

# Young People who go Missing from Home or Care

## The journey so far



2015 – ERASE Team Pilot – 1 x Police DS +2 x PSCO – 1 x Barnardo's CSE Worker

2016 – ERASE TEAM launched – Barnardo's decommissioned 1 x DCC ERASE Worker 1 x police DS

2018 – Philomena protocol pilot in DCC children's homes

2018 – additional CSE Worker

2019 – Review of service - incorporate CCE - CE Team - Integrated Team based at Sherburn Rd

2019 – Dedicated Missing from Home coordinator additional CE Worker x 2 x Detectives

2020 – covid – additional DCC missing coordinator and CE worker – temp funding till Mar 2022





# JOINT OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO GO MISSING FROM HOME OR CARE

AS AGREED BY:

DURHAM CONSTABULARY AND  
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

VERSION II

JULY 2021



# Meet the Team:

## Supporting Solutions CE Team

Jade Whyman - Team Manager

Samantha Nesbitt - Erase CE Worker

Hannah Shield - Erase CE Worker

Jordan Nichol - Erase CE Worker

Kayliegh Hughes - Missing Coordinator

Andrew McGuckian Erase CE Worker (covid fund – till Mar)

Victoria Thompson – Missing Coordinator (covid fund – till Mar)



## Police CE Team

Andy Nimmo - CE Detective Sargent

Ralph Thompson - Missing Detective Sargent

Richard Blamires - CE Detective

Victoria Bell - CE Detective

Tracy Bilton - Missing PCSO

Sarah Shortland - Missing PCSO

Sarah Greive - Temporary Researcher

Joseph Solan - joint admin





# Missing From Home

Procedures to be followed when a child or YP has been reported as missing from home or care.

The term missing refers to, anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered as missing until located, and their well-being or otherwise confirmed.

Every missing episode should attract considered attention to ensure a consistent and coherent response to both the initial report and return of the missing person.





# The Philomena Protocol

**The Philomena Protocol** has been adopted by Durham Children's Services, this works to ensure that those responsible for caring for young people who are looked after, carefully and sensitively gather relevant information so that they can risk assess and work with the young person to prevent them from going missing.

It also enables Residential Services and foster Carers to work in partnership with police to trace the young people as quickly as possible if they do go missing.

Important to note that this only applies when there are concerns that a YP is starting to go missing, and not for children who are at risk of going missing.



# Meetings in response to MFH

**A Strategy Exploitation and Missing Meeting (SEAM) must be organised by the Local Authority in instances:**

When a child is missing for 72hrs or over

Any child under the age of 13

Children where there is a known flight risk

Or when professionals involved deem it necessary to hold a **Strategy Exploitation and Missing Meeting** due to risk, additional risks/vulnerabilities including : child is looked after or has a child protection plan or worrying information/intelligence included in the return to home interview

**A Missing Episode Reduction Meeting must be held for:**

Any child missing 3 times in a 2 month period

Any child where we are worried about going missing who would benefit from a multi-agency meeting, but no concerns that they are experiencing harm when missing.





- Print
- Strategy Discussion...
  - Meeting Details
  - Meeting Attendees
  - Family Composition
  - Record of Strategy ...
  - Further Actions
  - Signatures

## Record of Strategy Discussion

Type of Strategy Meeting:  Strategy Discussion  **Strategy Exploitation and Missing Meeting (SEAM)**

Reason for Strategy Discussion:

Alleged Abuse Category:  Neglect  Sexual Abuse  Physical Abuse  Emotional Abuse

Name of Professional	Agency	Information Provided

Where to find on LCS

- Episode
- Forms**
- Documents
- Case Notes
- Audit

**Start New Form**

Initial Missing Episode Reduction Meeting

**Draft Forms**

None

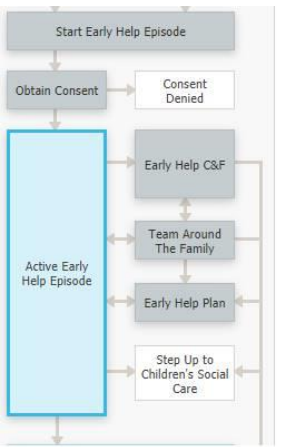
- Episode
- Forms**
- Documents
- Case Notes
- Audit

