

Inspection Top Tips

Young People Who Go Missing

March 2025



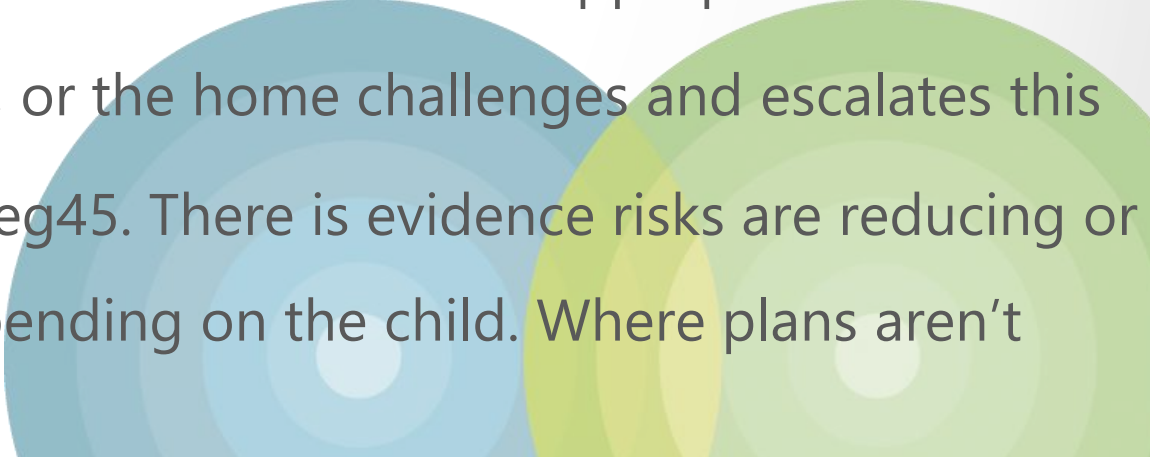
Children's Homes Guide

9.24 Where there is a possibility that a child will run away or go missing from a children's home placement, their placement plan should include a strategy to minimise this risk. If the child is looked-after, their care plan (arranged by their placing authority) should include such a strategy.



Children's Homes SCCIF

There's lots in the SCCIF about children going missing – it's a strong area of focus. Key elements include:

- The home is aware of and implements the [statutory guidance on missing from care](#)
 - Risks are known and understood with an explanatory up-to-date risk assessment for children who may go missing
 - There are urgent, well-prepared, proactive responses from staff who are supported to go looking for children going missing. Parents are made aware where appropriate
 - Return home interviews are offered by the LA, or the home challenges and escalates this
 - The home reviews incidents and includes in Reg45. There is evidence risks are reducing or are there are well-coordinated responses, depending on the child. Where plans aren't effective, they're revised
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"Children who go missing from the home are reported missing in line with the child's missing-from-home plan. Staff actively take steps to locate the child. This includes driving to locations the child is known to frequent, trying to maintain contact by telephone, and contacting the child's family. Once children are found, they are offered return home interviews. However, the records do not reflect management oversight with staff to identify how missing from care incidents have occurred or identify any changes staff can make to prevent any reoccurrence."

Top tips...

1. Identify children at risk of going missing and develop a plan
 2. Be clear on the level of risk – integrate issues of bias
 3. Always be welcoming when the child returns
 4. Return home interviews
 5. Be alert to any signs of abuse or exploitation
 6. Review
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Where next...

Training on Young People Going Missing

Our Young People Going Missing training analyses the levels of intervention model, alongside exploring the use of a contextual safeguarding approach. We also consider the dynamic risks involved to work with local agencies, and the young person's family and carers, about what needs to change to reduce these episodes in future

Our next course is being delivered on 2nd April 2025 9:15-12:15pm

Please visit www.dialogueltd.co.uk/missing for bookings

