

10 things you should know about Operation Endeavour



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Operation Endeavour is a joint operation between Gateshead Children's Services, Northumbria Police to safeguard children and young people at risk of harm from going missing.

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

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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.

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Operation Endeavour Process – 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 contact notify school key contacts via email → School inform relevant staff → Operation Endeavour contact notify school when the young person is found → Young person supported as needed when they return.

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School Actions

- Inform parents that the school is part of Operation Endeavour
- Consider school prospectus and website awareness
- Check your mailbox by 10.30 am and again at lunch time for any Operation Endeavour emails

- Operation Endeavour information must be secured to ensure that information remains 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.
- If young people are in alternative provision the DSL of the school should inform the DSL of the provision of the issues raised.

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Ongoing support after missing episode

- 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

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The **local authority** procedure for dealing with children missing is a joint protocol between Northumberland Police and Gateshead Children's Services and can be located on the Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedure Manual [here](#). (under local information)

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Useful information and resources

- The Children's Society: www.childrensociety.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

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The **local authority** contact for Operation Endeavour is **Sarah Hutchinson** – Specialist Support Co-ordinator (Specialist Support Team) 0191 433 2672 sarahjhutchinson@gateshead.gov.uk

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For further advice and guidance contact Saira Park – Business Manager (Safeguarding Children) 0191 433 8010 sairapark@gateshead.gov.uk

