

Children who run away or go missing from home or care

Definitions

Young runaway: a child who has run away from their home or care placement, or feels they have been forced or lured to leave.

Missing child: a child reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

Children may run away from a problem, such as abuse or neglect at home, or to somewhere they want to be.

There are no exact figures for the number of children who go missing or run away, but estimates suggest that the figure is in the region of 100,000 per year².

Although looked after children are particularly vulnerable when they go missing, the majority of children who go missing are not looked after, and go missing from their family home. They can face the same risks as a child missing from local authority care and therefore, the same measures are applied for protecting both.

What happens if...

The following chart shows the main steps that need to be taken when a child goes missing from local authority care, and where responsibility lies for those steps.



If You become aware...

If you are worried or become aware that students may be run away or go missing from home or care,

Report it to Richard Reeve, Tash Good or Imran Iqbal.

What if they are not available

Report to Pastoral Manager or Head of House who in turn will report it to the local MASH Team.

