

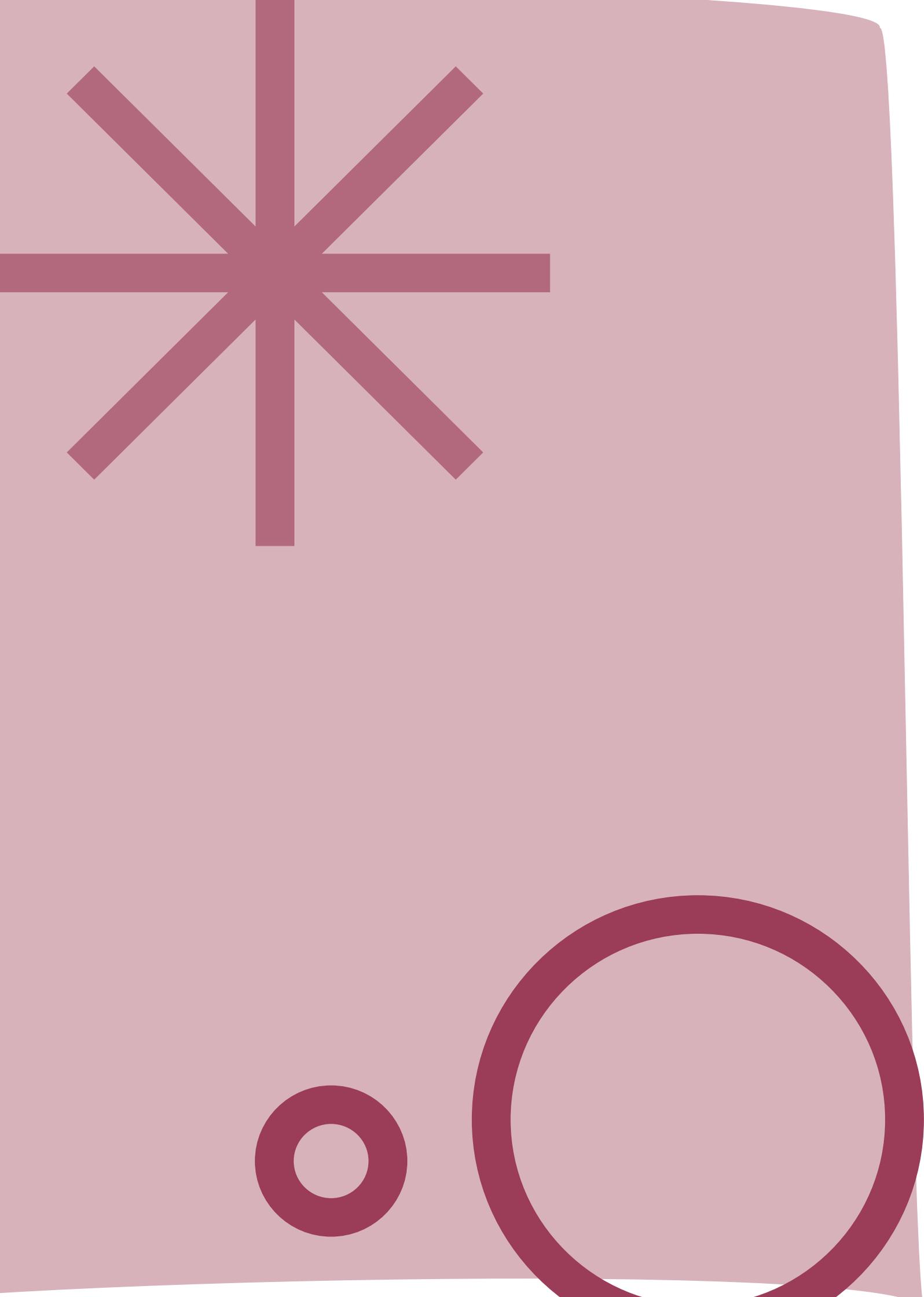


Home Office

NRM Child to Adult Transition Information Pack for Professionals

Information pack for professionals supporting potential child victims of exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking in the NRM turning 18.

January 2026



Common Acronyms

CG	Conclusive Grounds
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service
FRO	First Responder Organisation (who these are can vary between England and Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland)
FR	First Responder
ICTG	Independent Child Trafficking Guardian (an independent source of advice for children who have been or are suspected to be a victim of exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking)
IECA	Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (a part of the Home Office responsible for making decisions about potential victims of exploitation and modern slavery)
MSVCC	Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract
NRM	National Referral Mechanism
SCA	Single Competent Authority (a part of the Home Office responsible for making decisions about potential victims of exploitation and modern slavery)
RG	Reasonable Grounds

NRM Child to Adult Transition Information Pack for Professionals

Information pack for professionals supporting potential child victims of exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking in the NRM turning 18.

