

10 things you should know about Operation Endeavour



- 1 **Operation Endeavour** is a safeguarding arrangement between Newcastle City Council Children's Social Care (CSC), Northumbria Police and schools and colleges in Newcastle to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing.

The Department for Education statutory guidance [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) states:

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 - that approximately 25% of children and young people that go missing are at risk of serious harm;
 - there are concerns about the links between children running away and the risks of sexual exploitation;
 - missing children may also be vulnerable to other forms of exploitation including criminal exploitation and 'county lines', violent crime, gang exploitation, or drug and alcohol misuse.

There are a range of reasons why children and young people go missing, these include:

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 - Conflict, abuse and neglect- more than half of missing children have experienced this at home and 1 in 5 children felt forced to leave because of it;
 - Sexual exploitation - 7 in 10 young people who have been sexually exploited have also been reported missing;
 - Mental health issues- at least 1 in 10 missing children had mental health issues.

- 4 **Operation Endeavour Process** – Police receive a report that a young person has been reported missing → Police record details of the young person and create a Child Concern Notification (CCN) → CCN sent to CSC → CSC take any further action if appropriate → CSC administrator notifies the school key contacts via email → School inform relevant staff → CSC or the police let the school know when the young person is found → Young person supported as needed when they return.

School Actions

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 - Inform parents that the school is part of 'Operation Endeavour'
 - Consider school prospectus and website awareness
 - Information must be secured to ensure confidentiality
 - Designated Lead to inform the Police if the young person arrives at school when they are still misbelieved to be missing

- Support police and CSC to locate the child.
- If young people are in alternative provision the Designated Lead of the school should inform the DSL of the provision of the issues raised

Ongoing support after missing episode

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- Speak to the child when they return about what has happened
 - Monitor children when they return; monitor attendance
 - Make a referral if appropriate and contribute to a support package around the child and family (linking into the local authority)
 - Help the child make sense of the way they are feeling and behaving
 - Help the child to develop coping strategies
 - Go at the child's pace; follow their lead
 - Acknowledge what they have been through or what they are going through

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Additional information on missing young people is available on the Newcastle Safeguarding Partnership website

https://www.proceduresonline.com/nesubregion/p_ch_miss_care_home_ed.html

Useful information and resources

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- The Children's Society: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/resources/protecting-young-runaways
 - The Children's Society [What to do when a child goes missing - A guide for those working in education and youth work](#)
 - Missing People: www.missingpeople.org.uk 24 hour confidential helpline: 116 000 or email: 116000@missingpeople.org.uk
 - NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

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The local authority contact for Operation Endeavour is – Leigh Mcdougale, Education Officer MASH, Leigh.Mcdougale@newcastle.gov.uk 0191 2772132

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Northumbria Police contact for Operation Endeavour is Sergeant Sharron Brennan, Missing From Home Coordinator, Ext 74269 Sharron.Brennan.8217@northumbria.pnn.police.uk



Supporting children through key adults



Newcastle
City Council 