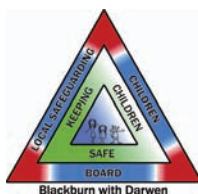


Supporting documents

Joint protocol - Children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care



Signatories to the Pan Lancashire missing from care protocol

SIGNED: Date.....

PRINT NAME:

JOB TITLE & ORGANISATION:

SIGNED: Date.....

PRINT NAME:

JOB TITLE & ORGANISATION:

SIGNED: Date.....

PRINT NAME:

JOB TITLE & ORGANISATION:

SIGNED: Date.....

PRINT NAME:

JOB TITLE & ORGANISATION:

SIGNED: Date.....

PRINT NAME:

JOB TITLE & ORGANISATION:

Direct reporting on SLEUTH system by children's services staff

NB: The following process does NOT apply to children in foster care, where the foster carers would be expected to liaise closely with the police and the child's social worker.

Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Council has begun a scheme to allow the online reporting of children who go missing from residential care.

The scheme is being rolled out across the county and should be accessible to all local authority residential sites during 2009.

The staff at each care home will input onto a Sleuth database accessible via the internet the personal and descriptive details (including photograph) of all young people resident at the establishment (registration details).

When the care home wish to report a child missing the following will apply:

- Carer will search premises and grounds of the home, speak to other child residents, attempt to contact missing child by mobile phone and conduct whatever other enquiries are reasonable and practicable.
- Carer will telephone police to confirm that the Sleuth system is live and will obtain a Storm log reference.
- Should the call be answered by a member of police staff unfamiliar with the pilot the carer will explain

that this procedure can be found on the comms A – Z under 'Missing Persons Pilot – Southern Division'

- Police communications staff will immediately open a police Command & Control log with brief details and notify the patrol inspector of impending Missing Person case.
- Police communications staff will record details of the patrol inspector notified about the case on the Command & Control log.
- Carers will then submit a Sleuth Missing Person report via the Internet. The report will be partially populated for them from earlier input registration details.
- The Missing Person Report will appear on the police Sleuth Missing Person system at which time the patrol inspector will ensure that the Sleuth log is reviewed by a police officer, a risk level is set, the Storm log closed and an investigation is commenced.
- Police Officers can commence search and investigation immediately without having to administer the creation of a Missing Persons report.
- Although carers will have conducted a premises search, and some basic enquiries with other residents, officers retain the right to revisit such issues if appropriate.

MFH booklet

MISSING PERSONS REPORT



**Lancashire
Constabulary**
police and communities together

MISSING PERSON DETAILS

Title: Last Name:

Forenames:

Other Names Used: circle -
alias / maiden name / nickname / preferred name / previous name / other.

Nationality: Religion:

Date of Birth: Place of Birth:

Gender: Height:

Home Phone Number: Mobile Phone Number:

..... Network Provider:

Medication:

Care Order / Mental Health Act Order:
(specify type of order)

Marital Status: single / married / separated / divorced / widowed / not known.

Sexuality:
Asexual / Gay / Transgender / Transsexual / Heterosexual / Bisexual

Workplace:

Occupation:

If in Education - School/College Attending:

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COMPLEXION Fresh / Ruddy / Fair / Pale / Tanned / Spotted /
Freckled / Sallow / Swarthy / Wrinkled

VISION: Spectacles / Contact Lenses / None / Unknown

ACCENT: English / Scottish / Welsh / Irish / Northern / North East /
North West / Midland / East Anglia / West Country /
Southern / Liverpool / London / Glasgow / Birmingham /
African / American / Australia / French / German / West
Indian / Asian / Oriental / Other European / Other / Unknown

EYE COLOUR Blue / Brown / Green / Grey / Hazel / Pink / Unknown

CLOTHING include designer label/brands and colours if known

Shirt/Sweater

Trousers/skirt

Head wear

Gloves

Other Clothing

Footwear

JEWELLERY include distinguishing features e.g. engravings

Ear Ring(s)

Watch(es)

Bracelet(s)

Ring(s)

Necklace(s)

Other

.....

OTHER PERSONAL POSSESSIONS

Full details of other items believed to be in possession of missing person including cash

.....

.....

.....

