



# One-minute guide

## Return Home Interview Prompts

### Things to look out for / questions to ask:

- Was any harm sustained?
- Destination of Young Person when found?
- Number of previous episodes
- Push and pull factors?
- What happened whilst they were away?
- Do factors which led to going missing remain?

### Things to include:

- Who conducted the Return Home Interview?
- What is their relation to the Child / Young Person?
- Was RHI conducted within 72 hours?
- Where was Return Home Interview conducted?

### Practice Considerations – Children and Young People

#### Phones /Internet Access

- Secure mobile phones and Sim cards. Be curious about phones 'given' to Young Person outside of their family.
- Ask how much access Young Person has to the internet at home/times/ does anyone set a curfew on electronics/monitor usage?
- Does anyone at home request you remove mobile phones at night for the purpose of charging the batteries and monitor internet, call and text use?

#### Positive relationships

- Carers/parents should be actively engaged in searching for the young person to show that they care. A high number of missing episodes are not reported by parents – a feature of adolescent neglect.
- Promote positive relationships with family and friends. Placement instability is a risk factor for missing episodes so this could include carers.
- Promote the need for carers/parents to show attention.
- Ask who is their go-to person when in need?
- Involve parents/young person in tackling the problem and in Network and Child Exploitation Meetings.
- Identify suitable long-term key workers who can befriend the young person and stick around.



SURREY



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### **Maintain contact whilst absent.**

- Repeated missing episodes are a red flag. Ring the young person's mobile phone and share a safety plan.
- There must be 24/7 contact available so that the young person does not feel isolated during evenings or at weekends.
- Ensure the number of the Missing People Helpline and Childline is in the young person's mobile phone address book or text it to them.
- Compassion banking - send text messages to the young person. Consider using 'text language' that the young person relates to, tell them you are worried and care about their safety and encourage them to contact you or another adult.
- Consider informing appropriate outreach workers and the role of schools in supporting young person

### **Build self-esteem**

- Identify and encourage positive activities that the young person may engage in and encourage the young person to make positive contributions at home, school, leisure, or work; positive activities should build self-esteem, not just entertain. Ask the young person what is important to them and what they are interested in.
- Assist the young person to explore what happened so we can support them to stay safe.
- Take time to explain the issues and keep the young person informed.
- Involve the young person in looking at alternatives and decision making.

### **Empower the parent/ carer/ foster carer (if appropriate)**

- Raise the awareness of parent, carers, and foster carers of your concerns.
- Consider family support services. Is there any therapeutic input such as family therapy?
- Maintain active support of parents, carers, and foster carers.
- Raise the awareness of parents and carers to help them to identify the signs of child sexual exploitation and encourage use of the information report forms and include them as part of the planning.



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