



## Influencer Award

### Name of organisation or individual nominated

Philip Ishola. Service Manager UASC and Leaving Care Harrow Children Services and LSCB Safeguarding Trafficked Children Lead Chair of the London Safeguarding Children Board Child Trafficking Group and Chair of the London Safeguarding Children Board 2012 Olympics (safe games for children) Group.

#### 1. What were you trying to change? (maximum 200 words)

Help us understand your vision, aims and the factors that drive you forward

Practice around safeguarding and child protection process when working with trafficked children along with and national statutory and non-statutory policy and procedures and UK legislation. I lead a 3 year project to transform the response to child victims of trafficking. This included the development of a national child trafficking toolkit and new supplementary guidance to the London child protection procedures. This project was piloted nationally and forms the core element of the approach taken to child victims of trafficking by participating local authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Board, the police and UKBA.

#### 2. How did you use your influence? (Maximum 200 words)

Who did you influence, what methods did you use to influence them and how did you overcome problems etc.

I used my influence by recognising the different priorities each agency had and drawing these together by placing the child victim at the centre of the work. By supporting each agency to develop approaches that build on their core values (child safeguarding and child protection), I was able to highlight the areas where these can be enhanced for the victim and the agency involved and build solid and ongoing relationships between different organisations. One method used was to visit every agency to support the approach, reinforce the good practice and ask them what help they needed to deliver the plan and provide that support. As part of this approach, I chaired monthly meetings for a period of 2 years with operational (front line staff) senior managers and senior policy makers from all agencies, and worked closely with representatives from UK Government (including representatives from Scotland and Wales) to ensure the learning from front line practice in this group influenced the development of wider government policy. I also attended a number of Government policy groups such as the Home Office strategic monitoring group

(responsible for the UK implementation of the Council of Europe Convention Against the Trafficking of Human Beings) and a range of other meetings to ensure the message of child centred victim responses were embedded in this strategic group's priorities. Problems were overcome by discussion and agreed actions, always in a positive supportive way and always ensuring the child was at the centre of all our work. And by working together building professional relationships based on trust and confidence in each other as individuals the group and organisations.

3. **What changed?** (Maximum 200 words)

e.g. Did you change a law, an attitude, a policy, a conflict situation?

A real benefit of the work I lead with the team at the London Safeguarding Children Board was the strong influence we were able to have on regional and national policy, including the creation of the London Safeguarding Children Board safeguarding trafficked children guidance and toolkit the incorporation of the toolkit and guidance into Working Together to Safeguard Children, the statutory UK child protection guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) the incorporation of key elements of the toolkit into the UK Government's 2011 Trafficking Strategy, strong influence over the content of the UK Serious Organised Crime Agency's Human Trafficking Victim Care Procedures, development of the Scottish Government's Trafficking procedures. development of the Welsh Government Trafficking procedures and Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures strong influence over the Child Exploitation 2010 /and 2011 Strategic Threat Assessment

**Additional Nomination Comments from others**

Mr. Ishola has been instrumental in the development of the Trafficked Children Toolkit and Guidance. Through multi-agency working, he developed mechanisms that assist statutory and non-statutory agencies in implementing key protective measures defined by the Palermo Protocol. He has drawn together legislation that protects children into policies that can be applied by front-line practitioners. The Toolkit has been endorsed in the UK government's strategy on human trafficking 2011 and the UK Action Plan from 2009, as well as by the Association of Directors of Children's Services. For several years now, he has been fighting hard to protect trafficked children, and continues to fight for further changes around the UK to ensure the safety of this extremely vulnerable group of children.