

RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER A MISSING EPISODE CONVERSATION

BACKGROUND

- Process piloted in 2014 after gap identified in protection of young people against potential exploitation when they were absent or missing from school / college.
- Relates to the return of a young person to school / college following a “missing episode” when they have been reported missing during school day (Monday to Friday) OR when they haven’t arrived at school / college as expected.
- The young person does NOT have to have been reported as missing to the police
- Assurance that key information is considered and shared with relevant parties such as pastoral staff in school or college, parents/ carers, CFSC, police, core group, care team or Team Around the Child members.
- This process is in addition to the Return Home Interviews (RHI’s) carried out by the local authority. Please bear this in mind should you be aware the young person has also been reported missing to the police or has been missing outside of school hours. Contact Gemma Doherty, Local Authority Missing Co-ordinator gemma.doherty@southtyneside.gov.uk or 0191 4246305

PROCESS

- The form should be completed when a young person has not arrived at school / college as they should have **OR** when they have left school / college during the school / college day without permission.
- The conversation and completion of form should be carried out as soon as possible following the young person’s return to school / college **and by someone that the young person has a good relationship with.**
- Young people should be informed that the purpose of the Return to School / College conversation is to ensure they are safe and well and to support them with any difficulties they may be experiencing.
- **Information disclosed that is of a safeguarding concern and cannot be kept confidential must be shared with appropriate agencies.**
- Consideration must be given to possible exploitation concerns and the MSET Stage 1 Screening Tool proforma must be completed by school /college and forwarded to the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP).

A copy of the Return to School / College form (with any MSET Framework documentation) must be sent to the South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) STSCAP@southtyneside.gov.uk within **five working days** of the conversation taking place.

A copy of all documentation MUST BE added on the young person’s safeguarding file on CPOMS.