

Children and Families Service

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Policy Area	Safeguarding
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Equality and Diversity: Hackney is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all its activities to promote inclusive processes, practices and culture. This document has been updated to ensure that it caters to cultural differences and contains gender neutral language and is inclusive of our LGBTQIA+ children and young people.

Children and Education Directorate Anti-Racism Position Statement: Hackney's Children and Education Directorate is committed to eradicating systemic racism, inequality and injustice throughout our work. We recognise, however, that being truly anti-racist goes beyond 'not tolerating' racism. It requires us to acknowledge the impact of existing and systemic racism in all its forms. Being proactive in tackling existing systems and structures that perpetuate and embed racism in our profession, organisation, and the wider community.

This means that anti-racism forms a foundation that underpins our practice. In applying our anti-racist principles in our interactions and decision-making processes, we actively demand the same from our partners.

We are committed to calling out racism, anti-semitism, islamophobia, and all forms of discrimination, exclusionary behaviours and microaggressions, ensuring that they are addressed at all levels and ensuring that children, their families, and the workforce are listened to, supported and valued.

We will work to ensure that all voices are represented and heard and that our workforce reflects the diverse community we serve. By actively working towards anti-racism, we can create a better future for everyone.

Additionally, we will actively work with schools and settings to ensure children's cultural identity is reflected through a diverse and insightful curriculum, underpinned by culturally appropriate teaching resources that support anti-racist interactions and decision-making with pupils, parents/carers, and staff.

We will challenge the harm and impact of racism on our staff and children and families that we work with, acknowledging that experiences of racism can differ between Black and global majority ethnic groups.

We are committed to providing support to colleagues who experience work-based racism, exclusionary behaviours and microaggressions; and strive to ensure that our workforce adequately reflects the community that we serve.

LGBTQIA+ Position Statement: The Children and Families Service is committed to ensuring that every child and young person in Hackney has a safe, healthy and inclusive environment in which they can thrive. This includes all those who may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex or asexual (LGBTQIA+).

We will continue to develop the knowledge and confidence of our staff, volunteers, parents and carers to ensure they are aware of and understand the needs of children and young people who are exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity. We will do so by providing regular training in collaboration with LGBTQIA+ children and young people.

We will support our children and young people to safely explore their identities, who they wish to communicate this to and what support they may be able to access. As a service, we will promote a strong positive image of LGBTQIA+ identities by using affirming language, promoting visible support and challenging any instances of discrimination.

Systemic Practice: Our core values are driven by systemic principles and they underpin how we do our work in Hackney and the way we behave. This includes:

- **Context: *We see the bigger picture.*** Children and families are part of a wider set of systems and relationships, including race, religion, culture, gender, family stories and beliefs.
- **Collaborative: *We work with, not to.*** We don't separate or elevate ourselves from families. We want to understand and learn from the people and communities we work with. We understand that our own experiences can affect our views and decisions.
- **Curious: *We always want to understand.*** We know we cannot always know things for certain; we are continuously curiously creating, testing and creating our thoughts and ideas around the way things are and why.
- **Relationships: *We focus on relationships.*** The problem is the problem, not the person. By working together, we believe we can find solutions. We do not blame or judge, and we do not focus on labels.
- **Multiple Voices/ Many Truths: *We know all viewpoints are valid.*** There is no single truth or 'one right way' of doing things. We aim to hear and understand all perspectives in order to open up opportunities for change and to safely manage risk and uncertainty.

Privacy notice: The Council takes the security of personal data seriously. It is necessary in order for our service to do its work that sometimes personal and private information will be gathered, collected, stored and shared in a secure and confidential way. For further information on this, please check the [Council's privacy notice homepage](#)

Children Missing from Home or Care Policy and Procedure

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1. Introduction

Children who are missing from home or care can be particularly vulnerable to extra-familial harm and exploitation. Not wanting to return home can be symptomatic of wider problems in a child's life.

Children who go missing may feel alone and afraid of getting into trouble when they return. Sometimes they do not understand the risks they face when they go missing and may not see why others are worried.

