

10 things you should know about Operation Endeavour



1

Operation Endeavour is a joint operation between NCC Children's Services, Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to safeguard children and young people who **go missing from home or care**.

2

The DfE statutory guidance [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) January 2014 is the DfE guidance for all agencies working with children and young people. Recent Research suggests "A child or young person under 16 runs away every five minutes in the UK. It is estimated that every year 18,000 children and young people under 16 sleep rough or with someone they have just met" [Railway Children's research](#)

3

There are a range of reasons why children and young people go missing, these include:

- conflict, abuse and neglect - More than half of missing children have experienced this at home and 1 in 5 children felt forced to leave because of it;
- sexual exploitation - 7 in 10 young people who have been sexually exploited have also been reported missing;
- mental health issues - at least 1 in 10 missing children had mental health issues.

4	<p>The Encompass Process</p> <p>The Police send child concern notifications (CCNs) to children’s social care whenever a young person has been reported missing. School key contacts are then notified via email and relevant staff are informed. Schools are notified again when the young person is found so that appropriate support can be put in place when they return, and the Key Contact in schools should inform the Police if the young person arrives at school when they are still considered missing. Every child who has been reported as missing will have a return home interview (RHI) with a colleague from Northumberland Adolescent Service.</p>
5	<p>Return Home Interview.</p> <p>A Return Home Interview (RHI) is an opportunity to listen to the young person, understand why they went missing, what happened whilst they were away, and discuss what they need to stop them going missing again. It's also a chance to identify any additional support the young person may need.</p>
6	<p>Young people need support when they return from a missing episode. Schools can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a referral if appropriate and contribute to a support package around the child and family • help the child make sense of the way they are feeling and behaving • help the child to develop coping strategies • go at the child’s pace; follow their lead • acknowledge what they’ve been through or what they are going through.
7	<p>Schools should inform parents that the school is part of Operation Endeavour. A template letter is provided on the DSLs SharePoint site.</p>
8	<p>The local authority procedure for dealing with children missing is a joint protocol between Northumberland Area Command and Northumberland Children's Services and can be located in the Children’s Services Procedure Manual - Children Missing from Care, Home and Education (proceduresonline.com)</p>
9	<p>Useful information and resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children’s Society: childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/resources/protecting-young-runaways • DfE Statutory Guidance: Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care • Missing People: missingpeople.org.uk 24-hour confidential helpline: 116 000 • NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

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Schools' Safeguarding in the Virtual School