



THE  
**HOUSE PROJECT**  
Lancashire

# **Missing Young Person Policy**

**(Including: Away from Placement without  
Authorisation and Uncontactable Young Person)**

**2023 - 2025**



Related Procedures	<a href="#">Lancashire's Children's Services Procedure</a> <a href="#">Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) Pan-Lancashire Procedures</a> LHP - Safeguarding Policy
Relevant Guidance	<a href="#">Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023</a> <a href="#">Pan Lancashire Joint Protocol for children who run away or go missing from home or care.</a> <a href="#">Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away or Go Missing From Home or Care (January 2014)</a> <a href="#">College of Policing - Missing Persons</a> <a href="#">Working Together to Safeguard Children</a>
Issue Date	September 2023
Revision Date	September 2023
Version	1

Section	Content
1	Definitions
2	Culture
3	Prevention and Planning
4	Actions if a young person is uncontactable
5	Actions if a young person is away from placement without authorisation
6	Actions if a young person goes missing from care
7	Going Missing for Prolonged Periods
8	Young People located and returning to their LHP Home
9	Recording, Notifications and Review
10	Assessing Levels of Concern Guidance
Appendix A	Specification of Prolonged Periods of Time

Person	Definition
Social Worker	The young person's social worker. In their absence the duty social worker, team manager, duty team manager or other suitable professional from the Permanence Service.
LHP Practitioners	LHP Facilitators and LHP Leads
Trusted Adult	A person actively involved in the young person's care plan but not a professional.

## 1 Definitions

Various terms are used in relation to missing young people. The [Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away or Go Missing From Home or Care \(January 2014\)](#) uses the following definitions:

### Missing child:

- A child reported as missing to the police by their family or carers.

### Missing from Care:

- A Looked After child who is not at their placement or the place they are expected to be (e.g. school) and their whereabouts are not known.

### Away from Placement Without Authorisation:

- A Looked After child whose whereabouts are known but who is not at their placement or the place they are expected to be and the carer has concerns or the incident has been notified to the local authority or the Police.