Children who feel cared for and understood may be able to be supported to choose alternative strategies instead of going missing in the future.

This policy provides guidance for practitioners on the support available for children who go missing from home or care and the procedures that need to be followed to keep them safe.

2. The Statutory Framework

This local policy is situated within the context of the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- [The Children Act 1989](#);
- [Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) (Department for Education, 2014);
- [Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care: Flowchart showing roles and responsibilities when a child goes missing from care](#) (Department for Education, 2014);
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children](#) (HM Government, 2023).

3. Black and Global Majority Children Who Go Missing

Risks and vulnerabilities associated with going missing are even higher for our Black and Global Majority children. A report, [The Experiences of Black Missing Children and Their Parents](#), published jointly by Listen Up and Missing People in 2024, finds that Black children are more likely to go missing (representing 16% of all missing children, while representing only 6% of the general population), more likely to stay missing for longer and less likely to be found by the Police than white children.

The research by Listen Up and Missing People also indicates that Black children's vulnerability to going missing is increased by the exclusion, marginalisation and racism they experience in wider society. Paradoxically, due to distorting effects of racism, not only does their increased vulnerability go unrecognised, but these children are actually considered to be *less* vulnerable. Another report, [The Ethnicity of Missing People](#), published by Listen Up and Missing People in 2023, suggests that Black and Global Majority children who go missing are viewed as less vulnerable *because of* their ethnicities: 'Missing children from Black or Asian communities are less likely to be recorded as being at risk due to their mental health or being at risk of exploitation than white missing children.'

Findings from this research suggests that the following strategies could help address the increased vulnerabilities associated with Black and Global Majority children who go missing:

- Building supportive relationships that enable them to feel confident trusting services;
- Using direct work to promote their senses of belonging, identity and acceptance;
- Considering the impact of racism in relation to a missing episode or pattern of episodes;

- Identifying and calling out racial biases - which might manifest as stereotyping, adultification of criminalisation - present in any responses to a missing episode or pattern of episodes;
- Paying particular attention to mental health, emotional wellbeing and neurodiversity;
- Providing safe spaces, either in person or remote, that children can access if needing to escape worrying or harmful situations;
- Enabling them to be supported by someone of the same ethnicity if that is what they want or need;
- Offering support to their parents that is considerate of, and willing to explore, the impact of racism.

4. Hackney Missing Child Procedure

When a child goes missing from home, their parent or carer and/or their Social Worker will report them missing to the Police. For parents and carers, this report will be made by calling 101, while for Social Workers the report will be made using the [MPS's online facility](#). A Police report will then be sent to the MASH.

When a child goes missing from care, their carer or care provider will report them missing to the police using the [MPS's online facility](#) and will also send a notification by email to the Children's Rights Service and the child's professional network.

The Contextual Safeguarding Lead meets with the Missing and Exploitation Police each day as part of the Daily Missing Risk Meeting, where Hackney children who have been reported missing are discussed.

Those receiving reports of missing children will ensure they have received the following information:

- The child's name/s, date of birth, legal status and responsible local authority;
- Where and when they went missing;
- Who, if anyone, they went missing with;
- What the child was wearing, plus any belongings such as bags, phone or other items they may have with them;
- Description and recent photo;
- Medical history, if relevant;
- Time and location last seen;
- Circumstances or events around going missing;
- Details of family, friends and associates;
- Updated risk assessment.

As soon as the report is received, the Contextual Safeguarding Lead opens a *Missing Child Record* on the child's Mosaic file and updates the professional network of the information shared and recommended actions. All reasonable steps are taken to locate the child.

The missing episode remains open until either the child returns or is located and taken home. There is no requirement to update the Police or EDT each day to inform them that a child remains missing, only to report that the child has returned or that contact has been had with them, or any significant information that has come to light.

Updates about missing children are given to EDT before weekends in the following circumstances:

- We are worried about their safety;
- They are supported through a Child Protection Plan;
- There are significant concerns in relation to extra-familial risk; or
- They have been missing for over 72 hours.

If the child returns within 24 hours, the *Missing Child Record* is completed and the child has a safe and well check from Police. The child is also offered an independent return home interview as soon as possible.

