Missing Children
Multi-Agency Strategy 2016 - 18

Working Together to Safeguard Children going Missing from Home & Care in Bradford

Statement of Intent

Children who go missing from home and care are an extremely vulnerable group of children and young people. In the year 2015/16 32 Police Forces reported that there were 44,189 notifications of children going missing which related to 9,367 children. Of these, it is reported that children in care were responsible for 88%/

In Bradford between 1st April and 30th June there were 692 missing episodes in relation to 290 individual children. This includes 357 occurrences relating to 62 individual children. Locally children in care are responsible for 50% of missing incidents.

Missing children is a safeguarding issue as, whilst the majority of children who go missing return quickly, many others will either be at risk of or suffer harm in the form of a wide range of dangers which includes physical abuse or being groomed for radicalisation and exploitation. They may sleep rough or commit crimes to survive and

their physical and emotional health may suffer as well as their general health, education and social relationships. There are also links between going missing, being sexually exploited and trafficking.

From research there are many reasons why children go missing from home or care often referred to as push-pull factors; for example they may be pushed away from home or pulled towards something.

We will develop an effective local strategy to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response to children going missing from home or care.

It is our clear intent to contribute to improving the lives of children living in Bradford both within home and care. We will do so by ensuring children and young people understand the risks of going missing and of being exploited. This will lead to better outcomes for children and young people.

This strategy and action plan is based on the national guidance for responding to missing children re-issued in January 2014.

"Statutory Guidance on Children who run away or go missing from home or care" it defines the roles and responsibilities of those agencies active in this field including Local Authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, multi-agency partners (Police, Health etc) and the Voluntary Sector and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) '*Report from the Joint Enquiry into Children who go missing from care'* (July 2012). It will be updated as required in line with developments from central government and policy, practice or research.
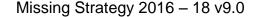
The strategy covers children of all ages that are reported missing to the police and meets the criteria within the protocol.

The strategy for 2016-8 has an emphasis on:

➤ Prevention: Reducing the number of children who go missing
➤ Protection: Reducing the risk of harm to those who go missing
➤ Provision: Providing missing children & families with support and Guidance

Our key strategic priorities are:

➤ Mapping data and Intelligence to understand needs in relation to levels of missing children
➤ Putting systems in place to effectively respond to children who go missing
➤ To offer children who go missing a return interview in a timely manner (in line with the *missing protocol*)
➤ Increase understanding & awareness of missing children issues among children, their parents and carers as well as with professionals across the multi-agency partnership
➤ Ensure a multi-agency response to meeting the needs of children and young people who go missing

How we will achieve our priorities?

There is a strategic group service manger lead for missing children within CSS as well as a dedicated police manager.

A multi-agency missing children steering group will meet regularly to monitor and progress strategy and planning, taking into account new legislation, research, policy or guidance.

Strategic planning and working in a multi-agency way will enable us to work collaboratively, consistently, and effectively to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of harm from going missing from home or care.

The missing children steering group will:

• Take a strategic lead in the co-ordination of resources and services for children who go missing
• Scrutinise performance, taking a robust approach to data collation and analysis, to inform practice and resource planning.
• Drive forward and support the multi-agency action plans to ensure that the work that needs to be done to tackle missing children is carried forward

The work of the group will report to the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). Elected members will also be updated annually.

Prevention	
What are we going to do?	**How will we do it?**
1.1 Ensure that there are clear multi-agency policies and processes to support the work on responding to missing children.	By ensuring that multi-agency policies and protocols are agreed and located on the relevant websites, shared across the partnership, and that compliance is monitored through supervision and case audit ensuring all professionals work to the missing from home or care protocol agreed between CSS and the WYP and the statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from care.
1.2 Have an understanding of the "picture" and context of "missing" in Bradford and whether there are locations or venues which are high risk and where children are regularly going missing.	The police and local authority will collate and share data which will be analysed to identify trends, patterns and hot spots which will then be targeted and shared as appropriate with partner agencies.

