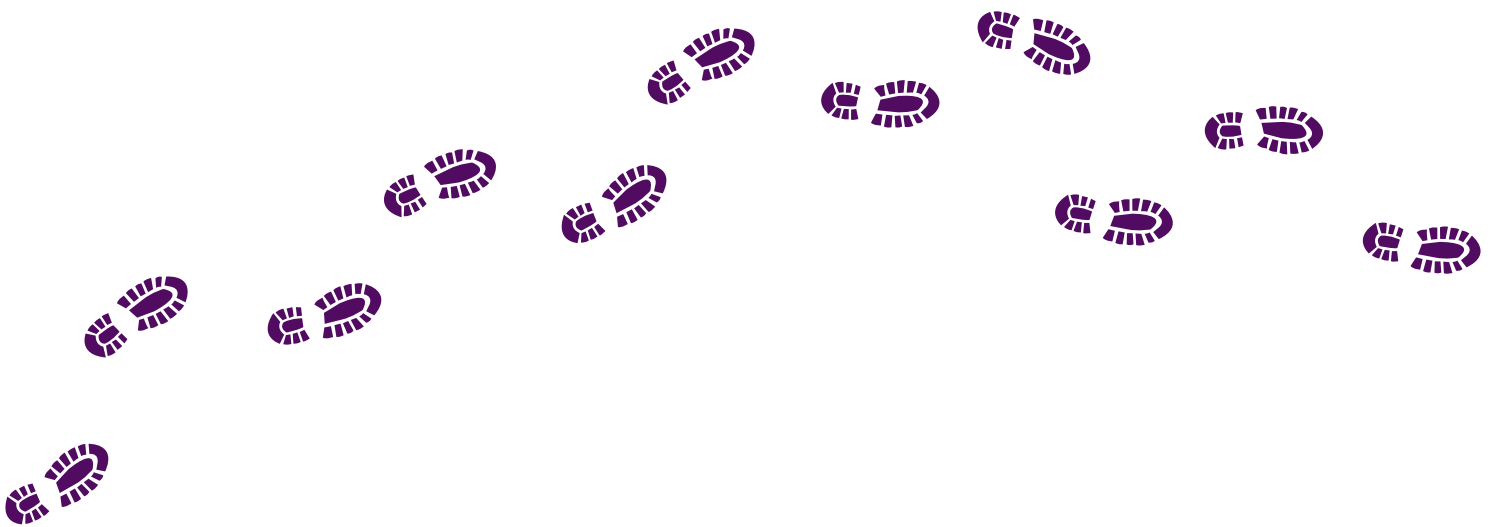


NSPCC

Uprooted and unprotected

Experiences of children forced into migration
through northern France and a multi-agency
approach to safeguarding them



Charlotte Jamieson
Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC)
NSPCC
May 2018

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Acknowledgments

CTAC's work to support young people forced into migration through northern France would not have been possible without the collaboration of the Refugee Youth Service (RYS). We are grateful for their tireless work to safeguard children, and for sharing our commitment to uphold the right of every child to a safe childhood.

We would like to sincerely thank the two young people who provided testimonies of their journeys to the UK. We hope that a greater understanding of their experiences will help improve the manner in which children forced into migration are safeguarded and supported.

We would like to express our thanks to the Home Office for seconding immigration officers to our service. Without this partnership, it would not be possible to effectively locate and safeguard children moving across borders.

Finally, our thanks go to the supporters whose generous donations to the NSPCC enable CTAC's work.

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The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre

The NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) is a service for professionals in the UK and overseas who are concerned that a child may have been trafficked into or out of the UK. CTAC is staffed by social workers, a police liaison officer seconded from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and immigration officers seconded from the Home Office. The main role of CTAC is to advise, influence and develop best practice for professionals who are concerned a child may have been trafficked.

CTAC advocates for the child and raises awareness that child trafficking is child abuse. CTAC has collected and analysed data on referrals for over 2,000 children since 2007.

Since 2013, CTAC has been focussing on developing partnerships in order to carry out work in countries that are known to be 'source' countries for child trafficking into the UK.

To contact the NSPCC CTAC please telephone **0808 800 5000** or email **ctac@nspcc.org.uk**.



Overview

Between August 2016 and November 2017, 196 children of 12 different nationalities who had been living in informal camps in northern France, were referred to CTAC by Refugee Youth Service (RYS). The referrals were made due to concerns for the children's safety and the risk of them being trafficked into the UK. The children had originally come to the attention of a range of charities working in the so-called 'Calais Jungle', as they were travelling without parents or carers, leaving them vulnerable to being abused and exploited by adults. These children subsequently went missing from the camp but when reported, were not deemed to be "missing people" by the French authorities. They therefore continued to be exposed to the risk of trafficking and other forms of abuse

while seeking to reach the UK. Of the 196 children referred to CTAC, 68 were located and confirmed to be in the UK. The whereabouts of 128 children remain unknown.

This report is based on information shared by young people, case analysis and CTAC's ongoing work with RYS. It provides rich learning about the experiences of young people who have entered the UK as refugees from northern France, showing the many ways in which they are vulnerable and have not been adequately protected from harm.

All names and potentially identifying details in this report have been changed to protect the identity of the child or young person.

