Manchester Safeguarding Boards

Staying Safe

Manchester's Missing from Home and Care Strategy 2017 to 2019

Published: July 2017

Review due: June 2019

MSAB
MANCHESTER SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD

MSCB
MANCHESTER SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN BOARD

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Manchester's Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) and Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) are multi-agency partnerships made up of a wide range of statutory, independent and voluntary agencies and organisations. These all work together to keep children, young people and adults, particularly those who are more vulnerable, safe from the risk of abuse, harm or exploitation.

For more information on the work of the Boards visit
www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk

Foreword

There is nothing worse as a parent than not knowing where your child is and wondering if they are safe.

As a corporate parent for Manchester's Looked After Children I am deeply concerned if any of our Looked After Children are missing.

Too many children in Manchester are missing from home or care and reducing this number is a key priority for the Council. Children who are missing from home or care are very vulnerable and can be at risk from crime, drugs or child sexual exploitation.

Our Children and Young People Plan: *Our Manchester, Our Children* says we want all children to be safe and live in safe, stable and loving homes. If children are missing they are not safe.

This strategy lays out how we will work collectively with our partners to reduce the number of children who go missing from home or care. We will listen to children and young people to find out why they go missing and respond in a way that keeps them safe.

Parents, carers, foster carers, social care, police, schools, health and the voluntary and community sector all need to work together to share information and provide an effective response to children and young people who go missing from home or care.

If we work together we can keep our children and young people safe.

Sheila Newman
Executive Member for Children's Services

Julia Stephens-Row
Independent Chair of MSAB and MSCB

1. The vision and principles for our strategy

Our Manchester – building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people.

Reducing the number of children and young people who go missing from home and care is a key priority for our city; this builds on existing work and demonstrates our mission to further develop and improve our response to children and young people who go missing in Manchester into the future.

Our Strategic Fit
This strategy aligns to the aims of Manchester's *Children and Young People Plan* and *Early Help Strategy[1]*.

It is underpinned by the *Runaways Charter[2]*, which Manchester has signed up to support, a document produced by the Children's Society and co-written with young people who have been missing.

Finally, it is complementary to the *MSB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017-19* and acknowledges the connection between these vulnerabilities and how we plan to tackle both issues across the city.

Our Ambition and Aim
Our aim is for all children and young people to feel **safe**; their welfare promoted and safeguarded from harm within their homes, schools, and communities.

We will reduce the number of children and young people going missing, by responding in a way that is young person centred, purposeful and timely. We will explore and respond to the reasons why children and young people tell us they are going missing. This will enable us to build a consistent understanding of the rationale and risks for our young people going missing from our children's homes, schools and communities and will enable us to shape services that are responsive and effective.

We will reduce the risks faced by children and young people who are missing by acting in a co-ordinated way that responds appropriately to the level of risk identified with a missing incident and successfully safeguards and protects any child or young person who is missing.

We will do this by:
- Raising awareness and understanding of the risks associated with children and young people going missing from home and care across organisations, communities and families.

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[1] Reference: Early Help strategy at hsm.manchester.gov.uk
[2] www.childrenssociety.org.uk/make-runaways-safe

- Identifying and address the root cause of why a child or young person is going missing as early as possible and plan an appropriate, strengths based response.
- Sharing information across agencies to support the accurate risk assessment of a missing from home or care incident and respond in a well-co-ordinated, child-centred way to safeguard children and young people who are at risk.
- Mobilising community assets and resources to support families and communities.
- Identifying where families or carers may need more support and respond to meet this.
- Listening to what children and young people are telling us about going missing in Manchester to help design how we respond to missing from home and care incidents.
- Sharing information and data from social care, police, schools, health settings and the voluntary sector to help identify trends across the city and plan future services.
- Ensuring that appropriate and effective training is available for multi-agency staff and third sector partners.

This strategy will:
- Define what missing from home and care is; and what the linked vulnerabilities are that are associated with a child or young person going missing from home.
- Identify what the current picture of missing from home and care is in Manchester based on data and input from children and young people.
- Describe what the current response and offer is for children and young people who go missing in the city.
- Set out Manchester's ambition for how we will reduce missing episodes and protect children and young people who go missing from home or care and understand the links to complex safeguarding.
- Outline how we will know we are making a difference and achieving success.

2. Aims, scope and governance of our strategy

2.1 The aims of the strategy

The strategy has three aims that form its basis and how we will work collaboratively to identify and tackle missing from home and care across the city.

