

Cheshire Police Guidance on Use of Locate Trace Markers

This guidance relates solely to the use of “Locate Trace” markers placed on the Police National Computer (PNC) for the purposes of identifying children subject to Child Protection Plans or in the care of the Local Authority leaving the UK ***where there is quantifiable evidence of a flight risk***. This is to ensure that in such cases their departure can be prevented in order to safeguard them from the risk of significant harm utilising powers of Police Protection under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 or current intelligence can be established regarding their travel plans.

A strategy meeting will be required in all such cases to assess the surrounding circumstances and agree threshold is met for the creation of markers, with an expectation that the Local Authority has, or will be seeking urgent Legal Advice to confirm that care proceedings will be issued in the event of Police Protection being required.

To clarify, once the markers are placed on the PNC this information is flagged up to the National Borders Targeting Centre (NBTC) when subjects pass through Border (passport) Control and they require clear direction on action to be taken to protect the children, not just to restrict their movement.

Every case will be considered on its own merits and in emergency circumstances e.g. when a family are already missing and thresholds are believed to be met, markers can be created whilst clarification is then sought on thresholds. This can be arranged through the Public Protection Unit (PPU) or Force Control Centre (101).

For cases managed at Child in Need this process is unlikely to be considered appropriate unless the risks to the children have increased exponentially in the immediate lead up to their disappearance. Evidence of the flight risk will be required in all cases so children whose parents happen to be foreign nationals would not automatically meet criteria.

Surrender of identity documentation

Where individuals have been asked to surrender their identity documentation such as passports to the Police, practitioners should be aware that whilst this may hinder, it does not prohibit individuals from travelling or leaving the country.