1. Introduction

In April 2016 Mohammed Hassan, a 17-year-old Kurdish boy, died after he hid above the wheel of a lorry when he was trying to get to the UK from Calais, France. When he reached the UK he was crushed by the wheels of the lorry as it was reversing.¹

Later in the same year, 14-year-old Raheemullah Oryakhel was killed in France while trying to make the same crossing. His body was recovered and it is thought that he was hit by a car while trying to get onto a lorry.²

At the end of 2017, a 15-year-old boy, Abdullah Dilsouz, was run over by a refrigeration lorry in Calais whilst trying to get to the UK with his older cousin. The lorry did not stop and the driver has not been identified.³

In May 2016, two UK charities working in the Calais 'Jungle', Hummingbird and Refugee Youth Service (RYS), contacted the NSPCC to raise concerns about children living in the camp who were separated from family members or carers. These charities were concerned for the children's wellbeing in the camp and their vulnerability to being trafficked into the UK. Although it was suspected that the children were entering the UK, mainly in lorries, there was no formal way to confirm if any of the children of concern had made it into the UK and were safe. On approaching

authorities in France and the UK, RYS found that neither country's responsible authorities had registered and reported absent children as missing, nor had they conducted enquiries to locate them to ascertain their welfare.

France and the UK have well-established child safeguarding legislation and have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) (UNCRC)⁴ which provides a strong framework to safeguard and protect all children. However, these children did not receive the safeguarding response they were entitled to in the countries they moved through.

With estimates of 10,000 refugee children going missing in Europe each year,⁵ the task of confirming how many are in the UK and whether they are safe or still at risk of abuse is recognised to be a considerable challenge. In 2016, there were 1,278 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism⁶ for potential victims of child trafficking, with 1,023 of the referrals being for foreign national children either trafficked into or around the UK.⁷

There is a limited body of research and information on the final stages of children's migration journeys across the France-UK border. Many children move through Calais without the knowledge of supportive charities or government agencies. Due to the hidden nature of forced migration through France to the UK, CTAC knows that many more children will have had experiences that are not detailed in this report.

- 1 The Guardian (2017) [Coroner calls for changes to treatment of child refugees after death of teenager](#). [Accessed 10/01/2018].
- 2 British Broadcasting Corporation (2016) [Calais death: Relatives of killed boy, 14, tell of his last moments](#). [Accessed 10/01/2018].
- 3 The Guardian (2018) 'England seemed so close': refugee, 15, crushed to death by Calais lorry. [Accessed 22/01/2018].
- 4 [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989](#).
- 5 European Parliament (2016) [MEPs discuss fate of 10,000 refugee children](#). [Accessed 10/01/2018].
- 6 The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support.
- 7 National Crime Agency (2017) [National referral mechanism statistics – End of year summary 2016 \(PDF\)](#). London: National Crime Agency.



Although the evidence underpinning this report is in no way exhaustive, it provides a valuable insight into children's experiences as they move across borders.

CTAC's core remit is advising professionals on practice matters relating to the management of children's cases when they are thought to be victims of child trafficking. Another important aspect of CTAC's work is influencing stakeholders across other nations to follow safeguarding best practice. As such, CTAC has recently strengthened its early intervention practice strategy, working with agencies across other countries to prevent children from being trafficked in the first place. Additionally, and

throughout its ten year history, CTAC has valued the contribution that young people have made to help improve understanding of the threats that children face and to shape professionals' best practice. CTAC was therefore keen to continue the practice of participation with children.

As a result of CTAC's preventive work, collaboration began with charities based in the Calais 'Jungle'. It was apparent that the children coming from the 'Jungle' were vulnerable and often invisible to services. There was an urgent need to ascertain their whereabouts from a child protection perspective so that action could be taken to protect them.

2. Methodology

CTAC began accepting referrals from RYS's child protection team when it was believed that children had been moved into the UK from the 'Jungle'. CTAC would undertake further enquiries with UK organisations such as the Home Office to share child protection information and confirm the children's whereabouts. This report is based on in-depth meetings with two young people, analysis of the cases referred to CTAC from RYS and CTAC's ongoing work with RYS.

In order to gather the opinions of young people who had migrated to the UK via northern France, a workbook was designed to gather information about their journeys. An experienced social worker and child protection trainer with awareness of the emotional impact of discussing trauma met with each child individually to complete the workbook. The quotes shared in this report are from the contents of the completed workbooks. Prior to meeting with the young people, detailed discussions around consent were held with the allocated social workers and support services that would be available to them. Actions and responsibilities in the event of a disclosure were also discussed.

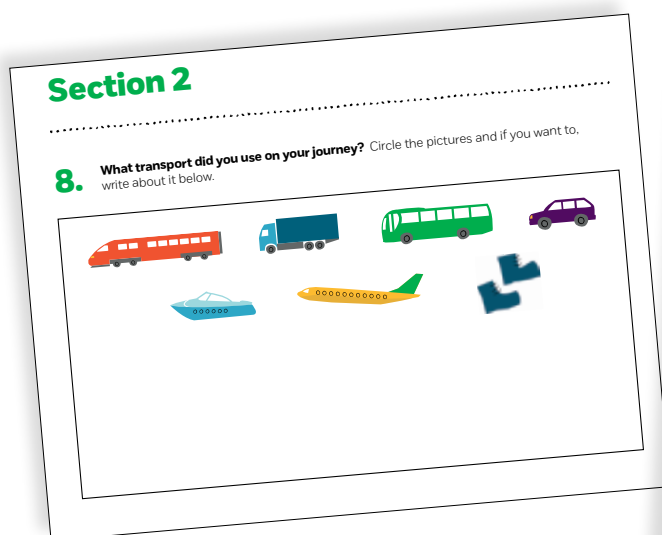
The 196 cases referred to CTAC were analysed to identify the key trends and child protection concerns. The findings are discussed in this report.

