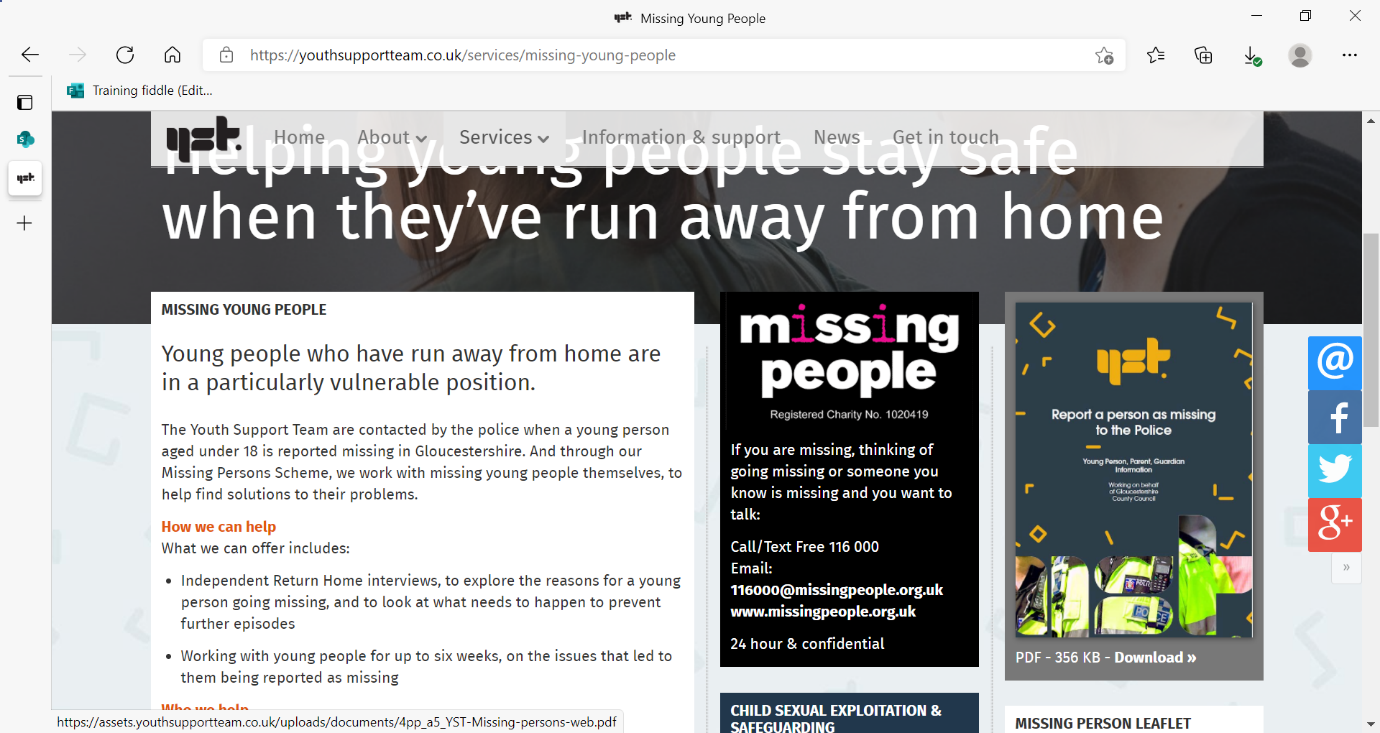
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# **YST Missing Guidance - Essential things to know when the young person you are working with is a Missing Person.**

All professionals have a responsibility to safeguard young people from harm – not knowing the whereabouts of a young person after taking reasonable steps to find them is safeguarding and should be addressed, with a sense of urgency.

## **Whose job is it to report a Missing Person?**

* Everyone/anyone – reports are mainly made by family, carers, or supported accommodation placements. However, not every family feel comfortable or know when or how to report. There is guidance on the YST website: [www.youthsupportteam.co.uk](http://www.youthsupportteam.co.uk)
* If family are not willing to report a Missing Person, the responsibility falls to professionals – schools/education placements/YST/Social Care etc.
  + If you are unable to confirm the whereabouts of a young person and no other adult can either – call 101 and report as a Missing Person. There is no waiting time required.

## **What should Professionals do when a Missing Person’s report has been made.**

* It is everyone’s responsibility to try and locate an U18s Missing Person, not just the Police.
  + This is safeguarding. Keep in contact with all existing professionals to coordinate information and actions. Workers are great at building positive relationships – use these to attempt to contact a young person to confirm their safety and encourage them to return or be located.
  + If the young person is willing to meet with you – do it. Being reported as a Missing Person is **not** a crime it is not like a warrant. Police want to know a young person is safe.
* Any information that you gain or have needs to be shared (this is safeguarding) with Police & Social Care. Any contact with the young person or family that may support locating or provide additional information regarding risk, i.e., suspicion of being trafficked or hidden from Police.

## **What should Professionals do when they meet with a Missing Person**

* If you are meeting with or they attend an appointment [either at a YST base or other venue].
  + Confirm that you are aware they have been reported as a Missing Person – it is **not** a crime, and they are not in trouble with the Police.
  + Confirm if they are okay – have they come to any harm, are they well?
* Email Police urgently: [forcecontrolroom.supervisors@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:forcecontrolroom.supervisors@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk) using a subject title **U18s Missing Person incident no….** or ring 101and the social care worker/duty worker or EDT 01452 614194 [edt@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:edt@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
* Confirm what the young person wants to do
  + Can you take them home or to an identified address at the end of your appointment?
  + If the Police can come to your appointment, is the young person willing to remain?
  + If a young person wants to leave your care and are not willing to say where they are going or have a lift; Confirm with Police what has occurred and in which direction and with whom they have gone [with].