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Creating Stable Futures: Human Trafficking, Participation and Outcomes for Children

Case Studies (Powerpoint 3)

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Case Studies – Part 1

- Participants work in their groups
- Nominate a scribe / spokesperson to feedback to the room

Please discuss the following:

1. What are the clear trafficking indicators?
2. What else do you suspect might be happening?
3. What are the primary safeguarding concerns, the key risks and vulnerabilities, and how would you approach increasing the amount of detail you know?
4. What strategies and tools are available to effectively protect, safeguard and support this young person?

Ezra – Part 1

- Ezra, 16, grew up in the Gambia with his parents
- Following his father's death his paternal uncle took him to do work around the house and on the farm
- He was told by his uncle he had to pay off a debt and was taken to the UK to work
- He was accompanied on the flight and was taken to a house in a big UK city
- Sexually assaulted by men
- He ran away, presented at a police station and was referred to children's services

Abina – Part 1

- Arrived in UK aged 2 from a war-torn African country, brought by her “aunt”, after witnessing death of mother and other relatives
- Looked after by maternal aunt in UK then members of extended family
- Poor school attendance
- Did cleaning and childcare
- Became looked after aged 10, series of foster placements that broke down then moved to a children’s home
- Now 17, has history of sexual exploitation, school exclusion, miscarriage, self-harm
- Lives in semi-independent unit, lack of specialist placements

Mesfin – Part 1

- Fled his home in Ethiopia aged 15 with family due to ethnic and political persecution
- During his journey, an 'agent' offered him work in Europe so he could support his family
- Travelled through Libya and Europe working to 'pay his way'
- Arrived in UK, aged 17, and followed instructions to go to children's services to get accommodation
- Lived in care but worked illegally in construction and restaurants to pay off a debt
- Asylum application was refused, now appealing
- Poor college attendance and lost his place
- Learning difficulties were diagnosed, initially attributed to language barriers and a lack of formal education
- His debts continue to increase so looked further afield for work

Yu Chan – Part 1

- Brought up in orphanage in China
- Trafficked at the age of 14 to Europe for sexual exploitation
- Escaped from a brothel when 15
- Presented to UK children's services when she was five months pregnant
- Placed in LA care but went missing several times and placements broke down
- After giving birth went missing again
- The baby might have been sent to the same orphanage she had lived in in China
- Professionals believed she was under pressure from unknown members of her community
- Suspected that the baby was returned to repay the debt she owed
- She is now placed in a different geographical area
- Concerns that someone might be controlling her and she might be linked to organised crime

Altin – Part 1

- Altin, now 15, grew up in Albania with family, witnessing domestic abuse and suffering physical harm
- Complex blood feuds put Altin at significant risk
- His mother borrowed money to help him escape
- Arrived in UK 6 months ago, forced into criminal activity – believed he'd be working in construction
- Has been physically and sexually assaulted
- Escaped from a cannabis farm, sought help from a cousin who exploited him in drugs transportation
- Has been arrested with several wraps of cocaine
- Concerns for trafficking but Altin gives no comment to all questions

Tabea – Part 1

- Aged 13 when she arrived in the UK
- Used as an unpaid domestic worker within the home of a couple who knew her family
- 2 years looking after a baby, washing clothing and cleaning the house
- Bottles of bleach under the sink were labelled with her name
- Assaulted on numerous occasions and told she brought a 'darkness' and 'bad spirits' into the house
- Name changed
- She presented at social services

Dat – Part 1

- Dat, 17, an orphan, spent most of his childhood on the streets of Hanoi begging, stealing or selling lottery tickets
- An older boy was taking his earnings, and was very violent, so Dat ran away to another city
- Approached by a man who offered him work in a warehouse in China
- Was taken to China where he worked for two years but didn't earn any money – was told it was needed for his accommodation and food
- Aged 13, he was told it was time for him to work in Europe
- His journey through Europe took several years working in various countries until he arrived in the UK aged 16 and was told to look after cannabis plants growing in a house

Case Studies – Part 2

- Read part 2 of your case study
- Take notes to feedback to the room

Please consider the following:

1. Think about the encounters this young person has had with professionals in the UK: when might be / have been **the reachable moments** to support engagement with this young person to build trust?
2. What tools and communication techniques could professionals use to support their skills and confidence in engagement with the young person?
3. What barriers might exist to making that happen?
4. Any other considerations and issues you wish to discuss?