These three aims are:

Prevention	Protection	Provision
Reducing the number of young people who go missing and acting early to reduce the likelihood of a child or young person going missing	Reducing the risk of harm to young people who go missing	Getting the right services and support in place for children, young people and their families and carers

Prevention
We will raise awareness of missing from home and care, so that everyone can recognise it and know what to do when they, or someone they know, is going missing and are at risk. We will identify who is most at risk and who is likely to be at risk, and act as early as possible to minimise this risk. We will empower our staff, families and communities to understand and identify the factors of why children and young people go missing in order to prevent it.

Protection
Our response to missing from home and care will be well co-ordinated and sequenced to ensure any young person who is at risk is located as quickly as possible and receives the appropriate response from agencies. Good information sharing and planning across agencies will take place to ensure that the risk assessment of an individual will be as accurate as possible.

Provision
We will be flexible in how we approach services and support, ensuring an appropriate response is provided for children and young people. We acknowledge that a different approach might be needed in different circumstances. We will listen to what children and young people say about going missing, build on their strengths and use this to inform future provision. We will also utilise community assets, linking children and young people up with what is available in their area.

By delivering these aims we will have a better understanding and response when children or young people go missing in Manchester. This will strengthen our capacity to meet our safeguarding responsibilities and to act earlier to better manage the risks of each individual child or young person.

Prevention

Reducing the number of young people who go missing and acting early to reduce the likelihood of a child or young person going missing

We will:

- **Listen to young people** to understand the reasons why they go missing, what is important to them and ensure we record this as part of a return to home interview with a young person.
- **Share information** across agencies to understand who is going missing and to try to uncover those young people who are 'unknown' missing and those with additional vulnerabilities (e.g. CSE, gang involvement, repeat absent notifications and those placed out of area).
- Ensure our **staff, families and young people understand what triggers missing from home incidents**, what the risk factors are and how they could stay safe.
- Raise awareness with young people of the risks of going missing and **promote local opportunities for young people** (youth clubs, sports clubs) to provide alternatives to going missing.
- Develop a **multi-agency tool** for assessing risk when a child or young person goes missing, is 'absent' or repeatedly absent.
- Work with schools, pupil referral units and other agencies (e.g. Transport for Greater Manchester) to **promote awareness** and help identify those children and young people who go missing in the middle of the school day**.**
- **Work with residential homes** to help identify specific concerns and patterns of behaviour and how to de-escalate situations that may lead to a young person going missing.

Protection

 Reducing the risk to those who go missing

We will:

- **Respond to missing incidents quickly** in a well-coordinated way. Each agency will be clear on their contribution to this process.
- **Establish clear processes** on how we respond to missing from home incidents; including vulnerable groups such as previously trafficked children who may be at risk of returning to exploitation.
- **Share information effectively** to inform the risk assessment for a young person who has gone missing from home/care to provide the right response.
- **Ensure all agencies have positive conversations** with young people after they go missing; listening to and understanding what is important to them and, where appropriate, linking into Early Help or other more specialist services as required.
- **Consult with young people to co-design a communication campaign** to promote key messages in schools, PRUs and other settings including residential homes on how to stay safe and what to do if they go missing.

Provision
Getting the right services and support in place for children, young people and their families and carers

We will:
- **Listen to what young people say** about going missing and what is important to them, to inform how we plan and deliver services.
- **Act at the right time, in the right way** that is appropriate to the level of risk associated with that child or young person's situation.
- Develop clear pathways, following a missing incident that will provide **appropriate support** for the child, young person and their families following a missing incident.
- **Produce guidance** on what responses different agencies will offer in relation to each degree of risk.
- Ensure we have the **right services** based on **feedback** and **evidence** of what works.

The implementation and impact of these aims will be the delivery of a plan of action that the multi-agency group will produce and deliver.

2.2 Guiding principles for the delivery of the strategy

The multi-agency operational group has defined a set of principles for how we want the future development and implementation of the strategy to progress. We see these as the key factors for how the strategy and action plan will develop.