MFH booklet

MARKS, SCARS, TATTOOS AND DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

Tattoo	Right	Scalp	Arms	Chest	Nose	Toes	Tongue
Mark	Left	Eyes	Legs	Genitals	Chin	Breast	
Lacking	Centre	Lips	Brow	Hand	Abdomen	Gait	
Scarred	Upper	Neck	Ears	Feet	Buttocks	Hips	
Pierced	Lower	Back	Teeth	Face	Finger(s)	Speech	
Peculiar							

↓ Description of marks, scars, tattoos etc.

.....

.....

.....

HAIR

- Type:** Bald / Receding / Cropped / Short / Collar length / Shoulder Length / Very long / Clean shaven
- Natural colour:** Black / Dark Brown / Brown / Light Brown / Fair / White / Blond(e) / Grey / Ginger / Auburn / Sandy / Mousey
- Dyed/greying:** Dyed / Greying
- Artificial colour:** Black / Dark Brown / Brown / Light Brown / Fair / White / Blond(e) / Ginger / Red / Sandy / Blue / Green / Orange / Purple / Yellow / Pink / Multi / Grey
- Features:** Afro / Beehive / Mohican / Ponytail / Plaited / Bushy / Rasta / Shaven / Skinhead / Dirty / Curly / Greasy / Streaked / Thinning / Wig / Straight / Untidy / High-lighted / Dreadlocks / Spiked / Wavy
- Facial Hair** Unknown / Moustache / Beard / Long Sideburns / Full Set / Clean Shaven / None

DENTURES

Yes / No

Details:.....

BUILD

Fat / Stocky / Medium / Slim / Thin

SHOE SIZE

.....

MFH booklet

DESCRIPTION

PNC Ethnic Origin:

Colour: white / non white / unknown

Ethnic Appearance: white european / dark european / african caribbean / asian / oriental / arab / unknown

Ethnic Origin

Major Categories

Description **Code**

Asian or Asian British A

Black or Black British B

Chinese
or Other Ethnic Group O

Mixed M

White W

Sub-groupings

Description **Code**

Indian 1

Pakistani 2

Bangladeshi 3

Any other Asian background 9

Caribbean 1

African 2

Any other Black background 9

Chinese 1

Any other Ethnic group 9

White and Black Caribbean 1

White and Black African 2

White and Asian 3

Any other Mixed background 9

British 1

Irish 2

Any other White background 9

Languages Spoken

Accent

Warning Signals: Firearms / Weapons / Violent / Escaper / Mental /
Explosives / Allergies / Contagious / Ailment / Suicidal /
Drugs / Male Impersonation / Female Impersonation

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LAST APPARENT SIGHTING

Place last seen?:

Time/Date last seen?:

Details of last person to see missing person if different from initial informant?:

.....

(all sightings to be recorded in the Investigation Log - use Source / Intelligence Evaluation Criteria)

Last name:

Forename(s): Gender:

Date of Birth:

Address:..... Tel. No:

..... Mobile No:

..... Other Contact No's:

Place of work: Occupation:

Relationship of Informant to Missing Person circle -

parent / guardian / brother / sister / son / daughter / other relative / neighbour / friend / partner / spouse / care professional / other (state

NEXT OF KIN IF DIFFERENT TO INITIAL INFORMANT

Known/Not Known

Last name:

Forename(s): Gender:

Date of Birth:

Address: Tel. No:

..... Mobile No:

..... Other Contact No's:

Place of work: Occupation:

Relationship of Informant to Missing Person circle -

parent / guardian / brother / sister / son / daughter / other relative / neighbour / friend / partner / spouse / care professional / other (state

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISAPPEARANCE

.....
.....
.....

MFH booklet

HOME ADDRESS

House No. / Name:

Street:

District / Town:

Post Code:

MISSING FROM

LOCATION

House No. / Name:

Street:

District / Town:

Post Code: Tel:

INITIAL INFORMANT DETAILS

Last name:

Forename(s): Gender:

Date of Birth:

Address: Tel. No:

..... Mobile No:

..... Other Contact No's:

Place of work: Occupation:

Relationship of Informant to Missing Person circle -

parent / guardian / brother / sister / son / daughter / other relative /

neighbour / friend / partner / spouse / care professional / other

(state))

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Investigative consideration	Details and circumstances	Person giving the information
Previously disappeared and suffered or was exposed to harm?		
Belief that the person may not have the physical ability to interact safely with others or an unknown environment.		
Do they need essential medication that is not likely to be available to them?		
Ongoing bullying or harassment e.g. racial, sexual, homophobic etc or local community concerns or cultural issues?		
Were they involved in a violent and/or racist incident immediately prior to disappearance?		
School / college / university / employment or financial problems?		
Drug or alcohol dependency?		
Other unlisted factors which the officer or supervisor considers should influence risk assessment?		

