A red and white sign with a horse

Description automatically generated

**Police Welfare checks**

A short guide to welfare checks considering Right Care Right Person

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is a Police Welfare Check? A welfare check is an in-person visit by the police authorities in response to a specific request made to ensure a person is safe and sound. The police are mainly concerned with law enforcement activities but also to ensure people are safe. However, the powers for the police to intervene are extremely limited in all but the most urgent of circumstances. This is particularly the case when the person in question is inside a private address, but also applies when the person is in a public place. The only powers of entry or detention exist purely in emergency situations. | |
| The Right Care Right Person (RCRP) National Partnership The aim of RCRP is to ensure people of all ages receive the right support from the right services at the right time.  When considering a request for a welfare check for a child, it is vital to consider:   |  | | --- | | What is the real and immediate risk to the child NOW? | | Do the police have a statutory duty? | | Are officers likely to need to use the protection powers? |   Each request must be considered on its own merits with the best interests, safety and welfare of a child being the first principle. Kent police will continue to:  * Exercise their statutory duties to safeguard children such as S47 investigations and missing children. * Have an enhanced responsibility to children in care who go missing.  Examples of incidents Kent Police should attend:  * Police response is necessary to prevent crime and protect the lives of others * The person concerned poses a real and immediate risk to the safety of others * When specialist negotiator capability is required for a call relating to a person threatening immediate suicide (immediate threat to life) | Routinely, here are some examples of incidents that Kent Police **will not** attend:  * Check on a person absent from a place they should be, or expected to be, but not considered to be missing * Check and monitor a person due to it being out of hours (e.g., over the weekend) * Check on the mental or physical wellbeing of a person  What to consider when requesting a welfare check Every effort should be made to find a child and check safety before considering a welfare check.   * A home visit should be completed before a welfare check request is made. * Try to make contact via telephone or social media * Visit any known addresses and locations such as school, nursery, or grandparents’ home address. * Discuss your concerns with other professionals or practitioners in contact with the family, * Ensure there is an up-to-date risk assessment and contingency plan.   At all times:  Make sure family contact details are up to date and this information is regularly reviewed.  Make sure contact information for the wider professional network should be correct, up to date and easily accessible on the child’s system.  Record key information such as school drop off and pick up time.  If you need to contact the police for a welfare check, you must use the **online form**: [Request police help with a welfare check | Kent Police](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.kent.police.uk/partners/partner-services/wc/v1/request-a-welfare-check/&data=05%7c02%7cPaul.Jerome%40kent.gov.uk%7c7d86fc83bdf64e9d87c808dc4a54a812%7c3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7c0%7c0%7c638466974658495315%7cUnknown%7cTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7c0%7c%7c%7c&sdata=2vnJ90SB/OpyoutLDi4OkePfp862sQyjkGMyFpeN5iY%3D&reserved=0) If you have requested that the police to make a welfare check please record this on the child’s file.  If you disagree with the Police Control room decision, you can escalate, using this process. |