

A Guide for Parents and Carers







- Go and check the bedroom and any other place where your child might be within the house or building.
- Check the garden, garage, sheds, grounds and surrounding area.
- Check with your child's friends, school, work, neighbours, relatives or anyone else who may know of his or her whereabouts. Ask them to tell you immediately if they hear from your child.
- Try to contact your child directly via mobile phone, text, or social networking sites (such as Twitter, Facebook, etc).



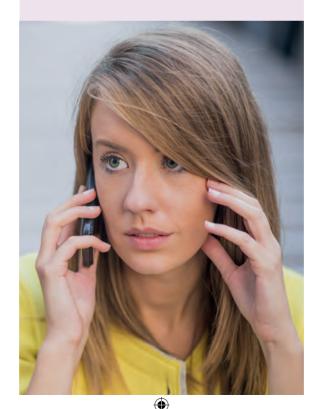






Contacting the police

- Ring 999 or 101. Once you have carried out the above checks and you have still not found your child.
- You do not need to wait for 24 hours. Report your child as missing straight away.
- When you first contact the police, record the log reference number.









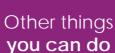
You will then be asked the following questions

- When and where was your child last seen? By who?
- When and where did you last see your child?
- What were they doing when last seen?
- What are your most pressing worries and why?
- Are these circumstances out of character for your child?
- Are they taking any medication which they may need immediately?
- Further questions may be asked at this time depending on the circumstances.
- Your child will then be classified as either MISSING or ABSENT and the call taker will explain the next steps. This is likely to include police officers attending your home to take a detailed missing person report.









- Think about what your child was wearing when you last saw them. Have they taken any extra clothes?
- What have they taken with them, e.g. mobile phone, money, bank cards, any items of sentimental value?
- Check your home computers for any leads such as online contacts or details of planned meetings.
- Find out if any of your child's friends are missing.
- Have a recent photograph available (the police may need it).
- Keep your phone on and keep a record of any calls; this may be the only way your child can reach you.







When your child returns home

Contact the police:

Let them know that your child has returned. If you suspect that a crime has been committed against your child, explain your suspicions to the police, ask them to attend without delay and follow any instructions that they give you.

Show your child that you're happy to have them back home:

Many children fear the initial meeting with their parents. Remain calm; tell your child you love them and that together you will solve any problems.

Allow them time to settle in: Your child may need a meal, clean clothes, or to go to sleep.

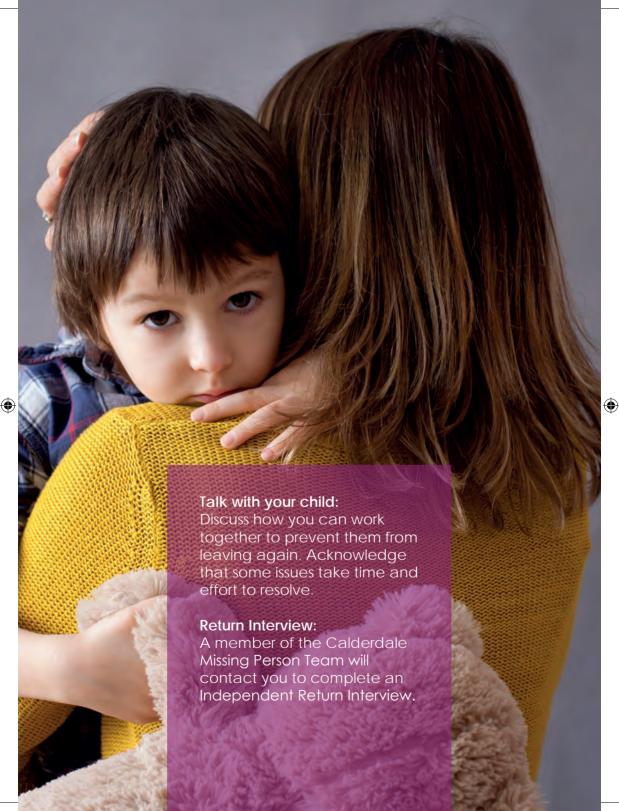
Get medical attention: Bring your child to your