NOTES ABOUT RISK FACTORS

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

MFH booklet

RISK ASSESSMENT/DECISION MAKING GUIDE		
Consider all of the questions below in order to structure the enquiries and to assist in determining the level of risk.		
Investigative consideration	Details and circumstances	Person giving the information
Is the person vulnerable due to age or infirmity or any other similar factor?		
Behaviour that is out of character is often a strong indicator of risk; are the circumstances of going missing different from normal behaviour patterns?		
Is the person suspected to be subject of a significant crime in progress e.g. abduction?		
Is there any indication that the person is likely to commit suicide?		
Is there a reason for the person to go missing?		
Are there any indications that preparations have been made for absence?		
What was the person intending to do when last seen? (e.g. going to the shops or catching a bus) and did they fail to complete their intentions?		
Family/relationship problems or recent history of family conflict/abuse?		
Are they the victim or perpetrator of domestic violence?		
Does the missing person have any physical illness or mental health issue?		
Are they on the Child Protection Register?		

MFH booklet

RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES

1. Name	2. Name
Address.....	Address.....
.....
.....
Telephone No's.	Telephone No's.
.....
Relationship	Relationship
3. Name	4. Name
Address.....	Address.....
.....
.....
Telephone No's.	Telephone No's.
.....
Relationship	Relationship
5. Name	6. Name
Address.....	Address.....
.....
.....
Telephone No's.	Telephone No's.
.....
Relationship	Relationship
7. Name	8. Name
Address.....	Address.....
.....
.....
Telephone No's.	Telephone No's.
.....
Relationship	Relationship

(Add each lead to sleuth log as an 'action' or if contacted as 'other information'.)

MFH booklet

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Bank/Building Society

Name

Branch

Sort Code

Account Number(s)

Bank/Building Society

Name

Branch

Sort Code

Account Number(s)

Credit card, cash and store card details

Name on Card

Card Provider

Card No.

Credit card, cash and store card details

Name on Card

Card Provider

Card No.

Credit card, cash and store card details

Name on Card

Card Provider

Card No.

Credit card, cash and store card details

Name on Card

Card Provider

Card No.

MFH booklet

MEANS OF TRANSPORT - Vehicle

Is missing person in possession of a vehicle Yes / No
 If yes obtain following details for PNC

Consider using PNC Vehicle Online Descriptive Search (VODS) if required to identify vehicle used

Make: Model:

Colour: Registration No.....

Owner: Registered Keeper:

Distinctive features:

Other Information:

Body Group Description

Saloon / Van / 3 wheeler / Combination / Estate / Pick-up / Motor Caravan /
 Non-standard / Sports / Scooter / Lorry / Light 4x4 Utility / Convertible /
 Moped / Motorcycle / MPV

Can they drive a motor vehicle? Yes / No

Full Driving License? Yes / No

PASSPORT DETAILS

Valid Passport Yes / No / Not Known

Passport Number Expiry Date

Location of passport.....

MFH booklet

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- **List details of friends and acquaintances so that the officer can make contact. Sometimes they may tell the police something they would not tell you.**

- **Speak with friends, neighbours, relatives and colleagues. Ask if they know where the missing person may be. Let them know it has been reported to the police. Sometimes they would rather tell you information before the police.**

- **Ensure somebody remains at the home address in case the missing person returns or attempts to make contact.**

- **Locate diaries, address books, itemised telephone bills and the like and make them available to the police.**

- **Check missing person's belongings to see what they might have with them, such as clothing, bags, access to money, mobile telephones.**

- **Contact the police immediately, on the above telephone number, if the missing person turns up or you receive information regarding their possible whereabouts.**

- **Keep a record of all the enquiries that you make yourself. Including the time and date, and show this to the officer when next in contact.**

MFH booklet

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER When Taking Missing From Home Report

For the most comprehensive advice you MUST refer to SLEUTH missing from home toolkit.

