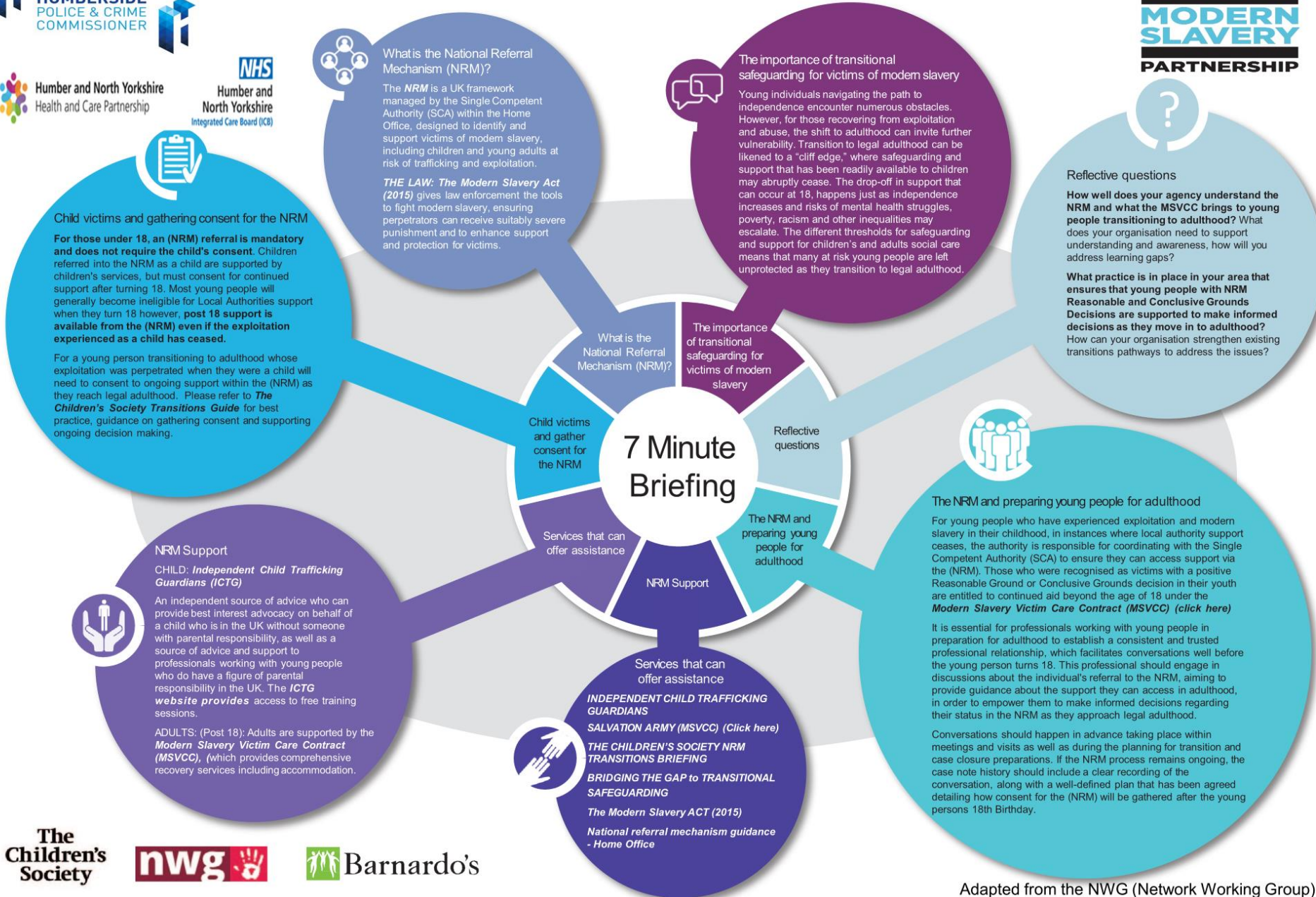


# The NRM and Transition into Adulthood



## 7 Minute Briefing

What is the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)?

