Appendix 9: Return to Home Interview Guidance

The Return to Home Interview is built in to the missing step on Mosaic and should be completed in this space.

Discussion points for consideration and to help guide a discussion are noted in this appendix (and are available on Mosaic in the "speech bubbles". The purpose of these suggested areas to explore is not exhaustive and is meant as a guide. Workers should use discretion about what areas require exploration and further assessment. Reassurance will be needed that disclosures regarding possible crimes will not result in prosecution as this could lead the child to go missing again. Information arising within the interview should be recorded in detail and incorporated into any Missing Child Risk Assessment or Child and Family Assessment/ s47 Child Protection Enquiry. Information suggesting that a child may have been the victim or a crime or at risk of significant harm should be shared with Police. If a child is a regular missing person, themes from the RHI should be fed back to police to inform planning around subsequent missing episodes and should also be considered in any subsequent strategy meetings.

Where it is not possible to interview a child or the young person refuses a RHI attempts should still be made to gather information from the parent/carer to help inform assessments of safety and risk and feed into planning for potential future missing episodes. If a child has been missing on several occasions over a short space of time if may be appropriate to combine Interviews and a note of this should be made in relevant steps.

If a child is consistently refusing a RHI evidence of appropriate persistence to have conversations with the child should be documented.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Interview with Child

Before Missing:

- *What was the young person doing before they left*
- *What prompted them to leave*
- *Did they talk to anyone (family/friends etc) about going*
- *Did they leave intending to be away as long as they were?*

During Missing:
- *Who were they with?, What did they do?, Where did they go? (consider that they may have been in multiple places)*
- *When were they at named locations?*
- *How did they get around?*
- *How did they look after themselves whilst away? (food, shelter, keeping clean etc)*
- *Did they do anything that they liked while they were missing? If so what?*
- *Did they do anything/were in situations that they didn't like/felt worried in? If so what?*
- *Did they feel like they could return whenever they wanted (both being allowed to leave where they were and feeling that it was ok to go back)?*
- *Do they have any injuries? If so what (consider if medical treatment is required) and how they sustained them*

- *Did they use alcohol or substances while away? How did they obtain these?*
- *Did they engage in any criminal behaviour? Include details.*
- *Did they maintain contact with anyone while they were away? (who/how/why etc)*
- *Are sexual health services required?*

<u>After Missing:</u>

- *How did they return home?*
- *Why did they come back?*
- *Was anything particularly helpful/unhelpful when they returned*
- *Experience of police "Safe and well" check*
- *Has the young person shared their experiences with another professional that they would be happy for you to have a discussion with?*

Interview with Parent/ Carer

<u>Before Missing:</u>

- *Events leading up to missing episode*
- *Any noticeable changes in behaviour/mood/interaction etc*

<u>During Missing:</u>

- *Did they attempt to make contact with the child? If so how? Was this successful? What was the response?*
- *Any contact with friends/associates of missing child? Any information gained from this?*

<u>After Missing:</u>

- *How did the young person return home?*
- *Were they wearing the same items of clothing they left in?*
- *Did they have any unaccounted goods*
- *Child's presentation on return (physical, emotional, psychological)*
- *Adult's response to child's return – was this helpful*
- *What, if anything has the young person said about their missing period*

Safety planning

- *What may need to change to reduce the likelihood of further missing episodes?*
- *Who would the young person feel comfortable remaining in contact with during any future missing episodes?*
- *How will they contact this person?*
- *Who can this person liaise with to let them know the young person is safe?*
- *Agree a safe word/phrase to be used if the young person feels unsafe but cannot say this*
- *Agree what actions will be taken if this word/phrase is used*
- *Provide young person with contact details for safe places they can call whilst missing (Missing People, Childline, police, SW/after hours etc.)*