A data analyst and missing coordinator have been recruited to undertake this activity.

Develop a set of performance indicators to monitor the targeted activity to reduce missing in the district

Targets in place: DMT report |
| 1.3 Develop a better understanding of the reasons why children and young people run away and go missing from home and care. | Through the use of data collated from return interviews an analysis of the reasons why children go missing from home or care will be developed and consideration will be given to see if a strategic response is required.

Through the use of available research to develop a wider understanding of the drivers for children who go missing and to identify actions and preventative services which will enable |

	intervention at the earliest opportunity. Ensure that we listen to young people and use CLA reviews, Viewpoint and other participation forums to understand why young people might engage in going missing. . **Target: Number of RTH interviews**
1.4 Ensure that colleagues working with, or in contact with, children understand missing children issues to support them in developing intervention strategies to prevent escalation.	Through multi-agency training on the policy and protocol for missing children and development events and briefings around the research to ensure staff have sufficient awareness of missing children issues. **Target: number of staff accessing relevant training**
1.5 Ensure that colleagues working in targeted early help understand the impact of missing and are able to signpost to effective services to support the child and family	Through the effective alignment coordination of services within Targeted Early Help effective interventions can be offered to the child and their family at the earliest opportunity **Target: contacts with TEH where missing indicated**
1.6 Ensure colleagues working with, or in contact with children, who go missing, understand the impact children may suffer upon their physical and emotional health.	Through multi-agency training and development to ensure staff are equipped to carry out their responsibilities towards missing children have sufficient awareness of the possible impacts on physical and emotional health and awareness of the services available. Access to CAMHS services where this is identified as a need. **Target: number of staff accessing relevant training** **Target: number of young people accessing CAMHS support**
1.7 Ensure that colleagues in education are tracking and	Through multi-agency training and development to ensure staff

responding to children and young people who are missing from education	have sufficient awareness of missing children issues. The Safeguarding in Education Hub will monitor and oversee all elements of children missing from education. **Target: number of staff accessing relevant training**
1.8 Offer support to schools to deliver an education package to the children and young people of Bradford designed to heighten awareness of the risks Involved when engaging in this behaviour	Develop and deliver a package of training resources for young people in consultation with children and their families who have experienced missing children behaviour. Develop links with the emerging education & safeguarding hub **Target: number of young people accessing within school**
1.9 Improve links with private sector children's homes within the district. 1.10 Support foster carers and residential staff in their understanding of what they can do to make going missing less likely.	Include the private sector residential and fostering services in policy and practice development and training. Provide clear guidance to homes and carers so that they understand their role in preventing missing occurrences and the need to listen to the child's voice to understand the reasons young people in care go missing and support carers in residential and fostering settings to develop strategies and interventions to prevent missing episodes from occurring Ensure that delegated authority is delivered across placements Through an emphasis on missing children within the LAC strategy. **Target: Number of 1st reviews where delegated authority agreed**

1.11 We will ensure that the link between going missing and child sexual exploitation (CSE) is well known and understood.	Emphasise the link within our policies, procedures, training and awareness raising to ensure that those who undertake return interviews and safe and well interviews are aware of the inherent risks in going missing. Ensure there is a clear remit within the Missing Children multi-agency steering group to maintain the link to CSE. Ensure the CSE hub lead feeds into the multi agency missing group and there is good quality sharing of information.
1.12 When making decisions on placements both internally and externally we will consider the match with other residents and the ability of the provision to safeguard the young person.	Ensure that placement coordination have a clear picture of all the young persons needs within the placement referral. Ensure that any additional risks are highlighted and these are clearly talked through with any potential placement. Ensure that challenge is brought to the provider as to how they will meet the needs of the young person. **Target: Number of missing events** **Target: Number of placement changes**
Analysis of Impact: June 2016 300 staff are now aware of the risks and dangers to children who go missing and will be equipped to offer a child centred response to children who go missing The multi-agency partnership shares a collective understanding of the risks missing children face across a range of dangers Return to home interviews have taken place for 98% of young	Progress: June 2016 • Missing Policy and Protocol agreed and in place 06/16 • Policy and Protocol uploaded and available on website and linked to the multi-agency procedures 06/16 • Multi-agency training is developed and advertised across the partnership • 4 Missing briefings have taken place with 300 attendees 06/16

