

Appendix C – Example Missing From Care Risk Assessment and Action Plan

To be completed for all young people looked after where a risk of running away has been identified or after the first occasion a young person has run away.

Planned Placement: To be completed at pre placement planning meeting

Emergency Placement: To be completed within 3 working days.

The meeting should always include the carer and Social Worker and Family Placement Officer when applicable. The meeting must wherever reasonably possible also include the young person and her/his parents unless this is deemed inappropriate. If issues are complex, consider consultation with the Police. This assessment should be updated on a regular basis (minimum every 6 months).

Name of Child or Young person:..... ID:..... Date of Birth:.....Age:.....Legal Status..... Date of Meeting.....
Date of Review.....

- Any child or young person **12 y/o or under** whose whereabouts are unknown will automatically be considered classed as **missing or absconded and reported to Police immediately, who will also automatically classify them as 'Missing'**. It is still useful during investigations and intervention if this risk assessment below has been completed. For children or young people **13 y/o and above**, this risk assessment must be completed and be based on age, current circumstances, experiences, background and ability.
- This risk assessment grid should be used as a guide and involve discussion and pooling of information to agree an informed risk assessment by the care services. This will help to establish an assessment of their vulnerability and how to respond appropriately.
- It should be noted that on reporting to the Police they will conduct their own immediate risk assessment of each incident and may subsequently allocate a higher or lower risk based on GMP definitions. Their risk assessment will utilise information from this risk assessment done by the care provider, social worker and young person etc.

Risk indicators	Risk assessment information
Pattern and History	
What are the usual circumstances of the child/young person going missing ie is the young person running to someone or from a situation? When does the young person usually leave the home?	
When was the last episode and is there a pattern?	
Where do they usually go? i.e. with family or friends or with people who are unknown or undesirable. Is there any specific risk if they go there?	
Level of maturity young person has shown in being able to make decisions about themselves or others. How able is the young person to cope without adult support?	
Past method of return ie via family, police or on their own?	
Concerns / Vulnerabilities	
Any Mental Health issues?	
Risk of suicide/self-harm and what are the	

indicators or triggers for this?	
Medication / medical conditions?	
Physical or learning disability / difficulties?	
Likely use of drugs/ alcohol/ solvents and what type and amount?	
Risk of sexual exploitation? Have CSE protocols been activated ie has a CSE strategy meeting been held?	
Any previous harm suffered while absent?	
Any concerns about friends/ partners/ associates?	
Past involvement of offending and in what form?	
Is the child/young person's behaviour likely to be a risk to the community and in what way?	
Are they experiencing bullying/ racial and/or homophobic abuse?	
Any signs or indicators that child is experiencing difficulties or abuse in the placement?	
Does the young person want to live in the current placement?	
Any concern of abduction or being prevented from returning?	
Is there a risk of forced marriage?	
Is there a risk of trafficking or where they a victim of trafficking previously?	
Are there any known issues / events happening in the child's / young person's family or close friends?	
Current Circumstances	
What are the agreed coming in times?	
What are the agreed consequences if the young person misses these times?	
Does the child / yp have access to any money and how can they access this if necessary?	
Is the young person able to use public transport?	
Does they young person usually carry a bus pass?	
Is the young person familiar with the surrounding area?	
Do they have a mobile phone? Does it usually have credit or not or is it on a contract?	
Who is able to collect this young person if they are located but are not able to or will not return themselves?	
What was the young person's behaviour like last time they were collected from a missing or absent incident?	
Any further information and knowledge which may help before, during or after a missing episode:	

In cases of little knowledge or where there is disagreement, the child or young person should be considered as being at higher risk by the care provider and reported immediately.

- **Concluding risk assessment in the event of the child/young person failing to return:**

- **Any Further Action to be taken to reduce the likelihood of the young person going missing (in bullet points, including Support and Prevention Strategies)**

ACTION PLAN to be implemented when absent:

1. Thoroughly search the building and immediate surrounding area.
2. Try to contact the young person on their mobile
3. Contact family/ relatives / friends as follows:
 - a) Parents: **Yes/No**. Details:

- b) Grandparents / other family members: **Yes/ No**. Details:

- c) Brothers / sisters: Yes/ No. Details:

- d) Friends: Yes / No. Details:

4. If whereabouts are known: the young person is absent without permission and the Police do not need to be notified unless there is a 'concern for welfare' report needed (see below). What steps need to be taken to enable the young person's return? See above re. curfew, public transport etc.

5. See list below of addresses known to be visited by the young person and what the response should be if located there. If the young person is judged to be unsafe at any of these addresses, the police should be notified immediately but as a 'concern for welfare' report, rather than a missing report since the individual's whereabouts are known.

Address	Level of known risk at address	Action to be taken (is there need to make a "Concern for Welfare" report to police?)*	Maximum time before reporting to police

6. If whereabouts are not known:

If absent for more than _____ hours after due back and no contact has been made then initiate MFC procedures and report to Police who will conduct their own risk assessments but utilising the information contained here. Do not delay reporting to Police for a period longer than 6 hours. You should inform the Police of any delay before reporting so this can be taken into account.

7. On Return:

- The young person will have an initial immediate welfare check either by the Police or by a member of staff in the home / foster carer.
- The young person will be offered a full return interview with an Independent Agency: **Yes / No**.
 Details of services available: _____.
 A full return interview should be properly explained to the young person and be encouraged, particularly in circumstances where there is believed to have been risky behavior involved or the incident was out of character.
- Social Worker will visit following return within _____ days.

8. This risk assessment has been explained discussed, and agreed by the following people. It will be reviewed at least every 6 months and more frequently if there are changes to the situation or concerns arise.

a) Residential Staff member / foster carer: Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

b) Social Worker: Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

c) Young Person: Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

d) Parent(s): Name(s): _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

e) Family Placement Officer: Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

f) Team Manager and/or Service Manager (Social Care): Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____