

MFH – Absent Category Process Risk Assessment

Proposed Stage 1 – Contact Handlers

In support of the launch of THRIVE in Communications Department, additional awareness training will be provided in order to ensure the Contact Handlers understand the outcomes required associated with Missing Persons. This will include establishing the following:

1. Certain criteria will immediately exclude an individual from the classification of 'Absent'
 - a) Is the person 11 years of age or under?
 - b) Is the person a resident of a mental health establishment and subject to a hospital or court order linked to the 'Herbert' protocol?
 - c) Does current and credible intelligence exist for the person that they are at risk of sexual exploitation?
2. Does the person have a phone and do they have it with them? What is the number?
3. What is the specific concern in this instance? Is there any information that the person is likely to cause self-harm or attempt suicide?
4. Are they likely to be subjected to crime? Is the person suspected to be subject of a crime in progress, e.g. abduction?
5. What has been done so far to trace this individual?
6. Are there any specific medical needs? Does the missing person need essential medication or treatment not readily available to them? When is it due?
7. Is the person suffering from any mental or physical illness or psychological disorder?
8. Is the person suffering from drug or alcohol dependency?
9. Do you believe the person may not have the physical ability to interact safely with others or in an unknown environment, e.g. visually impaired, Downs Syndrome or communication disability?
10. Are they likely to be the victim of abuse? Has the person been involved in a violent, homophobic and/or racist incident or confrontation immediately prior to disappearance?
11. Has the person been the subject of ongoing bullying or harassment e.g. racial, sexual, homophobic or local community concerns or cultural issues?

12. Has the person previously disappeared AND suffered or was exposed to harm?
Where were they found?
13. Do they pose a danger to other people?
14. Is the behaviour out of character and likely to be an indicator of their being exposed to harm?
15. Is there any other information relevant to their absence?
16. Are there any inclement weather conditions that would seriously increase risk to health, especially where the missing person is a child or elderly person?

Proposed Stage 2 –RWD Officers

The RWD Officer will conduct an additional risk assessment which will include the following. This checklist is intended to act as a guide to decision making when determining the level of response required for each missing person.

1. Has all the relevant information been recorded within Stage 1, if not responses should be identified for the gaps in information.
2. Are there any indications that preparations have been made for an absence such as any clothing taken or notes left?
3. Do they have a Social Media Account? Has that been checked for recent messages?
4. Are there family or relationship problems or a recent history of family conflict and/or abuse?
5. Has the person had recent contact with the police for any reason?
6. Are they the victim or perpetrator of domestic violence?
7. Are they the victim or perpetrator of sexual exploitation?
8. Are they subject to a Care Order or Care Proceedings?
9. School/college/university/employment or financial problems?

Any other unlisted factors which the officer or supervisor considers influence the risk assessment?

