Missing Children Return Home Interview Pathway

Government Guidelines state that all Return Home Interviews for children should be offered within 72 hours of them being found.

Child is reported to the police as missing

A report is sent each working day from the Police Missing Coordinator to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the CSC Missing Children Inbox (monitored by the Makesafe Team). The report gives the details of any children that have been reported in the last 24 hours (or the last 72 hours if covering a weekend or even longer if covering a Bank Holiday Weekend). Children will stay on the daily report until the occurrence is closed (i.e. they are found) or placed on "long-term missing" which means all possible operational tasking has been undertaken.

Is the child open to Childrens Social Care, or have they been open to a long-term team with the last three months?

No: The MASH contact Youth Services who will undertake the Return Home Interview unless the child is under 11 (in these cases a management decision will be made by the Makesafe Manager as to whether or not an RHI is suitable and, if so, allocate within Makesafe).

Yes: The responsibility for undertaking the Return Home Interview is held by the Makesafe Team unless the child in open to the Duty and Assessment Team, in which case this team holds the responsibility.

The RHI is undertaken and recorded on Mosaic even if the child and/or parents refuse. If Makesafe/Duty and Assessment undertake the RHI this will be a step on Mosaic. If Youth Services undertake the RHI it will be recorded on the MASH contact and saved on SmartOpen.

Is there any indication that the child has been harmed or has been at risk of harm during the episode?

No: No further action is taken.

Yes: If the child is not open to CSC a referral is made and a strategy meeting convened; chaired by Duty and Assessment. For cases open to CSC a strategy meeting is held and Chaired by the case-holding team.