should consider all relevant factors that may be presented during an interview, each case being unique.**

*An initial hypothesis of age range is formed based on several relevant factors including but not limited to: height, facial features (facial hair, skin lines/folds, etc.), voice tone, and general impression. It is important to consider racial differences here e.g. It is normal in some cultures for boys to have facial hair at an early age and for girls to develop at different ages. Life experiences and trauma may impact on the ageing process, bear this in mind. Demeanour, it is essential to take account of how the person presents, style, attitude and authority and relate this to the culture of the country of origin and events preceding the interview, journey experiences etc.*

*It is useful to establish the length of time that the person has taken to arrive in the UK from the time they left their country of origin and include this into the age calculation.*

1. **NAME as stated by person** ​ **presenting**​:​ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Age/Date of Birth already stated to police/immigration: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Language Spoken – Interpreter Language requested: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please note if interpreter used at initial [arrest] stage:*

1. **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE and PRESENTATION observations**:​

Are there any immediate health or wellbeing needs?

1. **AGE**

How old are you? What is your date of birth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Ensure the interpreter provides this as stated by the individual presenting to you; for example: 4*​*th*​ *day of the 8*​*th*​ *month [year]*

Note the calendar used by person​ e.g. Afghan/Persian or Gregorian​

How do you know your date of birth?

If someone told you your age, how old were you when they told you?

Do/did you have any ID documents?

Where are these documents now?

How long has it taken you to get to the UK?

Who arranged your journey?

***Note: Please have regard for any indicators that the person presenting may have been trafficked (regardless of age, this makes them additionally vulnerable)***

1. **Other professional’s opinion on age e.g. police, police doctor, immigration official:**
2. **Outcome**

**Do you consider this person to be under the age of 25?**

No/ Yes/Not Sure (*delete as appropriate*​​)

*Note: If the person presenting is accepted as a minor but the age they claim is disputed e.g.*

*claims to be 13 but evidence suggests 16+, then a full age assessment is required to determine age and date of birth more accurately and ensure correct provision of services.*

**This assessment remains subject to review should further information come to light.**

**Next Steps**

If **yes**​ or ​**unsure​ and full assessment therefor required** - request release of young person/possible​ adult into care of Somerset CSC. Ensure that their biodata (photograph and fingerprints) have been collected by Police or Immigration prior to release.

If **no**​, a second opinion can be required (TM or AP). Ensure ‘Over 18 letter’ has been issued and explained fully to the presenting​ adult and that they sign to acknowledge this.

Provide copy to Police/Immigration as necessary and retain copy for Somerset ​LA records.

Take a photograph of the presenting adult for records, providing they give their permission for this to be done.

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* ​Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*​Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: