



## Missing, Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy 2018



## **Introduction**

This approach to missing people, trafficking and exploitation in Angus has been developed across the Protecting People Angus Partnerships. It relates to both children and adults.

## **Foreword by Chair of Chairs and Lead Officers Group, Protecting People Angus**

The development and implementation of this Strategy across Angus is an extremely important step to ensuring the safety of those individuals who are reported missing or who are being or are at risk of being victims of Trafficking and/or Exploitation.

This Strategy clearly sets out the preventative, responsive and supportive actions that should be undertaken by the relevant Agencies and Professionals when dealing with these often complex issues. Consistency of approach is vital and the guidance contained in this Strategy provides very clear information for those involved in situations where people go missing or are being exploited or are suspected to be the victim of Trafficking and/or Exploitation.

This Strategy, which has the full support of all of the Angus Protecting People Partnerships, will further enhance the safety and well-being of vulnerable adults and children across the area and ensure that the work of professionals remains clear and focussed in terms of both prevention and response to these sensitive but very important areas of work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ewen G West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

**Ewen West**

**Independent Chair, Angus Adult Protection Committee**

**Chair, Protecting People Angus Chairs and Lead Officers Group**

## Individuals who are at risk of going missing

[The National Missing Person's Framework for Scotland 2017](#) aims to prevent people from going missing and to limit the harm associated with people going missing. It sets out the key national objectives and the roles and responsibilities of agencies and how they can collectively work together towards these aims and objectives.

*" A missing person is anyone whose whereabouts are unknown and:*

- *Where the circumstances are out of character; or*
- *The context suggests the person may be subject to crime; or*
- *The person is at risk of harm to themselves or another".*

In 2016/17 there were 397 reports of missing persons in Angus to Police Scotland. The majority of these individuals are aged between 13 and 16; with 35% being a looked after child or young person. 73% of those reported as missing are repeat missing persons.

All individuals who go missing are at risk of harm, although some individuals are more vulnerable than others, for example children and adults with dementia.

This strategy, alongside the National Framework has four priorities:

1. To introduce **preventative** measures to reduce the number of episodes of people going missing.
2. To **respond** consistently and appropriately to missing persons episodes.
3. To provide the best possible **support** to missing people and their families.
4. To **protect** vulnerable people to reduce the risk of harm.

## Priorities in Angus

### 1. Prevention

Commitment	Action	Lead Agency/Officer
Agencies to ensure that prevention planning takes place locally for vulnerable individuals and groups.	<p>Children - A single Child's Plan should identify particular supports available to a child where going missing is a risk factor. The plan should identify appropriate action and supports to address this.</p> <p>Vulnerable adults – when assessments are undertaken of vulnerable adults and adults at risk of harm, the assessment will take into account the potential for them going missing and detail preventative action that will be undertaken to address this.</p>	<p>Lead Professional/Named Person/Core Group.</p> <p>Care Manager/ Lead agency</p>
Agencies to ensure that people at risk of going missing are treated as a priority group within Angus.	<p>Obtain information from Police Scotland Missing Person's database to establish any local hotspots where individuals go missing from. This data will be used to inform targeted interventions.</p> <p>Develop data and intelligence sharing protocols to establish a clear oversight of the scale and nature of missing person episodes within Angus, and agree actions to be taken in relation to vulnerable missing persons.</p> <p>Identify missing person's "Champion" within the partnerships/agencies.</p>	<p>Operational Group</p> <p>Police Scotland/AHSCP/Angus Council</p> <p>Police Scotland/AHSCP/Angus Council</p>

### 2. Respond

Commitment	Action	Lead Agency/Officer
Agencies to exchange proportionate information	Children and Young People: Agencies and services will share information with the Named Person where it would support, promote or safeguard a child's	All agencies

to ensure that missing people are located quickly.	<p>wellbeing, in line with local and national Information Sharing Protocols.</p> <p>Vulnerable Adults: Local agencies and services to agree information sharing protocols in relation to missing person.</p>	APC Practice and Policy Sub group/AVAWP/SPC/Operational Group
Agencies to adopt a consistent approach to risk assessment when someone goes missing.	<p>All agencies adopt the agreed Police Scotland risk assessment levels of low, medium and high risk.</p> <p>The National definition of a missing person is agreed and adopted throughout Angus.</p>	All Partnerships and agencies

### 3. Support

Commitment	Action	Lead Agency/Officer
Agencies to hold return discussions with young people and adults after they have been missing.	<p>Locally agreed protocol and framework for return discussions to be developed.</p> <p>National guidance and training (yet to be established) will be used to inform this.</p>	SWD/HSCP/Operational Group
Support is made available to people who have been missing and their families.	<p>Specialist emergency and therapeutic support agencies to be identified and made available to individuals and families.</p> <p>Support practitioners to signpost to relevant support services through directory of services made available.</p> <p>Good awareness across all agencies of those trained to undertake return discussions.</p> <p>All individuals will be offered a return discussion.</p>	<p>Police Scotland/Operational Group</p> <p>Champions/Operational Group/Individuals trained in</p>

		return discussions
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#### 4. Protect