### Young Runaway:

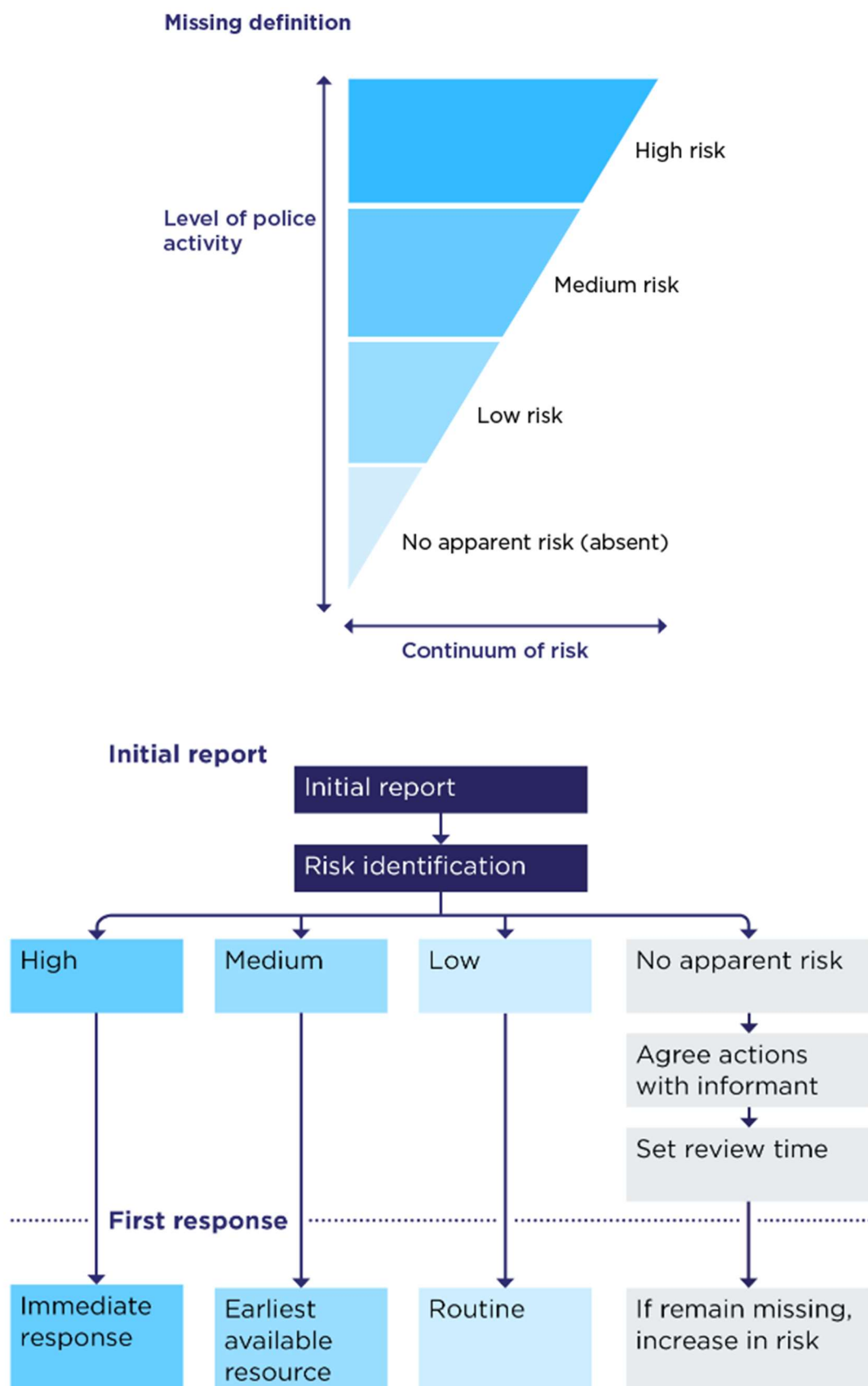
- A child who has run away from their home or care placement, or feels they have been forced or lured to leave.

### Police Response:

- On receiving a missing person report the Police will assess the risks to the missing person using a continuum of risk which ranges from 'no apparent risk (absent)' through to high-risk cases that require immediate, intensive action.



The College of Policing provides guidance on risk levels and police response:



### **Absent**

- A missing young person where no apparent risk has been identified. The term 'absent' should not be used to refer to a young person who is away from their LHP Home without authorisation, but remains in contact with LHP Practitioners, other professionals or trusted adults.

For more information see the [College of Policing definition of missing and absent](#).

For the purpose of Lancashire's House Project the following additional context is provided to the definitions:

### **Missing from Care:**

- A young person looked after who is not at their LHP Home or the place they are expected to be (e.g. school, college or work) and their whereabouts are not known.
- This includes a young person who refuses to disclose their whereabouts while not being at their LHP Home or the place they are expected to be; or a young person away from their LHP Home for a prolonged period of time while avoiding being seen or spoken to for prolonged periods of time by LHP Practitioners, any other professional or a trusted adult.
- A young person living in a LHP Home who was not available for a scheduled appointment with Lancashire's House Project or where another professional informed Lancashire's House Project that a young person has missed a scheduled appointment and that young person has been uncontactable for a period of 24hrs thereafter without good reason and despite various attempts should always be deemed as Missing from Care. The social worker may have identified a shorter timespan for such situation should be recorded in the young person's placement plan.

### **Away from Placement Without Authorisation:**

- A young person looked after whose whereabouts are known but who is not at their LHP Home or the place they are expected to be, and LHP Practitioners have concerns or the incident has been notified to the social worker or the Police.
- Because young people do not require formal authorisation to leave their LHP Home, this includes prolonged periods away from their LHP Home while maintaining contact with LHP Practitioners, any other professional or a trusted adult where this has been an unplanned or unknown period away from their LHP Home.



- Young people away from placement without authorisation can be as vulnerable as young people missing.
- A young person is not away from placement without authorisation where the young person is in a place confirmed by LHP Practitioners or the social worker to be safe even if this is not the place they were expected to be.

