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## Changes to EDT regarding Absent without Authorisation

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## Changes to EDT's response to Absent without Authorisation

### Absent Without Authorisation (AWA)

Absent without Authorisation (AWA) is when a child has been located and remains with a safe and appropriate adult, this will be recorded as AWA, until they return to placement or the place, they are supposed to be i.e. school.

### Current practice

If a child is AWA the care home or foster carer will ring EDT to share this information. If there are no risks the EDT Social Worker will record this on the system, to inform the allocated social worker and Missing team.

This is currently 50% of calls received by EDT.

### New proposed practice

If a child is AWA the care home or foster carer can email the allocated social worker and missing team. However if there are safeguarding risks, child is vulnerable such as risk of exploitation or has a Philomena protocol plan that raises safeguarding concerns, the care home/foster carer must contact both the Police and EDT.

### AWA protocol

Children who have an AWA episode require the practitioner to formulate a missing prevent plan for the child. **If the young person is consistently and persistently AWA, the allocated Social Worker is to consider following the Missing Vulnerable Risk Meeting (MVRM) Plan.** This is recorded on their Philomena protocol plan. To ensure any adult is appropriate agency checks must be undertaken. Consideration to the child's family time plan with significant others should be taken into account and updated if appropriate/approved.

Children who are accommodated in Trust residential homes will be offered a return home interview after each AWA episode.

- ❖ If there is no confirmation the child is with a safe adult, the AWA process **must not** be used, and the child is reported as missing.
  
- ❖ AWA **must not** be used if the child is absent for longer than **72 hours** as per the flow chart below.