This pack is intended to assist professionals supporting young people in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) who will not receive their Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision before they turn 18 and must therefore provide consent to remain in the NRM or their instruction to withdraw from the NRM upon turning 18.

If you have any case or process queries, the Single Competent Authority (SCA) are always happy to help over e-mail (nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk) or over the phone (0300 0727 543). Telephone contact hours are 10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday. Please do not disclose this phone number outside of your organisation.

This pack answers frequently asked questions and does not replace any existing statutory guidance, local authority guidance or training.

What is the NRM? Who are the Competent Authorities?

The NRM is the framework for identifying and referring potential victims of exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. More details about 'modern slavery' can be found in the **Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance**.

- The SCA is a decision-making body in the Home Office that manages all child cases and most adult cases within the NRM. Where a victim is located within an area taking part in the 'Devolved Decision-Making Pilot', modern slavery decisions may be made by the local authority and local safeguarding partners following an NRM referral.
- The IECA in the Home Office process referrals for specific cohorts of adult potential victims of modern slavery. They do not handle cases where the potential victim was a child at the point of referral.

Why has an NRM referral been made for this child?

- A professional from a FRO will make an NRM referral for a child if they identify them as a potential victim of exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, which might include criminal or sexual exploitation, domestic servitude or forced or compulsory labour.
- Statutory first responders must refer potential victims into the NRM to ensure they are appropriately identified and provided with support. Children do not need to consent to enter the NRM.

Why is this leaflet useful for me?

- You are supporting a young person who will not have their CG decision made before they turn 18 years old.
- Potential victims under 18 do not need to consent to enter the NRM (although it is good practice to inform the child, in a trauma-informed way, when they have been referred and ensure they know what is happening).
- Adults do need to consent to the NRM, therefore when a young person turns 18 years old, they must provide their consent to remain in the NRM or their instruction to withdraw from it. They also need to provide consent for the SCA to share their details to relevant support providers so that they can access support as an adult.
- As the SCA do not directly communicate with young people below the age of 18, you are vital in ensuring young people are informed about the NRM and the transition process.
- If the young person is not receiving direct support from the local authority, the SCA will ask if it is safe and appropriate to contact the young person or their family directly once they turn 18. If you don't know, or it isn't safe, the SCA cannot make direct contact.

What should I be doing before a young person turns 18?

Up until the point where you no longer support the young person, you must proactively acquire and send all information regarding the young person, including up to date contact information, to the SCA. The SCA can use this information in decision making.

Ensure the SCA are aware of the named and correct safeguarding professionals to contact regarding the young person, if these have changed since the original referral was made. Make sure any other relevant professionals responsible for the child's care are aware of the child's NRM referral and next steps in the process.

If the SCA has identified that the young person is likely to be a transitional case (they won't have a CG decision before they turn 18), or they entered the NRM past the age of 17 years and 9 months old, you should start speaking to the young person about consent in a trauma-informed manner as soon as possible, using the information in this pack and the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance to support this.

You should explain the transition process around consent. This includes what happens if the young person consents to remain in the NRM, decides to withdraw from the NRM, or does nothing.

These conversations are crucial for the process as the SCA cannot contact a young person directly to talk to them about the NRM and the benefits of consenting. Often you are the only point of contact to obtaining their consent. Their consent is key to them remaining in the NRM, having their case progressed, and being able to access support as an adult.

In England and Wales, the MSVCC support provider should contact young people as they approach their 18th birthday to discuss the support available through the MSVCC and what it offers. Before this happens, the SCA will ask the professional supporting the young person, usually the Local Authority or the ICTG service, to confirm that the young person consents to their name and phone number being shared with the MSVCC provider. If the young person does not consent to this, the MSVCC will not reach out to them. The conversation may also take place via the professional's contact number, provided the young person is present.

Calls may come from an 'unknown number' to safeguard the young person. Professionals are encouraged to support the young person during and after this discussion, so they can make an informed decision about whether they wish to remain in the NRM and access adult support, if eligible, once they turn 18.

How do young people provide their consent to remain in the NRM or their instruction to withdraw from the NRM upon turning 18?