The report contains three case studies, which serve to demonstrate the benefits of multi-agency working in real-life case examples.

The workbook

To facilitate children's participation, a workbook was designed by CTAC to gather information from children who had travelled through Calais, focusing on how they endured and survived their journey and exploring their experiences with different professionals. This workbook explored children's experiences of home, their journeys, their stay in the Calais camp, their circumstances relating to living in the UK and their thoughts about the future.

The workbook used open questions and interactive methods in an attempt to minimise any adverse impacts and further trauma, and avoid any sense of a formalised interview. This report includes the views of two children, referred to as Sabir, 11 from Afghanistan and Dilwar, 10 from Afghanistan, as reported in their workbooks. The workbook is available to view and download at nspcc.org.uk/ctacborders.

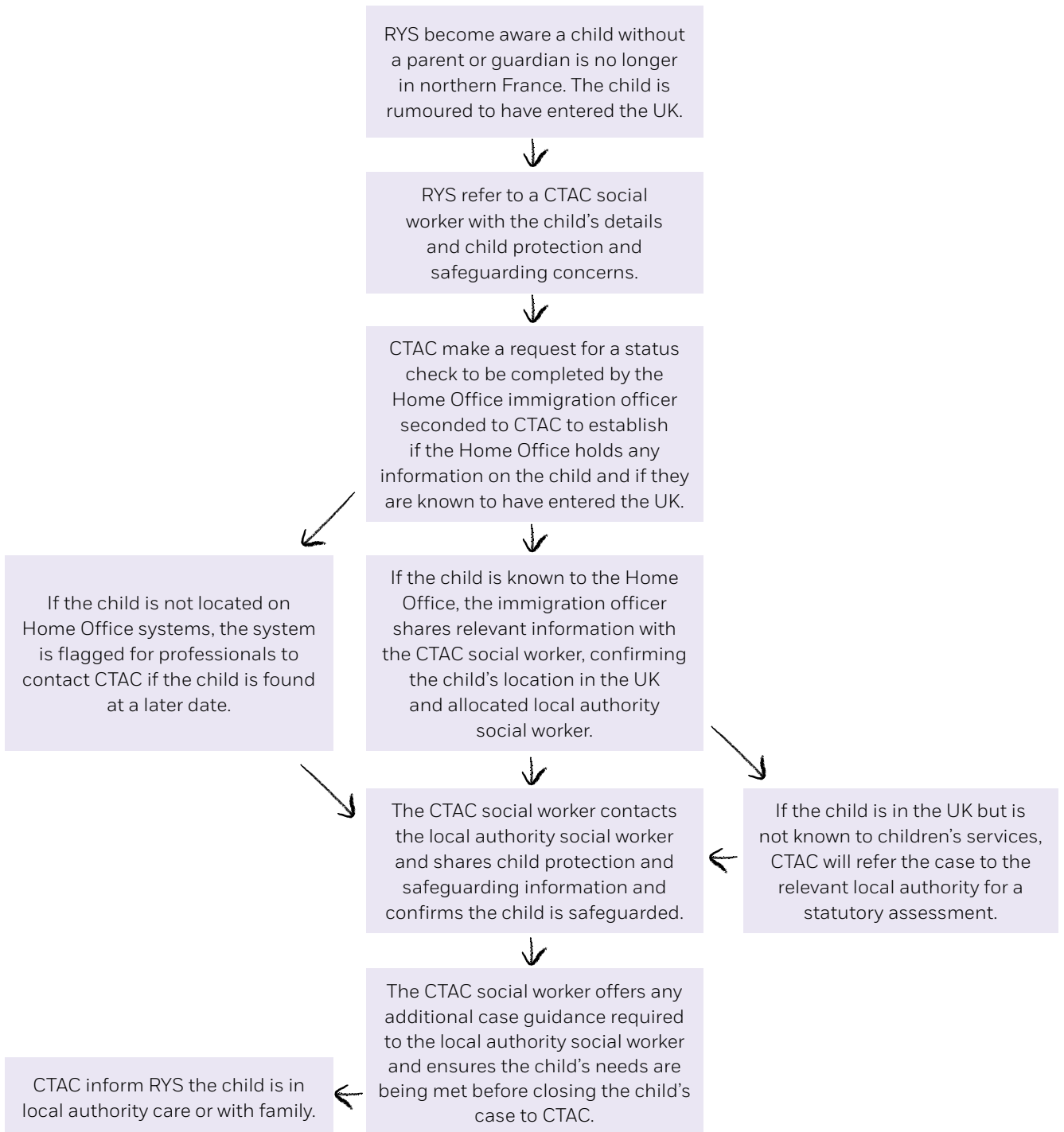


3. Partnership and referral process

CTAC began a partnership with RYS in August 2016, agreeing that children would be referred to CTAC when they were thought to have entered the UK from France but their

whereabouts were unknown. The referral process developed between RYS and CTAC is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Referral pathway



After RYS made a referral to CTAC, a CTAC social worker would make a request to their seconded immigration colleague. The immigration officer would then complete checks on their Home Office databases to establish if the child was known to the Home Office and if they had entered the UK. CTAC's Home Office colleague would be able to do this by using Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act (2009) where immigration officers must consider, "... *the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the United Kingdom*".⁸

CTAC knows, from previous work with its immigration partners, that the Home Office has an advanced database which covers the whole of the UK. This system, uniting data from all UK-wide immigration sources, is unique in comparison to local authority children's services systems, where each local authority has a separate system that does not automatically share information across local authority borders.



