**ECRC Freedom of Information request**

**October 2018**

**Delivery and outcomes of Return Home Interviews**

**Delivery:**

1. Are Return Home Interviews (RHIs) currently delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
   1. A third sector agency? **No**
      1. If yes, please tell us which agency:
   2. A team based within your local authority? **Yes**
      1. If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional

*If a child has an allocated Social Worker then they or a member of that area team would complete the RHI. If a child has an allocated Family Service worker (Early Intervention) then they or a member of the family service would complete the RHI. If a child does not have an allocated worker under the auspices of Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision then a Rapid Assessment Worker (based within the Family Service) would be dispatched to complete the RHI.*

1. In the year 2016/17 RHIs delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
   1. A third sector agency? **No**
      1. If yes, please tell us which agency
   2. A team based within your local authority? **Yes**
      1. If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional

*Same as above*

1. In the year 2013/14 were RHIs delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
   1. A third sector agency? **No**
      1. If yes, please tell us which agency
   2. A team based within your local authority? **Yes**
      1. If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional

*Same as above. There was a partnership formed with Catch 22 in January 2012 which established the Runaways Service. They were commissioned to complete RHI’s but the service was subsequently decommissioned after 1yr and absorbed within Nottinghamshire’s early intervention services (now known as the Family Service) due to the project being untenable.*

**Offered and completed interviews:**

1. a) How many incidents of children going missing from home or care were reported in your local authority between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?
   1. How many individual missing children does this figure relate to, during the same time period?

1. a) For how many of these missing incidents did you offer an RHI to either the young person or a parent/carer?
   1. How many of those offers of interviews were accepted by the child/young person?
   2. For how many of these missing incidents was the offer of an RHI declined by the young person or a parent/carer?
2. a) For how many of these missing incidents reported between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 did an RHI get carried out?
   1. How many of the missing incidents were addressed in an RHI within **72 hours** of the child returning from being missing?
   2. Please explain briefly how this is measured and any assumptions the 72 hour calculation is based on including:
      1. whether you calculate from return or police referral date
      2. if you use hours or days, and if days is this calendar or working days
      3. if you make any adjustments for incidents where the young person goes missing again before an RHI can be offered (e.g. exclude these or calculate time after most recent incident only)
3. a) Do you provide or commission any follow-up support for children and young people following an RHI? **Yes**

If yes please give details:

*If a child has an allocated worker under Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision, i.e. Social Worker or Family Worker then the issues identified from the RHI will be addressed within the plan of work devised to address any unmet needs of the child.*

*If a child does not have an allocated worker under Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision then a Rapid Assessment Worker will complete the RHI. The Children Missing Officer (CMO) will read the RHI and signpost to services available through Nottinghamshire’s Pathway to Provision where required. If the issues raised within the RHI indicate that the child may have been placed at significant risk of harm or likely to have been placed at significant risk of harm then a referral to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub will be made for consideration of whether the issues meet a threshold for intervention by children’s social care.*

*If there are any identified links to CSE then we have commissioned a specialist service from the Children’s Society to allocate worker’s to children and young people to address those issues.*

*We also have leaflets and letters that sign post support offering advice and guidance.*

* 1. What happens to the information collected during an RHI?

*The allocated worker will share any relevant information with partner agencies such as the Police Missing Team and Health colleagues.*

*The RHI is uploaded to the child’s electronic file.*

*The CMO should be notified upon completion of all RHI’s who will input information captured in the RHI into a database designed to collate details and report on key themes and issues.*

* 1. What steps are available when vulnerability has been identified?

*The expectation is that the worker completing the RHI will share any concerning issues with the Police Missing Person’s Team. There are secure email link with the Police and Health. If the CMO reads any details that need to be raised with the allocated worker and/or Police Missing Person’s Team then they will escalate these issues for appropriate management oversight.*

*If a child is reported missing on 3 or more occasions within a 90 day period then a Multi-Agency Meeting will be requested to take place. There is a monthly multi agency meeting to consider children and young people who are repeatedly reported missing (5 x in a month).*

1. Please tell us more about your return interview service. Would you like to see any changes in national guidance? What are the barriers to effective provision? What is working well in your area?

*I believe that Nottinghamshire provides a good service to young people around return interviews. All reports to the Police are screened by a CMO and there is clear recording for individual episodes. The Police terms of missing – no apparent risk or missing are screened in the same way and return interviews are offered to children considered missing or missing – no apparent risk where appropriate.*

*I would like the national guidance to be more robust on the guidance re out of area placements. I think an emphasis needs to be given to how these children are extremely vulnerable and that there needs to be clear communication between local authorities, particularly where the placement is a long way from the placing authority. These children are particularly at risk of sexual and criminal exploitation when they go missing. It is often a struggle to achieve compliance with OLA’s around the completion of RHI’s and information sharing.*