Child goes missing (see Definitions (Practice Guidance))

Police to be informed without delay when a child goes missing. Before a child is reported missing the following actions should be undertaken:

- Search bedroom/accommodation/outbuildings/vehicles;
- •Contact known friends and relatives where child may be;
- Visit locations that the child is known to frequent, if it is possible.

If it comes to the attention of any agency that a child is missing, they must advise the parent/carer of their need to report this matter to the police. They also need to inform the parent/carer of the agency's duty to ensure that the matter is reported to the police and if necessary follow this up by contacting the police to verify that the child has been reported missing.

Efforts are made to locate the child

N.B. See section 4a) of the procedure for specific actions in relation to children open to a social work team and children looked after (see Actions For Children Open To Children's Services (CiN, CP, CLA And Open Assessments) and Specific Actions for Children Looked After)

Child is found and Police conduct a safe and well check

(See Safe and Well Checks for all Children Who are Missing)

The Safeguarding Hub are notified that the child was missing (see Procedure Once the Safe and Well Check has been Completed) procedure for once safe and well check has been completed)

Missing from Home Process Overview

If a return home interview (RHI) is required this will be actioned.

N.B. for cases open to a social work team the decision to proceed will be communicated ASAP by the Hub (see <u>Procedure Once the Safe and Well Check has been Completed</u>) second paragraph 'For children already open this will be sent to the social worker who will need to assess if a RHI is needed informed by the criteria below and advise Barnardos accordingly, this must be done within 24 hours of the social worker being informed by the Hub'

Trigger for Stage one meeting (5 missing episodes within a rolling 90 day period) is hit. Stage One Intervention Meeting takes place (see Stage One Intervention Meeting)

Trigger for Stage Two is hit (9 missing episodes within a rolling 90 day period). Stage Two Intervention Meeting takes place (see <u>Stage Two Intervention Meeting</u>)