**QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – MISSING FROM CARE**

Foster Carer / Residential Staff aware young person is “missing from care” and MUST decide upon the child’s category of absence. Foster Carers will phone child’s social worker/ EDT for advice and direction.

**Unauthorised Absent**

Delay for agreed period (maximum 6 hours)

**West Midlands Police**

Police Officers to conduct a Risk Assessment which will form the basis for resulting proportionate actions.

Sharing of information between the Police and Residential Staff / Foster Carers.

**Residential Staff / Foster Carers**

Residential Staff / Foster Carers should make enquiries to locate the missing person with relatives / friends. This should include searches of the residence and local area.

Foster Carer / Residential Staff should then telephone police with details of the missing person:

- Child's name
- D.O.B.
- Where, when who missing with?
- What child was last wearing
- Description of young person
- Recent photo
- Medical History
- Legal Status

All efforts to locate the child/young person must be recorded and auditable. Also see further details in section 10.

**Residential staff/Child’s Social Worker**

Telephone child’s parents

Foster carer / Residential staff to telephone Social Worker / Team manager, school.

Strategy Meeting called dependant on frequency and duration of missing episode.

**MISSING PERSON is located or returns to the residence**

When a missing child is located, unless the circumstances pose a risk to the Residential Staff / Foster Carer, it is the Residential Staff or Foster Carers responsibility to return the child in the first instance. Where a risk is present, a police officer may be requested to accompany them or the police may be requested to collect and return the child/young person to the place of residence.

Foster carer / Residential staff to:
1. Provide positive non-judgemental return
2. Check young persons medical condition and make necessary arrangements
3. Provide warm food and someone to talk to.

The Child’s Social Worker is to arrange to interview the child. Walsall Street Teams to undertake independent return interview.

The Police will conduct a return ‘Safe and Well Check to establish the missing persons well being, and to establish whether they were the victim of crime or abuse whilst missing.

Residential staff/Child’s Social Worker to inform parents of young persons return

Foster carer to contact child’s Social Worker, Police, & school to inform of return. The Social Worker to arrange to interview the child or young person within 48 hrs of their return. Walsall Street Teams to undertake independent return interview.