**User Guide for the Return Home Interview (RHI) Form**

This user guide is aimed to provide workers with a foundation as to why each key area is being addressed. Identifying potential questions, as well as useful tips, which project workers could apply during return interviews.

**Exploring the purpose of Interview with young person**

* The purpose of the interview is to gather information about the child or young person's life with a holistic perspective. This assists to identify reasons for running or going missing.
* The interview is an opportunity for children or young people to speak to an independent professional, who can provide appropriate follow up with referrals or signposting.
* GATHER AND ANALYSE INFORMATION.
* When discussing consent, limits to confidentiality and safeguarding it's best practice to make some of the following considerations prior to the interview: How will this information be used; Will this information be shared directly with professional involved with this Young Person i.e. social worker, foster carers, education providers, multi-agencies, or through feedback to stakeholder.
* Does the Young Person understand and consent with full knowledge of limitations to confidentiality.

**The following are a list of possible points which may help the return interviewer to engage with the young person. It is not intended to be a list of questions to ask and the return interview should not become a question and answer session.**

**Reasons Identified by the young person for going missing or running away:**

Questions could be around the following areas:

*Was this the first time the Young Person has gone missing or has it happened before?*

*Did the young person runaway alone or with others?*

*What caused them to runaway?*

*Were they running away from something or to something?*

*Did they try to resolve any problem by before it caused them to runaway and if so why didn't this work?*

*Does this trigger still exist?*

**Potential Push factors:**

* Problems at home - ranging from arguments with parents to long-term abuse or maltreatment.
* Family break-up - young people drawn into their parents' conflicts are less likely to do well at school and more likely to truant or to run away from home.
* Bullying - children who are being severely bullied are more likely to run away from school and home or care.
* Mental health problems - a disproportionate number of young people who run away from home have mental health problems.
* Struggling to cope with emotional health, i.e. sexuality confusion or self-esteem.
* Teenage pregnancy- some young women run away or are forced to leave home because they become pregnant (or fear that they may be pregnant).
* They may also be in denial about their pregnancy, meaning that they are not getting the advice they need about pregnancy options. There is also a greater risk of pregnancy when girls run away, and those working with them will need to ensure they have rapid access to confidential contraception and sexual health services to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

**Potential Pull factors:**

* Running to be near friends or family - especially when a young person is in care and there are problems in contact arrangements with family and friends.
* Grooming for potential sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, child trafficking/modern day slavery - young people may run away or go missing following grooming by adults who will seek to exploit them.

**Events during missing episode - what was happening?**

Questions could be based around the following:

*Where did the young person stay?*

*How did they get access to food, money, clothing, showers etc.?*

*Did they seek medical help?*

*Did they get involved in criminal activity?*

*How long did they stay away for?*

*What led them to return or be found?*

**Contact during missing episode - who were they with?**

Questions could be based around the following:

*Did they get help from anyone whilst they were missing?*

*Did they enter into any relationships, particularly any which made them uncomfortable?*

*Were they harmed or at risk of harm from other people?*

**How did they feel?**

Questions could be based around the following:

*Did they feel mentally healthy?*

*Did they feel bullied, pressured or coerced?*

*Were there signs of stress, depression or self-harm?*

*Were they involved in substance misuse?*

*How did they feel about returning?*

**What Next?**

*Do the things that caused the young person to run away still exist?*

*What does the young person see as the risks involved with running away again?*

*What alternatives to running away might there be?*

*What does the young person think might be done to prevent them from running away again?*

**Comments and feedback from the young person:**

*Was the young person satisfied with the interview?*

*Was it helpful for them?*

*Did it make them think and consider their behaviour?*

*Do they feel listened too?*

**Comments and feedback from parents/carer:**

*Did young person share any additional information with parents/carers?*

*Are they aware of any concerns or reasons why young person*