These guiding principles are:

> **We want to know our missing population** to enable us to understand and strategically plan the right services and responses at the right time so that children and young people are protected in a way that is appropriate to their needs.
>
> **A partnership approach will underpin how we work.** We will develop and agree clear contributions for each agency in identifying and responding to missing from home incidents. We will share information effectively to support this.
>
> **We will use the strengths and expertise of our children and young people** to help design the strategy and the future work we do, championing the Our Manchester, strength based, approach.
>
> The strategy will be focused on the **long term** approach to preventing and reducing the number of children and young people who go missing.
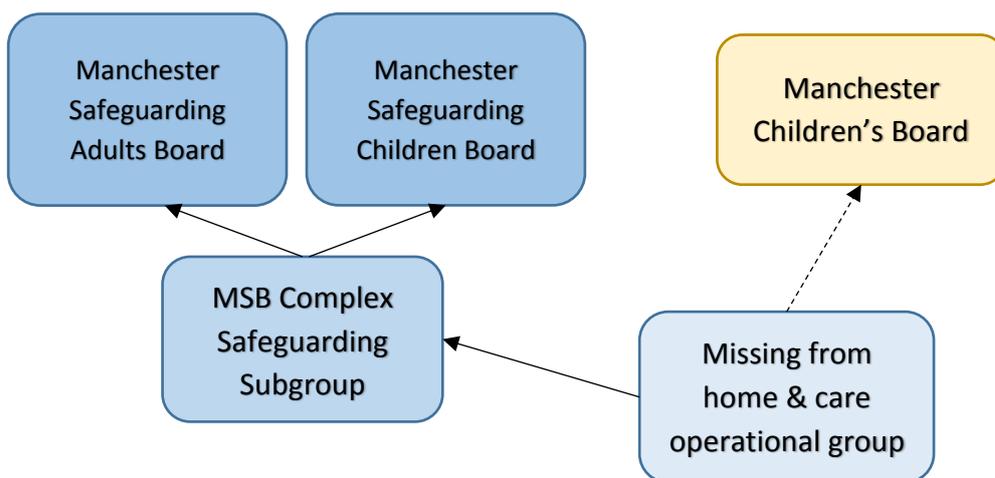
2.3 Governance

The strategy will be driven by the Manchester Safeguarding Board (MSB) Complex Safeguarding Subgroup. This is a multi-agency subgroup that meets on a monthly basis and is chaired by the Director of Children's Services. The Complex Safeguarding Subgroup reports directly to the Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board and Manchester Safeguarding Children Board.

A multi-agency Missing from Home & Care Operational group will deliver the aims of the strategy and will report into the Complex Safeguarding Subgroup. This will ensure there is good connectivity with the operational delivery of the strategy and the strategic vision.

The strategic lead for children and young people who go missing from home and care from in Manchester is the Strategic Lead for Early Help for Manchester City Council.

Preventing missing from home and care episodes is a partnership issue that requires clear, senior leadership representation across the local authority, police and other agencies who are responsible for missing incidents[3].

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│ Manchester   │   │ Manchester   │        │ Manchester   │
│ Safeguarding │   │ Safeguarding │        │ Children's   │
│ Adults Board │   │ Children     │        │ Board        │
│              │   │ Board        │        │              │
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          ┌──────────────┐              ┌──────────────┐
          │ MSB Complex  │              │ Missing from │
          │ Safeguarding │◄─────────────│ home & care  │
          │ Subgroup     │              │ operational  │
          │              │              │ group        │
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[3] *Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care,* Jan 2014
www.gov.uk/government/children-who-run-away-or-go-missing-from-home-or-care

3. Definition of missing from home and care

3.1 Missing or absent?

The current definition of missing from home and care across Greater Manchester, as defined by the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership[4] is split into two categories; these are:

Missing – Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character or the context suggests the person may be the subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another.

Absent – A person not at a place where they are expected or required to be and where the circumstances and context suggest there is a lower level of risk.

Although these definitions are used nationally by most Local Authorities and were produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers and College of Policing in 2013, they have recently come under criticism. An All-Party Parliamentary enquiry recommended that these distinctions be replaced nationally with a more nuanced continuum of low, medium and high risk; with no child classified as low without first being jointly risk assessed by both social care and the police.[5]

The implementation of this recommendation is yet to be decided, however, this demonstrates the difficulties involved in defining young people who go missing under one homogeneous category. The current definition also does not include those children or young people who go missing and are not reported, this cohort of 'unknown missing' may be some of our more vulnerable children due to being invisible to services[6]. Research by The Children's Society found that up to 70% of children and young people who go missing overnight are never reported to the police[7].

