

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**5 August 2014**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**

**PROPOSED TRIAL TO SUPPORT CHILDREN WHO  
HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED – (Children and Young People)**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide information on the proposed inclusion of Derbyshire County Council in a Home Office Project trialling a new approach to support children who have been trafficked.

2. **Information and Analysis**

Child victims of human trafficking are some of the most vulnerable children in the country. The local authority providing for their care has a duty to provide protection and support that meets the particular risks and needs that they face. Because of the circumstances they have encountered, unaccompanied and trafficked children often have complex needs in addition to those faced by other looked after children.

A new scheme will be trialled by the Home Office across a number of local authorities and Derbyshire County Council has been approached to participate in this trial. Under the trial arrangements, each child victim will be allocated a person with specialist training and expertise in trafficking who will provide dedicated support and guidance and ensure the child's voice is heard. The individual will act as a specialist advocate and will provide a single point of contact throughout the care and immigration process, and will be responsible for promoting the child's safety and wellbeing – particularly important in the light of the risk of children being re-trafficked.

The trials will test two different approaches simultaneously in each area. Derbyshire alongside Manchester, Kent, Lancashire, Birmingham, Oxfordshire and Croydon form the seven local authorities engaged in the project.

The first will build on existing local authority structures. In Derbyshire we have independent advocates who are provided on request to children looked after. A number of these advocates will be trained in child trafficking matters.

The second approach being tested will involve the creation of new specialist advocates who are entirely separate to the local authority. The Home Office is currently commissioning this independent service.

The trial will last for at least six months and the Home Office will carry out an in-depth evaluation. The Home Office is aware that Derbyshire has a particularly low number of trafficked children but are still keen to involve Derbyshire as a partner.

3. **Financial Considerations**

It is not anticipated that any additional costs will accrue to the Authority as a consequence of engagement in this trial.

4. **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: - prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, legal, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

5. **Background Papers**

- Care for Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children (2014) Draft Regulations Department of Education
- Draft Modern Slavery Bill (2013) Home Office

6. **Strategic Director's Recommendation**

That the report be noted.

**Ian Thomas**  
**Strategic Director for Children & Younger Adults**