

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 002915  
Date            29 October 2018

### ***Return Home Interviews and Out of Area Return Home Interviews***

#### **Request:**

- 1) Are Return Home Interviews (RHIs) currently delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
  - a) A third sector agency? - **No**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which agency:
  - b) A team based within your local authority? - **Yes**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional **Specialist Support Service / Missing Returns Officer**
- 2) In the year 2016/17 RHIs delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
  - a) A third sector agency? - **No**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which agency
  - b) A team based within your local authority? - **Yes**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional **Specialist Support Service / Missing Returns Officer**
- 3) In the year 2013/14 were RHIs delivered to children who have been missing from home or care in your local authority area by:
  - a) A third sector agency? - **No**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which agency
  - b) A team based within your local authority? - **Yes**
    - i) If yes, please tell us which team and/or the role of the professional **Specialist Support Service / Missing Returns Officer**

**Offered and completed interviews:**

- 4) a) How many incidents of children going missing from home or care were reported in your local authority between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?  
**401 incidents**
- b) How many individual missing children does this figure relate to, during the same time period?  
**194 young people**
- 5) a) For how many of these missing incidents did you offer an RHI to either the young person or a parent/carer?  
**397**
- b) How many of those offers of interviews were accepted by the child/young person?  
**368**
- c) For how many of these missing incidents was the offer of an RHI declined by the young person or a parent/carer?  
**21**
- 6) a) For how many of these missing incidents reported between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 did an RHI get carried out?  
**368**
- b) How many of the missing incidents were addressed in an RHI within **72 hours** of the child returning from being missing?  
**241**
- c) Please explain briefly how this is measured and any assumptions the 72 hour calculation is based on including:
- i) whether you calculate from return or police referral date  
**Calculated from police return/found date.**
- ii) if you use hours or days, and if days is this calendar or working days  
**Calculated in days using calendar days.**
- iii) if you make any adjustments for incidents where the young person goes missing again before an RHI can be offered (e.g. exclude these or calculate time after most recent incident only)  
**No adjustments.**
- 7) a) Do you provide or commission any follow-up support for children and young people following an RHI? - **No**  
**No specific follow up support is commissioned but if areas of vulnerability are identified during the RHI then referrals are made to the relevant services e.g. Early Intervention, Children's Social Care**



- 2) a) How many children in the care of your local authority were placed out of area between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?  
[234 children were placed out of city in the year.](#)
- b) How many children who were placed out of area went missing between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?  
[20 young people](#)
- c) Of that figure how many were offered a RHI?  
[19](#)
- d) How many received a RHI?  
[19](#)
- 3) Does your local authority offer RHIs to looked-after children from other local authorities who are placed in your local authority area? **(please tick)**
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a) Yes  |   |
| <a href="#">b) No</a>   | X |
| c) On a case-by-case basis<br>i) If so please give more detail: |   |
- 4) If you selected 'yes' or 'case-by-case' to the previous question please could you tell us which agency is responsible for delivering RHIs to this group of young people?
- a) A Third sector agency **Yes/No**
- b) A team based within your local authority **Yes/No**
- c) We provide a spot purchasing service **Yes/No**
- 5) a) How many looked after children and young people were placed in your local authority area by other local authorities between 31 March 2017 and 1 April 2018?
- b) How many of these children and young people received a RHI?  
[None](#)
- 6) Please tell us more about your return interview service for children placed out of area. Would you like to see any changes in national guidance? What are the barriers to effective provision? What is working well in your area?  
[A national contact list for Missing Return Services and national guidance on how local authorities should work together to get RHIs completed as well as good practice guidance for what a 'good' return interview looks like to ensure quality RHIs.](#)