



**Protocol between West Yorkshire Police,
Children's Social Care and Barnardo's
Missing Service for sharing information
regarding children reported as missing.**

June 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This protocol has been drawn up through agreement between West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Unit, Kirklees Children and Young People Service: Duty and Assessment and Barnardo's Kirklees Missing Service.
- 1.2 The protocol will ensure that in all circumstances where a child is reported as missing to the Police Safeguarding Unit information concerning the child will be provided to Kirklees Children and Young People Service (the Duty and Assessment team) and Barnardo's Kirklees Missing Service.

2. Procedure

- 2.1 The Police Safeguarding Unit receive information when a child has been reported missing and initial police enquires have not identified the whereabouts of the child.
- 2.2 The unit will assess the child as medium or high risk as determined by information with regard to the child and the circumstances of their being missing and identify actions required to find the child.
- 2.3 When the child is found a notification will be sent to Duty and Assessment team and Barnardo's Missing using the notification form. The police will indicate any additional risks to the child within the information provided. The notification will be sent by e-mail using secure e-mail.
- 2.4 The Duty and Assessment team will consider the information provided and any other information with regard to the child to determine if an initial assessment is required. If there is present involvement with a child the information will be provided to the child's social worker.
- 2.5 In circumstances where an initial assessment is to be undertaken the Police Safeguarding Unit and Barnardo's will be informed by the Duty and Assessment team. There will be the consideration of the role of Barnardo's within the assessment process including joint visits where appropriate.
- 2.6 When receiving a notification from the Police Safeguarding Unit, Barnardo's will contact the child and family and will allocate a worker to commence an assessment where required within 14 days of receiving the notification.
- 2.7 If through further assessment Barnardo's workers identify that that the child is at possible risk of significant harm a referral will be made to the Duty and Assessment team and/or the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Co-ordinator.