

What young people say about why they go missing.

Review the quotations and think about the role you could have in prevention of missing episodes.



Pull factors

"The reason I go missing is to see my family and friends, to see my mates and smoke weed"

"May be being exploited. Could be in gangs and are being forced to run away or be involved in county lines"

"To get high, to forget about everything, to escape their life... If you have a family that love you its different, but in care they don't love you. That's why we do drugs, its another way to escape"

"He feels that young people go missing because they want to stay out with their friends and they are not ready to go home. They want to have a drink and don't want to go home drunk. Sometimes they just want to stay over a friend's house and staff haven't seen the home and this is embarrassing to them because he doesn't think it is normal for staff to have to go to the home and speak to parents to see if they are ok. Staff should just trust the young people sometimes. Also some of their friends may not know they are in care and they don't want people to know."



dialogue

Push factors

"Living in care isn't the same, people are paid to care for you, you don't get the same affection as with a family, its lonely"

"Problems at home, issues with other young people, not liking staff... You don't want be at the placement as it doesn't feel like home"

"Cos you're not allowed to stay out. You want to be spontaneous, it takes too long for placement to sort out permission to stay out, social workers don't answer their phones or make decisions quick enough. Once you're out you don't bother answering your phone or going home cos you know you've been reported missing so you might as well stay out, the outcome will be the same if it's that night or the morning, the police are gonna pick you up."

"To have some freedom... to force yourself to grow up quicker."

"Because it's so stressful so they want to be alone and clear head and be out"

"Because you don't feel safe at home"

"Families may not be supportive, may be addicts or cannot look after us"