

## **Update report on Children Missing from Care**

### **Purpose**

#### **1.1 Children in Care Council Summary**

It is important to make sure there is regular monitoring of all children and young people who go missing. Early Help Services in the council report on this regularly through the Vulnerable Young Peoples Meeting and a fortnightly Missing Young Peoples Meeting. We keep information on the number of instances that young people go missing and what actions are taken. This report and presentation keeps all informed on what action we are taking to support and prevent missing episodes and will update the Corporate Parenting Board on the progress of delivering the Missing Protocol

#### **1.2 To give an overview of Missing Children direction of travel**

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **2.1 To acknowledge progress made and actions to be completed for future direction of travel**

### **Reason(s)**

#### **3.1 To ensure Early help and Safeguarding services maintain the profile of missing**

#### **3.2 To have correct policies and procedures in place to keep the most vulnerable children safe**

### **Supporting information**

#### **4.1 The People's Directorate in Derby City is committed to ensuring missing children remains a priority area of practice due to the risks associated both to the department and to young people involved in this behaviour.**

#### **4.2 The arrangements are complemented by a range of other professionals including Derbyshire Constabulary (with the Vulnerability Unit having a close working relationship with the Local Authority), the Youth Offending Service, Safe and Sound, Space@Connexions, Children in Care Service, Child Protection Managers and locality Social Care Teams.**

- 4.3 In total for 2018/19 there have been 308 missing individuals reported and 1069 missing episodes in Derby. This means there has been a large increase in both individuals (by 113) and episodes (by 382) compared to last year's reporting of missing. This year's data shows the top 10 persistently missing, account for 366 of the total episodes recorded which 34% of the overall episode count. In November 2017, the Vulnerability Unit within Derbyshire Constabulary changed the way that children with high risk vulnerability statuses were categorised when they went missing. Rather than initially categorise these children as absent until they had been missing for a longer period of time or further risk information was provided to them, the Police took the decision to categorise these children as missing with immediate effect, i.e. (as soon as someone had reported that child as potentially missing to the Police). This was seen as a positive step in relation to safeguarding practice, as it ensured that the appropriate level of Policing resource was dedicated to the most vulnerable missing children. However, this has continues to impact the number of missing per month and could account for the rise.
- 4.4 There was a decrease by from 24 to 22 young people going missing from DCC care homes this year however an increase of 308 to 345 in missing episodes. This can be attributed to 1 individual having a total of 82 episodes throughout the year  
DCC young people missing from foster care this year, has seen an increase of 5 individuals from 9 to 14, with an increase in episodes from 12 to 43
- 4.5 Most missing episodes were one off/non persistent. 62% of 308 missing individuals accounted for 18% of missing episodes across 2018-19.  
Most persistently missing young people were those placed in Derby City Council care homes and have multiple vulnerability factors and are well known to services.
- 4.6 There is strong evidence that missing strategy meetings are being held/arranged in circumstances where young people go missing for 3 days or more.  
Return interviews are conducted however there has been a slight dip from 2018-19 by 2% in completion within the 3 day time frame
- 4.7 The missing persons monitoring group ( MPMG) continues to take place on a monthly basis, reviewing the most persistent missing persons as well as those missing from looked after settings.
- 4.8 There is good engagement from teams within the city care homes and the looked after service

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 Regular meetings with the police, voluntary partners and schools take place where those most vulnerable young people are discussed
- 5.2 Missing strategy meetings include partners and stakeholders involved with young people

### Other options

6.1 None

### Financial and value for money issues

7.1 N/A

### Legal implications

8.1 N/A

### Other significant implications

9.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	<b>Suanne Lim</b>	
	Suanne Lim, Service Director for Early Help and Childrens Social Care	22.07.19
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Andy Smith, Statagic Director Peoples Services	22.07.19
<b>Other(s)</b>		

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:**