**Return home interview briefing 5.03.2019**

Since 1st October 2018 Enfield have decommissioned the external debriefing provider and brought the service in-house. To assure ourselves that we are protecting children when they go missing from home a brief review of all 29 young people who have gone missing from 1st October has been completed on 5.03.2019. Risk and vulnerabilities were acted upon as almost all of the young people (27 out of 29) were escalated to social care and subsequently allocated within CSEP and R&A with some moving to CPFST. One young person with autism was lost and one young person went missing but was known to have spent the time with a friend, there was no further cause for concern for these 2 young people.

**Enfield practice with regard to debriefing**

**For children not open to Enfield CSC**

* All police merlins re missing children will be screened.
* If risk and/or vulnerability is identified a referral will be made to social care.
* In the event that a child/young person who is not open to Children’s Social Care goes missing for **five** days a, strategy discussion/meeting must be held, and a referral will be sent from the MASH to Children’s Social Care and an Assessment will be undertaken. However, if a high level of risk and/or vulnerability is identified a strategy meeting may be coordinated sooner and passed to R&A for assessment at an earlier stage.
* In the event that a child/young person who is not open to Children’s Social Care, goes missing on **three** occasions within any six-month period, irrespective of the episode being a low-level concern (such as – staying out later than expected /parent worrying) a referral will be sent from the MASH to Children’s Social Care and an assessment will be undertaken.

**For children open to Enfield CSC or Early Help services**

**Need to Know Process**

When it comes to the attention of Children’s Social Care that a **known** child is missing, a **Need to know** form must be completed immediately if there is a high level of concern otherwise if LAC after 24 hours and non-LAC 72 hours. A strategy meeting convened, usually within 24 hours depending on age and vulnerability and always within 72 hours. Liaison will take place between Police, Social Care and other agencies as required. If the young person is a Child in Need there may be a similar response depending on age and vulnerability.

**Early Help services**

* All allocated cases, if the young person goes missing, on return the case worker will carry out a debriefing interview with them. This arrangement has been in place since October 2018.
* *No missing episodes since October 2018*

**CP/LAC**

* Social Workers must refer to Safeguarding and Quality Service for the IRO to conduct a debriefing return interview in all cases. If children refuse, we use the “any means necessary” approach and get the person who they’re most comfortable with to talk to them. The visit must be made within 72 hours of the young person returning home. In exceptional circumstances, notably when the placement is a long way from Enfield, this may not be adhered to, in which case there must be a note on the case file and the relevant Enfield manager with case responsibility notified as soon as possible.

**CSEP**

* All YP known to CSEP are offered a return home interview by an independent person. This arrangement has been in place since October 2018.
* All YP would be seen and spoken to by their social worker as soon as possible after their return.
* Most young people have refused return home interviews, and do not respond to questioning about where they have been, especially from someone they do not know.
* They are more likely to give information when out doing an activity or having a drink and snack with a worker they have a relationship with.

**CIN**

* All CIN (open to R&A and CPFST) children who go missing – on return are offered a return home interview.

**Youth Offending**

* When a young person of the YOU return from a missing episode they are debriefed by the YOU police and their case manager. Additionally, a physical/mental/emotional health review is also conducted by the YOU specialist nurse. This is the case for every single YOU client. The debrief is where and when possible usually done within 24hrs of return, (this is the target but obviously is dependent on people’s availability) and where possible is done at the family home but may be done at the YOU office or another location if there are safety concerns.
* There is no formal interview script as such but the debriefs are recorded on CVYJ. The information gathered at the debrief is used by the case manager to organise/co-ordinate any additional support if needed or to instigate certain processes e.g. the NRM if required. The YOU nurse will also liaise with the yp’s GP and or other health services if necessary.

The Head of Safeguarding is the named lead for missing children and responsible for writing quarterly, 6 monthly and an annual report which will be taken to the quality assurance sub-committee of the ESCB. The annual report is presented to DMT, ESCB and the Members Vulnerable Young People’s group. The reports will gather information about all children missing and will identify themes and trends that require action. The push and pull factor for all children missing will be considered.

The Head of Safeguarding sits on the monthly Missing Risk Management Group where complex cases are discussed. Cases can also be brought to the risk management panel chaired by the Executive Director.

A 6-month review of the L.A’s response to children missing from home and care is planned for April 2019 to see how effective the new ways of working are and whether changes are required to improve the service. The Head of Safeguarding is keen to look at what has worked well over the initial 6 months and develop a debriefing service that responds to all children that go missing to ensure consistency in the delivery model.