Good practice guidance recommends that we should develop 'an agreed inter-agency framework for assessing and classifying the degree of risk when a child goes missing from home or care or when a missing child comes to agency notice'[8]. This would further define and clarify how we identify and then respond to missing from home incidents relating to the known risk factors of a case. We will develop and agree risk tools and frameworks through our multi-agency operational group.

3.2 Vulnerable groups who go missing linked to complex safeguarding issues

The reasons why a child or young person may be running *from* or *to* a situation can be broad and varied. However, where the root cause for this behaviour is not addressed, the underlying issues can continue to grow, placing that child or young person at increased risk when they do go missing. There are complex safeguarding issues that can be both the cause and consequence of going

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[4] greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com
[5] Ann Coffey, All Party-Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults (May2016) *Inquiry into the safeguarding of 'absent' children 'It is good when someone cares'*. APPG
[6] The Children's Society, Still Running 2, 2005
[7] The Children's Society. Still Running 3, 2011
[8] *Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care*, Jan 2014 www.gov.uk

missing frequently. These additional complex safeguarding issues that can be linked to missing incidents are detailed below.

3.3 Children and young people at risk of or subjected to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Research by Barnardo's in 2013 illustrates the intrinsic relationship between Missing from Home and CSE. Many of the participants in this study went missing due to family issues such as child abuse, or neglect or discontent with living arrangements[9]. For some, CSE was a means of survival, providing them with money, food and shelter whilst on the streets. Some of the participants had gone missing from home to be with older 'boyfriends' or other friends and were subjected to abuse. Several participants were urged to go missing to attend parties where CSE was a major factor.

The connection between CSE and Missing is well known in Manchester and highlighted in our Missing Profile (ref. Appendix A). In response to this Manchester has a well-established multi-agency partnership and specialist team, Protect, which works with victims of CSE.

Anne Coffey's report Real Voices[10] interviewed young people across Greater Manchester. One young person who was a victim of CSE had this to say about her experience:

'When I was younger, the main reason I got into that cycle was because there was no one there for me, and these men came along and they were there for me, so I grabbed it with both hands as an instinct… I was being bullied in school and pretty much at home, and the only time I felt ok was when I was with these men… I would walk out of school when I was being bullied and just go to a man's flat and take drugs. That went on for a few years'.

Links between young people who go missing and their potential vulnerability to child sexual exploitation is recognised in the *MSB Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2017-19*. The multi-agency Risk Management Panel ensures that there is a joint response and prevention of these risk factors.

3.4 Organised crime and risk of radicalisation

A recent study by Catch 22 recently highlighted the relationship between going missing and gang involvement[11]. Exploitation and coercion are key features of gang life. Children and young people are drawn to the gang through the use of money and debt, affection, status and fear. This study highlights the dangers that children and young people face as they are frequently recruited to support drug-related activity for gangs and are often criminalised by services rather than receiving a safeguarding response. Young people who go missing may already be a victim of, or vulnerable to, radicalisation

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[9] Smeaton, E. (2013) *Running From Hate to What You Think is Love; The relationship between running away and child sexual exploitation*. Ilford, Barnardo's.

[10] http://anncoffeymp.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Real-Voices-Final.pdf

[11] Sturrock, R. and Holmes, L. (2015) *Running the Risks: The links between gang involvement and young people going missing*. London. Catch 22 in association with Missing People.

3.5 Trafficking

Trafficking is an internationally recognised crime in which people are moved to other locations and exploited. Children and young people can be trafficked, from abroad or within the UK, for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficking causes additional physical, psychological and emotional stresses[12].

3.6 Separated and unaccompanied children

Children and young people who have arrived in the UK from other countries on their own, or who are left behind unaccompanied, are particularly vulnerable to going missing or exploitation. Many may have been trafficked but others will not have been. Regardless, they will still be vulnerable due to reduced networks and resources upon which they can rely. Children and young people are particularly vulnerable within the first 48 hours after arrival in the UK – particularly if they have been trafficked. All of these children will be subject to immigration control, many having limited leave to remain in the country.

3.7 Unknown missing

We are currently dependant on children and young people initially being reported missing, in order to know that they are going missing. However, there is an acknowledged cohort of children and young people who may not be reported by their parents and who are not involved with other services[13]. This may include the child being a victim of Forced Marriage and/or so-called Honour based violence. These children and young people could therefore be invisible to services and are exposed to greater risk without these protective factors.

Manchester launched the Trust Your Instincts tool in 2015 to enable professionals in universal settings to identify signs of neglect and abuse earlier and raise awareness of what to do next. Part of the 'signs to look for' in this tool are children and young people who are not in school and could be missing.

