

## Children Missing/ Absent from Home/Care

(Missing – Whereabouts not known; Absent – Away from placement/home without authorisation – Whereabouts known)

Parents/ Carers/ Providers identify should be clear about curfew times for their children or children placed with them. When concerned that child/ young person is missing, Parents/carers/ providers are expected to make enquiries to establish child/young person's whereabouts with relatives /friends and known contacts. This should include searches of the residence and local area. Where a young person is in care, the Carer(s)/ Providers will report to Police as well as notify the allocated social worker and Emergency Duty Team.



### Reporting to police with details of the child/young person:

- Child's Name, Age and DOB
- Description of the young person and what they were wearing at the time they were last seen
- Recent photograph
- Specific medical needs disability related ill health and any medications the child is on
- Known disability including vulnerability
- Legal Status (e.g. S20, Interim/Full Care Order, EPO, UASC, SGO, Child Arrangement Order or Privately Fostered)
- Agencies working with the young person, if parents or carers know
- When young person was last seen, if home late, what time was the young person expected home/ at the placement
- Where the young person went missing from
- Who was the child with when last seen, including the last professional to see the child
- If the missing incident is out of character for the young person
- Whether young person is in the habit of coming home/ to placement late or leaving home/ placement without permission
- Any known risky adults young people known to associate with
- Any other information relevant to the missing incident including mobile numbers and known social networks details



### Police Risk Assessment

- Slough Police Officers to conduct a Risk Assessment including risk to CSE; this will form the basis for actions taken i.e. locating the young person.
- Police will assess potential risk in every situation including repeat incidents of missing and absent as a continuum of risk.
- The risk assessment will include consideration to escalate absent to 'Missing' if there is a change to the young person's circumstances that have increased the level of risk.
- The Missing incident will be recorded on the Police Database (Niche – if TVP)



### What to do when Young Person Returns home/to placement

- Parent/carer to speak to the young person and find out where they were. Parent/Carer to notify Police and provide details; i.e. info shared by the young person and how they presented – physically and emotionally. Police will attend the young person's home/ placement within 24 hours and complete a Safe & Well check. If child is looked after, Carer to notify EDT and social worker of return home.



**Child not open to Slough Children's Services trust** – See front door CSE/missing process (add link). Police send report through to MASH Hub and CSE/missing Manager.



**Child open to Slough CST – residing in Slough** – Police send report through to MASH Hub and CSE/missing Manager. MASH forward report to allocated social worker.



**Child open to Slough CST – Residing outside of Slough** – Allocated social worker/Business support officer to inform CSE/missing manager of missing episode. Social Worker to fill in RHI request form as soon as young person is found (add link) and send to CSE/missing manager and CSE BSO.



**CSE/missing manager or Business support officer** adds CSE flag to ICS. Update IRO/CP chair where appropriate. Request Return home interview from Young people's services.



When completed, the **CSE/missing manager or BSO** share the RHI with the police missing co-ordinator and ensure that allocated social worker, IRO, CP chair is aware. If placed out of borough the RHI will be shared with the police missing co-ordinator for the area. The police missing co-ordinator will share intelligence from the RHI's with Force Intelligence for the area.

**CSE/missing manager or BSO** fill out online referral form for NYAS to undertake RHI. <https://www.nyas.net/referral-form>



### Return Home Interviews

- All Return home interviews must be completed within 72 hours of the young person being found or returning home or to the placement.
- Where the return home interview is completed by Young people's services (Children residing in Slough), the ICS return home interview form is assigned to the worker undertaking the interview in order for them to complete this.
- Where the Return home interview is completed by NYAS (children residing outside of Slough) the ICS return home interview form remains assigned to the CSE manager/BSO. The NYAS report is then attached to this document when received.
- Child protection issues coming out of the RHI will be referred to MASH/ Straight to Police by the CSE & Missing Manager if the child is not already open to social care
- Where CSE has been identified as a concern, the social worker must complete the CSE Risk Indicator Tool within 2 weeks of Missing Incident
- If the young person has been reported missing 3 times within 90 days, the case will be presented to the SEMRAC Panel (Sexual Exploitation and Missing Risk Assessment Conference) by the social worker. The provider/carer will be invited to panel. If the child is placed out of borough, the social worker will present the case at the panel that covers the area that the child is placed. Targeted support to be considered.