### **Uncontactable**

- A young person looked after who does not respond to a call or text from LHP Practitioners where there are concerns about their welfare; or
- A young person looked after who does not respond to a number of calls or texts from LHP Practitioners over a prolonged period of time as part of the general support provided and therefore the LHP Practitioners can neither confirm the young person's whereabouts nor their welfare.
- Neither situation means the young person falls into any of the above categories by default at this stage, but additional actions are required and as a result the young person may be considered missing from care or away from placement without authorisation.

### **Prolonged Periods**

- What is considered to be a prolonged period varies depending on circumstances and each young person's vulnerability and level of interdependence skills. The Registered Service Manager should confirm this for each young person with the allocated social worker during Placement Planning and this is to be recorded in the Placement Plan.
- Complete Appendix A as part of the Placement Planning process or subsequent LHP Risk Assessments

### **Whereabouts not known**

- There are only few situations in which LHP Practitioners will be able to confirm a young person's whereabouts exactly as part of the young person's daily routine because young people live independently in LHP Homes and due to the type, duration and timing of support provided. However, LHP Practitioners should have an awareness and general knowledge of the young person's routines and whereabouts which means the young person's whereabouts are not considered to be unknown under these general circumstances.
- Where a young person falls into any of the above categories or there are concerns about their welfare, LHP Practitioners have to make any attempt to confirm the young

person's whereabouts and re-confirm these during future contacts. Where it is not possible to confirm the young person's whereabouts, these are considered to be unknown.

- In general, a young person's information about their whereabouts is trusted, but LHP Practitioners should apply professional curiosity and a holistic approach to evaluate and validate young people's information and be vigilant to identify behaviours or patterns that are out of character for a young person. If in doubt or where there are concerns, the young person's whereabouts have to be confirmed in person by a LHP Practitioner, another professional or trusted adult and where this is not possible, the young person should be considered away from placement without authorisation or missing.
- An unexplained reduction in communication from the young person or new associates increases uncertainty about the young person's whereabouts.
- Where a young person is missing from care or away from placement without authorisation their whereabouts have to be confirmed in person by LHP Practitioners, another professional or a trusted adult. Where a young person has been uncontactable, their whereabouts have to be confirmed either directly or indirectly depending on the level of concerns identified when contact has been established.

The Police will not send an officer to cases where young people are defined as being at no apparent risk ('absent'). Instead, the onus in this situation will be on LHP Practitioners and staff from Children's Social Care to take steps to locate the young person, with on-going monitoring of risk and escalation if there is a change to the circumstances or an increase in the level of risk.

It is expected that all reasonable steps should be taken by LHP Practitioners to locate the young person prior to making a report to the Police. When making decisions about how to respond to a young person who appears to be missing, the welfare of the young person should always be the primary consideration. When considering individual cases, professionals in all agencies should where necessary consult and seek advice from each other in order to support the process of shared risk assessment.

Where a young person living in a LHP Home refuses LHP Practitioners access, the young person is not considered to be missing and such situations should be addressed in line with the LHP Behaviour Support Policy and/or LHP Safeguarding Policy.



## 2. Culture

Young people are less likely to go missing if they feel secure and safe both emotionally and physically in their LHP Home, able to express their feelings, make appropriate choices and develop positive relationships with the LHP Practitioners and their peers.

Young people should have a clear understanding of expectations upon them, the routines and rules of the support provided to them; to this end, they should know whether it's acceptable, or not, to be away from their LHP Home for a prolonged period of time or not to be contactable by LHP Practitioners for a prolonged period of time. The potential risks if they are away for prolonged periods of time or go missing should be explained. Young People should be provided with contact details for the Children's Commissioner or [Childline](#).

While the reasons why young people spent time away from placement without authorisation or go missing from their home are complex, any episode should always be treated as a clear indicator that something is not right in the young person's life.

