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# ***HMIe - How Well are Children Protected and their Needs Met?***

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## **HOW GOOD CAN WE BE?**

### **What is our capacity for improvement?**

**Healthy:** having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.

**Achieving:** being supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem at home, at school, and in the community.

**Nurtured:** having a nurturing place to live, in a family setting with additional help if needed or, where this is not possible, in a suitable care setting.

**Active:** having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport which contribute to healthy growth and development, both at home and in the community.

**Respected\*:** having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions which affect them.

**Responsible\*:** having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles in their schools and communities and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision.

**Included:** having help to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

## Key Area 3: Young Runaways

**What triggered this development/initiative?** How was the need for improvement identified and initiated?

**How good are we now? Overall Evaluation (Brief Summary) of development/practice imitative.**

- When a child is reported to have run away the police follow a standard operating procedure. The child is deemed as a vulnerable missing person and treated as a very high priority. The Police Superintendent is informed of the cases and will track the enquiry. The Standard Operating procedures details the relevant checks that should take place and where appropriate they will enquire whether social work is involved, contact all relevant persons, school, GP as part of their enquiries and gather information. They will also where appropriate review CCTV footage or any other material that is available.
- A specific system was put in place to deal with young people from children's houses. A protocol 'Children and Young People Missing from Local Authority Care' was established incorporating the principles of child protection, community safety, collaborative decision making, statutory responsibilities and duty of care. The protocol places joint decision making and joint evaluation between the police and social work firmly at the centre of operational practice in this matter. A traffic lights system is used for all children who reside in a children's house and their files are marked, red amber or green. Training in this policy was carried out by police and Social Work staff and this training is due to be repeated.
- **Return Missing Person/ Abscondee** child interviews: In accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for children reported missing, all children will be the subject of a 'return' interview when traced. A report will then be submitted to the Area Reporter outlining the circumstances.

**How do we know? What key outcomes have we achieved?** How has it improved outcomes (reference to front sheet) Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected and Responsible, Included

Priority place on looking for the child to ensure their safe return.  
All children are subject to a return interview to identify any issues that may require support  
Referral made to Reporter to consider whether further investigation is necessary.

**Supporting Evidence: Please ensure that your written submission is supported by sound evidence and is readily available for inspectors if required. Examples included policies, procedures, protocols, minutes of meetings, publicity material, reports, management / performance information etc.**

SOP Strathclyde Police  
Children and Young People Missing from Local Authority Care', policy

**Example(s) of Good Practice** Illustrates children's experiences for example results have improved outcomes including: Partnership working, Evaluation Report findings, How has it made an impact - more efficient practice, What difference has it made? Tackle inequality? If adopted more widely would it increase life chances of children's experience?

**Joint training with police and children's houses staff to tackle issue of young people absconding.**

**How Good Can We Be? Areas for Improvement** Following self-evaluation the areas identified include the following action points: