

Children and Young People Missing from Care During the Covid-19 Pandemic

COVID-19

Public safety measures and restrictions have been imposed by the government to tackle the Covid-19 Pandemic, ordering the majority of the public to stay at home.

This is as important for young people residing in care homes, as it is for the rest of the public. It is crucial that corporate parents/carers fulfil their role to support policing.

[These instructions should always be followed but are of increased necessity during this national crisis.](#)

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The corporate parents/carers are responsible for the wellbeing and safety of all children residing within their care. Care provisions are reminded that a child being away from their placement does not always mean that they should be reported as missing.

[During government lockdown, every effort should be made to keep young people within their placement for the safety of everyone. Breaches of government restrictions are not a reason to report a child as missing.](#)

EXPECTED ACTIONS PRIOR TO A MISSING REPORT

- Attempt to contact the young person (repeat where necessary)
- Contact all known familial links
- Contact any known friends and associates
- Contact local hospitals
- Check social media (Instagram, Facebook etc.)
- Search the premises and surrounding areas
- Check locations that the child is known to attend
- Talk to other young people in the residential setting
- Ensure that the Social Services Risk Assessment has been viewed and is available

[FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE ABOVE ACTIONS, IF A MISSING REPORT IS REQUIRED, ENSURE THE RESULT OF THE ACTIONS ARE RECORDED AND PROVIDED TO POLICE.](#)

Children/Young people should be reported missing where there are concerns about their safety, or they are believed to be at immediate risk. Police should not be routinely informed because they have missed their curfew.

Prior to making a missing report, efforts must be made by the corporate parents/carers to establish the whereabouts of the child.

The expected actions which are outlined above, should be undertaken prior to contacting the police. This is not an exhaustive checklist and due consideration should be given where additional knowledge about a child could inform additional actions.

[THIS NOTICE IS TO BE DISPLAYED AND IS APPLICABLE TO ALL STAFF WORKING WITHIN YOUR CARE PROVISION](#)