If high levels of young people going missing are experienced either in relation to a young person in a specific LHP Home or across Lancashire's House Project, the Registered Service Manager should 'take stock' and undertake a formal review of the culture and strategies being used and take steps to reduce the incidents. This should include a review of the suitability of Lancashire's House Project for the young person.

## 3 Prevention and Planning

Young people living in LHP Homes do not need consent/authorisation to leave their home and LHP Practitioners are not onsite to monitor their movements. This can make it difficult to identify when a young person goes missing. Hence it is important for LHP facilitators to form strong and positive relationships with young people of Lancashire's House Project that ensures frequent communication between the young person and LHP Facilitator and to apply professional curiosity and a holistic approach in their conversations with young people to not only develop an awareness and knowledge of the young person's routines, usual whereabouts and associates, but also to be able to identify any changes in behaviours, routines or patterns as an early warning sign.



If LHP Practitioners become aware that a young person may spend prolonged periods away from Lancashire's House Project, LHP Practitioners should in the first instance speak to them about this and try to dissuade them. This should include supporting the young person to access alternative or additional support to address the young person's cause of possible disconnection from Lancashire's House Project.

It is crucial that LHP Practitioners always show care and concern, even if they find it difficult to maintain a positive relationship with a young person or are sure that a young person is going to spend prolonged periods away from Lancashire's House Project. LHP Practitioners should take all reasonable steps to prevent young people from disconnecting from Lancashire's House Project, especially if it will result in the young person or others being placed at risk.

LHP Practitioners are not permitted to use physical restraints to stop a young person from leaving unless there is an immediate and extremely serious risk of harm to the young person or others. Emergency services should be contacted in such situations.

LHP Practitioners can help reduce the likelihood of young people going missing (or reduce the likelihood of the young person going missing again) by carrying out thorough assessments which feed into the care planning and review processes, by providing individualised support and by showing care and concern for the young people.

At the initial planning stage, local authorities have a duty to place a young person looked after in the most appropriate placement to safeguard the young person and minimise the risk of the young person running away. Where a young person has been missing from care previously, the Placement Plan should include strategies for preventing the young person from going missing.

A risk assessment should be completed for all young people for whom there is concern that they have not been able to establish a positive relationship with their LHP Facilitator to maintain frequent contact or may go missing. While distance of the LHP Home to family and friends can be a risk factor, this is less likely to apply as young people in Lancashire's House Project because young people are provided with a LHP Home in an area to which they have a local connection and has been identified as a desired area by the young person. Peer influence, LHP Practitioners experiencing difficulties to maintain a positive and strong relationship with the young person or factors associated to different degrees of extra familiar harm are likely factors and should be considered. The risk assessment should be updated



after any missing or away without authorisation incident and should be regularly reviewed. The risk assessment should detail possible places or persons associated with episodes of going missing and should be referred to whenever a young person goes missing or is away from placement without authorisation.

Where there are child protection concerns relating to a young person and/or where the young person has gone missing from their LHP Home or from any previous placement, the Placement Plan must include information agreed between the local authority and Lancashire's House Project about the day-to-day arrangements put in place to keep the young person safe. Young people should be provided with contact details for an independent advocate.

Statutory reviews should consider any missing episodes and revise strategies to prevent repeat missing incidents and the care plan should be revised by the social worker accordingly.

LHP Facilitators should ensure that young people are aware of the dangers they may face during prolonged periods away or when missing and should suggest how and where they can get help if they feel like going missing. It is important that LHP Practitioners show care and concern for the young people of Lancashire's House Project. Preventive work is vital, for example if you know that a young person is worried about something (such as a difficult meeting or when things did not work out as the young person expected) take the time to talk to them specifically about this. LHP Practitioners should help young people develop alternative responses to stressful situations in their lives other than spending prolonged periods away from Lancashire's House Project, their LHP Home or going missing.

At the request of the young person, or where there are concerns about a young person who frequently goes missing, the Registered Service Manager should consider raising concerns with the young person's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) or arranging a meeting between the young person and Children's Social Care to consider the reasons for the young person going missing and agree strategies to reduce the risk.