Children's Rights Officers will lead in contacting all children when they return or are found to make a direct offer of an independent return home interview using thoughtful, age-appropriate language to maximise engagement. The Children's Rights Officer will then undertake all return home interviews unless a child expresses a clear preference to have a conversation with their allocated Social Worker or another trusted adult.

Children's Rights Officers will not undertake return home interviews in situations where a child going missing raises concern in relation to intra-familial abuse and a Section 47 investigation is undertaken, during which they will be spoken to by a Social Worker. This is to reduce the number of people the child has to speak to, and to avoid Children's Rights Officers receiving disclosures of intra-familial abuse.

5. Children Missing for over 24 Hours

If the child remains missing for more than 24 hours, all key professionals working with the family are notified. See the [process flowchart](#) for full details of who should be informed.

All [required actions](#) will be followed and an immediate plan will be agreed between the allocated social worker, parent/carer, professional network and Police to try and locate the child, which should include;

- Arrangements for attempts to be made to contact the child on a daily basis by, for example, calling their mobile phone or the phones of friends or relatives that they may be with;
- Visiting their parents' address/es and of any friends or relatives with whom they may be staying;
- Police should consider requesting a trace on the child's mobile phone and/or Oyster card;

- Independent Chair should also try to contact the child if the child is looked after.

6. Children Missing for over 72 Hours

Particular attention should be paid to children who have repeated episodes of being missing from home or education. Consideration should also be given to 'hidden' missing children who may not be reported but may be coming to the attention of other services.

a. All Missing Children

If a child remains missing for over 72 hours (3 days), a Missing Child Meeting or telephone discussion between relevant parties will take place and, at a minimum, include: the Missing Police from the borough the child resides in; the child's allocated Social Worker; and the parent, carer or care provider. If the missing child is looked after but remains in regular contact with their parent, the Social Worker will include that parent in the Missing Child Meeting in addition to the carer and also keep them updated about the missing episode. The Missing Child Meeting does not require the same attendance as a formal [Strategy Discussion](#), nor does it require to be written up as one. However, it must include all relevant information and professional attendance as required - in particular, please consider the attendance of health and education colleagues - and the discussion and plan must be documented on the child's record using the [Missing Child Discussion template](#).

Review meetings must take place at least monthly until the child is found, but can be more frequent depending on the level of risk and vulnerability.

Information to be shared:

- Any known associations, and contact details of friends and family;
- Any contact had, when, and with whom since missing episode commenced;
- Mobile phone number, Oyster card, bank card or other details which Police could track;
- Details of any social media accounts and use of these;
- Use of publicity to locate a child (where consideration is given to circulating a photo of the child, agreement must be sought from those who have parental responsibility);
- Whether to initiate a [Missing Response Plan](#) for a frequently missing child;
- Whether to refer the child to [Hackney's Extra Familial Risk Panel](#) or a local equivalent in the borough in which the child resides;
- Any specific health and emotional needs of a child;
- Application of a Child Abduction Warning Notice (CAWN), Recovery Order or similar;
- Future Safety Plan and strategy once the child is located.

b. Children Supported by a Child Protection Plan

Where a child who is missing is living at home and is either supported through a Child Protection Plan or the subject of a Section 47 enquiry, additional action is required. This includes:

- A Strategy Discussion is arranged within 7 days (at the latest) of the child being reported and remaining missing;
- This must include representatives from both the Police Missing Persons Unit and Child Abuse Investigation Team, as well as other practitioners involved with the child including health and education colleagues;
- In addition, a member of the senior management team or similar command level must be involved in the examination of initial enquiry lines and approval of appropriate staffing levels.

This must be recorded as a formal [Strategy Discussion](#) on the child's record, and all other usual processes followed.

c. Frequently Missing Children

There are some children who go missing on regular occasions for shorter periods, and therefore do not necessarily trigger the 72-hour missing point to hold a Missing Child Meeting, but there are known high-risk concerns in respect of their safety.