Young people can make this decision either by:

1. Completing the written NRM Transition Consent/Withdrawal Form themselves:
 - ◆ This form must be signed by the potential victim only once they have turned 18 and returned via email, or in exceptional circumstances by post, to the SCA. **Or**
2. by providing their verbal instruction to you, a professional in a FRO:
 - ◆ Professionals will need to have a conversation with the potential victim only once they have turned 18, ensuring that they understand the impact of their decision and it is informed.
 - ◆ The professional should then sign and return the Verbal NRM Transition Consent/ Withdrawal Form to the SCA to evidence a potential victim's verbal consent to remain in or instruction to withdraw from the NRM, and if they want to receive government-funded exploitation and modern slavery support.

Regardless of which of the above forms are used, they will need to be returned to [**nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk**](mailto:nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk).

It is likely that local authority safeguarding professionals will complete the above process, but it could be another professional from any FRO.

What are the different options for a young person?

1. The individual consents to being in the NRM and giving their details to relevant support providers.
 - ◆ The individual will receive a formal decision from the SCA
 - ◆ The individual may be eligible for specialist support
2. The individual consents to being in the NRM but does not consent to giving their details to relevant support providers.
 - ◆ The individual will receive a formal decision from the SCA
 - ◆ The individual will not be able to receive specialist support, however they can request this in the future if they change their mind by e-mailing [**nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk**](mailto:nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk)
3. The individual does not consent to being in the NRM.
 - ◆ The SCA will withdraw their case from the NRM
 - ◆ The individual will not receive a formal decision from the SCA
 - ◆ The individual will not be eligible to receive any government-funded exploitation and modern slavery support.

What are the benefits of remaining in the NRM to the individual?

- The individual will receive a CG decision from the Home Office, and if positive, will be recognised as a victim. This may help the individual in their own recovery journey and could help professionals supporting them to recognise their vulnerability and understand how best to support them.
- If the individual is in England and Wales, they may be eligible for the statutory defence against prosecution (under section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015), where the individual has committed certain offences as a direct result of their exploitation. A positive NRM decision may help when the defence is being considered by the police and prosecution services.
- If the individual receives a positive CG decision, they may be able to get temporary permission to stay in the UK (if they don't already have status in the UK), as a confirmed victim of modern slavery.
- The individual may be able to access specialist support. More information on this can be found in the question below.

What support will a young person get as an adult in the NRM?

If the young person consents to remain in the NRM and they provide consent to share their details with support providers, they may gain access to adult specialist support. The young person may be able to access financial assistance and a dedicated support worker that will guide their recovery and assist them to access wider state services such as healthcare and legal advice. They may also be eligible for accommodation or will be supported in accessing alternative accommodation.

If the individual is in England and Wales, and they turn 18 prior to a CG decision, they will be eligible for support through the MSVCC.

- If the individual receives a positive CG decision, they will receive at least 45 days of support. Following this period, exit from support is determined by the Recovery Needs

Assessment (RNA) process and post-exit they will have access to the Reach-in Support service, which provides ongoing assistance to ensure they can access wider state services after they have left the main service.

- If the individual receives a negative CG decision, they will receive 14 days of MSVCC support, although this can be extended in certain circumstances.

There is also support available to adults in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The contact details of these organisations can be found towards the end of this leaflet.

If the young person does not feel they need support when consenting to remain in the NRM, but change their mind in the future, they can contact the SCA by e-mailing nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk to request support

Top Actions for Professionals

When supporting a child in the NRM who is transitioning to adulthood without a CG decision:

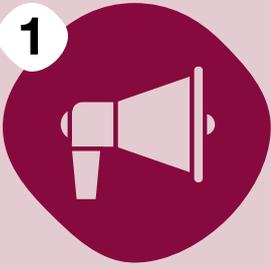
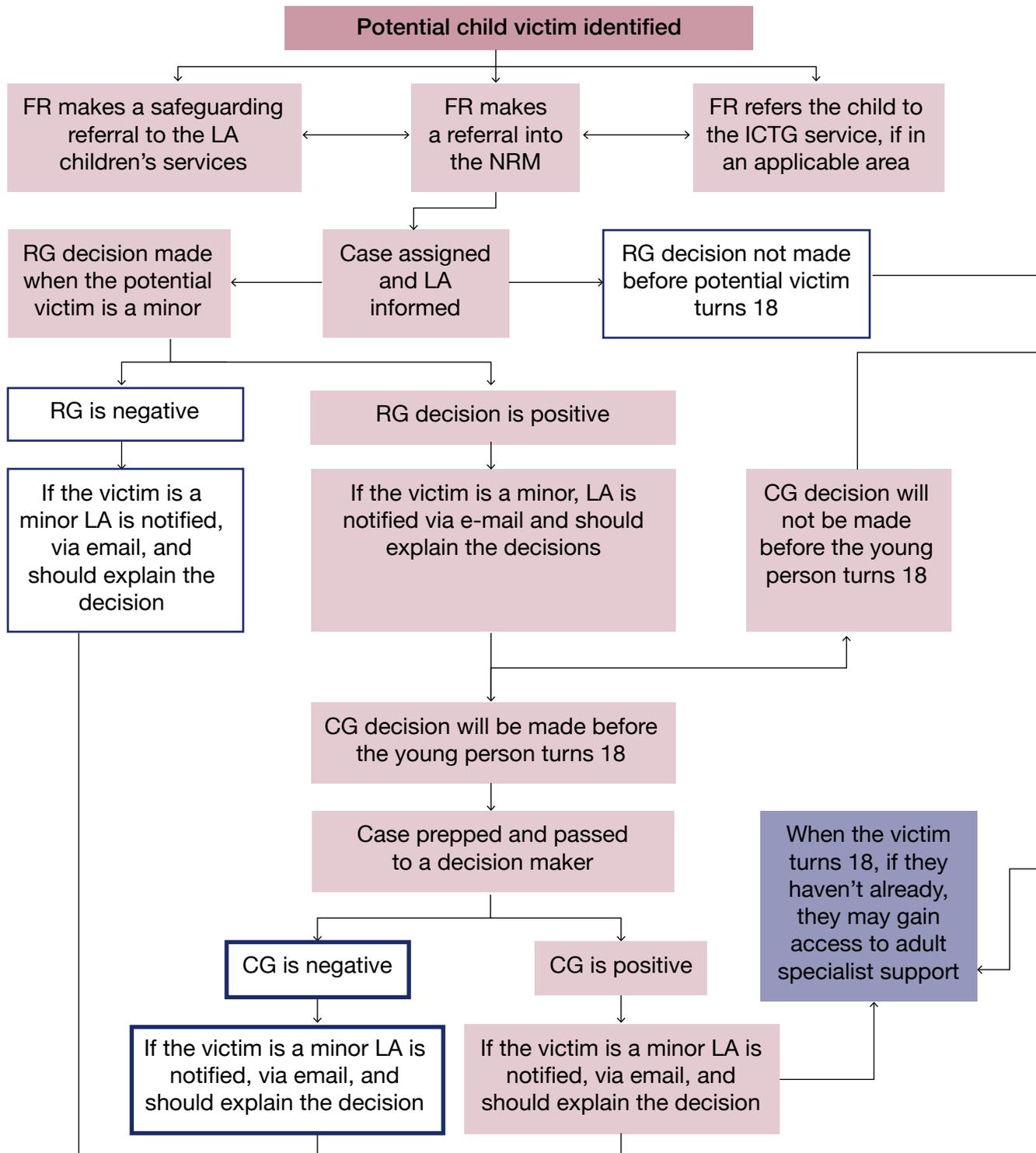
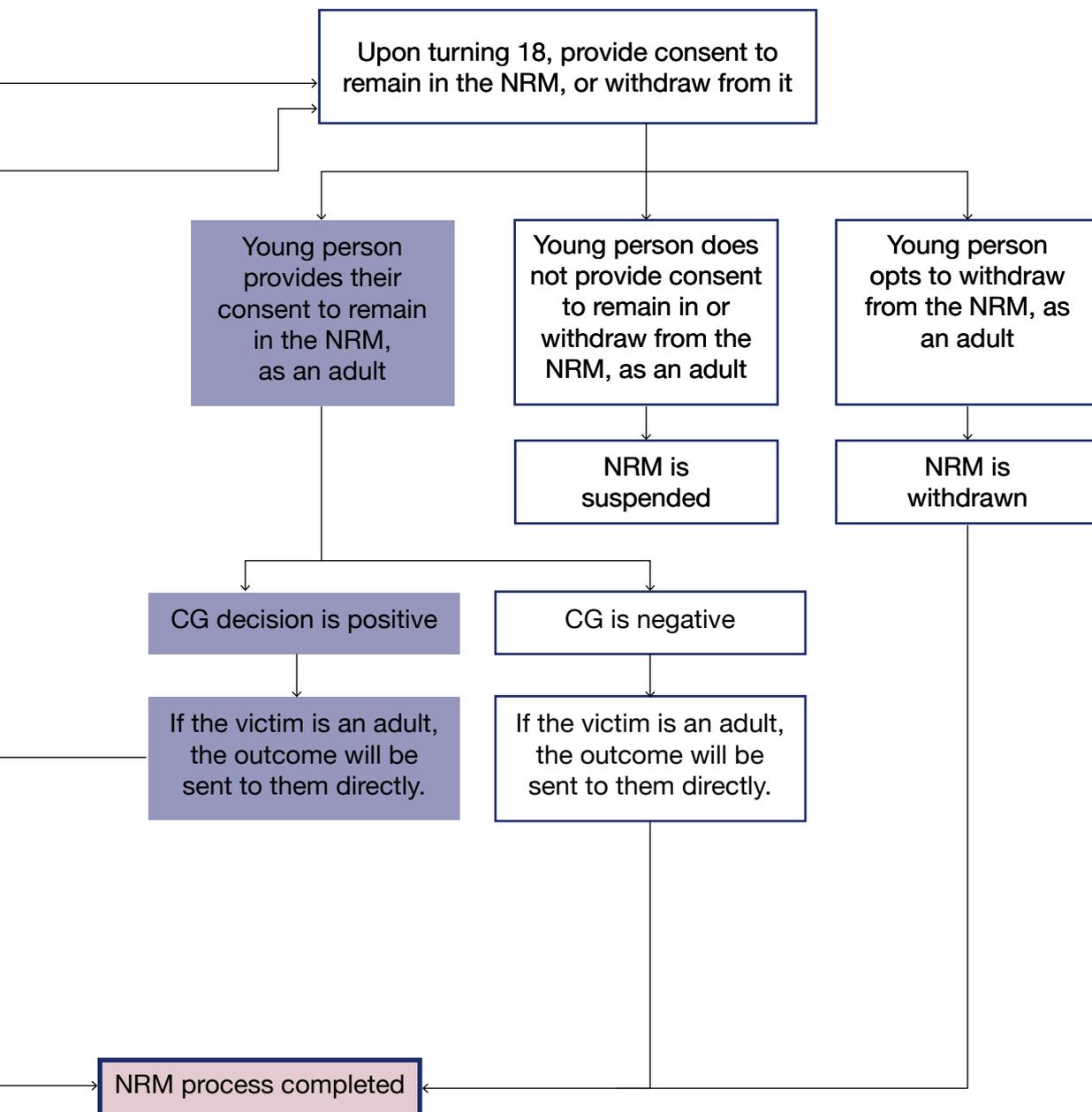
	<p>1 Inform them that they are in the NRM, tell them what the NRM is and its benefits, and explain the consent process.</p>
	<p>2 Up until the point you no longer support the child, you must proactively acquire and send all information regarding the young person, including up to date contact information, to the SCA. The SCA can use this information in decision making.</p>
	<p>3 If you are supporting the young person at 18, please either ensure they complete the NRM Written Transition Consent/ Withdrawal Form themselves or they provide verbal consent to you, a professional in a FRO, who can then complete the NRM Verbal Transitional Consent/Withdrawal Form and tell the SCA on their behalf.</p>
	<p>4 If you are no longer supporting the young person, ensure they are confident in the actions required when they turn 18, have access to the Transition Pack for Young People, and have access to the NRM Written Transition Consent/Withdrawal Form. Please let them know that they can always reach the SCA via email should they need any help in understanding the NRM and can speak to the ICTG service prior to turning 18.</p>