Where the child persistently goes missing from their LHP Home their next Looked After Review should be brought forward.

## 4 Actions if a young person is uncontactable

In the absence of any agreed strategy in the young person's Placement Plan, the following should apply if a young person is uncontactable:

LHP Practitioners should review last whereabouts, information and vulnerabilities about the young person to establish that the young person does not fall within any of the other categories. Where there are significant concerns about the young person's welfare, the young person should be considered missing from care until their whereabouts have been confirmed.

LHP Practitioners should give due consideration to every call or text unanswered by a young person to identify the appropriate actions to support the welfare and safety of the young person. However, a young person is only considered to be uncontactable when there are concerns for their welfare or the young person has not responded to a number of calls or texts over a prolonged period of time.

What constitutes a prolonged period of time should be decided on a case-by-case basis in light of a young person's vulnerability and interdependence skills. In some cases, there might be particular reasons to be worried for the young person's safety immediately; in this instance the Police and the social worker should be contacted straight away.

The placement plan should specify this for any young person where there are concerns about significant vulnerabilities and LHP Practitioners will apply their professional judgement where this is not specified in the placement plan. Subsequent changes will be agreed by the social worker and be recorded in the young person's Pathway Plan and LHP Risk Assessment.

If contact could not be established within a reasonable period of time, the procedure for 'Actions if a young person goes Missing from Care' should be followed.

Where a young person has been uncontactable, the LHP Facilitator should update the young person's LHP Risk Assessment accordingly.

## **5 Actions if a young person is away from placement without authorisation**

In the absence of any agreed strategy in the young person's Placement Plan, the following should apply if it is apparent or suspected that a young person is away from placement without authorisation:

The LHP Lead is to contact the Registered Service Manager to agree initial actions and checks to determine level of risk to the young person and attempts to either support the young person to return to their LHP Home or place they are expected to be, or to confirm that the young person is at a safe place. A deadline for these actions and checks is to be confirmed so that they do not continue beyond a reasonable timeframe. What constitutes a reasonable timeframe should be decided on a case-by-case basis in light of a young person's vulnerability and interdependence skills. In some cases, there might be particular reasons to be worried for the young person's safety immediately; in this instance the Police and the social worker should be contacted straight away.

If the young person is still identified to be away from placement without authorisation upon completion of these initial actions and checks, and with sufficient time left to progress further actions on the same working day, the LHP Lead or Registered Service Manager, depending in the level of concerns and risks identified, will contact the social worker. The social worker may identify further actions including notifying the police.

Where a young person is away from placement without authorisation, the LHP Facilitator should update the young person's LHP Risk Assessment accordingly and share this with the social worker.

Lancashire's House Project will always notify the social worker where it is known that a young person does not intend to return to their LHP Home or place where they are expected to be as part of their usual routine irrespective of whether concerns for the welfare of the young person have been identified or not. The young person is still a child looked after and therefore the social worker should be kept informed about the young person's whereabouts.

## 6 Actions if a young person goes Missing from Care

In the absence of any agreed strategy in the young person's Placement Plan, the following should apply if it is apparent or suspected that a young person is missing:

### **If a young person is suspected to be missing from care**

LHP Practitioners should take whatever actions are immediately necessary to confirm the whereabouts of the young person followed by any required actions to safeguard the young person, bearing in mind any risks posed to the young person or others.

It is the responsibility of ALL LHP Practitioners to act whenever a young person is apparent or suspected to be missing.

The LHP Lead is to contact the Registered Service Manager to agree initial actions and checks and a deadline for these so that they do not continue beyond a reasonable timeframe. What constitutes a reasonable timeframe should be decided on a case-by-case in light of a young person's vulnerability and interdependence skills. In some cases, there might be particular reasons to be worried for the child's safety immediately; in this instance the Police and the placing authority should be contacted straight away.

Whenever the whereabouts of a young person looked after are not known, the LHP Lead is responsible in the first instance for carrying out preliminary checks to see if the young person can be located. E.g. if a young person was supposed to have returned home from school, college or work checks could include finding out if there are transport delays, phone calls to the young person, school, college or place of work to see if the young person has been delayed etc.

At the same time, LHP Facilitators (who by nature of their relationship with the young person will often have the best idea where and/or who the young person may be with) should also be active in going out and searching for the young person and contacting their friends, associates and family members.

Where a young person is in contact with Lancashire's House Project and refuses to disclose their whereabouts the LHP Lead and LHP Facilitator are to work together in an attempt to support the young person disclosing their whereabouts and take any required actions to support the young person keeping safe.



If the initial checks have been successful to locate the young person, the young person is confirmed to be safe and well and has returned to their LHP Home or place they are expected to be, the LHP Lead should still notify the social worker on the same working day. The LHP Facilitator should update the young person's LHP risk assessment.

If the initial checks have been successful to locate the young person, but the young person refuses to return to their LHP Home or place they are expected to be, the young person is considered to be away from placement without authorisation.

### **Notifying the social worker and police if initial checks have not been successful to locate the young person**

If the initial checks do not succeed in locating the young person or there are still concern that, despite contact being made with the young person, they might be at risk, the social worker should be contacted by the LHP Lead to confirm further actions and determine whether police should be informed. This should be done with sufficient time left to progress further actions on the same working day. In most cases police will be informed, but there may be situations when it is felt disproportionate to inform police where young people are uncontactable/absent or refuse to say where they are.

If police are to be informed, the social worker will confirm who the best person is to do so and continue to be the main point of contact, who will contact the Independent Reviewing Officer and whether it is appropriate to contact the young person's parents. This reporting will be in line with the local Missing from Home protocols. Every young person who lives in a LHP Home will have their own Profile & Trigger Plan, which can be found on each young person's LCS file (Documentum).

When notifying/informing the Police (in the area where the young person has gone missing e.g. if on an activity away from their LHP Home), the social worker and others, it is vital to provide information about the circumstances and risk factors that led to the young person going missing. This should include:

- The young person's name/s, date of birth, status, responsible authority;
- Where and when they went missing;
- Who, if anyone, they went missing with;
- What was the young person wearing plus any belongings such as bags, phone etc.;
- Description and recent photo;



- Medical history, if relevant;
- Time and location last seen;
- Circumstances or events around going missing;
- Details of family, friends and associates;
- Updated risk assessment.

It is also important to discuss possible strategies for finding and recovering the young person safely, and the actions Lancashire's House Project have already taken to try and locate / contact the young person. Agreement should also be reached about others who may need to know the young person is missing e.g. their parents.

The Police will require the following information:

- a. A description of the young person, possibly a photograph;
- b. When the young person was last seen and with whom;
- c. Family addresses;
- d. Other addresses of people the young person may make contact with;
- e. Any previous history of the young person going missing.

The Police will provide a log number which should be added to local records and is required to provide any updates to the police while the young person is missing.

If the LHP Lead has been identified by the social worker as the main point of contact, the LHP Lead must update the police, social worker and others as circumstances change including if the young person returns.

Records must also be kept detailing all individual incidents when young people go missing from their LHP Home, including any information relating to the young person's whereabouts during the missing episode.

If the young person is missing for more than 24 hours, the social worker will complete a Significant Event Notification to alert the Director of Children's Social Care and make arrangements for safeguarding and missing from home meetings in line with local Missing from Care protocols.

The young person's LHP Risk Assessment should be updated during/after any missing episode.



## 8 Young people located and returning to their LHP Home

If a young person's whereabouts become known, LHP Practitioners should consult the social worker and Police about the most appropriate way to support the young person to return to their LHP Home or a safe place. Any actions taken should be with the co-operation or by negotiation with the young person.

The young person should have the opportunity to talk, before they return to their LHP Home, to a trusted person other than their LHP Facilitator about the reasons they went missing. The young person should be offered the option of speaking to an independent representative or advocate. (see: Independent Return Interviews below).