If there are concerns that the child is also at risk of significant extra-familial harm due to exploitation or harm from serious youth violence, an [87A](#) should be completed and sent to the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team with a request for a Strategy Discussion, which will consider placing an exploitation marker on the Police National Computer (PNC) database identifying the child to be at high risk of exploitation or extra-familial harm.

For children living outside of Hackney, Social Workers should have a strategy discussion with the relevant Police for the area in which the child lives, to discuss whether this response from Police is warranted and can be progressed. For support with this, these children can be also raised with the Contextual Safeguarding Lead and Service Manager for Safeguarding & Reviewing, as well as requesting a contextual safeguarding consultation or referring to the Extra-Familial Risk Panel. See also our guidance on [Working in Partnership with Police in Response to Significant Harm and Crimes Against Children](#).

7. Looked After Children

The pan-London [Looked After Children Information Sharing Form](#) will be completed where a looked after child has a history of going missing or a likelihood of going missing. A copy of the form will be shared with the child's carer or care provider and the local Missing Police and kept in the care setting and updated as required.

8. Philomena Protocol

Introduced by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 2021, the [Philomena Protocol](#) seeks to strengthen their partnership working with residential children's homes and providers of supported accommodation.

Under the terms of the protocol, every looked after child aged 13 and over who has a history of going missing or likelihood of going missing and who moves into a residential care home or supported accommodation within London will have a 'Grab Pack' of documents that (in line with the pan-London [Looked After Children Information Sharing Form](#)) provide the risk assessment and action plan should they go missing.

All children receive a Settling In Meeting prior to any move, or no later than five working days after moving into a new care arrangement. This meeting will consider what should happen if the child doesn't return home by an agreed time and the child, their Social Worker and staff at the care arrangement will agree and formalise the contents of the Grab Pack.

The Grab Pack will need to include the following:

- up-to-date contact details for the child, their family members and friends;
- any health information;
- any current known risks;
- any other information the Police should know; and
- actions staff at the care arrangement agree to complete prior to reporting the child missing to the Police.

The Grab Pack should be reviewed every three months by the child's Social Worker and staff at their care arrangement and saved on their Mosaic file, as well as being saved in a secure place on the care arrangement's computer system so that any member of staff on duty can access it should the child not return at an agreed time. The review of the child's Grab Pack should also be reflected in the *Young Person and Network Safety Plan* episode on Mosaic.

If there are any significant developments in the child's life or changes in their circumstances, their Social Worker will consider whether the Grab Pack needs to be updated prior to the next three-month review and, if so, make arrangements for this to happen jointly with staff at the care arrangement.

If a child does not return home at an agreed time, staff at their care arrangement should complete the actions it was agreed they would take prior to reporting the child missing to the Police, which may include the following:

- contacting the child to find out their whereabouts and intended return;
- contacting the child's family members and friends to find out if they know the child's whereabouts;
- checking with local hospital Emergency Departments to find out if they have attended.

Once these actions have been completed, staff at the care arrangement should use the [MPS's online facility](#) to report the child as missing and use the pan-London [Looked After Child Information Sharing Form](#) to articulate risk concerns and provide relevant information to assist in locating the child. The carer or care provider should proactively continue to try and locate and stay in contact with the child.

9. Looked After Children Who are Considered 'Absent'

Under the terms of the Philomena Protocol, the MPS has removed the 'absent' category from their reporting and will no longer categorise children as 'absent' going forward. This applies not only to children in residential children's homes and supported accommodation, but to all looked after children.

When a child fails to return home and their carer or care provider has no immediate concerns for their safety, the carer or care provider staff should complete all relevant enquiries themselves to trace the child. This will involve trying to contact the child directly, as well as their known family members and friends.

If there is no known immediate risk, the carer or care provider staff should report the child missing using the [MPS's online facility](#) and use the pan-London [Looked After Child Information Sharing Form](#) to articulate risk concerns and provide relevant information to assist in locating the child.

However, if there is a known immediate risk, an emergency response should still be initiated by calling 999.

