The Missing People Safeguarding Briefing Network

What is the Safeguarding Briefing Network (SBN)?

The SBN is a network of organisations that Missing People can send missing person briefings to when there is reason to believe that staff there may come into contact with the person. The SBN is not like traditional publicity appeals where a poster is put up in a public place, instead the SBN aims to only share information with professionals privately so that they can keep an eye out for the missing person and either report a sighting to the charity or speak to the missing person directly if they are providing support to them.

Who are Safeguarding Briefing Partners?

Safeguarding Briefing Partners are agencies or professionals who work with children and/or adults and have a safeguarding, support or community protection role. A service or organisation of this kind may be accessed by a vulnerable person while 'missing'.
Examples may include; a hostel, a soup kitchen, a project for support with mental health or any service which helps a child or adult through a difficult time, including both voluntary and statutory agencies. Alternatively, Safeguarding Briefing Partners might be staff at a train station who may not have a direct safeguarding role but play a part in community protection and may come across vulnerable people.

Why are the briefing you send us not for public display?

It is not always in the best interest of a vulnerable person to make their disappearance known publicly. Some agencies also tell us that displaying posters in reception, for example, might frighten the person away from accessing your service. There may be occasions when we send you a briefing that is already in the public domain. We will still ask that on all occasions you do not display the briefing publicly.

What happens when we are sent a briefing?
We will only send briefings for missing people that we think might access your service. Which briefings we send will be based on what the police tell us about where the missing person might be and whether the context suggests they might access your service.
When we send a briefing please share this with appropriate staff but do not display anywhere publicly. We hope you and any other staff will keep an eye out for the missing person and take any of the steps below if they identify them.
If the missing person is found we will send you a 'withdrawal' notification. This means that the briefing should be deleted from any downloads and any hard copies destroyed as the person has now returned.

What happens if you identify a missing person from one of our briefings?

Missing People want to ensure that anyone who is reported missing is safe and has access to support if they want it. Going missing is not a crime and we will never force someone to get in touch with the police or their family if they do not want to.

If you recognise someone from a briefing that we have sent you can:
-   Explain to them that they have been reported missing and discuss their options with them (if you want to know what these options are you can call our helpline on 116 000). We would only recommend doing this if you are providing support to the missing person and have had training in safeguarding.
-   Let them know about Missing People and share our contact details. They can call, text or email our helpline for free on 116 000 or at 116000@missingpeople.org.uk. All conversations are confidential,

non-judgemental and can be anonymous. You can also direct them to our website www.missingpeople.org.uk where there is lots of advice and guidance for anyone who is missing.
- Report a sighting of them to Missing People on 116 000 which will be shared with the police.

What you do is your call and you are under *no obligation* to let us know if a missing person is using your service.

How Missing People can support your service users:

The network offers your organisation many ways to support a service-user who is missing, thinking of running away or missing someone.

If you feel that it is appropriate, please let them know about Missing People.

The charity is here to offer support anyone who has run away, gone missing or been forced to go. We are here to listen and help to make them safe. We can't trace their calls, texts or emails. We're here to work with and listen to missing people, to explain their options and try to get them the help they need.

A missing person can call or text us for free on 116 000 (even without mobile phone credit) or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk. We are able to listen, offer support and advice and talk to the person who is missing about their options, in confidence.

If one of your service users would like to reconnect with a relative they have lost contact with we can provide free tracing services. They or you are welcome to call our team on 116 000 to discuss this in more detail.

We have included several posters for our different services. If you feel that it is appropriate, please display these posters and leaflets around your organisation. Some of the information is aimed at you as Safeguarding Briefing Partners and some of the more general posters and leaflets are aimed at your service users. If you would like more hard copies of our posters or cards posted to you, please email sbn@missingpeople.org.uk.

How Missing People can support you:

If you believe that one of your service users is a missing person, but you are unsure of how to talk to them about your concerns, please call our helpline on 116 000. Our services team will be able to talk to you about your worries and provide advice and guidance.

How you can help in the search and support

You will be sent **regular appeals for missing people** who may be in your area allowing you to;
- use the materials above to support your client through their options as a missing person and;
- better risk assess (where appropriate) a client, whom you may not have known was missing and;
- pass sightings about a missing person back to the police via the charity, anonymously if you wish.

You are never *expected* to do any of the above. These are tools you can *choose* to use or ignore in keeping with your project's policies and practices. We'll NEVER ask you to information-share with us about your service users.