- Obtain photograph
- Obtain diary / address book / itemised phone bill
- House search, including grounds and outbuildings
- Any medical / psychological / emotional history. Also details of GP, social workers where applicable
- Access to firearms
- Medication. Is this in the possession of the MFH? What are the effects of overdose or not taking?
- Telephones: Last number redial 1471 / 1571 checks, including mobile
- Financial situation - access to money / any benefits
- Computer access
- Usual routes taken and usual mode of transport
- Places frequented / habits / hobbies
- Alcohol / solvent / drug abuse
- Please emphasise the importance of a family member remaining at home address at all times
- Are we suspicious of the informant or any other members of the household? If so, please consider PNC / INTL / INDE checks on these persons
- If suspicious consider obtaining DNA from hairs, toothbrush, underwear, cigarette stubbs, clothing or bedding. Fingerprints can be obtained from property touched by missing person
- Has the person been missing from home before? Was it reported to the police.

MFH booklet

Lancashire Constabulary will now risk assess and investigate your missing person report.

The vast majority of missing person cases dealt with by Lancashire Police are resolved quite quickly, often without the need for extensive and intrusive investigations. However, it is sometimes necessary, in the interests of the safety and welfare of the missing person and/or the public for the police to conduct intrusive enquiries and to disclose information to The National Missing Persons Helpline, to the media, and in rare cases to the ukmissingkids.com website. The police may also need to make enquiries with others including doctors, hospitals, dentists, employers, educational establishments, telecommunication providers and financial institutions. Rest assured that the police will do so only when it is considered absolutely necessary and then will do so as tactfully and carefully as possible.

If you do have any concerns about the disclosure of such information or about enquiries of the type mentioned above please make sure that you discuss these matters with the officers dealing with the case. The police will take account of your views in these matters, keep enquiries proportionate to the circumstances of the case and try to adapt enquiries in accordance with any concerns that you may have. However, the police do have to make the final decision in relation to the course of the investigation based on the circumstances of the case and the safety and welfare of the missing person and of the public.

It may be that the police ask for your personal assistance with making such enquiries. If so your cooperation will be much appreciated, may well help to inform the investigation and address any concerns you may have.

In the vast majority of cases including all High and medium risk cases, the police will continue to actively investigate cases until they are resolved. However, in the tiny proportion of cases that are assessed as low risk cases and which remain unresolved after a period of fourteen days the police will ask the National Missing Person Helpline to actively assist with attempts to trace the missing person. In such circumstances the police will retain ownership of the case and review its progress periodically but will not continue with proactive enquiries on a daily basis.

MFH booklet

OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

*that can offer support to
families of the Missing*

THE NATIONAL MISSING PERSONS HELPLINE

The NMPH provides help and support for families (and close friends in exceptional circumstances) of people who are missing. They can offer practical advice to reduce the stress and upset that the disappearance of a loved one can cause and provide additional support to the police. They also provide a 'message home service (0800 700740) which allows runaways to record a message in confidence that is passed on to the person the caller has named.

Telephone: 0500 700 700

Website: www.missingpersons.org

THE SALVATION ARMY TRACING SERVICE

This service attempts to restore or sustain family relationships. In addition to tracing, the Salvation Army can offer support to the families involved.

101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN

Telephone: 020 7367 4747

Fax: 020 7367 4723

Website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/familytracing

REUNITE (*International Child Abduction Centre*)

Advice line: 020 7375 3440

MFH booklet



**Lancashire
Constabulary**

police and communities together

MISSING PERSONS

INFORMATION FOR

“those left behind”

The Lancashire Constabulary deals with more than 9,000 missing person reports every year, the vast majority of which are resolved within 48 hours.

We do appreciate that this is a traumatic time for you and this leaflet gives useful information on what you can do to assist the investigation, along with relevant contact numbers.

Contact Telephone Number

CRS Log Number

Please quote this log number in all correspondence with the police. Although the officer handing you this leaflet will provide you with his/her name, the investigation will involve other officers to ensure that enquiries are being made 24 hours a day.

Criteria for launching child rescue alert

The criteria for launching a Child Rescue Alert are strict so as to ensure the public and the media do not become de-sensitised to them.

The four criteria, all of which **MUST** be satisfied before an alert is issued:

- The child is apparently under 18 years old

And

- There is a reasonable belief that the child has been kidnapped or abducted

And

- There is a reasonable belief that the child is in imminent danger of serious harm or death

And

- There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist Police in locating the child

Source: Lancashire Constabulary Child Rescue Alert Operating Procedures and Guidance.