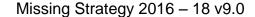|	
people who are not CLA and have been reported missing. Return to home interviews for CLA is delivered by a commissioned service the young people are also seen by their Social Worker. A missing coordinator is in post and reviewing every missing incident. Links are in place with all private children's home providers in the area All young people have a reporting strategy in place	• Elearning training has been revised and will be available from September 16 • Information gathered from return to home interviews is shared with partners. • The recording of our response to missing incidents is improving due to this targeted activity • Two meetings have taken place with private providers in the area • Missing coordinator reviewing reporting strategies with placements and SW's

Protection	
What are we going to do?	**How are we going to do it?**
2.1 We have a multi-agency co-ordinated approach to missing children collocated within SHMH.	We will do this through our partnership working at a strategic Level, within the daily meeting, the weekly strategic missing meeting, the bi monthly partnership missing meeting and with the CEX on a quarterly basis
2.2 Information sharing is a critical factor in correctly identifying vulnerability and in ensuring that children are found quickly.	Agencies will share information and intelligence with each other to assist in the rapid location of young people. Return to home interviews and safe and well forms will be shared across agencies.
2.3 The police will inform the Local Authority of all missing children notifications and subsequent found notifications. The police will respond robustly in investigating missing children.	Automatic missing and found notifications will be sent to Children's Social Care who will screen them. The police will make efforts to locate missing children using available information and intelligence and using a robust risk assessment model.
2.4 Using the information and data gathered from return interview at a strategic level we will endeavour to better understand the reasons why children and young people run away and go missing from home.	We will use this information to respond on an individual level to the young person by seeking appropriate support. We will use this data to review any trends and these to inform service provision. We will share return to home interview reports with partners. **Target: number of return to home interviews shared**
2.5 We will ensure that there is a robust approach to completing return interviews.	We will robustly monitor and track compliance of the undertaking of return interviews. **Target: increase the number of return to home interviews completed**

2.6 Information and data will be collected and reported on regularly to ensure that there is oversight of the 'problem' and response	Regular reporting will be undertaken and shared with partners at the weekly missing meeting and the missing children steering group. A performance framework and management information data set will be developed with the support of analysts. **Target: PI's within DMT dataset**
Analysis of Impact: June 2016 All missing events are audited to ensure that protocols have been followed Information to being shared effectively across partners. The reasons for young people going missing are reported into the strategic missing meeting.	Progress: June 2016 - There is improvement in the recording of missing held on the LCS system - All return to home interviews are now shared. - Challenge is taking place where protocols are not followed - A performance report related to missing is provided to service

Provision	
What are we going to do?	**How are we going to do it?**
3.1 We will develop a range of services for children and their family that meets their identified needs and reduces the likelihood of further risk in the future. 3.2 We will ensure that services to young people and families are of a high standard and that safety and well being remain paramount.	We will ensure that young people receive a service in a timely manner. We will ensure that young people and their family receive a supportive and effective service or that they are signposted to the appropriate service. We will survey children and their families to gain feedback on the effectiveness of the service they have received. We will audit cases to evaluate the effectiveness of the services being offered to determine whether they are reducing the number of missing reports and the level of risk to children. Ensure that the quality of the work is good. **Target: number of cases rated good** **Target: number of young people accessing VCS and impact of intervention**
Analysis of Impact: June 2016 Return to home interviews are offered to all young people who have been missing Outline of the targeted early help offer Improvement in the quality of recording on LCS	Progress: June 2016 - Audits are taking place on a monthly basis - All missing incidents are subject to scrutiny - Training is being delivered to teams and homes in relation to missing reporting strategies

Key reports and references

- Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care (DCSF, July 2009)
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00670-2009.pdf

- The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage (HM Government, 2014)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322310/HMHStatutory_Guidance_publication180614Final.pdf

- Out of Mind, Out of Sight: breaking down barriers to understanding CSE (CEOP, Jun-2011)
http://www.ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/ceop thematic assessment executive summary.pdf

- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: Action Plan (Department of Education 2011)
http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/c/tacking%20child%20sexual%20exploitation%20action%20plan.pdf

- Missing children and adults, A cross Government strategy (Home Office, 2011)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf

- Safeguarding children who may have been trafficked: Practice Guidance (Department of Education, 2011)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachmentdata/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011/pdf

- STILL RUNNING 3 third national survey of young runaways. (The Children's Society, 2011)
http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do0/resources-and-publications/publicatiions-library/still-running-3-early-findings-our-thir-0

- Scoping Report on Missing and Abducted Children 9CEOP, 2011)
http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/Missing scopingreport 2011.pdf

- The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and the APPG for Looked After and Care Leavers issue the report from the Joint Inquiry into Children who go Missing from Care (All Party Parliamentary Groups, 2012)

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/tcs/u32/joing appg inquiry - report...pdf

- Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups, interim report (Office of Children's Commissioner, 2012)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/info/csegg1

- Missing children (Ofsted, 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children

- Child sexual exploitation and the response to localised grooming (House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, 2013)

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmhaff/68/68i.pdf

- Running away from hate to what you think is love (Barnardos and Paradigm Research, 2013)

Http://www.barnardos.org.uk/15505 cse running from hate 21 web.pdf

- If only someone had listened: Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups Final Report (Office of Children's Commissioner, 2013)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publications/if-only-someone-had-listened-inquiry-child-sexual-exploitation-gangs-and-groups

- Interim Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Papers (College of Policing &ACPO, 2013)

http://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Interim-Missing-Persons-Guidance-2013.pdf

- Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care (Department of Education, 2014)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care

- Inspection of Children's Homes; framework and guidance for the inspection of children's homes. (Ofsted, 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspection-childrens-homes-framework

- Framework and evolution schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (single inspection framework) and reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Ofsted, 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspection-local-authority-childrenssrvices-framework

Missing Children Multi-Agency ACTION PLAN 2016-18

Working Together to Safeguard Children going Missing from Home & Care in Bradford

Overarching strategy and governance

Responsibility
There will be an effective local strategy to ensure there is a co-ordinated multi-agency response to children missing from home and care based on a robust, thorough risk assessment of the extent and nature of missing children locally. The work on missing will be monitored through the Missing Children Strategic Group and ultimately by the CSE Sub-Group of the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board.

	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress to date	Rag Rating
a)	Complete a Strategy Document	David Byrom	October 2016	To be signed of at vulnerable children sub group	Green
b)	Complete an Action Plan	David Byrom	October 2016	To be signed of at vulnerable children sub group	Green
c)	Complete revised terms of reference for the multi agency missing meeting	David Byrom	April 2016	Terms of reference were agreed at SPMM on the 15-04-16	Green
d)	Report to BSCB on a regular basis	David Byrom	October 2016	To be reported yearly to BSCB	Green

1. Prevention

Reduce the number of children going missing

The ambition is to protect and prevent children from going missing. We need to reduce the number of children going missing and to have effective prevention strategies, education work and early intervention by agencies in repeat cases. This will help to reduce the vulnerability and likelihood of vulnerable children going missing and reduce the number of repeat cases.

