

APPENDIX 2 LOCAL AUTHORITY MISSING FROM CARE RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment: for children and young people who run away from care or are at risk of becoming missing from care.

(The risk indicators can also be used to inform assessments for children and young people who run away or are at risk of running away from home.)

Name of child or young person:..... ID:.....

Date of Birth: Age:..... Legal Status:

It is important in completing this risk assessment that you consider the definitions of missing and absent being used are:

Missing – “Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another. “

Absent – “A person not at a place where they are expected or required to be”.

The risk indicators should prompt the assessment and any relevant information, which should be included under the section "risk assessment information".

Risk indicators	Risk assessment information
What are the usual circumstances of the child/young person going missing i.e. is the young person running to someone or from a situation? When does the child/young person usually leave the home?	
Where do they usually go? Are they with family or friends or with people who are unknown or undesirable?	
What level of maturity has the young person shown in being able to make decisions about themselves or others?	
What are the agreed coming in times, if any?	
Do they have access to any money and how if necessary will they obtain this?	
Are there any known issues/events happening in the child's/young person's family or close friends?	
Past method of return i.e. via family or on their own	
What is the risk of suicide/self-harm? What are the indicators of this?	
Likely use of drugs/alcohol/solvents? If so, type and amount?	
Past involvement of offending and in what form? Is the child/young person a risk to the community and in what way?	

Risk indicators	Risk assessment information
Is there risk of sexual exploitation? Have sexual exploitation protocols been activated (e.g. CSE strategy meetings)? Any previous harm suffered while absent?	
Any concerns about new friends /boyfriends/associates?	
Any concern of abduction or being prevented from returning? Is there a risk of forced marriage?	
Are they experiencing bullying/racial and/or homophobic abuse? Any signs or indicators that child is experiencing difficulties or abuse in the placement?	
Is the child/young person on medication or suffering from medical condition?	
Physical or learning disability/difficulties?	
What is the child/young person's legal status?	
Any further information and knowledge	

This risk assessment grid above should be used as a guide and involve discussion and pooling of information to agree an informed risk assessment. In cases of little knowledge or where there is disagreement, the child or young person should be considered as being at higher risk.

Concluding risk assessment

Action to be taken by whom and by when (in bullet points)

Young Person Date.....
RCCW/Foster Carer.....Date.....
Home Manager/Family Placement Worker.....
Date.....

Categories of absence: for children and young people who run away from care

Unauthorised absence	Usual action
<p>Absent – “A person not at a place where they are expected or required to be”.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a MFH risk assessment or refer to MFH already in place 2. Make enquiries to locate the child/young person and search premises 3. Inform the police and agree any future course of action. 4. Inform/contact family and those with parental responsibility. 5. Where action not already agreed in MFH risk assessment is available Inform and discuss with on call manager and or social worker/Emergency Duty Team. 6. Where child/young person has not returned undertake action as agreed with the police 7. Once child/young person has been missing for longer than the agreed period follow-on action needs to be agreed.
Missing	Usual action
<p>Missing – “Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another. “</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a risk assessment 2. Make enquiries to locate the child/young person and search premises. 3. Inform on-call manager/senior. 4. Report child/young person missing to the police providing full details 5. Inform/contact family and those with parental responsibility 6. Inform/discuss with social worker/Emergency Duty Team
Unlawfully at large	Usual action
<p>A child is considered unlawfully at large when they are absent from their placement without permission and are subject to an order or requirement resulting from the criminal justice system</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a risk assessment 2. Make enquiries to locate the child/young person search premises. 3. Inform on-call manager/senior. 4. Report child/young person missing to the police providing full details. 5. Inform/contact family and those with parental responsibility. 6. Inform and discuss with social worker/ Emergency Duty Team 7. Inform Youth Offending Service/probation/legal as appropriate.
Looked after children away from their placement without authorisation	Usual action
<p>This is when young People are absent for a short period of time i.e. less than overnight, and after a careful and thorough risk assessment, the absence</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out a risk assessment 2. Make enquiries to locate the child/young person search premises. 3. Inform on-call manager/senior 4. Inform and discuss with social worker/ Emergency Duty Team

does not raise concern For their immediate safety or that of the public	
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Unauthorised absence/ Away from Placement without authorisation – lower risk	Missing /unlawfully at large– higher risk

Signature of staff member PRINT NAME

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Date and time:

Signature of line manager: PRINT NAME