It is also crucial that whenever professionals in Manchester have contact with a child who is known to have gone missing that they keep in mind the young person's friends and peers who may have gone missing with them but have never been reported and safeguard them appropriately.

3.8 Children Missing Education

Children missing education are children who are of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving a suitable education otherwise. Children missing education are at risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation and becoming NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training) later in life.

Local Authorities have a duty under the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to establish the identities of children in their area who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving a

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[12] Shaker, L. (2014) *Evaluation of Barnardo's Safe Accommodation Project for Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People*. University of Bedfordshire.

[13] The Children's Society, *Still Running, (*2005)

suitable education otherwise. Those children identified as not receiving a suitable education should be returned to school or alternative provision. In September 2016, the Department for Education issued new statutory guidance[14] setting out some key principles to enable Local Authorities to fulfil this duty – the guidance was to be implemented with immediate effect.

Manchester has number of policies and procedures in place to ensure that it meets this statutory duty and also discharges other duties and powers to support work in relation to children missing education. These include:

- Ensuring that children are offered a school place following a school admission application in line with DfE guidelines, including having fair access arrangements in place for children with more complex needs.
- Issuing school attendance orders to parents who fail to satisfy the Local Authority that their child is receiving a suitable education.
- Knowing how many children in the city at any one time are missing education and how many children are missing with whereabouts unknown.
- Ensuring children attend school regularly including prosecuting or issuing penalty notices to parents who fail to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- Knowing how many children are accessing alternative provision and arranging education for children who are permanently excluded from school.
- Knowing how many children are being home educated and processes for assessing whether children are accessing a suitable education offer at home and how this is monitored.

Manchester also has a dedicated inbox which is available for anyone to report information about children who are thought to be missing education - this is cme@manchester.gov.uk.

3.9 Looked After Children and Care Leavers

Research has shown that Looked After Children are disproportionately represented in missing incidents; this is also reflected in Manchester's own data which is highlighted in our Missing Profile (Appendix A). This represents an extremely vulnerable group that we need to focus on in our plan of action.

Recent research shows a significant connection between young people who are looked after and go missing and an increased likelihood of being exploited[15]. Children who have been placed in Manchester from out of area Local Authorities may be particularly vulnerable due to social isolation and more likely to return to their previous area of residence and social networks[16].

Care leavers, particularly 16 and 17 year olds, may also go missing from their home or accommodation and face the same risks as other missing children[17].

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[14] www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-missing-education
[15] Early Intervention Institute, *Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Understanding risk and vulnerability* (2016)
[16] Early Intervention Institute, *Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: Understanding risk and vulnerability* (2016)
[17] Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care, Jan 2014

A peer research project commissioned by NSPCC in 2012, interviewed young people who ran away from residential units found the following key themes as reasons for why they were running away.

- **Where the young person felt that authority and power was being taken away from them**
  'I was just getting angry because people weren't telling me what was going on and I was ... I didn't know where I lived and nobody's telling me what's going on and I was going like "Where's my family?" "Why are they not here?" and "Who are you?" and they were saying "Oh you can trust us" but you know, I didn't really.'

- **Where they felt isolated from their family**
  'It was just… Home is where the heart is, you know what I mean, and that's why I just wanted to be home, you know what I mean? See my ma and my family… make sure they're all right.'

- **Where their environment was not engaging or they felt there was a lack of boundaries**
  'I was bored. Pure boredom…'
  'I always used to run away from council units because they didn't really have much boundaries, they couldn't really do anything.'

Young people who had lived in children's homes have expressed a wish to have a home which feels like a home rather than a place of work; and said that carers should expect a period of difficulty when the young person first arrives in placement and work with the young person at the point they are at. Young people felt that this would help them to feel settled and therefore cease or reduce their missing from home episodes[18].

Ongoing work with children's residential homes is a high priority to reduce the number of Looked After Children (LAC) who go missing. However, LAC remain disproportionately represented in the numbers of children who go missing. This highlights that further work is needed to support residential homes, such as promoting the use of community assets, building on young people's strengths and the use of mentors and key workers to form strong relationships and diminish the pull factors for young people who go missing.

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[18] The Children's Society, *Still Running*, 2016

5. What do Young People say about going missing in Manchester?

The future provision of services for missing from home should actively seek out feedback from young people to design our future responses to missing from home or care episodes.

