

10 things you should know about Operation Endeavour



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Operation Endeavour is a joint operation between NCC Children's Services, Northumbria Police and the Police and Crimes Commissioner to safeguard children and young people who **go missing from home or care**.

2


The DfE statutory guidance [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) January 2014 tells us that:

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

3

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

- 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	The Police send child concern notifications (CNNs) to children's social care whenever a young person has been reported missing. School key contacts are then notified via email and relevant staff are informed.
5	Schools are notified again when the young person is found so that appropriate support can be put in place when they return, and the Key Contact in schools should inform the Police if the young person arrives at school when they are still considered missing.
6	Schools should inform parents that the school is part of Operation Endeavour.
7	<p>Young people need support when they return from a missing episode. Schools can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make a referral if appropriate and contribute to a support package around the child and family • 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've been through or what they are going through.
8	The local authority procedure for dealing with children missing is a joint protocol between Northumberland Area Command and Northumberland Children's Services and can be located on the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Procedure Manual here .
9	<p>Useful information and resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
10	The local authority contact for Operation Endeavour is Vicky Kinneavy Vicky.Kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk
	<p><u>Schools' Safeguarding in the Virtual School</u></p>