10. Agreements for Overnight Stays for Looked After Children

Individual agreements should be reached regarding friends and family members it is agreed that the child can stay with. These agreements can be made is on the basis of a [Placement with Parents Assessment](#) to stay with parents; or on the basis of a viability assessment or safety plan to stay with other family or friends, in which instance the Social Worker should complete a home visit and basic local authority checks as a minimum and obtain agreement from the operational Head of Service.

If it is established that a child is with an agreed friend or family member, there is no need to report them as missing or notify EDT. However, the carer or care provider should make sure the allocated Social Worker is aware of any individual agreements. Any agreed planned overnight stays for looked after children will be noted on their Mosaic files, alongside a completed *CFS Child / Young Person Summary* and *Safety Plan* work step as appropriate.

11. Unplanned Returns Home

Where a child has independently taken themselves to the care of their parent/s in an unplanned way and it is not possible to return them to their agreed care arrangement, Head of Service agreement must be sought within 48 hours, and a Placement at Home

Assessment completed and approved by the relevant Head of Service and the Director within 4 weeks of the move (see [Children on a Care Order living with Parents policy](#)).

12. Missing Response Plans

Where it is assessed that a child is at risk of going missing again, the Police Officer in charge of the investigation should ensure that information gathered is used to create a plan outlining key actions to be taken if the child is subsequently reported missing. This Missing Response Plan may then be used to locate them as quickly as possible and ensure relevant partners are informed of the incident.

Missing Response Plans should be reviewed following the conclusion of any subsequent missing episodes and should be shared with other Police forces if the child moves to another area. Social Workers can request from the Police details of what is in the Missing Response Plan and it can be added to the Network Safety Plan.

13. Senior Management Oversight

Each day, a meeting is held with the Contextual Safeguarding Lead or Service Manager for Safeguarding & Reviewing and Hackney Missing and Exploitation Police to review cases of children who have been reported as missing, assess risk, identify plans to locate children and return them home, and minimise risk of exploitation.

A live spreadsheet is kept by all Service Managers to ensure that missing children across the service are known and logged, and that appropriate action is being taken to locate them safely. Social Workers will ensure that their CSW and operational PDM is notified when a child supported within their service area has been missing for over 24 hours. The child's Operational Service Manager and Head of Service should be notified when a child supported within their service area has been missing for over 72 hours.

A weekly briefing in relation to missing children is circulated by the Contextual Safeguarding Lead or Service Manager for Safeguarding & Reviewing to the Director of Children's Social Care, the Group Director of Children and Education and Lead Members to highlight specific high-risk children and actions being taken to safeguard them, any trends and themes in relation to missing children, and to ensure practice is consistent both internally and amongst partners in relation to missing children.

A 6-weekly overview report in relation to missing children is also shared with the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) forum to support partners' understanding of, and response to, missing children.

When a child has been missing for 10 days or more, or missing in circumstances which raises high concern for their welfare, a [Need to Know Briefing](#) must be completed to ensure Senior Managers and Council Leaders are aware of the situation and can provide any support or challenge required.

Children are also referred to the [Extra-Familial Risk Panel](#), as appropriate where there is information to suggest that a child is at risk of extra-familial harm, to coordinate a multi-agency approach to minimise risk and harm to individuals, groups, and locations within Hackney, or the local equivalent depending on where the child is residing.

If there are issues or barriers in engaging with partners within Hackney or across local areas to safeguard missing children, these should be escalated to the Service Manager for Safeguarding & Reviewing.

14. Support Available for Children Who Go Missing from Home or Care

a. Return Home Interviews

When a child returns from a reported missing episode, in addition to the Police's 'safe and well' check, all children will be offered an independent return home interview.

Children's Rights Officers will lead in contacting all children when they return/are found to make a direct offer of an independent return home interview using thoughtful, age-appropriate language to maximise engagement. The Children's Rights Officer will then undertake all return home interviews unless a child expresses a clear preference to have a conversation with their allocated Social Worker or another trusted adult, in accordance with our [Return Home Interview Guidance](#).

Independent return home interviews provide an opportunity to uncover information that can help protect children from the risk of going missing again, from risks they may have been exposed to while missing or from risk factors in their home or care arrangement. All formal independent return home interviews are recorded in the corresponding Mosaic work step, which can be generated as an action from the *Missing Child Record* work step.