Key themes from a recent focus groups with Young People who have been missing in have highlighted the following themes.

What mattered to Young People?

- It was important to be listened to in a **civil** and **respectful** way and be given the opportunity to speak to someone that **they trusted**.

- Having return interviews and follow up support with the **same person**.

- **Mentor support** with someone outside of other professionals, was someone they could talk to 'just for them'.

- Language used by professionals, such as 'going missing', isn't what young people identify with.

- The time of day or how long someone was missing for would influence how at risk someone was perceived to be who was missing.

"[When I went missing] they said they'd have to do something about it…I don't know…maybe put me into prison or something. I don't see how I was wasting their time…I was getting away from something bad. I'm not going to stay in a place where I don't feel safe."
(The Children's Society, 2016)

We will engage with children and young people to ensure our plans and our responses reflect young people's voices, experience and feedback.

6. Current Universal, targeted and specialist support in Manchester

The Framework of Response and Levels of Need (2015)[19] provides guidelines for practitioners on identifying the most appropriate response to a child or young person's needs. This should be used to help identify and assess the response to children and young people who go missing.   Outlined below is the current offer and response offered to children and young people who go missing.

Universal Services and Prevention Low level interventions that focus on the prevention, awareness raising and protection of young people from going missing are at the core foundation of the strategy. The role of schools, universal services and communities in preventing missing instances is crucial to prevent the escalation of behaviours and risk and building resilience.
Early Help and Prevention Prevention and support at the earliest opportunity, focused on strengths and community assets. **Trust Your Instincts tool** will support these settings with identifying young people who might be at risk while missing.
Targeted Support Our first response to a missing incident will initially focus on locating and protecting the child or young person from harm. This is outlined in our local missing from home safeguarding processes. After a child or young person has returned home or to care, we will take a strength-based and holistic approach with them to identify the root cause of the missing incident.
Safe and Well check: All children and young people who have been missing and are an appropriate age will receive a Safe and Well check from the police within 24 hours of returning home or to care. This is to identify if the child or young person has suffered any harm; where they have been; who they have been with; and to provide information on support services (including ChildLine).
Return to Home Interview: After a missing incident, if the child or young person is an appropriate age a return to home interview will take place.
Safe in the City: The Children's Society provide follow up work with a mentor scheme offering 1:1 sessions with young people who have been missing.
Missing from home or care risk management meeting: the risks associated with missing episodes are managed through multi-agency missing from home or care risk management meetings.
Multi-agency risk management panel: The Panel works collaboratively to ensure joint planning and decision making is taking place to reduce the risk level associated with high risk young people who go missing.
Protect Team: Protect is a multi-agency team delivering a victim centred response to CSE. Protect work with victims of CSE; provide advice and guidance to professionals; identify CSE concerns; educate young people, parents, carers & professionals on identifying CSE; and work on the disruption of perpetrators.
Integrated Gang Management Unit (IGMU): The IGMU is a multi-agency team aimed at safeguarding young people, families & communities from violent gang activity and supporting gang members exiting from the gang lifestyle.
Specialist Support Specialist teams and services will work with young people where additional vulnerabilities have been identified to effectively reduce the risk and safeguard the young person

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[19]Reference: Levels of Need Framework and Guidance at hsm.manchester.gov.uk

7. Achieving success

Success will be directly measured against the outcomes experienced by children, young people and their families. We will develop specific quality measures and feedback loops to measure our progress and success in this including consulting with children and young people.

We will evaluate the impact of our action plan through developing performance measures that will be reported into the Complex Safeguarding Subgroup. These measures should evaluate our impact in line with the three aims of **prevention, protection and provision**. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this strategy will come from case file audits and the achievement of the performance measures identified.

We plan to have specific performance measures including:

- Reduction in the number of missing from home and care episodes.
- Reduction in the number of repeat missing from home and care episodes.
- Delivery of return to home interviews within timescale.
- Ensure information from return to home interviews is informing service development, enabling us to proactively respond to the identified push/ pull factors.