Any actions taken to support a young person to return to their LHP Home or an appropriate and safe place must focus on promoting the young person's welfare and must take account of their legal status, level of interdependence skills, vulnerabilities and understanding of the risk posed to them and others.

If a young person refuses to return to their LHP Home or a safe place LHP Practitioners must consult the Registered Service Manager (who should consult the social worker) or, in an emergency/where the young person or others are seriously at risk, call the Police.

The use of physical interventions, such as restraint is not permitted and should only be used as a last resort where there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the young person or others, and it makes the young person safe. Police/emergency services should be contacted for immediate support in such situations. If this outcome is not likely, LHP Practitioners should withdraw.

The way LHP Practitioners respond to young people when they return is key to preventing future missing episodes and to ascertaining any harm they may have experienced. Young people should be supported to feel safe, comfortable and cared about upon their return which may include a home safety check, utility check and providing the young person with some food. The Police will conduct a Safe and Well interview to conclude their investigation.

LHP Practitioners will inform those who were alerted that the young person was missing of the young person's return.



At the request of the young person, or where there are concerns about a young person who frequently goes missing, the Registered Service Manager should consider arranging a meeting between the young person and their social worker to look at their reasons for going missing.

An Independent Return Interview must be offered when the young person returns and should be arranged by the social worker within 72 hours of the young person being located or returning. The purpose of the Independent Return Interview is to build up a picture of why the young person went missing, what happened while they were missing and who they were with. Information from the Independent Return Interview should be used to develop strategies to reduce the likelihood of the young person going missing again. Young people should be informed that the information from Independent Return Interviews will be used in this way.

In some cases, feelings of unrest or unhappiness about where they live may directly contribute to a young person being uncontactable, away from placement without authorisation or going missing, and this should be explicitly considered when they return.

## 9 Recording, Notifications and Review

For details about recording the initial incident (when the young person is reported as missing) see: Actions when a young person goes Missing from Care.

Throughout, LHP Practitioners must update the following records:

- One daily LHP case note on LCS (not to be finalised to enable continued recording throughout the day, all LHP Practitioners to include time of recording and initials)
- LHP Risk Assessment

When the young person returns, all those notified that the young person was missing must be informed.

Where the young person's welfare may have been at risk during the missing episode, actions and notifications as outlined in the LHP Safeguarding Policy may have to be followed. If the young person was involved in sexual exploitation, Ofsted must be notified.

If there is a pattern of persistent incidents or the circumstances gave rise for serious concern, the Registered Service Manager must notify the young person's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO).



When a young person goes missing on a frequent basis or is at risk of harm, or if there are concerns that a culture or cycle is developing which seems to result in young people of Lancashire's House Project going missing, both individually or in groups, this must be acted on and may result in a young person being moved into alternative accommodation.

## 10 Assessing Levels of Concern Guidance

### Section 1: Indicators/Categories of Risk

<b>HIGH RISK</b> A young person should be considered High Risk in the following circumstances	<b>OTHER RISK FACTORS</b> These are risks/indicators that should be considered when assessing other young people, who do not automatically fall into the High Risk Category
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the young person is Remanded or otherwise Lawfully Detained, they have absconded;</li> <li>• The young person's death may occur;</li> <li>• The young person may be at risk of serious injury or harm, e.g. from adverse weather conditions or the young person's inability to stay safe;</li> <li>• The young person requires essential medication/medical attention;</li> <li>• The young person is likely to suffer Significant Harm;</li> <li>• The young person may come into contact with a person who may pose them a risk. The young person may be injured, including self injury, and require medical attention;</li> <li>• There is a warrant for the young person's arrest;</li> <li>• The young person may commit a violent or criminal offence;</li> <li>• The young person may be abducted;</li> <li>• The young person is subject to Police Protection;</li> <li>• The young person is subject to an Emergency Protection Order or Recovery Order.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any guidance agreed within the young person's Care Plan or Placement Plan;</li> <li>• Vulnerability due to level of interdependence skills;</li> <li>• Particularly vulnerable (e.g. Learning/Physical disability);</li> <li>• In need of regular medication (e.g. diabetic);</li> <li>• Previous history of being missing;</li> <li>• History of self harming;</li> <li>• Possible involvement in crime;</li> <li>• Health, including mental health;</li> <li>• Weather (e.g. severe cold or heat), or geography (e.g. remote area);</li> <li>• Dependency on drugs and/or alcohol;</li> <li>• Known vulnerability of the young person, raising concern that they may have been led into danger, including sexual exploitation;</li> <li>• Known associates that give rise to heightened concerns over the missing young person's safety (e.g. associates known to be involved in criminal activities);</li> <li>• Degree of risk to the public;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent significant events, contributory factors and the young person's state of mind at the time they went missing;</li> <li>Time of day/night;</li> </ul>
--	---