8 [Section 55](#). Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2009.

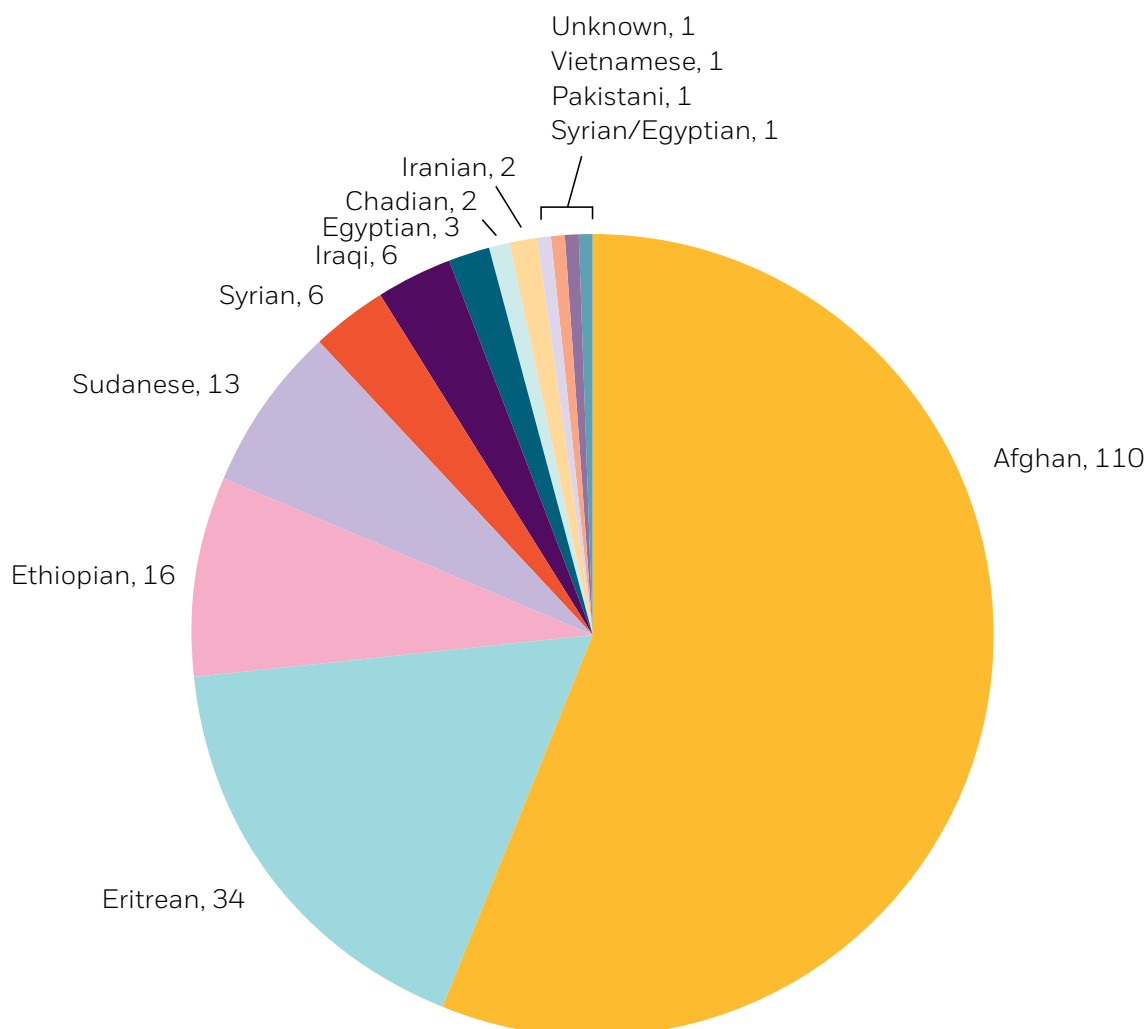
4. Who are the young people?

There were 196 children from 12 different nationalities referred to CTAC from northern France between August 2016 and November 2017⁹ (see Figure 2). The children referred were travelling without parents or legal care givers, although some were accompanied by siblings.

The youngest children referred to CTAC were nine years old, with the most common age for a child referred being 15. There were three children whose ages were never specified.

Of those 196 referrals, only four were girls, all of whose whereabouts remain unconfirmed. This is reflected in 2016 statistics from the European Union, stating 89% of unaccompanied children in Europe were boys.¹⁰ Additionally, when the referral process between CTAC and RYS started, girls were being sheltered in a separate area of the camp and accessed RYS's service less frequently than boys. The trend of predominantly male

Figure 2. Nationalities of children referred to CTAC



9 For one child, their nationality as either Syrian or Egyptian was unclear due to their self-reported nationality conflicting with community and practitioner knowledge.

10 Eurostat. (2017) [63 300 unaccompanied minors among asylum seekers registered in the EU in 2016](#). Luxembourg: European Commission.