Commitment	Action	Lead Agency/Officer
Scottish Government to oversee a programme of activity to raise awareness of missing people.	Angus will support the awareness raising activities at a local level	CLOG/Operational Group/AHSCP/Angus Council
Scottish Government to ensure that risks of harm are highlighted in all relevant training and guidance.	Identify opportunities for shared learning and training across all agencies in Tayside.  Ensure messages about the risks of going missing are included in relevant guidance and training materials	All partnerships and agencies

## Individuals at risk of Trafficking and Exploitation

Human trafficking and exploitation not only occurs internationally, it also occurs within cities and towns and between communities in Scotland.

In October 2015 the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). This Act placed a duty on Scottish Government to develop a Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, to be delivered at a local level, to provide coherent, effective support for victims and take action against perpetrators.

Under the 2015 Act, human trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, transportation or transfer, harbouring or receiving or exchange or transfer of control of another person for the purposes of exploiting them”.

The offence of ‘slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour’ is defined as “A person commits an offence where they know or ought to know that they are holding another person in slavery or servitude. A person also commits an offence where the person knows or ought to know that they are requiring another person to perform forced or compulsory labour:”

### The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

[The National Referral Mechanism](#) is a mechanism for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate support. There is [Frontline staff Guidance](#) to support individuals in reporting via the NRM.

The National Strategy identifies three priority action areas:

Action Area 1: Identify victims and support them to safety and recovery.

Action Area 2: Identify perpetrators and disrupt their activity.

Action Area 3: Address the conditions, both local and global, that foster trafficking and exploitation.

Identify victims and support them to safety and recovery		
Commitment	Action	Lead Agency/Officer
People who encounter victims understand signs, know what to do and have access to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Awareness raising for the public</li><li>• Awareness raising for staff in the NHS, local authorities and other organisations as needed</li><li>• Clear actions and pathways to follow when possible victim is identified to be developed</li></ul>	Police Scotland/Operational Group

<p>specialist advice and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations to work together so that processes align and are built around victims' needs</li> <li>• Organisations and professionals are aware of Child Protection and Adult Protection issues, policies and procedures and links to trafficking and exploitation</li> <li>• Clear protocols and procedures are developed in relation to child victims of trafficking, which are known and implemented by relevant services.</li> <li>• There is the provision of interpreters and advocacy for victims of trafficking and exploitation</li> <li>• Clear transition process for children transitioning to adult services for children who have been victims of trafficking.</li> <li>• Appropriate, regular awareness raising is provided to staff who may encounter victims in the course of their work. Appropriate and proportionate training is offered to those who are likely to encounter victims in the course of their work</li> </ul>	<p>CPC</p> <p>CPC/APC</p>
<p>Coherent person/child centred support process that enables victims to recover and build resilience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate specialist support is available for all victims that is sensitive to age, gender and culture.</li> <li>• Regular consultation with victims to understand what barriers they face, their needs and what will help them move forward</li> <li>• Develop links with third sector agencies and local agencies in affected countries to continue support to victims going home</li> <li>• Support agencies are available to build strong links with wider services so that victims' longer term needs are addressed</li> </ul>	



<p>Victims are aware of support and trust it enough to ask for help</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how to share information responsibly among agencies respecting victims confidentially, interests and safety</li> <li>• Raise awareness among all agencies about victim profiles and presumption against prosecution</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Identify perpetrators and disrupt their activity</b></p>		
<p>Public bodies and others carry out duty to notify obligations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant public bodies are aware of their responsibility and processes of duty to notify</li> <li>• Voluntary organisations, agencies and the general public understand and support the benefits of reporting</li> <li>• Data processes are set up to collate and analyse trends</li> </ul>	
<p>Intelligence is shared so that local areas and/or other countries are aware of patterns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build expertise about trafficking routes through closer working relationships</li> <li>• Local data and information is shared to establish knowledge of local trends and issues</li> </ul>	
<p>Police, prosecutors and courts use all powers and take robust action as appropriate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising for those involved in the criminal justice system</li> <li>• Convictions and victims' experiences are publicised, whilst ensuring safety of victims</li> <li>• Learning from other areas of expertise such as domestic abuse is shared and considered</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Address the conditions, both local and global, that foster trafficking and exploitation</b></p>		
<p>People know about the extent of trafficking in Scotland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public awareness campaign encouraging people to take an active role to help eradicate trafficking</li> <li>• Highlight the different forms of trafficking and the links to Serious Organised Crime</li> <li>• Develop easy multi media methods for the</li> </ul>	