Diagram that illustrates the NRM journey for a young person in the NRM turning 18 in England or Wales

Please note, the support aspects of this flow diagram may vary for young people in Scotland and Northern Ireland.



- ICTG support for children, where available
- MSVCC Support for adults



Who are the support providers for potential victims?

England and Wales support providers:

The Salvation Army who provide the MSVCC for adults)

Tel: 0800 808 3733 (24/7)

Email: mstreferrals@salvationarmy.org.uk

Barnardo's (who provide the ICTG service)

Tel: 0800 043 4303

E-mail: countertrafficking@barnardos.org.uk

Northern Ireland support providers:

Migrant Help Northern Ireland (Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking support for male victims of exploitation and their families (this can include female family members who are victims of exploitation if it is deemed safe by the Police Service of Northern Ireland)).

Tel: 028 92448449

Email: northernireland@migranhelpuk.org

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid (Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking support for female victims of exploitation and their children).

Tel: 028 90662385

Email: modernslavery@belfastwomensaid.org.uk and Heather.woods@belfastwomensaid.org.uk

Scotland support providers

The TARA Service (Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery support for adult women trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation).

Tel: 0141 276 7724 (24/7)

Migrant Help (Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery support).

Tel: 0141 884 7900

Tel: 0141 212 8553 (out of hours for urgent needs and emergencies only)

E-mail: traffickingscotland@migranhelpuk.org

The Scottish Anti-Trafficking and Exploitation Centre within JustRight Scotland provides legal advice and supports survivors of trafficking and labour exploitation.

Legal helpline: 08088 010 789 (Tuesdays 1pm – 4pm and Wednesdays 10am – 1pm)

Guardianship Scotland (While Guardianship Scotland is not a designated trafficking support provider, they continue to offer NRM support to unaccompanied young people who remain in the NRM after turning 18.

Tel: 0141 445 8659

E-mail: guardianship@aberlour.org.uk

Additional information relevant to this subject area that might be useful.

How is the NRM decision made?

- An RG decision will be made by the SCA.¹ The RG threshold is an objective one. The decision maker must agree with the statement that there are 'reasonable grounds to believe that a person is a victim of modern slavery (human trafficking or slavery, servitude, or forced or compulsory labour)'. This usually happens within 5 working days of the NRM referral being submitted.
- Following a positive RG decision there will be a recovery period of at least 30 calendar days or until the CG decision has been made.
- After this, a CG decision should be made as soon as possible. However, a decision can only be made when sufficient information about the case has been shared.
- The CG decision determines whether, 'on the balance of probabilities', there are sufficient grounds to decide that the individual being considered is a victim of modern slavery (human trafficking or slavery, servitude, and forced or compulsory labour). This threshold is higher than the reasonable grounds test, but lower than the criminal standard of proof as the NRM is a civil process.
- Do check the **Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance** for any updates to the definitions of 'Reasonable Grounds' and 'Conclusive Grounds'.

Can the Home Office expedite a case?

Due to the number of cases awaiting CG decisions currently in the system, the SCA have established criteria for expediting a case:

- **Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Involvement:** where a young person has been charged / is being prosecuted, please email the SCA with court dates and they will attempt to work to them but cannot make any guarantees.
- Cases where the court/trial dates are within three months take precedence.
- **Safeguarding:** where you have urgent safeguarding concerns for a young person's welfare and all relevant actions have been taken internally (if there is an immediate or imminent risk to the individual the case can be considered for prioritisation).
- **Young person turning 18:** this is primarily used in conjunction with the CPS involvement criteria but can also be used in cases where you believe there's a minimal chance of obtaining consent post 18 but the decision is of paramount importance to the young person's life. This is considered by the SCA on a case-by-case basis.

All expedition requests should be made in writing to nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk. Any requests made over the Duty Line will need to also be put in writing.

1 With the exception of children in scope of the devolved decision-making pilot. In areas where the devolved decision-making pilot exists, the local authority responsible for the safeguarding of that child will undertake the RG and CG decision-making.

How will the individual receive notification of their CG decision after they turn 18?

- It is important that professionals, up until the point they no longer support the child, proactively acquire and send all information regarding the young person, including up to date safe contact information (e-mail address and/or postal address), to the SCA.
- When a decision is made by the SCA after the individual turns 18, the decision will be sent to them directly as long as safe contact details have been provided and there are no active safeguarding concerns.
- Some professionals involved in the individual's care as a child (such as the local authority, the police, the first responder and the ICTG) will be notified that a decision has been made. If the individual is receiving support from government funded modern slavery support, the service provider will also be notified a decision has been made.
- If no safe contact details for an individual have been provided, the SCA cannot contact the individual directly. The decision will be saved on file, which can be requested in the future.

The individual has been given a negative RG/CG. What happens now?

- When a negative decision is made the SCA closes the case.
- You or the young person (or an organisation representing them) might be able to ask for this decision to be reconsidered.² You have a limited timeframe to submit a reconsideration request if you consider the negative decision was not made in line with existing guidance or you have additional evidence. If there are exceptional circumstances why the additional evidence cannot be provided as part of the reconsideration request within the time limit you should request an extension to the time limit. The most up to date information on reconsiderations can be found on the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance.

2 There is one exception to being able to ask for this decision to be reconsidered, and this depends on the individual's situation. If the Home Office intends to remove the individual to a country that is a signatory to ECAT and ECHR, then the individual cannot ask for this decision to be reconsidered.

