**MISSING:**

**‘Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed’.**

*\*ABSENT will not now be separately defined. All reports of missing people sit within a continuum of risk from ‘no apparent risk (absent’ through to high risk cases that require immediate, intensive action.*

*(2016 College of Policing)*

***LAC Children who are away from placement without Authorisation:***

-Whilst they are not missing, they may still be at risk.

-Carer or Social Worker should take reasonable steps to ascertain child’s well-being and visit if possible.

-If Young Person is at risk of harm to themselves or others police should be notified.

*(London Child Protection Procedures: 5th Edition, 2016)* [*http://www.londoncp.co.uk/*](http://www.londoncp.co.uk/)

GRAB PACK: should be completed for all young people who have been reported missing and/or where there are concerns that they may run away.

**Child Missing**

(Any child under 18 years)

**Timeframe for Reporting** This should not continue beyond a reasonable timescale and is dependent on risks to child. In some cases the young person may be reported missing immediately.

Foster Carer, Residential Placement to do initial checks with family / friends identified in Grab Pack to see if child & young person can be located.

Foster Carer, Residential Placement reports Child & Young Person missing to EDT and the Police by completing the online missing form found on <https://www.met.police.uk/partner-services>.

....

**Foster Carer / Placement to notify Police and EDT if Young Person returns.**

Police missing report received (Merlin/PAC) by Children’s Social Care

Social Worker to ensure all relevant professionals involved are aware of missing episode, including IRO’s.

Social Worker to inform parents / any person with PR unless it is not practicable to do so or would be inconsistent with their welfare.

* BSO (MASH) enters missing contact and finalises before sending to allocated social worker on LCS.
* Duty Manager to create Missing Episode on LCS and send to Duty Social Worker to complete missing tasks.

**If young person is missing for more than 3 days a written briefing outlining missing details, risks and plan of action is to be sent to Head of Service for approval and shared with Director of Children’s Service.**

-If Young Person declines the RI then this is to be recorded as offered but not accepted.

- The allocated social worker will then follow up to try and obtain details about the missing episode.

*\*When a young person goes missing frequently they should be spoken to after each occasions and offered a RI.*

*\*It may not be practicable for the child/young person to be seen every time they return, but a reasonable decision should be taken by the team managing the case of how frequent the RI will be carried out, & by who and clearly recorded in the young persons care plan.*

\*RI to be recorded on a Return Interview Template (under Missing Episode ‘Documents).

**RI to be shared with police via** **TX-MisperUnit@met.police.uk** **and Exploitation and Vulnerabilities Co-ordinator.**

\*Missing Episode on LCS is finalised once all information relating to the missing episode is recorded.

-Young Person and Carers to be provided with information on Missing Person Helpline numbers and support services

**Child Returns / is Found**

*Police Prevention Interviews (previously Safe and Well visits) are not Return Interviews*

**\* Return Interview (RI) to be offered by someone independent and who the child trusts i.e.- a duty social worker (not child’s social worker), mentor, YOT/ Youth Worker, health within 72 hours of young person’s return and carried out as soon as practical thereafter.**

\*The Social Worker informs parent / person with PR and professional and network that the young person has been found.

*Designated LAC Health to be notified of Young Persons return to manage / support subsequent health needs.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **The SW team is responsible for ensuring the following safeguarding process for every allocated missing child:** | **Cases:** | **Frequency:** | **Recording:** |
| **Grab Pack** | All open cases where a young person has gone missing should have an up to date grab pack. | All open cases where a young person has been reported missing.  | Reviewed every 6 months in line with LAR or when there is a change in circumstances i.e. - placement change, risk increases. | Grab Pack on LCS and shared with Police, Parents, Carers and Placement.  |
| **Missing from Care / Strategy Meeting**  | 1. Missing risks are assessed by Social Worker and Managers.
2. Initial discussion between social worker & Police to agree immediate strategy and actions.
3. Missing from Care Meeting to be held with police, social care, care providers, and any other parties involved.
4. MFC Strategy Meeting to be held if child is at risk of significant harm.
5. Missing from Care Review Meetings to be held until young person has been found.
 | Meetings to be held as and when the child goes missing - OR -For children that go missing on a regular basis review meetings should be held until this pattern has reduced,  | If young person is missing a missing from Care Meeting to be held within 3 days.Review Missing from Care Meetings to be held at least monthly to update and review plan.  | Missing from Care / Strategy Meeting in the main case fileEnsure Managers are aware of missing episode for Heads of Services, Director and Chief Exec. to be notified if needed. |
| **Missing Risk Assessment** | Cases were missing is identified as a potential risk should have an up-to-date missing risk assessment recorded on file. | All open cases | Every 6 months if there is a significant change or risk changes. | Missing Risk Assessment is outlined with Care Plan.  |
| **Safety Plan** | Safety Plan to be completed with young person once they return to record actions to be taken by young person and professionals to keep young person safe. | All open cases where a young person has been reported missing.Safety Plan to identify a named person that the young person has said that they would be happy to talk for a Return Interview.  | To be reviewed every 6 months or as risk changes. | Safety Plan on LCS under templates.Care Plan to include details of Safety Plan and actions to try and reduce missing episodes.  |