To support this we will undertake an annual survey to capture what is working and review and update Manchester's missing from home and care profile.
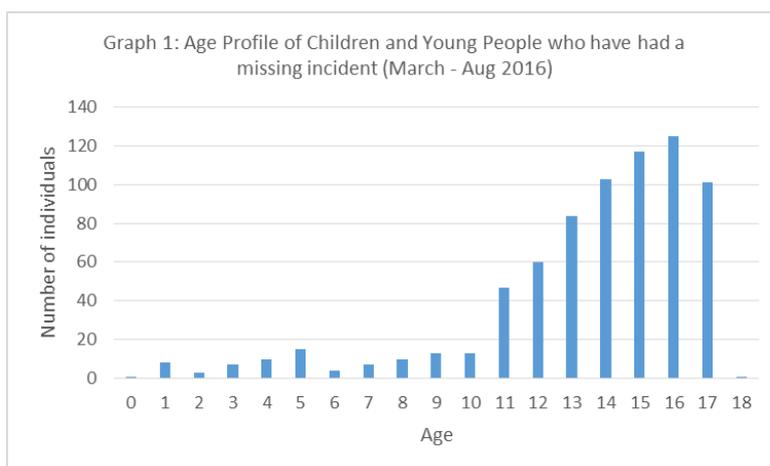
The Missing from Home & Care Operational Group will be responsible for developing and agreeing the specific targets for the measures listed above.

Appendix A: Manchester's missing from home and care profile*

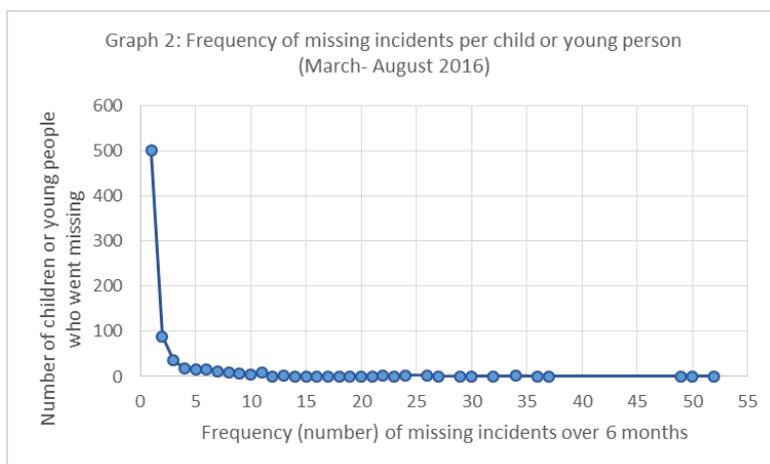*** Data taken from over 6 month period, March-Aug 2016**
Manchester will receive 352 missing incident reports each month, these will be generated by 123 children or young people.

The majority of children and young people who went missing over a 6 month period were over 10 years old, with the most missing incidents generated by 16 year olds - see Graph 1 below.

The majority of missing incidents last for under 24 hours and are reported by either a parent or a residential children's home.

The majority of reported missing incidents relate to one individual going missing on one occasion – 68% of reports over a 6 month period. However, there is a small minority of individuals who will go missing significantly more times over the same period - generating 10% of the total missing incidents over this period - see Graph 2 below.

Additional Vulnerabilities
Child Sexual Exploitation:
Over 6 months 35% of missing incidents related to children or young people with a CSE flag. However, this high risk group equates to a small number of individuals which make up 15% of the total population of people who went missing over this period. This is also reflected across Greater Manchester with 1 in 7 individuals who have been reported missing having a CSE flag.

Looked After Children:
Children who are looked after are a particularly vulnerable group and are disproportionately represented in missing incidents. Greater Manchester Police report that they are almost 9 times more likely to be reported missing than other young people in Greater Manchester and as individuals they were reported missing more often.

- Half of all looked after children who were reported missing had been the subject of previous reports, compared with just over a quarter of other Manchester children.
- Looked after children with a history of going missing had been reported missing more often (on an average of 28 occasions, compared with 8 for other children).
- The maximum number of missing episodes for a LAC individual was 184, compared with 112 amongst other children.
- 146 LAC (within the period in question) with a history of going missing had generated a total of 4049 reports, while 395 other Manchester children with missing histories generated a total of 3072.

The length of time that individuals went missing was similar across both groups. Looked after children were more likely to be reported missing towards the end of the evening, but the general time profile of missing reports was similar in both cases.

These levels of victimization and offending are much higher than those seen in the general population of young people in Greater Manchester. Female and male individuals were equally likely to appear on missing reports, but males were more likely to be linked to crimes as offenders and females were more likely to be linked as victims. Looked after children with missing reports or offending links were much more likely to present with 'socially unacceptable behaviour' and 'family dysfunction' as needs.