1a) Between April 1st 2015 and March 31st 2016 how many looked after children are you aware of who were placed in your area by other local authorities

|  |
| --- |
| 35 |

1b) Of these children how many did you receive notification about their placement from

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The placing local authority only |  |
| Their children’s home only |  |
| The foster agency only |  |
| Other placements (like secure units, supported accommodation) only |  |
| Both the local authority and the placement | X |
| No notification – they came to our attention because they went missing |  |
| No notification – they came to our attention for other reasons like criminal or anti-social behaviour, sexual exploitation etc. |  |

2.a) In what setting does your local authority operationally assess the risks to and responses needed for missing children?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Through a multi-agency safeguarding hub which deals with a range of safeguarding requests |  |
| Through a multi-agency missing children’s team |  |
| Through the local authority’s safeguarding ‘front door’ which deals with a range of safeguarding requests |  |
| Through a dedicated missing children team based within your local authority  |  |
| Other mechanism (please describe) | The allocated Social Work Teams liaise with placements & a dedicated Missing from Home Team within the Police Service. There are weekly meetings between the agencies to review missing from care cases & agree joint actions to deal with these. |

b) If you monitor and respond to missing episodes in a multi-agency partnership (for example through a multi-agency safeguarding hub) please could you list all the organisations that have a permanent and co-located staff member in the partnership and all the members who have a virtual presence or contribute on a case by case basis?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Permanent co-located member | Virtual member/case-by-case participant |
|  |  |

3a) When the police receive a report of a missing child and need to conduct a risk assessment to determine their immediate response what local authority information do they have access to? (tick each that applies)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Missing from care | Missing from home |
| Police have read only access to children’s social care database in real time |  |  |
| Police access children’s social care information through a multi-agency hub database  |  |  |
| Police do not have access to local authority information systems at the time of initial assessment | X | X |

b) Do you provide your police force with a risk assessment when a looked after child from another local authority is placed within you area?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No | Yes | Only for high risk looked after children |
| X |  |  |

c) When you place a child out of area and within the boundary of a different police force to your own do you provide this police force with a risk assessment to inform any missing person investigation related to the child?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No | Yes | Only for high risk looked after children |
| X |  |  |

4a) Which children, whom your local authority is responsible for, receive an offer of a return interview? (tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Children missing from family home | X |
| Children absent from family home |  |
| Looked after children missing from care | X |
| Looked after children absent from care | X |
| Children reported as going missing from school | X |
| None |  |
| Interviews are provided on a case by case basis |  |

b) Who provides these return interviews: (tick one box for each category)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Local authority staff | External provider | Both  | Neither |
| Children missing from the family home |  |  |  |  |
| Children absent from the family home |  |  |  |  |
| Looked after children missing from care |  |  | X |  |
| Looked after children absent from care |  |  | X |  |

c) Do you have arrangements in place to offer return interviews to looked after children living in your area that have been placed there by other local authorities? (Yes/No)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| We provide return interviews for all out of area looked after children placed in our locality | No |
| We provide a spot purchase service for local authorities who have placed children in our area | No |
| We do not provide return interviews to children placed in our area by other local authorities | Yes |

5a) How do you share information from return interviews with your police force? (tick the one that most closely reflects your practice)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Children’s Services collate all the information centrally and then pass relevant details to the police | X |
| An external provider collates all the information centrally and then passes relevant details to the police |  |
| Individual practitioners pass on relevant information according to their professional judgement |  |
| Return interview forms are automatically shared with the police in full with no redaction |  |
| A relevant summary of the interview/key intelligence/safeguarding issues only is shared with the police in all instances |  |
| A relevant summary of the interview/key intelligence/safeguarding issues only is shared with the police on a case by case basis |  |
| Information from return interviews is not routinely shared with the police |  |
| Our return interview providers/team are co-located with the police to share information |  |

b) Do you have any information sharing protocol or agreement in place between yourselves, the police and any return interview providers in relation to sharing information about missing children? If so please attach.

This would be on a case by case basis.

6)

a) How many children classified as either missing or absent between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016) were assessed to be at high risk of harm because of:

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for local government is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending more than 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Our system does not collect this information for reporting purposes. In order to answer your request we would need to trawl through each contact recording of a missing episode.

This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

i) child sexual exploitation

ii) gang involvement

iii) criminal activity

iv) trafficking

v) risk of suicide

vi) substance misuse

b) How many return interviews did you/your external provider complete for missing children in the year April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016

|  |
| --- |
| 9 interviews |

c) As a result of return interviews conducted between April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016 how many children and young people have been:

Again, this would require the manual trawl of each case file as our current system does do not collect this data in a reportable format. This is therefore a Refusal Notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act, because under the provisions of section 12.1 of the Act, the Council estimates that to comply with your request in its current form will exceed the appropriate limit.

We are developing a CSE multi-agency hub and this will ensure analysis of this data in the future.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Referred to early help services |  |
| Referred to a family intervention team |  |
| Found to be a child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 |  |
| Taken into care by the local authority |  |
| Referred to CAMHS |  |
| The subject of a strategy meeting |  |
| Put on child protection plan |  |
| Provided with intensive help to reduce missing episodes |  |
| Provided with group-work to reduce missing episodes |  |

d) Please attach or summarise your policy regarding support following a missing episodes

This is currently being updated and is intended for future publication in line with S22 of the Act; therefore, this letter acts as S17 refusal notice in respect of this part of your request.