

Identifying the Risks: Missing from home

Each year in the UK, there are approximately 130,000 missing incidents involving children and young adults. Going missing from home can put children at serious risk of harm, where they can be extremely vulnerable to dangerous situations and be exploited for someone else's gain. Children go missing for lots of different reasons, some of which are complex and deep rooted and sometimes involving a combination of several different risk factors.

PUSH FACTORS

- Conflict at home
- Bullying
- Physical/Sexual abuse
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Neglect
- Anxiety/depression
- Self-loathing
- Self-harm
- Feeling socially isolated
- Lack of emotional care
- Poor school performance



PULL FACTORS

- Need for Freedom & independence
- Being accepted as a gang member
- Visiting family if in care placement
- Extremism / Radicalisation
- Staying out with friends
- Becoming a victim of sexual exploitation & grooming
- Fear of violence from gang leaders

THINK.....has your child

- Had a sudden change in behaviour?
- Are they wearing new & expensive clothing?
- Have their friendship groups changed?
- Are they suddenly withdrawn/secretive?
- Do you suspect they are using drugs?

ACT..... If you are worried or concerned about someone, or worried for yourself, then you don't have to shoulder pain and fear alone - get support, advice and help.

www.missingpeople.org.uk is a service that you can phone, text, or email 24/7

Runaway helpline call on 116000 this is free, confidential and available 24/7

The Police: Dial 999 for emergencies and 101 for non emergencies

**missing
people**

24/7. FREE,
ANONYMOUS. CALL OR TXT
116 000

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