Ezra – Part 2

- He was taken into care and placed in a semi-independent unit with a few hours of key-work support each week
- Had difficulty sleeping - sleeps on the floor and repeatedly checks the lock on his door. Suffers nightmares and has been heard to cry out
- Struggling to make friends and although he wants to go to college, he is often too tired
- Has been encouraged to give information to the police but has refused
- Referred to CAMHS but he says he is 'not mad' and does not need therapy
- Referred to the NRM and has received a positive RG decision
- Unwilling to speak to the police and/or have therapy

Abina – Part 2

- Now 18 and living in a semi-independent unit, funded by the LA. She has NRPF (no recourse to public funds)
- Has a boyfriend giving her gifts and financial support
- Professionals describe her as ‘needy’, ‘attention seeking’, ‘aggressive’, ‘abusive’ and ‘someone who sabotages relationships’
- Children’s services are increasingly concerned about her behaviour and in particular, allegations of her involvement in grooming minors to engage in sexual activity
- Has a criminal record: convictions for theft, criminal damage, drink driving
- Recognised as a potential victim of modern slavery.
- Recently referred to a sexual exploitation service who will soon be embarking on their introductory sessions with her.

Mesfin – Part 2

- Now 18
- Repeat missing episodes
- Believes 'his boss' will offer him protection from the Home Office whilst working to pay off his debt
- Has been told he's not allowed to work and that he is appealing his asylum decision so is not currently at risk of being removed from the UK, but he doesn't grasp the situation and continues to go missing
- Most of the multi-agency network recognises the increased level of risk to Mesfin
- He is vague about his whereabouts
- The police exploitation unit does not appear to recognise or be responding to the risks raised, with some professionals citing that there is no actual evidence of exploitation and now he's an adult he can make his own choices

Yu Chan – Part 2

- One year on Yu Chan remains in the same placement. Has passed 2 GCSEs in English and Maths, now studying hair and beauty in college.
- However, attendance levels have dropped. Concerns about coercion and control and possible links to organised crime.
- Ongoing strategy meetings and sessions with Yu Chan, but she is a quiet girl who carers and professionals struggle to engage with. She maintains that everything is okay and that she is safe.
- Police have had very few leads and Yu Chan will not disclose anything.
- Yu Chan has fallen pregnant again. Because her first child went missing, tight interventions have been placed on monitoring Yu Chan. She is under close watch in a mother and baby unit.

Tabea – Part 2

- After three repeat presentations a full assessment was organised
- She found it impossible to explain the details of what had happened to her but was taken into care
- After two years of support, she disclosed physical and sexual abuse when living in domestic servitude
- The couple who brought her into the UK were prosecuted, which took 2½ years
- She is achieving well at school, has passed 8 GCSEs
- She is appealing a refused asylum application

Dat – Part 2

- After a few months working with cannabis plants, the police raided the property and arrested Dat for cannabis cultivation
- Police ran checks on him and find that he has a recorded date of birth which makes him 23 years old
- Dat maintains he is 17 but the police do not accept this and charge him for the offence of cannabis cultivation and immigration offences
- He is placed on remand in prison where he attends an immigration surgery and is identified as a minor and refer him to Children's Services

Altin – Part 2

- Gives 'no comment' during police interview
- Trafficking concerns raised, but without evidence charges remain and Altin is bailed to the care of the local authority
- In foster care with an Albanian family who are supportive but worried that both they and Altin might be at risk
- They believe Altin still has contact and he will not disclose anything about the traffickers
- The LAC nurse has observed and reported bruising on his body and professionals are now hoping to use this to start a conversation

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Thank you!

Training Pack jointly created by
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