

# SAFEGUARDING YOUNG PEOPLE AND REDUCING MISSING INCIDENTS

**missing  
people**

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)  
and in Scotland (SC047419)

## Our services for children and young people who missing

Missing People is the only national charity solely dedicated to supporting missing children, adults and their families. We have more than 25 years experience of working with police forces to help find and safeguard missing people, and more than five years experience of working directly with local authorities and police to deliver support when children and adults return from being missing.

Our services for children and young people who have been missing have a proven track record in reducing frequent missing episodes through effective safeguarding and support. Our innovative model works by combining return home interviews (RHI) with intensive one-to-one support for the children and young people at highest risk of harm, including those who have been reported missing most frequently. This means that our workers are able to meet the young person multiple times during the week, quickly building strong relationships with them and providing support around their missing.

### Our child-centred approach to working with high risk

#### missing children and young people left them feeling:

**100%**

- ▶ said that they found one-to-one support they'd been receiving from Missing People fairly or very helpful.
- ▶ said they felt better about themselves as a person (self-esteem, how they value themselves).
- ▶ felt better about their future.



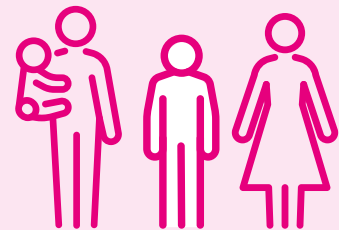
**88%**

felt better about where they were staying and how safe they felt.



**83%**

felt better about how they got on with their parent(s) or carer(s).



### Our outcomes for the year 2020-2021

We provided **647** support sessions and RHIs to **36** children and young people

This approach meant that our 2020-21 statistics showed that **84%** of young people supported had a reduction in missing episodes in the six months after support. This included **24%** who did not have any further missing episodes.

**84%**  
of children and young people had a reduction in missing episodes

**24%**  
of these young people had no further missing episodes

**92%**  
of young people accepted our offer of 121 support

**85%** of these children and young people engaged with at least one RHI

## RACHEL'S STORY

### Before

Rachel (not her real name) was referred to our intensive support service after being reported missing many times. She was known to have a drug debt, links to a gang and an unsafe relationship with her boyfriend. The police and her social worker were not able to engage with her, and she did not have a positive relationship with her mum who felt unable to keep Rachel safe and was worried about the safety of her other children. When we started to work with Rachel, she had been taken into care for her own safety.

### During

Our support worker built up trust with Rachel, worked with her on a plan of support to keep her safe. Rachel felt safe to disclose to her worker about what was happening in her life and had trust in the plan the worker made with her about sharing information with other agencies.

### After

Rachel's support worker worked with her social worker to make sure the right support was in place to make the changes in Rachel's life she needed to be safe. Her missing episodes have stopped completely. Our support helped Rachel voice her opinions calmly and build a better relationship with her mum, who she now describes as her best friend.

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**We have a child-centred approach to working with high risk missing young people. A parent we have worked with told us:**

“ We had been in some very bad situations with no way out. [Missing People] helped de-escalate the situations. On a few occasions without her, someone would, I have no doubt, been badly physically injured. [Missing People] also gave my daughter some strategies in dealing with difficult situations, and advice to us as a family in how to deal with problems. [sic] ”

## HOW?

Missing People's service achieves these results through relationship-based intervention, effective safeguarding and tailored support to ensure young people can access specialist support that meets their needs. We know that when young people at high risk of harm return from a missing episode, there is a window of opportunity to support them and help them reduce the risks in their lives. We know these young people benefit from an experienced, highly trained, independent Missing People support worker who can provide the time and space to build trust, support disclosures, help access specialist support and tackle the challenges they face. We know this service works when the charity works in partnership with other professionals to help ensure each child accesses the specialist support they need.

Our service's results are particularly notable since the young people we support are among the:

- Most at risk of harm
- Most frequently reported missing children and young people
- At risk or experiencing sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation.

We take safeguarding actions for every child we support – working in partnership with the police and local authority.

## KEY FEATURES OF THE SERVICE

- Confidential and independent
- Consistent workers to build relationships with frequently missing children
- Child-led sessions, at the time, place and method of their choosing
- Capturing and sharing the child's voice and wishes
- Identification of risk or vulnerability
- Safety planning and mapping
- Signposting and onward referral for support
- Information sharing, with consent, to local authorities and police (Children and young people are made aware of the types of information we may need to share)
- High quality, comprehensive session reports rich with information and intelligence
- Involvement at multi-agency meetings
- Participation and sharing expertise at operational and strategic meetings
- Tailored performance and impact reports
- Compliant with DfE Statutory Guidance.

## THE COSTS OF OUR SERVICE AND THE COSTS WE SAVE

Our services start from £132k but individual quotes can be provided at your request.

Social Return on Investment research suggests that for every £1 invested in Return Home Interview and support services produces between £3 and £7 of value, with up to 70% of the total value coming from positive outcomes for children and young people whilst making saving to public services.

We estimate that our support reduces the costs to public services in responding to missing incidents by at least £12,075 per child (based on research by the University of Portsmouth). These costs focus only on the savings to the police investigating and responding to missing episodes. The overall savings and value is likely to be much higher and benefit a range of agencies including Children's Services.

Our intensive support services start from **£132K per year** based on support for 40 young people.



## CONTACT US

If you would like any further information about our services, please contact our dedicated Business Development Team at [consultancy@missingpeople.org.uk](mailto:consultancy@missingpeople.org.uk).

Meet our team of experts [here](#).

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for updates and to learn more about our work.