## Section 2: Other factors that should be considered

The following should be considered alongside Indicators/Categories of Risk.

<b>Level of interdependence skills and understanding of risks</b>	Consider level of interdependence skills and understanding or risk, ability to make positive informed decisions, the young person's ability to operate in urban or rural environments, social and life skills, disability etc. The more able the young person is, the less concern LHP Practitioners should have.
<b>Number of Missing Episodes</b>	Consider the number of times the young person has gone missing and from what situations.
<b>Behaviour whilst missing</b>	<p>Consider what the young person has done when previously missing. Also consider how recent such problems have been. Higher levels of concern should be attributed to those who are known, recently, to have placed themselves or others at risk of significant harm. The factors that may result in higher levels of concern are that the young person has previously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made contact with people who pose a risk to the young person;</li> <li>Been abducted;</li> <li>Self injured or attempted suicide;</li> <li>Committed or been associated with a serious or criminal offence;</li> <li>Been subject to sexual exploitation;</li> <li>Or other serious risks/concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Circumstances on the day</b>	<p>The following are examples of circumstances, which may be considered in deciding the level of concern on the day. The fact that they apply to a young person does not automatically mean there is a high level of concern; the decision rests with the manager having considered all the circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of character/unusual behaviour prior to disappearance;</li> <li>Going missing with no prior indication;</li> <li>Possibility of sexual exploitation or being drawn into offending behaviour.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A

### Missing Young Person Policy Specification of Prolonged Periods

Missed calls/texts/ appointments	Uncontactable	Suspected to be missing	Missing
-------------------------------------	---------------	----------------------------	---------

Circumstance	Specification of Prolonged Period
<b>Missing from Care</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not at LHP Home; or</li> <li>not where they are supposed to be; and</li> <li>whereabouts are not known</li> </ul>	See Missing Young Person Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not at LHP Home; or</li> <li>not where they are supposed to be; and</li> <li>refusing to disclose their whereabouts</li> </ul>	See Missing Young Person Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>away from their LHP Home for a prolonged period of time; and</li> <li>avoid being seen or spoken to for a prolonged period of time</li> </ul>	Specify:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uncontactable for 24 hours after missing a scheduled appointment with LHP Practitioners or other professionals, if no shorter timespan has been agreed by the social worker.</li> </ul>	See Missing Young Person Policy, unless shorter timespan identified here:
<b>Away from Placement Without Authorisation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whereabouts are known, but</li> <li>not at LHP Home or where they are supposed to be and</li> <li>LHP Practitioners concerned or</li> <li>Incident has been notified to social worker or police</li> </ul>	See Missing Young Person Policy



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whereabouts are known and maintaining contact; but</li> <li>• not at LHP Home or where they are supposed to be; and</li> <li>• LHP Practitioners has no immediate concerns; but</li> <li>• this is not a planned or known period away from their LHP Home; and</li> <li>• the time away from placement is for a prolonged period of time</li> </ul>	Specify:
<b>Uncontactable</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not responding to one call or text from LHP Practitioners where there are concerns about their welfare</li> </ul>	See Missing Young Person Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not responding to a number of calls or texts from LHP Practitioner over a prolonged period of time as part of the general support provided; and</li> <li>• LHP Practitioners are unable to confirm the young person's whereabouts or welfare</li> </ul>	Specify: