



Derby City Council

Corporate Parenting Committee
1 December, 2015

ITEM 11

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and
Young People

Children and Young People Missing from Home and Care

SUMMARY

- 1.1 There continues to be serious concern about the numbers of children and young people who go missing from care and their own homes. There is an urgent need to fully understand the reasons why young people run away, and to identify what help and support can be given to help them adopt strategies to avoid taking such risky actions.
- 1.2 A plan to reduce the incidences of children and young people going missing has been in place since May this year, and was refreshed following a Council internal audit and a performance surgery in August 2015. In July a task group was established to embed actions from the plan, and ensure compliance with the Runaway and Missing From Home and Care protocol.
- 1.3 Return Interviews have the potential to help us understand the reasons why young people go missing. There are challenges in ensuring that workers ensure timely completion and good quality of the return interviews that they carry out with young people, despite the fact that the information they gather may provide insight and help in planning future preventative work.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the progress on the Improvement Plan to reduce the incidences of missing children and young People.
- 2.2 To endorse plans for further actions and monitoring.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Derby response to help young people who go, or are at risk of going missing has been strengthened. A more robust way of monitoring missing episodes, developing a better understanding of the reasons why young people go missing, and what support needs to be in place to address this.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 A presentation will be made to the Committee.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Donna Brooks 01332 641317 donna.brooks@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The cost of a new apprentice is about 6k a year. The cost of a missing person e-mail account is going to be approximately £300

Legal

- 2.1 The Local Authority has a responsibility to protect children from significant harm (CA 1989) and to provide services to children who are considered to be vulnerable including children who go missing.

Personnel

- 3.1 A new apprentice has commenced employment covering the collation of statistics about this vulnerable group of children.

IT

- 4.1 A missing person email address is going to be set up for all carers of children placed at a distance, including foster carers and residential homes, to use to report missing children. This will then automatically send alerts to social workers, IROs and the new apprentice for missing children.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Children missing from home and care are often multiply disadvantaged.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 There are significant risks to children when missing from home and care as highlighted in the report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 9.1 There are both risks to the children themselves and risks for the Council of not properly monitoring and assisting this group of significantly vulnerable children.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1