CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

ReferenceFOI 002915Date29 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 <u>incidents</u> 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 <u>individual missing children</u> 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

If yes please give details:

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

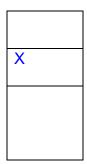
h) i)

i) i)

- b) What happens to the information collected during an RHI? Information is shared with the police and if the young person is known to targeted or specialist services it is also shared with the caseworker to inform future casework planning
- c) What steps are available when vulnerability has been identified? If the young person is already known to Children's Services then the caseworker and Missing Return Officer work together to develop a disruption plan. If a young person is not known to services then appropriate referrals can be made.
- 8) Please tell us more about your return interview service. Would you like to see any changes in national guidance? What are the barriers to effective provision? What is working well in your area? It works well having a dedicated Missing Return Officer as the officer is able to gather a significant amount of intelligence. Close working relationships with the police are also key.
- 9) How are Return Home Interviews (RHIs) delivered to looked after children who are placed outside of your local authority area? (please tick)

RHIs are completed by the third sector organisation that also deliver them to children within our local authority area RHIs are completed by someone in our children's services but never their social worker	
RHIs are completed by someone in our children's services and that could be their social worker	X
RHIs are completed by the young persons' social worker	
We spot purchase from the host local authority's RHI service	
We spot purchase from another service	
We do not offer RHIs to this group	
Combination of the above If yes please provide further information:	
Other If yes please provide further information:	

- 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
- 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
 - b) No
 - c) On a case-by-case basis
 - 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.