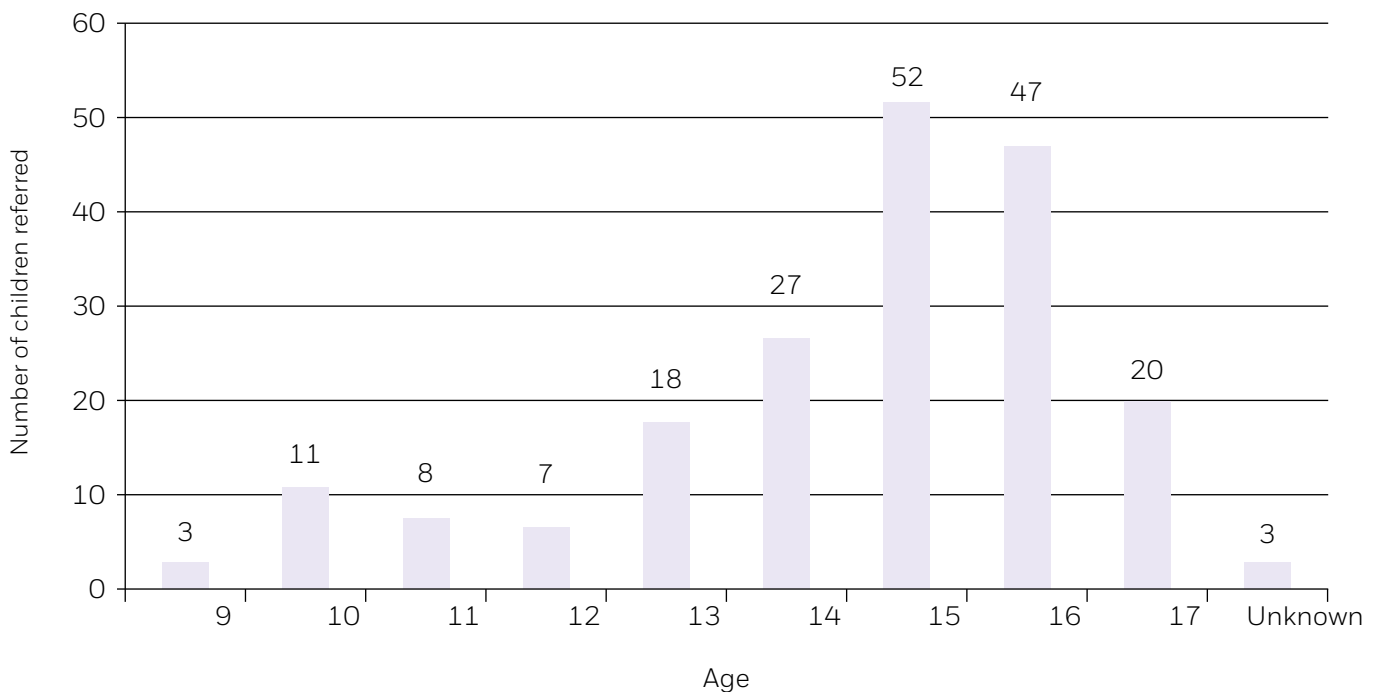
referrals continued after the Calais camp was dismantled in 2016. This discrepancy in gender could also be a result of other services being available for women and girls in the area, with less support available for male children resulting in them having more contact with RYS.

The number of referrals for children from Afghanistan, followed by Eritrea is in keeping with the data published by the National Asylum statistics (2017)¹¹ and research carried out by ADCS (2016)¹² for their special thematic report on unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. As stated in the latest asylum statistics (2017), the nationalities that lodged the highest numbers of UASC applications in the UK were Afghan (740), Albanian (407) and

Eritrean (405). These 3 countries contributed half (49%) of total child applications in the year. The ADCS report analyzed 3990 cases from 110 authorities and 23% of the children were from Afghanistan, followed by 19% from Eritrea. The ADCS report comments on the source countries being reflective of 'changing theatres of war'.

Whilst it is important to acknowledge the wider geo-political and socio-economic conditions and gendered nature of migration which impact upon children, this report focuses on the experiences of children migrating and it is beyond the scope of this report to explore the wider reasons for this disproportionate representation of Afghan and Eritrean children.

Figure 3. Ages of children referred to CTAC



11 [gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/asylum](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/asylum)

12 adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_UASC_Report_Final_FOR_PUBLICATION.pdf

5. Children's experiences prior to Calais

Reasons that children gave to RYS, social workers and the Home Office for leaving their homes included fear of the Taliban, war, conscription, threats to family or themselves, being orphaned, illegal imprisonment and following family members who were already in Europe. Once children had left their homes, they made their journeys using a variety of transport methods. The young people talked about long walks, cars, buses, boats, trains and lorries.

“They told us we were going to England for a safe life.

My mother and uncle told us to leave. I had clothes and bread with peas. My older brother had a phone and money.”

Sabir recalling leaving his home country

When asked what advice they would give to other young people forced to leave their home countries and trying to get to the UK, Sabir and Dilwar said:

“Make sure you've got clothes that are warm.”

“Stay with your family.”

“Be kind to people, it will help you because people love to do something for you if you are kind.”

Living conditions for these children were hard:

“We slept outside, we had no blankets. Sometimes it was cold but I had nothing. Sometimes there was wind. We were given one can of food for three or four people and there were no big meals.”

Dilwar talking about his journey across borders

Most of the children referred to CTAC had no documentation, lived in unstable situations and had little or no understanding of the prevailing support systems in the countries they had travelled through. Alongside finding a place to sleep, children had to manage interactions with authorities.

Dilwar stated that the agents who were facilitating his movement across borders were “just like us, humans”, even though they had kicked and hit him when he walked too slowly across the mountains. Contrary to this, he described the police as “awful”, recounting the police at home rarely protecting him and his family and only coming to his village to fight. He described the agents in better terms than he did the police.