	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress to date	Rag Rating
1.1	Establish effective communication channels between BSCB and partner agencies to share information and training.	David Byrom Missing children steering group	Ongoing	A multi-agency steering group meets quarterly. The Information sharing agreement has been updated	Green
1.2	To provide current inter-agency practice guidance.	David Byrom Inspector Hobbs	Ongoing	Process Map and procedures in place	Green
1.3	To ensure LA procedures are fit for purpose	David Byrom	In place	Tri.x procedure manual is up to date Ensure delegated authority is in place in all placements	Green Amber
1.4	Establish an effective independent service to respond to missing notification for those children who do not have a social worker or other statutory worker.	Di Watherston	In place	All non LAC children who go missing are visited within 72 hours by the Placement Support Service	Green
1.5	Children who have a	Di Watherston	Ongoing	All children who go missing will be offered an independent return	Green

				interview. Expectation that all children who go missing will receive a visit from their SW Carers in placement to speak to YP	
	social worker or statutory worker will receive a return interview and associated support in line with the protocol.	Voiceability			
1.6	To develop a clear preventative strategy for engaging with schools and young people and for this to be reportable.	Barnado's BSCB	Ongoing	Awareness session with schools in the district Develop links with the education safeguarding hub to indentify and support young people who go missing	Amber
1.7	To engage with private providers (fostering and residential) to raise awareness of the missing children	David Byrom	Ongoing	Weekly reporting in relation to missing children. Meeting with Registered Managers to share expectation and local procedures	Green
1.8	Share information with residential staff on ways to reduce the risk of missing children including the views of children.	Lorraine Hawksworth-Quill & Liz Perry	Ongoing	Expectation of staff issued to service so that all are clear about their role and responsibilities.	Amber
1.9	To reflect missing children and CSE in the LAC strategy.	Di Watherston	In place	The LAC strategy covers these areas.	Green
1.10	To ensure that children who are placed out of the county receive the same response to	David Byrom		The Placements team contact the local authority and safeguarding team when additional risks are apparent.	Amber

	instances of going missing.			SW to hold M/A meeting at location to agree response to any missing occurrences.	

2. Protection

Reduce the risk of harm caused to those who go missing

It is important to understand the scale and nature of the problem and there should be systems in place to monitor the prevalence and response to it. It is vital that once professionals are aware of notifications of missing that there are clear and robust systems in place.

	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress to date	Rag Rating
2.1	The police will routinely inform the LA of all missing notifications and found.	Inspector Hobbs	In place	There are effective systems in place for this to happen.	Green
2.2	The police will apply a risk model to children who are reported missing.	Inspector Hobbs	In place	This system is in place	Green
2.4	The IAT will screen all notifications on a daily basis.	IAT	In place	This system is in place	Green
2.5	Map the levels of missing and related data within the Police and CSS. The police will share monthly data.	Inspector Hobbs Missing coordinator	In place	Weekly reporting is in place. Coordinator has developed systems to collate data to inform service	Green
2.6	A monthly M/A missing exploited trafficked meeting MET is in place	Inspector Hobbs	In place	Meeting active in assessing risks and task work	Green
2.7	A performance	Dave Preston PPC	In place	PI's are developed, require further	Green

	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress to date	Rag Rating
	management framework to be developed to enable better accountability.			work regarding targets and monitoring.	
2.8	Data should be routinely analysed to ensure that 'hot spots' are responded to.	Missing coordinator CSE Data analyst	In place	Performance racetrack and monthly reporting in place	Green

3. Provision

Provide missing children and their families with support and guidance.

Vulnerable children and their families have a right to understand how and where to access support and guidance to minimise anxiety and distress at difficult times.

	Action	Lead	Timescale	Progress to date	Rag Rating
3.1	Return interviews and multi-agency meetings to be held in a timely manner. Reported on a quarterly basis.	Di Watherston	In place	This is being reported on.	Green
3.2	Auditing of missing cases will be undertaken to ascertain the quality of the response to the young person and their family to include the voice of the young person.	David Byrom DI Watherston	In place	All missing events are being scrutinised a wider management audit of missing took place in May	Green