If a child is not willing to engage in an independent return home interview, the reasons for this will be recorded and the parents and/or carers will be offered the opportunity to provide any relevant information and intelligence they may be aware of. This information will be clearly recorded in the *Missing Child Record* work step on Mosaic.

Where possible, the independent return home interview will be carried out within 72 hours of the child returning to their home or care arrangement. However, the Children's Rights Service is a consent-based service and the child must agree to see a Children's Rights Officer before they arrange a visit.

Following the independent return home interview, information will be shared with the Police and partners as appropriate to promote future safeguarding of the child. Where a child's confidentiality needs to be broken to ensure their safety, the Children's Rights Officer who conducted the return home interview will make the child aware of this.

Where a child goes missing frequently, it may not be practicable to see them every time they return and it is recognised that offering an in-person independent return home interview on every occasion that a child has been missing may not be a helpful approach to take. They should, however, continue to be offered an independent return home interview by the Children's Rights Officer. For children who go missing frequently, it may be suitable for some independent return home interviews to be held on the telephone, and this should be discussed with involved managers as part of the [Network Safety Plan](#).

Where children are persistently going missing, Children's Rights Officers will consult with the child and use their professional judgement in determining the frequency of independent return home interviews offered. A discussion with the child about an independent return home interview should take place at least every 4-6 weeks. In justifiable circumstances and with management agreement, return home interviews can form part of statutory visits undertaken by the child's allocated Social Worker.

If independent return home interviews are not offered following missing episodes, the reasons for not offering one must be recorded on the *Missing Child Record* on Mosaic each time. Although formal independent return home interviews may not be conducted if the child has refused, allocated Social Workers should still incorporate into their direct work discussions around safety planning, wellbeing, worries, and ambitions for the future to support children in keeping safe and making positive choices.

An increase in missing episodes or other change of circumstances may prompt an update of a child's Assessment or Care Plan and the completion of the *Child / Young Person's Network Safety Plan* and - work steps on Mosaic (which can be accessed from the child's file in the *Start* menu), and/or the creation of a . These plans must be shared with the professional network as agreed and held on the young person's record.

The return home interview may identify support services that the child would benefit from such as:

- **Young Hackney:** Both universal and targeted work with an emphasis on engaging vulnerable children within Hackney. Substance misuse, health and emotional well-being services are embedded within delivery to provide help at the earliest opportunity.
- **Clinical Support:** Children may be exposed to harm when missing, or they may go missing to escape unsafe situations and individuals. It is important that the impact of this upon their mental health, psychological and emotional wellbeing is considered and any subsequent needs addressed to improve outcomes for the child. Hackney CFS' in-house Clinical Service offers direct clinical support to looked after children,

group work in youth hubs and family therapy where this is the right intervention for a family. If required for a child who has been missing, the Clinical Service will undertake clinical assessments and recommend the appropriate level and type of clinical support and intervention for the child.

- **External Mental Health Support:** Children who are not looked after, and therefore do not receive direct support from the in-house Clinical Service, can be referred to an external provider of mental health support, including the following:
 - City & Hackney CAMHS Alliance's [CAMHS Single Point of Access](#);
 - City & Hackney CAMHS Alliance's [Growing Minds programme](#);
 - NHS's [City & Hackney Talking Therapies](#);
 - Family Action's [Hackney Children & Young People Mental Health Hub](#);
 - Family Action's [Off Centre. Hackney service](#);
 - [Kooth](#), a completely free and anonymous online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop.
- **Independent Visitors:** Looked after children can be supported through the Independent Visitors scheme where they will be allocated a volunteer who will support them until they turn 18. Independent Visitors are there to listen to children, support them and have fun and provide consistent relationships, particularly if a child has limited contact with birth family members. They can provide a safe space for children to express their feelings and engage in activities which provide respite from some often difficult circumstances.
- **Children's Rights Support:** Children may benefit from advocacy support if there are push factors which are encouraging them to go missing such as being unhappy with their current care arrangements, or with other aspects of their Care Plan. Where appropriate, Children's Rights Officers can also work with children around aspects of exploitation, safe relationships, consent, grooming, online safety and self esteem; or they may benefit from direct work delivered by another professional, for example from the Gangs Team or Young Hackney.