Dilwar and Sabir described interactions with the police, both in their home country and in France:

“They were rude and bad. I didn't trust them, if you had money they'd kill you.”

Dilwar's opinion of police in his home country

“The police weren't good. If you got caught they would spray in your eyes. Police would beat us, asking us not to get on the lorries. They would use big sticks, their hands and their legs.”

Sabir's view of police in France

6. Being in Calais

The Calais 'Jungle' was an informal camp where migrants stayed while trying to reach the UK. It was close to the French Port of Calais, from where people would regularly try to get onto lorries destined for the UK.

"There were lots of people, shops and restaurants. In the night I tried to come to the UK, in the day I slept until 5pm. I didn't like it, it wasn't safe. I didn't go out because of the bad people and I had no one to play with."

Dilwar explaining his experience in Calais

CTAC visited an official French child accommodation centre, under the devolved French child protection system. Under this system, children have the opportunity to stay

in formal accommodation for up to five days in a centre outside Calais. After five days, the child must decide either to stay in French care or leave. If they chose to leave the care system, RYS found French officials would not deem the child as missing from care or make any effort to pursue them. RYS highlighted that the child making this decision often did not speak French and had limited or no understanding of the care system. Many of the children in Calais used those five days as a chance to rest, before returning to the 'Jungle' or streets of Calais to continue trying to cross the Channel.

This strategy was again observed by RYS during the October 2016 evictions when children living in the 'Jungle' were sent to state-run accommodation centres around France (CAOMIEs – Centres d'accueil et d'orientation pour mineurs isolés étrangers). RYS noted that many children left the centres and returned to Calais to continue trying to reach the UK.



Area in the Calais 'Jungle' prior to its demolition. Photo courtesy of Refugee Youth Service.

Before the 'Jungle' was dismantled, children were sleeping in caravans, converted containers and tents. Although RYS tried to ensure that no children were living in tents, referrals were received stating that children were found sleeping in waterlogged tents, sometimes infested with rats. Some children were sleeping in tents with unrelated adults, keeping homemade weapons beside them as they slept or moving to different tents or caravans nightly, fearful for their own safety.

Since the 'Jungle' was dismantled, knowledge from RYS and data on referrals to CTAC show that children have been living on the streets and in wooded areas around Calais, sleeping outside in sleeping bags and having to endure appalling conditions throughout the winter.

Some children were spending up to a year in Calais, seeing family members and peers leave while becoming desperate to make the crossing themselves. RYS staff reported concerns that many children were losing hope and becoming exhausted. Children referred to CTAC generally spent several months in Calais before making it to the UK. During this time they had no access to formal education, regular food or safe accommodation.

RYS discovered that many children who applied to be reunited with family in the UK under the European Union Dublin III regulation gave up on the process after feeling that it was taking too long to receive any response, or simply because they did not trust the system. As a result some children felt that trusting smugglers was the only way to guarantee their passage to the UK.

“I tried every night for three and a half months. I tried to get on the lorries but I got caught by police every time.”

Sabir describing trying to board lorries in Calais

The majority of the referrals for children were from Calais; however children continue to enter the UK from other ports in northern France. Before the Dunkirk camp in Grande-Synthe burnt down in April 2017, there were referrals for children crossing to the UK from there also. The Grande-Synthe camp was state-run and for adults only. Children should not have been living there, but CTAC received several referrals for children reported to have been sleeping on the floor of the community kitchen. Referrals continue to be made for children travelling from Grande-Synthe as well as Caen, through the port of Ouistreham.

For all children referred to CTAC by RYS, there were some recurring safeguarding concerns: separation from parents or carers, having little stability and no home or routine. Children were sleeping in unsafe environments, taking significant risks to get onto lorries, and spending time with concerning adults. For these children, food, shelter and clothing were not guaranteed, and children had to seek them out themselves.

Case study one – Adam*



Adam, 17, from Eritrea, had been living in the Calais 'Jungle' for nearly a year when Refugee Youth Service staff found him sleeping in an Ethiopian Orthodox Church. After hearing distressing noises

coming from the church, Refugee Youth Service staff entered to find an exorcism ritual being performed on Adam. Adam would often speak of his heart problems. He initially declined any medical treatment stating that the church would help cleanse him. He referred to this heart problem in religious terms as "jinn", an evil spirit.

After some time in Calais, Adam accepted medical support and engaged with treatment. He had hospital appointments and was also given mental health treatment. Once Adam arrived in the UK and was located in care through Home Office immigration checks, information was shared with his allocated social worker about his significant health concerns. Details about how the local authority could obtain his medical information from France were also passed on. The information about Adam's concern for having a "jinn" would further assist their assessment of his needs, including his religious beliefs.

* Name has been changed to protect identity. Picture posed by model.

The main additional child protection concerns raised from referrals to CTAC included:

- children's poor mental health including self-harming and suicidal thoughts;
- illnesses;
- unrelated adults stopping children from accessing services;
- physical abuse from unrelated adults and officials;
- children being moved around France;
- drug and alcohol use;
- sexual abuse or exploitation;
- children being made to work for agents of human trafficking and smuggling;

- other criminal exploitation; and
- children trying so frequently to get to the UK that they were wearing themselves out physically and mentally.

One child referred to CTAC was forced to take heroin and was criminally exploited by adults with him in Calais. When he arrived in the UK he frequently went missing from care and was violent towards the professionals supporting him. Another child whom RYS met with in London stated he didn't like the UK and wanted to go back to the Calais 'Jungle'.