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 The *NRM* is a UK framework managed by the Single Competent Authority (SCA) within the Home Office, designed to identify and support victims of modern slavery, including children and young adults at risk of trafficking and exploitation.  
**THE LAW: The Modern Slavery Act (2015)** gives law enforcement the tools to fight modern slavery, ensuring perpetrators can receive suitably severe punishment and to enhance support and protection for victims.

**The importance of transitional safeguarding for victims of modern slavery**  
 Young individuals navigating the path to independence encounter numerous obstacles. However, for those recovering from exploitation and abuse, the shift to adulthood can invite further vulnerability. Transition to legal adulthood can be likened to a "cliff edge," where safeguarding and support that has been readily available to children may abruptly cease. The drop-off in support that can occur at 18, happens just as independence increases and risks of mental health struggles, poverty, racism and other inequalities may escalate. The different thresholds for safeguarding and support for children's and adults social care means that many at risk young people are left unprotected as they transition to legal adulthood.

**Reflective questions**  
**How well does your agency understand the NRM and what the MSVCC brings to young people transitioning to adulthood?** What does your organisation need to support understanding and awareness, how will you address learning gaps?  
**What practice is in place in your area that ensures that young people with NRM Reasonable and Conclusive Grounds Decisions are supported to make informed decisions as they move in to adulthood?** How can your organisation strengthen existing transitions pathways to address the issues?

**The NRM and preparing young people for adulthood**  
 For young people who have experienced exploitation and modern slavery in their childhood, in instances where local authority support ceases, the authority is responsible for coordinating with the Single Competent Authority (SCA) to ensure they can access support via the (NRM). Those who were recognised as victims with a positive Reasonable Ground or Conclusive Grounds decision in their youth are entitled to continued aid beyond the age of 18 under the **Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC)** ([click here](#))  
 It is essential for professionals working with young people in preparation for adulthood to establish a consistent and trusted professional relationship, which facilitates conversations well before the young person turns 18. This professional should engage in discussions about the individual's referral to the NRM, aiming to provide guidance about the support they can access in adulthood, in order to empower them to make informed decisions regarding their status in the NRM as they approach legal adulthood.  
 Conversations should happen in advance taking place within meetings and visits as well as during the planning for transition and case closure preparations. If the NRM process remains ongoing, the case note history should include a clear recording of the conversation, along with a well-defined plan that has been agreed detailing how consent for the (NRM) will be gathered after the young persons 18th Birthday.

Services that can offer assistance

**INDEPENDENT CHILD TRAFFICKING GUARDIANS**  
**SALVATION ARMY (MSVCC)** ([Click here](#))  
**THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY NRM TRANSITIONS BRIEFING**  
**BRIDGING THE GAP to TRANSITIONAL SAFEGUARDING**  
**The Modern Slavery ACT (2015)**  
**National referral mechanism guidance - Home Office**

Child victims and gather consent for the NRM

**Child victims and gathering consent for the NRM**  
**For those under 18, an (NRM) referral is mandatory and does not require the child's consent.** Children referred into the NRM as a child are supported by children's services, but must consent for continued support after turning 18. Most young people will generally become ineligible for Local Authorities support when they turn 18 however, **post 18 support is available from the (NRM) even if the exploitation experienced as a child has ceased.**  
 For a young person transitioning to adulthood whose exploitation was perpetrated when they were a child will need to consent to ongoing support within the (NRM) as they reach legal adulthood. Please refer to **The Children's Society Transitions Guide** for best practice, guidance on gathering consent and supporting ongoing decision making.

NRM Support

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**CHILD: Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG)**  
 An independent source of advice who can provide best interest advocacy on behalf of a child who is in the UK without someone with parental responsibility, as well as a source of advice and support to professionals working with young people who do have a figure of parental responsibility in the UK. The **ICTG website provides** access to free training sessions.  
**ADULTS: (Post 18):** Adults are supported by the **Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC)**, (which provides comprehensive recovery services including accommodation.