b. Support for Children at Risk of Exploitation

Going missing frequently is a sign that a child may be at risk of exploitation or be involved in the exploitation of others. Professionals in all agencies should be alert to the possibility that a child for whom they have concerns may be exploited. The [London Child Protection Procedures](#) provides guidance on the appropriate risk assessment and response to children identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation. The [Hackney Wellbeing Framework](#) includes indicators of harm and the [Contextual Safeguarding Assessment and Intervention Guidance](#) provides guidance for assessing and intervening with extra familial harm.

c. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Where you have concerns about a child who lives within London being at risk of, or experiencing exploitation an [87A](#) should be completed detailing all known risks and sent to the Police CAIT team in the borough where the child resides.

For children residing in Hackney or Tower Hamlets where there are concerns of exploitation, an [87A](#) should be completed and - clearly marked as 'Exploitation Concerns' - sent by [email](#) to the Police Child Abuse Investigation Team for Hackney and Tower Hamlets, who will screen and hand over to their Exploitation Team if appropriate.

For children residing outside of Hackney or Tower Hamlets where you have CCE concerns, the process will need to be confirmed by the local Police force. Contact the MASH in the local authority area where the child resides who can confirm the process for referrals in their local area.

Please refer to our guidance on [Working in Partnership with the Police in response to Significant Harm and Crimes against Children](#)

d. Contextual Safeguarding Tools

As children enter adolescence and spend increasing amounts of time outside of the family home, the protective factors but also the risks that they face are experienced in the context of peer group relationships (including gangs), schools and neighbourhood locations. In order to better understand risk and safety, take action to increase safety, support children to increase their own safety and manage risk, a [range of tools](#) are available to assist practitioners with peer mapping, peer group analysis, incident mapping and local area safety mappings.

e. Extra-Familial Risk

Where children reside in Hackney or are spending significant amounts of time in the borough and there are concerns regarding exploitation and/or extra-familial harm, a referral can be made to [Hackney's Extra Familial Risk Panel](#) and a [contextual safeguarding consultation can be booked](#).

Children who are looked after by Hackney but reside out of borough should continue to be referred to Hackney's Extra-Familial Risk Panel, although they can also be referred to the local authority whose area they reside in if there are concerns relating to local peers, gangs or specific locations. Contact the local area's MASH to find out the appropriate referral route in these cases, and we will continue to have oversight of our own looked after children at Hackney's Extra-Familial Risk Panel.

f. Gang Risks

Where you have concerns that a child who lives or spends significant amounts of time in Hackney is at risk of gang association or affiliation to a Hackney-based gang, or being exploited by older gang members, make a [referral](#) to the Hackney Community Gangs Team. This will be screened and allocated for support from Integrated Gangs Unit's outreach workers if required. You can also submit an [information request](#) to the Integrated Gangs Unit if you are unsure whether a child is at risk of harm from gangs.

g. National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Referral

Where there are concerns that a child is being exploited, a referral must be made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery, which includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour (see [NRM Guidance](#)). There is an NRM Mosaic work step which practitioners will complete in this instance.