Missing person return interview form

Young persons name:

Young persons address:

Date of birth:

Gender:

Date reported:

Date/time:

1. What happened to make you go missing? (*planned, bored, something happened, to get away...*)
2. What happened whilst you were missing? (*Where did you go, who were you with, any trouble, anybody else saw you/met you, how did you get back, how did you feel*)

What can be done to stop you going missing again?

Any concerns/issues?

Raised by YP

Is there any further information, including intelligence that is not subject to this report? **Yes / No**

If yes - how/where is this reported or if passed verbally - details of who to and when:

Child protection referral? **Yes / No**

Details of where / when return interview took place (Time / Date / Place):

.....

Details of person co-ordinating return interview and any other persons present:

.....

Date form completed / forwarded to your Police divisional representative:

.....

I (name of the young person) consent to this information being shared with (details)

Please now e-mail this record to the Police as an attachment.

Questions for return interview

Questions	Yes	No	Any comments
Why:			
Anything in the home?			
Peer pressure?			
Going to get drugs/alcohol?			
Wanting family contact?			
To clear your head?			
Did you plan to run away - take food, clothes, money?			
Did you just stay out?			
Did friends encourage you stay out?			
Where you kept out against your will?			
When out:			
Where you scared to return?			
Did you at any point want to return?			
Did anything bad happen to you - hurt, injured, drugged, abused (physical, sexual, mental)?			
Where you held captive?			
Where you offered drink/drugs - how much, what was it, was it bought, given or stolen and where from?			
Where did you stay - friends house, other family members house, didn't know them, in a car, walked the streets, outside in the open?			
What did you do for food, money, clothing?			

Questions	Yes	No	Any comments
When out (continued):			
Did you manage to shower and if so where?			
Did you manage to change your clothes and if so where?			
Was there anything you needed whilst away?			
Did you make contact with anyone whilst away - friends, family, carers?			
Did you get involved with the Police?			
Did you commit crime - on your own, with someone, did someone ask you to do it?			
Did you run from the Police?			
Returning:			
Did you return of your own accord?			
Where you returned by someone?			
Did you ask to be picked up?			
Where you scared to come back?			
How do you feel now your back?			
Is there anything you need?			
How have you been treated since you came back?			

Section 2 child abduction act, specimen statements and notices



Section 2 Child Abduction Act 1984/Section 49 Children Act 1989

I have been advised that the following young person (*free text. e.g. has recently stayed at your home, been present in the same room as yourself, travelled in the same vehicle, or otherwise been in your company*).

Child/Young Person	Age	Date person is 18 years

This young person is in the care of local authority.

I wish to make it clear on behalf of the parents, carer or guardian of the child/young person referred to above that you have no permission or authority to allow this young person to enter or stay in your home, vehicle or be in your company at any time of day or night before they reach the age of **18 years**.

YOU MUST NOT AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT:

- allow this young person to enter or stay in your house, flat or place of work;
- allow this young person to enter or stay in any other property you are present in;
- allow this young person to enter or travel in any vehicle or caravan you own or are travelling in;
- meet with this young person or allow them to remain in your presence;
- telephone, text, e-mail or communicate with this young person in any way;
- provide this young person with any food, drink, gift or any other item.

If this young person approaches you, you must immediately:

- refuse to allow them to enter the property or vehicle you are in;
- ask them to leave;
- contact the Police (**0845 1253545**) if they refuse to leave.

If you do not co-operate with this request and this young person, or any other young person in the care of the Local Authority, is traced to your home or is found in your presence, **then you are liable to arrest and prosecution** under S49 Children Act 1989 or S2 Child Abduction Act 1984 which carries a maximum sentence of **7 years imprisonment**. Alternatively, the Local Authority may seek an injunction against you and any breach of this could lead to your committal to prison.

May I also make it clear that any suggestion that you are offering this young person necessary shelter or hospitality is no defence. The parent, carer or guardian for this young person wishes to make it clear that no such services from you are required and are indeed unwelcome.

