

Missing

Overview and Scrutiny 26/4/17

Background

- [Statutory Guidance](#) states that all children (in care or not) should be offered a return home interview within 72 hours.
- Birmingham Council have a contract with the Childrens society to undertake return home interviews.
- Missing Operations Group- MOG provides oversight, historically there has been a cross over between children discussed at COG, need for distinction recognised.
- LOCATE team Police Missing Pilot established in West Midlands provide information on Children Missing and Found in Birmingham and provide notifications from Police System-COMPACT to Childrens services and Childrens society.

Why the need to review

- Ofsted Inspection which identified;
 - Arrangements to link risk with children who go missing is under developed
 - Responses to missing are not informed by sufficient analysis of intelligence and performance information
 - The need to improve the quality and timeliness of services to children who are at risk of CSE or missing
 - Missing children do not always receive or are offered a RHI

Work undertaken in Response to Ofsted

- Developing effective multi agency working with partner agencies
- Co-located team in place to support the above
- Work with commissioned services to improve response in respect of missing children.

Challenges.

- The Children's Society reported difficulties establishing basic details about children which at times lead to delay.
- Information about Missing- Found and Return Home Interviews not consistently being used to inform planning.
- CSE and Missing Co-ordinator role had no evident Missing Focus.
- Lack of consistent oversight of Missing children both in Birmingham and placed out of City

The response so far..

- Daily joint screening with Childrens Society and CSE and Missing Co-ordinator now takes place .
- Revised Missing Guidance emphasises need for good oversight and response to Missing children
- Opportunity for Virtual Triage between CSE and Missing Co-ordinator , Locate Police Team and Childrens social care where there are children- locations – people of concern or interest
- Focus Group established that includes Childrens services CSE Co-ordinator, PSS, Police, CASS, Childrens society and commissioning that will look at future work and oversight.

Summary

- Data set in place for missing children
- Improved partnership working
- Joint chairing of CSE and Missing Strategic Group
- Joint triaging to respond in a timely way
- Review of MOG and remove duplication
- Strategy missing discussions
- Updated Practice Guidance and briefings
- Clear oversight of missing children



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