

## **REACH Return Home Interview process:**

1. After a missing report the police missing IT system COMPACT automatically sends details of under 18s missing the last 24hr period to the REACH team. *(absent reports are currently identified by manual search and referred for RHI by REACH – a compact upgrade will allow an automated process)*
2. Reports are assessed and filtered *(this involves police missing intervention manager)*.
  - a. Open cases to social care are sent to social worker.
  - b. If the episode is due to a miscommunication etc it is screened out.
  - c. Cases that, on presenting information, appear to meet the threshold for social care intervention result in a MASH enquiry *(in some/most cases a return home interview will be completed as well – if it is clear a prompt social care visit will take place this is less likely)*
  - d. The remaining young people are created on carefirst and allocated to a youth worker for Return Home Interview (RHI). The aim is for this interview to take place within 72 hrs. *(this includes Y/P from other LA's)*
3. Return home interview seeks to:
  - a. Understand and try to address the reasons why the child ran away
  - b. Help the child feel safe and understand that they have options to prevent repeat instances of them running away
  - c. Provide them with information on how to stay safe if they choose to run away again, including helpline numbers.
  - d. The CSE Risk indicator Tool is used to identify CSE
4. Post Interview:
  - a. If safeguarding concerns are established a MASH enquiry is made.
  - b. Otherwise when appropriate the youth worker will engage with the young person with targeted intervention to reduce risk and reduce repeat missing episodes – this may include establishing DAF.
  - c. The young person remains open as per the youth work process.
  - d. Carefirst form M8 – record of RHI completed *(This was designed to allow an extraction report back to police so that the information gathered can be processed by the police to inform future responses identify hot spots etc. In practice REACH are feeding back direct to missing intervention managers and the Police do not have staff in place to handle a regular M8 extraction – this aspect of the process requires further development)*.
  - e. Carefirst form M7 is also completed at this time which analyses Risk of Sexual Exploitation.
5. Young person refuses to engage or parents actively refuse to consent to RHI.
  - a. An assumption that parents consent to the RHI, unless they expressly state otherwise, is made *(this has been the subject of legal advice from local authority legal department – full details can be provided if required)*
  - b. The refusal to engage/denial of consent and known facts are considered to establish if threshold met for MASH enq.
  - c. If no MASH enq. The young person is discussed at MACSE locality forum with a view to identifying if there are additional risk factors and escalate concerns