7. The UK

Among the 196 children referred during the first 15 months of RYS and CTAC's partnership, 68 were located and it was confirmed that they were either in local authority care or living with family members.

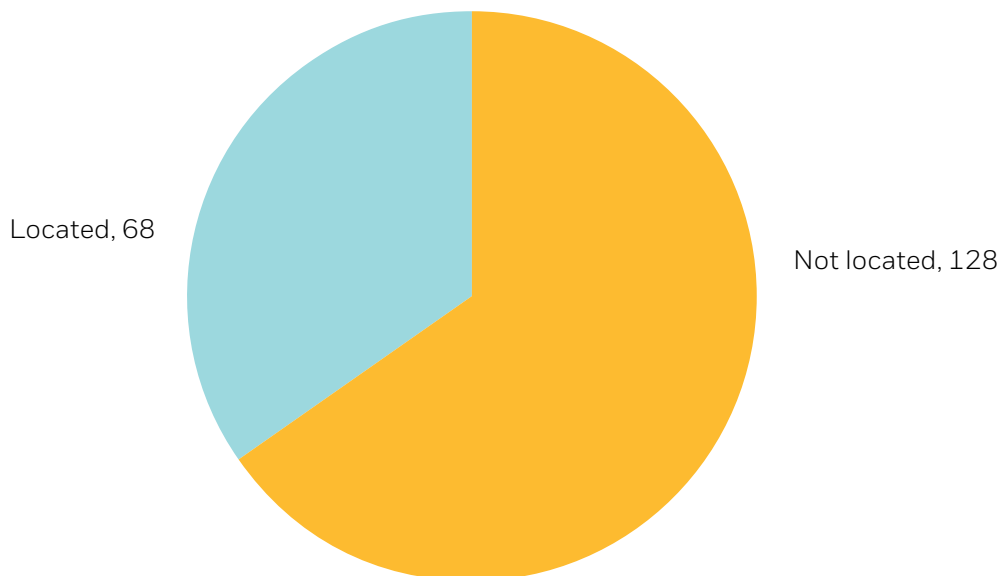
Of the children referred, 43 of the 110 Afghan children were located, along with 15 of the 34 Eritrean children. Three of the 13 Sudanese children referred were located, but one has since gone missing from care. However, 128 children's whereabouts remain unconfirmed. The possible reasons for this are thought to be:

- they provided a pseudonym while travelling across borders;
- the spelling of their name was recorded incorrectly;
- they never entered the UK and are in another country;
- children's services are yet to make the child known to the Home Office;
- the child is in the UK but not known to any services.

The primary concern is the latter point – that some of the 128 children are in the UK but are not known to services. This would render them vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and trafficking with no wider network to safeguard and protect them. Children who enter the UK unregistered are very unlikely to be known to services until they are presented to an authority or found by officials.

From information received from children's social workers, the Home Office and RYS, it is clear that for many of these children, being found in lorries by either immigration officials or the police constituted their first experience of being in the UK. Some social workers were concerned that children's first encounter with authorities in the UK involved them being informed that they were "illegal", making the child immediately feel that they had done something wrong.

Figure 3. Children referred to CTAC



Case study two – Imran*



Imran, a 10-year-old boy, was referred to CTAC due to concerns that he was no longer in the Calais 'Jungle', had been subject to police brutality and had injuries from a

CS gas canister exploding on his leg. There were further concerns that the adults he was with in the camp were treating him poorly by stopping him from getting medical attention and making him do excessive chores.

Through working with Home Office colleagues in CTAC, it was established that Imran entered the UK in a lorry with an adult. Home Office records showed that the child stated the adult was his brother and they were living together in accommodation.

CTAC then liaised with RYS who were confident that he had not been with a brother in the camp. CTAC referred to the relevant local authority where Imran was living, sharing concerns that he was with an unknown adult and that he was injured. Health records from the camp detailing Imran's injuries were shared with the local authority along with pictures of the injuries.

Following the local authority social worker's first home visit, they were dissatisfied with Imran's relationship with the adult male and initiated care proceedings to safeguard Imran and consider taking him into local authority care.

* Name has been changed to protect identity. Picture posed by model.

“ There were six or seven people in the lorry. We didn't talk, they were adult men. I was so scared as no one was with me. I went to sleep and a security guard opened the door and said, 'Welcome'.”

Dilwar sharing his experience of entering the UK from Calais

Some children self-presented to children's services or made themselves known to police or immigration at a later date. RYS reported that

some children had described how, on not being found by the authorities upon arriving in the UK, they would take a few days to "rest". Where they were staying during this time is not known.

RYS were concerned that although some children had made it to the UK, they may not present to authorities either because they were being controlled by abusive adults or they did not understand where they could go for help. These children are very vulnerable to being abused and exploited by adults. Children could be in fear of authorities, scared of being returned to their home country, or living with adults who do not have an immigration status themselves.

Case study three – Kamal and Bilal*



Ten-year-old Kamal was found on a lorry that had arrived in the UK from France. He was taken into local authority care and he told his social worker that he knew his older brother Bilal was in the UK but didn't know where. The social worker raised this with CTAC, whose social workers requested a status check from

Home Office colleagues to try to locate Bilal. The immigration officer then found Bilal on their systems and shared details of his location, along with his social worker's contact information.

The CTAC social worker linked Kamal and Bilal's social workers, who went on to arrange initial contact between the brothers. As the contact went well, the two social workers worked together to move Bilal to the same foster placement as Kamal, as the brothers had requested. Bilal and Kamal are now living together in foster care.

