



Supporting Adult Women Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation TARA and Local Authority Responses



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Support Services

The TARA Project

0141-276-7724

GCSS, through TARA, provides support to women over 18 yrs where there are concerns they have been trafficked into and/or around the UK and commercially sexually exploited. Support can include safe accommodation, a mobile phone, clothing, basic toiletries, advocacy and access to existing mainstream services such as counseling, legal advice and healthcare. A Psychology service is being offered in partnership with NHSGCC.

TARA also act as a First Responder for the National Referral Mechanism and encourage women to speak to the Police about their experience.



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Marisca

- An 18 year old Polish woman - Marisca - came to the attention of Social Work Services through the **referral process for Vulnerable Pregnant women**. Referral was made by **a local GP** who was concerned that this was the first time she had been seen by medical services and she was 7 months pregnant. It was arranged for her to be seen at **SNIPS** (Special Needs in Pregnancy Team) who had concerns regarding her distress around the pregnancy, mental health and her suspicions of social work services. There were indicators of trafficking in that she did not have any identity documentation, a man accompanied her to the meeting who was reluctant for her to be seen on her own, that she appeared frightened and very concerned about a possible STI.
- The **SW assigned to the case contacted TARA** for further advice and following further discussion, Marisca agreed to meet with a member of the TARA team. The address of the property she was held in was known to the LA as the **Noise Team** had previously been called out following neighbours complaints and an **Environmental Health Team** had inspected the property again following concerns raised by neighbours. Neither team had raised concerns that it was being used as a brothel nor were indicators of trafficking identified. A joint meeting was agreed. Following on from that meeting she disclosed that:

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Marisca

- She had been **recruited** in Poland to travel to Scotland for agricultural work. **Only women were recruited**. Once in Glasgow she was given **fraudulent paperwork** to open a bank account and was **arrested by the police**. She was **too frightened to disclose** to them as she had been told she would go to prison. Later she was further **exploited through prostitution**. Marisca had been expected to have **unprotected sex with punters** and the pregnancy was a direct result of this, as were her anxieties around her sexual health. A **regular 'punter'** agreed to help her escape from the situation 2 weeks ago and has allowed her to stay with him. As he lives close to the brothel **he did not allow her to leave the house without him**. He **expects sex** and refers to her as his girlfriend although she is adamant that she is not. She is **frightened** of him as **he often shouts** at her and call her names such as whore and slut.

Immediate Needs

- Police Involvement
- Risk Assessment
- Safe Place to Stay
- Health
- Emotional and Practical Support
- Financial support
- Safety Plan
- National Referral Mechanism submission

- Referral to Police
- Joint Risk Assessment
- Access to safe accommodation
- Safety Plan
- Emergency clothing pack
- Health – fast track access to specialist Sexual Health team and Psychological Services
- Advice (including access to external legal and immigration advice)
- Emotional support
- First Responder for NRM
- Subsistence payment
- Supporter role with the police
- Reassurance role re Police and SWS involvement

Crisis Needs Local Authority Role

- Identification role
- Access to asylum seeker/refugee/migrant services
- Access to support services for women experiencing gender based violence i.e. supported accommodation
- Possible Adult Protection referral
- Child Protection and support around the pregnancy
- Liaison with TARA and health colleagues
- Potential to assist with access to longer term appropriate accommodation – consider with alternative LA due to safety reasons
- Access to benefits through welfare rights advice and assistance
- Reassurance
- Quality interpreting services
- Additional information for First Responder to submit to Competent Authority

Strategic Responses

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation - include within Strategic Plans for VAW
- Challenging Demand for Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Multi Agency Intelligence/Information Sharing/Partnership Protocols
- Public and Professional Awareness Raising
- Awareness raising with young people through Education Services
- Targeted training for frontline staff who are public facing such as Social Workers, Teachers, Housing Officers, Noise and Anti Social Behaviour Teams, Community Liaison roles and Environmental Health teams



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