



Breakaway

Missing child procedure

Policy Owner:	Ranbir Sidhu (Registered Manager)
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Policy Summary:

Regulation 12 - 2 (a) (i), 34 - 4 (a) (b), 5 (a) (b), 6, 40 - 4 (b) of the Children's Homes Regulations 2015. The Children's Act 1989 & 2004



A hands-on approach to help children in Slough be
..... Safe, Secure and Successful

For any child accessing Breakaway, the allocated Keyworker would have ensured that any past history that the child may have is known and is recorded in their 'This is Me' (care plan) and that Risk Assessments are put in place which will be shared with all staff and parents/carers and will be uploaded onto the child's case file on ICS.

Breakaway has high staffing levels with all children assessed for being 1:1/2:1 whether the children are in the building or out in the community, the building is a secure environment with doors being opened via a key with the keys being kept in a key cupboard and the garden is fully fenced. It is, therefore, unlikely that a child should go missing, however, in the unlikely event that this should occur during their stay at Breakaway the procedure below is to be followed:-

1. If the child has gone missing whilst in the home an immediate search to take place of the building and the grounds.
2. If the child is not found, immediately call the police (make sure that all the information stated in the Missing from Care Policy is to hand for when the police ask for it), parents/carers and the child's Social Worker.
3. If the child goes missing out in the community immediately call the police/local security (if applies).
4. Call Breakaway and let Management/shift leader know what has happened.
5. Shift leader/Management to inform parents/carers and social worker.
6. If on a group outing other children to be returned to Breakaway as soon as possible.
7. Fully record, in detail the event and all actions taken on the Missing Child Recording form.
8. Follow Missing Child Policy and take direction from the police.

Guidance:

In assessing the significance of a child's absence, all staff to take the following into consideration:-

- Guidance already agreed and incorporated within the child's 'This is Me' (care plan).
- The age, level of understanding, level of learning/physical disability of the child
- The legal status of the child
- Previous behaviour patterns
- Emotional state of child/perceived risk
- Group behaviour
- Whether the child is perceived as running to someone/somewhere or running from a situation.