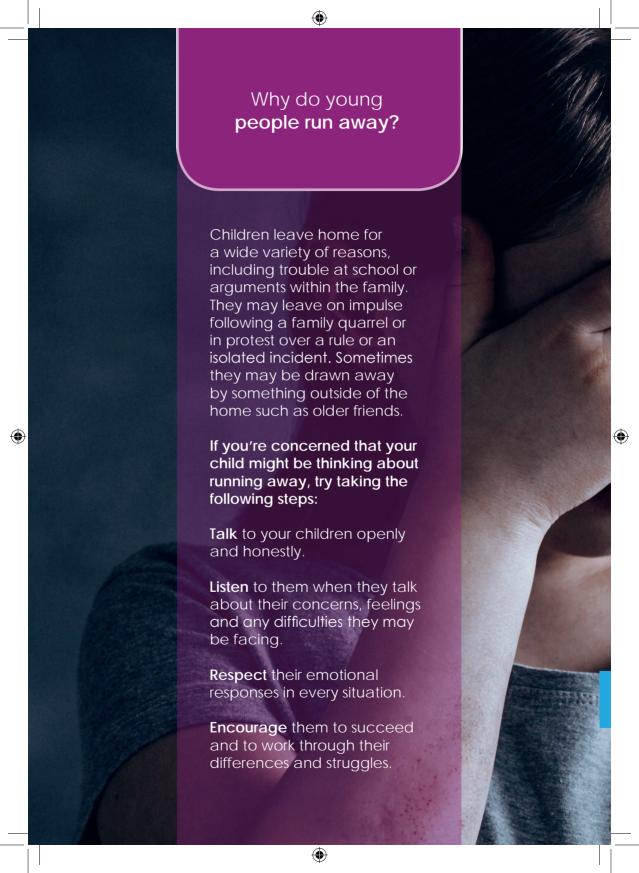
family doctor to address any medical concerns.

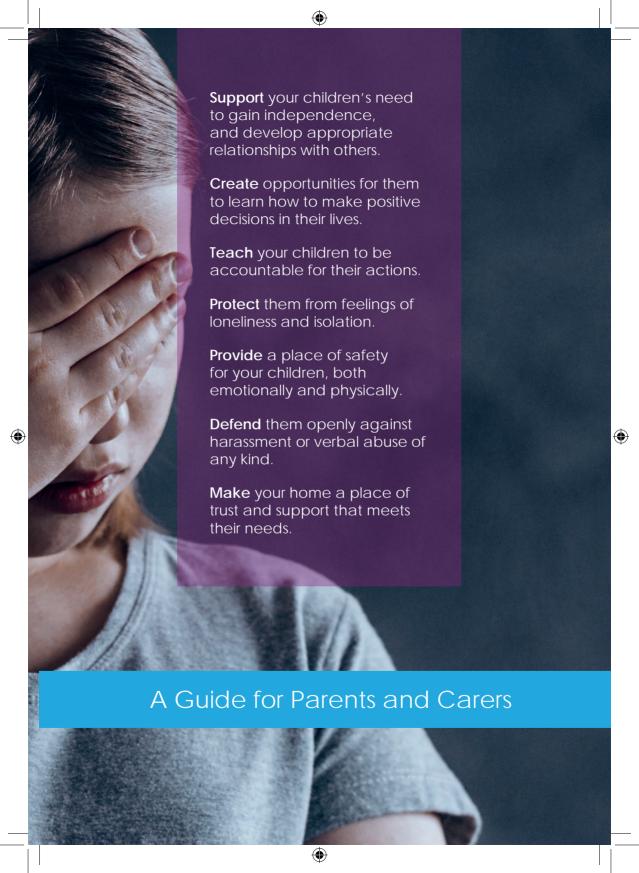










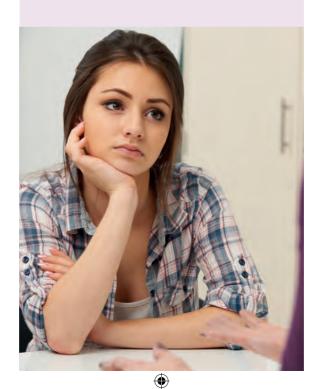




What are return interviews?

A return interview is an indepth conversation with a young person who has run away. It should be led by an independent, trained professional whom the young person trusts.

The statutory guidance states that local authorities must offer an independent return interview to all children who run away or go missing from their family home or care.









- Help understand and address the reasons why a child has run away such as abuse, neglect or exploitation, involvement in gangs or crime, use of alcohol or drugs.
- Identify harm that may have occurred while the child was away.
- Allow professionals to identify actions they need to take to address and prevent further risks.
- Help the child feel safe and understand how and where they can seek help if they feel overwhelmed and want to run away again.
- Provide them with information on how to stay safe if they choose to run away again and to understand the risks of running away.





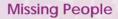




For further information please contact:

Calderdale Missing Person Service

01422 393321



24 hour confidential helpline on 116 000

Or email 116000@missingpeople.org.uk

www. missing people.org. uk









