One Minute Guide



Missing Children

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**General**

There is a considerable amount of information available which you need to access in the event that a child goes missing.

This can be very confusing and therefore this Guide is intended to summarise the key information you need to be aware of and **how you can access this quickly.**

**What must I know?**

West Sussex has developed **Practice Guidance** for all children who go missing.

In this document you will find all the information you require and links to more specialised guidance/documents (also see below).

A simple one page document has been produced to outline the **Missing Children Timeline**: You must know and follow this for **all Missing Children**



You also need to know how to record an incident when a child goes missing;



**Guidance for Children in Special Circumstances?**

Children who go missing will include children who live at home and children who are receiving support form Children’s Services either through Early Help, Child Protection or Children Looked After (CLA)

There may be specific ‘risk factors’ relating to the child – regardless of the service they receive and therefore you need to be aware of additional guidance available in the [Pan Sussex Procedures for children in ‘Specific Circumstances’](https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/page/contents#p8).

**Children at Risk of Exploitation who also go Missing?**

In addition, West Sussex has developed specific guidance for this group of children as it is likely that these children will also go ‘missing’.

The Pan Sussex Procedures should be referred to; which can be found [here](https://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/page/contents#p8)

In addition; West Sussex has produced the following Timeline and you will also need to know how to record an incident;



See also;

[**WSCSB Guidance for Professionals - Child Exploitation**](http://www.westsussexscb.org.uk/professionals/helping-you-work/child-sexual-exploitation/)

**Children Looked After?**

There is specific guidance for all children looked after who are missing from care which can be found [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care__3_.pdf).

There is a specific flowchart outlining the requirements for all Agencies to follow in the event that a child goes missing from Care:



For children who are placed in Children’s Homes there is specific additional requirements which can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-homes-regulations-including-quality-standards-guide).

**Who are the key contacts?**

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Clare Harvey, Advanced Practitioner Complex High Risk Adolescent Team: [clare.harvey@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:clare.harvey@westsussex.gov.uk)

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**Other Reference Material?**

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