Person receiving warning

Name:			
Date of birth:			
Address:			
I confirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the officer has read and explained the contents of this letter to me; I am clear as to which young person is being referred to; the officer has handed me a copy of this warning notice; and I agree to comply with its demands. 			
Signature:			
Time:		Date:	
Reason given if person refuses to sign:			

Officer issuing warning

Collar number and name:			
Station:			
I confirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have read and explained the contents of this letter to the person named above; I have / have not shown the person a photograph of the young person; If a photograph has not been shown, explain how you have verified that the above person knows which young person you are referring to: I have handed them a copy of this warning notice. 			
Signature:			
Time:		Date:	

Additional offender details

1. NI number:	
2. Passport number:	
3. Driving license number:	
4. Known associates:	
5. Offenders address(es)	
6. Offenders Vehicle(s)	

THIS FORM MUST BE FAXED THROUGH TO THE PNC BUREAU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON EXT 410577 - TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPORTING M11 STATEMENT.

Please ensure you include details of all vehicles known to be used by the 'offender' and all addresses markers will be placed against the PNC for ANPR purposes. (enter on a separate sheet if necessary)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

FORM MG11

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, s.s.5A (3a) and 5B MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18"). Occupation

This statement (consists of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the day of 20

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded
(Supply witness details on rear)

Signature

I am a Police Officer in the Lancashire Constabulary.

At hours on I attended
..... and spoke to the defendant
.....

I formally cautioned him/her and issued a warning notice to
under Section 2 of the Child Abduction Act 1984.

I also verbally explained the notice and confirmed he/she understood it.

The notice was in relation to the child,

I also showed a photograph of that child.

She replied

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

RESTRICTED (when complete)

FORM MG11

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, s.s.5A (3a) and 5B MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of

Age if under 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18"). Occupation

This statement (consists of page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the day of 20

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded
(Supply witness details on rear)

Signature

I am the parent/carer of
..... who is a child under the age of sixteen years, date of birth
being

At hours on I have absolutely banned outright, with no
exceptions from visiting any address at which
..... is residing or at and / or from associating with
..... at any place whatsoever.

I am the person with lawful control over and can say that
..... has no lawful authority to take, remove, keep or detain
..... from my lawful control.

I believe that by making this statement I am acting in the best interest of
..... and support Police action.

I also consent to the use of a photograph of when the police
issue a warning to

County boundary map



Guidance on child sexual exploitation

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE GUIDANCE TO STAFF

What is sexual exploitation?

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is the sexual abuse of a child or young person under 18 by an adult who involves them in inappropriate sexual activities either with themselves or another often in exchange for /or supplies them with something such as alcohol, drugs, money, food accommodation or other services.

Sexual exploitation of young people IS a hidden form of child abuse.

Children and young people who become involved in sexual exploitation face huge risks to their physical, emotional and psychological health.

Why do children and young people become involved?

Young people who run away from home are recognised as being much more at risk of being targeted as a victim of sexual exploitation.

The common issues and reasons are because they are extremely vulnerable, have low self-esteem and poor self image.

Vulnerability is identified and targeted by the abusers, whether the young person is living with their family, looked after away from home or they have run away.

The young person may not see themselves as victims and may claim to be acting voluntarily. In reality this is NOT voluntary or consenting behaviour.

Indicators for sexual exploitation include:

- Regularly going missing
- Truancy from school
- Being girlfriends/boyfriends with significantly older people (e.g. 13 yr old girl with 18yr male)
- Collected from school/home in unknown cars
- Unexplained bruising or injuries
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Secretive mobile phone use
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Associating with other young people who are known to be involved in sexual exploitation

All staff deal with incidents of sexual exploitation without necessarily recognising the signs. It is essential all staff learn to recognise the indicators and warning signs and ensure positive action is taken to prevent further abuse of our vulnerable children.

What can you do?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people should not be regarded as a criminal act by the child or young person, but as child sexual abuse.

The sexual exploitation of a child or young person will almost certainly involve the commission of a crime but should not be regarded as a criminal act by the child or young person, but as sexual abuse of them. The focus of police investigations and of prosecutions should be on the exploiters, not on the child or young person who is the victim of sexual exploitation.

Ensure all intelligence/information regarding sexual exploitation is reported appropriately.

If in doubt further advice must be sought from your divisional Public Protection Unit and/or Missing/Vulnerable Person Co-coordinator/Exploitation Liaison Officer

The young person may not see themselves as victims and may claim to be acting voluntarily. In reality this is NOT voluntary or consenting behaviour.

Think safeguarding!

