

Children who go missing from home, care or education

Local supplementary guidance



Somerset follows the procedure as set out in the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) South West Child Protection Procedures Manual:
http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/somerset/p_ch_miss_care_home_ed.html?zoom_highlight=MISSING

This document is intended to serve as overview guidance, and details the exceptions, where Somerset policy deviates from this generic procedure:

Governance

Oversight of interagency procedure processes relating to children who go missing from home, care or education will be maintained by the SSCB CSE/Missing subgroup. The SSCB CSE/CM subgroup will receive quarterly reports from TYS on missing incidents and outcomes which are in turn scrutinised by the SSCB.

Agencies responsible for safeguarding children who go missing from home, care or education will work together following the procedures set out in [SSCB South West Child Protection Procedures Manual](#).

In particular, Avon and Somerset Police will **NOT** use the “absent” category of children reported as missing, but will ensure Somerset Direct are notified immediately of all children who go missing and that Somerset Direct and Targeted Youth Support are notified of all children who return from being missing and supplied with contact details and any other relevant information.

- Targeted Youth Support (TYS) will seek to offer all children who have returned from being missing an independent return interview (IRI).
- TYS will record the outcome of interviews and the reasons for failing to complete an interview on LCS (Children’s Social Care case management system).
- TYS will ensure that children, who have been missing, and their families, are able to access appropriate services where support is necessary.
- Where appropriate, TYS will complete a missing prevention plan.

Children’s Social Care

Where a child who goes missing is open to Children’s Social Care, the social worker:

- will make meaningful contact with the child within 48 hours of their return and
- will ensure that assessments and plans reflect missing episodes and information arising therefrom
- will ensure that a missing prevention plan is in place for children in all appropriate cases.

Education

SCC education services (SSE) will ensure that any relevant information is made available to the police and CSC.

Missing review panel

Information on children who have been missing will be collated fortnightly using police, Children's Social Care and education information. Those at highest risk will be reviewed at the missing review panel chaired by "First Response" and attended by the police, education, targeted youth support, and other agencies by invitation.

Supporting documentation

- [Children Missing and Return Home Interview Process – Local Authority Guidance](#)
- [Children Missing Education Policy](#)
- [Children and Families that go Missing \(including unborn children\)](#)
- Missing review panel terms of reference (SSCB) – Appendix A

Appendix A

Missing Child Review Meeting Process:

