**Missing From Home/Absent – Independent Return Interview Process**

Social Care is made aware that a child is identified as missing. The allocated Social Worker (or Duty Social Worker) requests an Independent Return Interview following the period of missing from home. Please note Statutory Guidance states that when a child returns from being missing, they **must** be offered an Independent Return Interview.

Independent interviews are carried out by Rutland County Council Youth Service. The Social Worker is required to make a referral for the interview by completing the Request for Independent Return Interview form (On Sharepoint) and submit to jules@rutland.gov.uk and slogue@rutland.gov.uk

***Please note: the Independent Return Interview is not a “one off” opportunity for the child to talk to somebody independent and should be offered each time a child goes missing.***

**Step One: Identifying an Interview**

**Step Two: Requesting an Independent Interview**

**Step Three: Conducting the Interview**

The interviewing Officer will make contact with the social worker to provide verbal feedback and return the completed form electronically for the Social Worker to record on the case management system, and this will be signed off by the appropriate manager.

All completed Missing Person Return Interviews will be sent to the Leicestershire Police Missing Person’s Unit by the manager of the Return Interviews. **Missingreturninterviews@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk**

Missing Team - 0116 2485305

**Step Four: Recording**

The allocated worker will undertake the interview *utilising the Missing person Return interview Form*, issued under the LSCB guidance.

The return interview should be conducted in all circumstances within **72** hours of the child’s return.