**Start New Form**

Missing Episode Reduction Meeting

**Draft Forms**

None



Episode Details

Personal Details

**Activities**

Involvements

Access

Case Notes

Documents

Services

Consent

Access Requests

**Assessments and Forms**

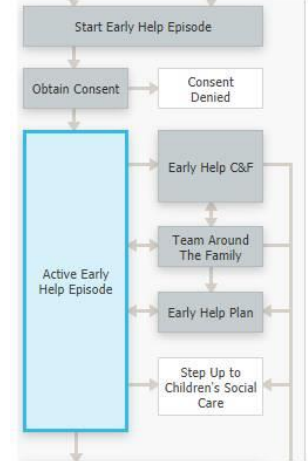
Assessment Date	Assessment Type	Assessor
11-Jun-2021	Early Help Plan	eCAF
11-Jun-2021	Team Around The Family Meeting Outcomes	eCAF
11-Jun-2021	Early Help Plan	eCAF
01-Dec-2020	Early Help C & F	eCAF
08-Feb-2019	Early Help Consent Record	eCAF
31-Jul-2020	Early Help C & F	eCAF
08-Feb-2019 12:33	Early Help Consent Record	eCAF
08-Feb-2019	Early Help Episode Record	eCAF
28-Aug-2020	Early Help Closure Record	eCAF
23-Mar-2021 16:11	Early Help C & F	eCAF
06-Nov-2020 09:44	Early Help Case Supervision	ANDf
06-Nov-2020 09:50	Early Help Case Supervision	ANDf

**Standalone Assessments**

Assessment Date	Assessment Type	Assessor
27-May-2020 11:49	Social Care Advice	eCAF Administrator 5 - ECAF

**Start New Form**

Initial Missing Episode Reduction Meeting



Episode Details

Personal Details

**Activities**

Involvements

Access

Case Notes

Documents

Services

Consent

Access Requests

**Assessments and Forms**

Assessment Date	Assessment Type	Assessor
11-Jun-2021	Early Help Plan	eCAF
11-Jun-2021	Team Around The Family Meeting Outcomes	eCAF
11-Jun-2021	Early Help Plan	eCAF
01-Dec-2020	Early Help C & F	eCAF
08-Feb-2019	Early Help Consent Record	eCAF
31-Jul-2020	Early Help C & F	eCAF
08-Feb-2019 12:33	Early Help Consent Record	eCAF
08-Feb-2019	Early Help Episode Record	eCAF
28-Aug-2020	Early Help Closure Record	eCAF
23-Mar-2021 16:11	Early Help C & F	eCAF
06-Nov-2020 09:44	Early Help Case Supervision	ANDf
06-Nov-2020 09:50	Early Help Case Supervision	ANDf

**Standalone Assessments**

Assessment Date	Assessment Type	Assessor
27-May-2020 11:49	Social Care Advice	eCAF Administrator 5 - ECAF