	public to report trafficking suspicions	
People and businesses are aware of how what they do and buy can contribute to this crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change culture by encouraging people to make positive choices against trafficking in what they do and what they buy</li> </ul>	
People at most risk get help to increase their resilience against trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted efforts to raise potential victims' awareness of tactics, techniques and risks</li> <li>• Work with communities to address reasons victims might not come forward</li> <li>• Work with partners to identify high risk communities to provide tailored prevention efforts</li> <li>• Make sure that trafficking is considered within strategies and initiatives to increase equality</li> </ul>	

## Children

A child victim of human trafficking or exploitation is a victim of child abuse and the child's safety remains the principal consideration. The range of situations in which children could be subject to trafficking and exploitation is complex and not always obvious, particularly in situations such as domestic servitude where the child is kept unseen.

Trafficking and exploitation does not only affect children from other countries.

Section 11 of [The Human Trafficking And Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) places a duty for an "Independent Child Trafficking Guardian" to be appointed to assist, support and represent an eligible child, It also places a duty on relevant authorities to take steps to refer that child to the guardian appointed for the child.

Section 12 allows for a relevant authority to, where they believe the person is a child but age is not known, to assume that the individual is a child and exercise duties, until an assessment is carried out to determine age. The [Age Assessment Practice Guidance for Scotland](#) provides good practice guidance for those undertaking and contributing to age assessments in Scotland. This is particularly relevant for Social Workers as the responsibility for ensuring an Age Assessment is legally complaint sits with the Local Authority.

The child protection system is best placed to address child abuse and separate systems should not be put in place for children who have been or are suspected of

having been trafficked or exploited. [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014](#) provides guidance in respect of child trafficking.

The [Inter-Agency Guidance for Child Trafficking](#) provides information and guidance so that professionals and others are able to identify trafficked children and make appropriate referrals so that victims can receive protection and support. These should not, however, preclude implementation of standard child protection procedures.

## **Adults**

An adult victim of human trafficking or exploitation could also be an adult at risk of harm. Where appropriate, adult protection measures should be used in addition to the support provided through specialist help or, instead of specialist help where an adult does not consent to entering the NRM and is ineligible for specific support for potential victims of human trafficking. [The Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) should therefore be considered in relation to certain human trafficking or exploitation incidents when the adults at risk are adults who:

- a) are unable to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests;
- b) are at risk of harm; and,
- c) because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

## **Violence against women and girls**

[Equally Safe](#) is Scotland's strategy to tackle *all* forms of violence against women and girls: domestic abuse, rape and sexual assault; sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in public; stalking; commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography and human trafficking; dowry-related violence; female genital mutilation (FGM); forced marriage; and so-called 'honour' based violence.

It is important that professionals working with women recognise the risk factors that may make women more vulnerable.

Female Genital Mutilation is child abuse and a form of violence against women. [Responding to Female Genital Mutilation in Scotland: Multi Agency Guidance](#) highlights the responsibilities of agencies and individuals and promotes a consistent approach. It notes risk factors and indicators of FGM and steps to be taken in response.

Forcing someone into marriage was made a criminal offence in Scotland in 2014. The [Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#) was introduced to protect people from being forced to marry or who are already in

forced marriages. The [Forced Marriage Practitioner Guidance - update 2014](#) is intended to inform all frontline staff and volunteers within agencies who are likely to come across adults or children and young people threatened with or in a forced marriage and who are at risk of the abuse associated with this.

### **Further information**

[Scotland's National Action Plan for Human rights](#)

[Scotland's National Action Plan to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

[Angus Child Protection Committee Young Runaways/Missing Children Joint Protocol](#)

[Barnardo's Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Link to Angus CSE plan

[Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) created a specific offence for sharing private intimate images without consent.

[Domestic Abuse \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#) created a specific offence of domestic abuse that covers not just physical abuse but also other forms of psychological abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour.

[Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985](#)

[The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)

[Harmful Traditional Practices - what health workers need to know about gender based violence](#)

[Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services for People who Have Experienced Rape, Sexual Assault or Child Sexual Abuse - Standards December 2017](#)

[Dundee and Angus Multi Agency Protocol for Female Genital Mutilation Protocol](#)

[Dundee and Angus Female Genital Mutilation Checklist](#)

[Tayside Multi Agency Protocol for Forced Marriages](#)

[Dundee and Angus Forced Marriage Checklist](#)

[Dundee and Angus Multi Agency Protocol for Honour Based Violence](#)

[Dundee and Angus Honour Based Violence Checklist](#)