

## **IRO audit on Missing episodes for looked after children in January and February 2022 by Sally Branchflower PM for the IRO service**

### **Method**

I looked at 11 young people who had been reported missing in January and February.

Notifications are sent by Daniel Gray GM and all relevant IROs are copied into the email with a request for the IRO to provide oversight review and footprint which is evident on the child's file

### **Expectations**

It is expected that on receipt of the missing notification as the YP IRO they should add an IRO discussion/monitoring case note type to the child's LCS record which should evidence they have received the notification and highlight any action taken such as "reading the missing report" "Reading the missing intervention meeting" discussing with the social worker etc this provides clear oversight and monitoring as the child's IRO but also provides a clear IRO footprint.

### **Findings**

From the 11 children that I audited that went missing in January and February, 9 were male, 2 were female and ranged from aged 11-17

8 of the 11 children are open to "Get Safe"

Frequency of missing episodes ranged from 1-20 that had been recorded in the last 90 days so approximately the last 13 weeks.

### **IRO footprint/monitoring -findings**

4 out of the 11 had clear IRO footprint monitoring and review in relation to the missing notification, quality was good.

1 IRO did not evidence specific case note to missing episode at the time but call the SW 2 days after to talk about the CLA review coming up

1 IRO is in regular contact with the SW where missing episodes are discussed but not recorded on file at the time of the notification.

1 YP has been missing since June 21 all appropriate action being taken IRO footprint clear re monitoring and holding virtual reviews

1 had no IRO case note in relation to the missing episode at the time but discussed in detail re the missing episodes in the CLA review a week later

1 IRO discussed with the SW 2 days later after the missing episode and before GM notification alert but conversation was around other risks and discharge plan not about the missing episode

1 IRO did not record anything on the child's file after the missing notification was received

1 IRO did not evidence on the file at the time action specific to the missing notification but arranged to visit the YP and saw him 2 weeks later where the missing episodes were discussed directly with him

### **Learning**

This Audit is a snapshot audit of 11 children that went missing but the findings clearly evidence inconsistencies in responding to and evidencing the missing notifications sent by Daniel Gray, some have responded in a timely way and clearly evidence oversight monitoring review and appropriate action.

Others evidence contact with the SW but not specifically about the missing episodes and 1 young person was seen by the IRO and spoke to the YP direct

One evidences no oversight monitoring or footprint in relation to the notification they have received.

Children go missing from placement for a variety of reasons which undoubtedly places them at higher risk of being exploited and being unsafe.

**Action**

- Audit findings to be shared with the team-13/04/22
- Expectations to be made explicitly clear to all IROs-13/04/22
- Individual learning to be discussed with each IRO
- Further audit to be undertaken by PM Sally Branchflower by the end of May 22 to ascertain if practice regarding this area has become more consistent and learning from audit feedback has been embedded.

**12/04/2022**