h. Radicalisation or Violent Extremism

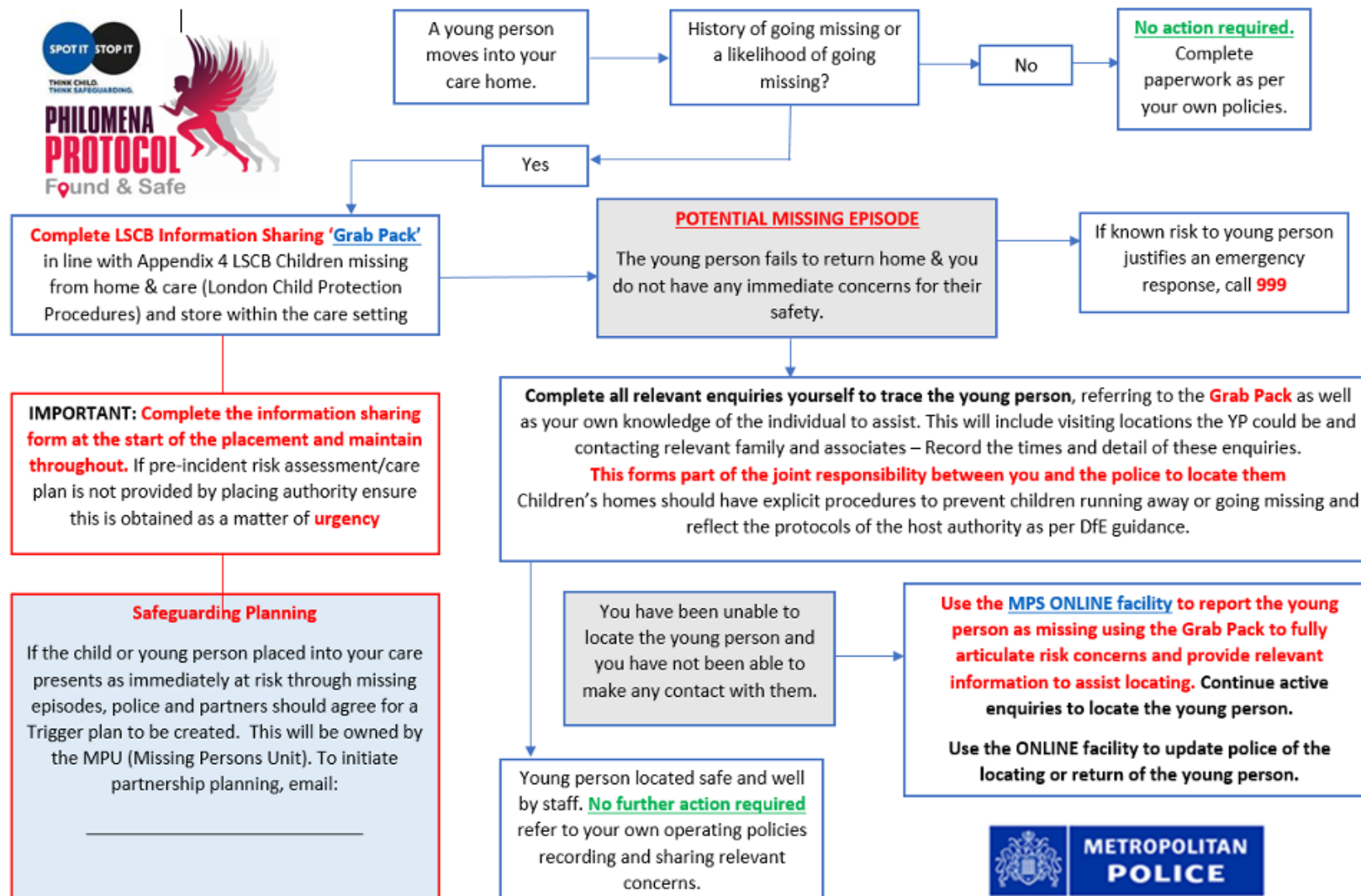
Where there are concerns children may be vulnerable to radicalisation or violent extremism a referral should be made to the Prevent Service in the borough in which they reside, to ensure they have access to a support package tailored to meet their needs, ranging from mainstream services such as health and education through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Hackney's Prevent Service can be contacted by [email](#).

15. London Safeguarding Children Procedures: Children Missing from Care, Home and Education

The [London Safeguarding Children Procedures: Children Missing from Care, Home and Education](#) is designed to support an effective collaborative safeguarding response from all agencies involved when a child goes missing. It aims to provide guidance for assessing both the risk of the child going missing and the risk to the child when they are missing.

The procedures describe appropriate actions to be taken by staff and/or agencies in order to locate the child, affect their return and identify the issues which caused, and may continue to cause, the child to go missing. This provides detailed guidance and is the primary point of reference for all professionals.

Appendix: Philomena Protocol Flowchart



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