* Names have been changed to protect identity. Picture posed by models.



8. Conclusion and recommendations

“If your life is under threat, anything is possible.”

Sabir explaining why he had to make his journey to the UK

Of the 196 children referred by RYS to CTAC, 68 children were confirmed as being in the UK. For these children, we can confirm their safety and wellbeing. By sharing information we have worked together to prevent child trafficking and abuse while improving risk assessments and care plans. However, there are still 128 children whose location is unknown. Despite children travelling through countries that have national child care laws and have ratified the UNCRC, little effective child protection has been provided for them.

As children continue to be forced to migrate, host governments have an obligation to minimise the risks that children face when moving across borders and to create accountability to prevent children being targeted by abusers and traffickers. Cross-border cooperation is of particular importance in the context of the ongoing Brexit negotiations. As the UK prepares to leave the EU, a commitment must be made to ensure continued access to cross-border mechanisms for child safeguarding and protection, such as Europol and Eurojust. These agencies play a crucial role in preventing and combatting child exploitation and trafficking, and as such are indispensable for the safeguarding of vulnerable children forced into migration.

In our own work, it has only been possible to share information across borders about

children living in Calais because the RYS child protection team recognised the importance of monitoring vulnerable children who had moved across borders. The information in this report highlights the importance of children being supported throughout their journey when forced into migration.

It is important to highlight the benefits of working with the Home Office to share cross-border information. By utilising their well-developed data systems, more information can be shared to protect foreign national children in the UK.

CTAC would like to see an integrated child protection system within Europe which would facilitate agencies working together across borders to protect children forced to migrate from all forms of harm and which would include the UK after it leaves the EU.

Working together globally is effective – for example, there are joint investigations carried out across Europe by police and immigration services, which share intelligence and investigate security threats and serious organised crime. This demonstrates that, where there is political will, we can improve the cross-border work which is necessary to protect children.

The geographical appeal of Calais and Kent will not change, and dismantling the ‘Jungle’ has not ended the movement of people across the border. As children continue to cross into the UK, a formal referral system to share information must be developed between France and the UK that prioritises child safeguarding. Not only would this benefit a child’s right to protection and safety, it would also mean that receiving local authorities would know more about the child entering their care.

Glossary

Calais 'Jungle': An unofficial makeshift settlement that was located near a road leading to the Port of Calais.

Care proceedings: When a local authority applies to a court for a legal order, often to take a child into local authority care.

Centre d'accueil et d'orientation pour mineurs isolés étrangers (CAOMIE): French state child accommodation: 'Reception and Orientation Centre for Isolated Foreign Minors'.

Child: Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. Note that according to the statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children issued by the Department of Education,¹³ where the person's age is in doubt, they must be treated as a child until a fully legally compliant age assessment shows the person to be an adult.

Child protection concerns: Reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm.

Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC): A service for any professional in the UK or overseas who is concerned that a child may have been trafficked. CTAC is staffed by social workers, a police liaison officer from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and immigration officers from the Home Office. The main role of CTAC is to advise and guide professionals who are concerned that a child may have been trafficked and to advocate for the child and raise awareness that child trafficking is child abuse. CTAC has collected and analysed data

on referrals for over 2,000 children since 2007. Since 2013, CTAC has been focussing on developing partnerships in order to carry out work in countries that are known to be 'source' countries for child trafficking into the UK.

Dublin III: The Dublin regulation sets out rules for deciding on which EU country should process a claim for asylum. If a child has a family member in an EU country they can apply to be reunited with them under the Dublin regulation.

Foreign National Children: This document uses the term 'foreign national' child to represent all children who are first generation migrants and do not have British citizenship.

Local authority: Each area in the UK is defined as a local authority, and each local authority has a children's services division responsible for safeguarding children.

National Referral Mechanism (NRM): The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. Following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, it was extended to all victims of modern slavery in England and Wales. This includes those who have experienced human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.¹⁴

NSPCC: The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the UK's leading child protection charity. For further information visit nspcc.org.uk.

13 HM Government (2017) [Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery: Statutory guidance for local authorities](#) (PDF). London: Department for Education (DfE).

14 National Crime Agency (2018) [National referral mechanism](#). [Accessed 10/01/2018].

Refugee Youth Service (RYS): RYS was founded in November 2015 and was initially called 'Baloos Youth Centre'. Originally offering a safe space for children in the Calais 'Jungle', RYS has now gone on to offer a mobile youth centre in the north of France providing children forced into migration with legal advice, psychological support and child protection services.

Trafficking: Trafficking has been defined in the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons as: 'recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means

of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.' Children are a special case, where only movement and exploitation are required to evidence trafficking.¹⁵

Trying: The term used by young people for attempting to enter the UK from France through various means, for example hiding in a lorry.

Find out more about our work at
nspcc.org.uk/ctac

15 [Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in person, especially women and children](#), 2000.

NSPCC

Everyone who comes into contact with children and young people has a responsibility to keep them safe. At the NSPCC, we help individuals and organisations to do this.

We provide a range of online and face-to-face training courses. We share the latest developments in child protection policy, practice and research. And we help you understand your safeguarding challenges and provide clear, easy-to-use resources to help you to better protect children.

It means together we can help children who've been abused to rebuild their lives. Together we can protect children at risk. And, together, we can find the best ways of preventing child abuse from ever happening.

Most importantly, by working together, it means we will help make children safer right across the UK.

nspcc.org.uk

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR