**Protocol for Missing and Non-Engaging Young Adults aged 18+ (Former Relevant and Qualifying)**

**Torbay Council April 2021**

Where the Local Authority has lost touch with the young person, in that the Trust/Authority does not know where the young person is, a review of the Pathway Plan will be required. This review will consider how to locate the young person and also consider if there are particular circumstances or vulnerabilities that would require referral to the Police

Some young people deliberately go “missing”. Some young people will also refuse to engage and make themselves unavailable. In all cases there must be a review of the Pathway Plan at the point the young person goes missing, refuses to engage or makes themselves unavailable; as this must be considered a significant event; and a new plan developed that details what steps will be taken over the next six months to find and re-engage the young person.

The aim of the Leaving Care Team is to visit/see all young people every eight weeks unless stated otherwise in their Pathway Plan. Should a young person refuse to tell us where they are living, this information should be recorded on Paris / liquid logic. The allocated worker needs to come to some agreement regarding contact with the young person and continue to encourage the young person to agree to a home visit. If the allocated worker has not had contact with a young person after eight weeks, or in line the young person pathway plan then they must undertake the following actions:

**Week 1:** • Send letter to the last known address asking them to make an appointment, outlining the services they are entitled to.

• Make unannounced visit to last known address, leave letter if no contact is made asking them to get in touch.

• Contact known family members, ask them to pass on message and provide them with a sealed copy of the letter.

• Place a contact request on the young adults Facebook page.

**Week 2:** • Visit to last known address ask neighbours if possible / appropriate. Leave letter if no contact is made asking them to get in touch.

• Contact all last known professionals working with young person for last contact details.

• Act on any information provided from by professionals. This includes new phone numbers and or addresses.

**Week 3**: • Implement Service Level Agreement with all agencies i.e. Torbay Housing, DWP, Probation etc.

• Act on any information provided by professionals. This includes new phone numbers and or addresses. Should all the above fail then a discussion with your line manager should take place with a view to reporting the young person as missing to the police. Legal advice may have to be obtained. This option may be considered earlier dependent on the vulnerability of the young person. Once a young person is reported missing regular meetings should be held to review any progress, this must be recorded on Paris / Liquid Logic.

**Ref.** Doncaster Policy 2016, via National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (NCLBF) website April 21.