

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 at risk of harm from going missing.

2

The Department for Education statutory guidance [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) January 2014 states:

- that approximately 25% of children and young people that go missing are at risk of serious harm;
- there are particular concerns about the links between children running away and the risks 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	<p>Operation Endeavour Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Police receive a report that a young person has been reported missing → Police record details of the young person and create a CCN (child concern notification) → CCN sent to Children’s Social Care → Children’s Social Care take any further action if appropriate → Operation Endeavour admin notify school key contacts via email → School inform relevant staff → Operation Endeavour admin notify school when the young person is found → Young person supported as needed when they return.
5	<p>School Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform parents that the school is part of Operation Endeavour • Consider school prospectus and website awareness • Key Adult to check their mailbox by 10am and again at lunch for any Operation Endeavour emails • Ensure that Operation Endeavour information is secured and therefore confidential • Key Adult to inform the Police if the young person arrives at school when they are still believed to be missing. • Support Police and Children’s Services to locate the child.
6	<p>Ongoing support after missing episode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the child when they return about what has happened • Monitor children when they return; monitor attendance • Make a referral if appropriate and contribute to a support package around the child and family (linking into the local authority) • 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
7	<p>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.</p>
8	<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
9	<p>The local authority contact for Operation Endeavour is Vicky Kinneavy Vicky.Kinneavy@northumberland.gov.uk</p>
10	<p>For further advice and guidance contact Carol Leckie, 01670 622720, Carol.Leckie@northumberland.gov.uk</p>