# **Appendix 2: Eastern Safeguarding Project**

Guidance for assessing vulnerability and risk factors to inform decision making for children/young people who /go missing. This risk factor framework is to be used by Police, Social Care, Children and Young People Services, Education /Learning and Partner Agencies.

Completion of the framework is to assist any existing risk assessment based on levels of concern and not necessarily the period of time that the person is missing. The framework is to be used flexibly and to gather evidence to support professional judgement and best practice.

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| **Risk factors**  |
|  | **Factors to be considered** | **Details and circumstances** | **High Risk** | **Medium Risk** | **Low Risk** |
| 1 | Is the person vulnerable due to age or disability/medical condition or any other similar factor? |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Behaviour that is out of character is often a strong indicator of risk; are the circumstances of going missing different from normal behaviour patterns?Any history of missing? |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Is the young person suspected to be subject of a significant crime in progress e.g. abduction? |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Is there any indication that the person is likely to commit suicide?History of harm and/or self-harm? |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | Is there a reason for the person to go missing? Circumstances at the time of disappearance? |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Are there any indications that preparations had been made for an absence? |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | What was the young person intending to do when last seen e.g. going to the shops or catching a bus and did they fail to complete their intentions? |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Are there family or relationship problems or recent history of family conflict and/or abuse?History of harm? |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Are they the victim or perpetrator of domestic violence?History of harm? |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Does the missing person have any physical illness or mental health problems?State of mind/body. |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Are they the subject of a Child Protection Plan? |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Previously disappeared and suffered or was exposed to harm? |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Belief that the person may not have the ability to interact safely with others or in an unknown environment.Resilience of young person to changing circumstances and/or learning disability. Communication and language considerations. |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Do they need essential medication that is not likely to be available to them? |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | On-going bullying or harassment e.g. racial, sexual, homophobic or local community concerns or cultural issues etc.?  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Were they involved in a violent and/or racist/homophobic incident immediately prior to disappearance? |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | School/college/university/employment or financial problems?Reported as missing from education or home educated? |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Drug or alcohol dependency? |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Other unlisted factors which the officer/practitioner or supervisor considers should influence risk assessment? – For example: Is there reason to believe the child is being trafficked?Is the child from another Local Authority? They are a Looked After Child/young person? |  |  |  |  |