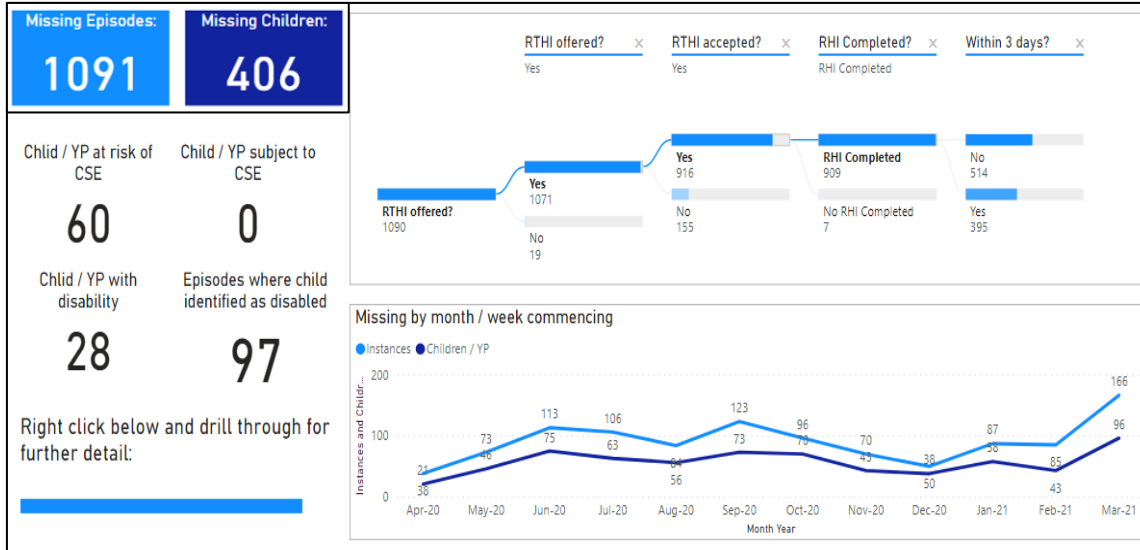
**Start New Form**

Missing Episode Reduction Meeting

EHM



# The picture in Durham



For the top ten young people who we are worried about re. CSE and CCE, for 75% of those young people, MFH is a significant and reported concern. We are also concerned that for the remaining 25% that their parents either don't recognise that their child might be missing, or they do not want formally report them MFH.







# Return to Home Interview RTHI



All RTHI completed by the Local Authority are shared with the Child Exploitation Team within Durham Police, who will review the information in order to identify any concerns around exploitation, county lines or any criminality which will be recorded in line with the National Crime Recording Standards. This will enable an appropriate and timely investigation.

It is the responsibility for the Missing Co-ordinator based within Children's Service to complete the RTHI or ensure they are completed by an independent relevant professional for all children looked after or child in need.

This information is used to inform disruption planning for the young person to help ensure there is added protection to keep them safe from harm.



# What has been the impact of intel gathering through the CEG, RTHI, CEVT, Police and individual sources?

**RED – Priority Response: Identified Vulnerabilities** – Safeguarding of identified victims to be prioritised.

**This includes:**

**Op Pentagon (South)** children involved in drug supply. CET involvement to support as in care system.

**Op Quaser (East)** children involved in criminality and linked to drug supply. CET involvement to support as in care system.

**Op Torteline (Darlo)** Child involved in drug supply. CET involvement as in care system.

*QUICK TIME RESPONSE TO ADDRESS THE EXPLOITATION*

**AMBER – Medium Response: No Identified Vulnerabilities, Identified Deal Line** – Intelligence development – disruption activity.

**Op Marceline (Forcewide)** OCG supplying drugs.

**Op Lodine (Forcewide)** OCG supplying drugs.

*TARGETED ACTIVITY AGAINST ORGANISED CRIMINALITY*

**GREEN – Standard Response: No Identified Vulnerabilities, Unclear if Deal Line Exists** – Area intelligence to monitor/develop as appropriate.

**Numerous Operations**

*DISRUPT DRUG SUPPLY*





---

### Results

Following a recent county lines intensification week between the 17th and 23rd May 2021 the below activity by Durham was captured in national returns.

- 8 Vulnerable people engaged with by CET/NPT – including partnership care plan.
- 8 House searches completed.
- 7 Arrests – 5 RUI and 2 Charged and RIC.
- 1 Kilo white powder (Pending examination) suspected cocaine.
- 9 Oz Cocaine recovered.
- 2 House size Cannabis Grows identified.
- S5 Firearm (CS Cannister) and 3 x Air pistols recovered.
- In excess of £30K recovered.
- 7 Phones / Lines recovered.
- 2 Vehicles seized.