Return Home Interviews and Safety

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Safety

‘Unless safety is in place young people will continually revert to pre-existing defensive, risk taking and negative protective strategies’

(AVA/WAGN 2012)

- Young people who go missing are often ‘off the radar’
- We may not get any information or intelligence
- A young person doesn’t have to tell you what is happening to discuss safety
- Window of opportunity.
Safety planning Principles

✓ Never assume you know what is best
✓ Recognise existing safety strategies being used
✓ Discuss strategies currently used: which are effective and helpful and which ones could be adapted
✓ Responsibility for abuse explicitly with the perpetrator
✓ Don’t suggest strategies that colludes with the abuse
✓ Examine your values before you respond
Safety Plans

✓ Actions that young people can take (themselves or with additional support)

✓ Realistic actions easily implemented, and tailored to individual capacity and circumstances

✓ Led by the young person – they may not be telling you what is happening

✓ An ongoing discussion that responds to changes in risk
Safety Planning
Safety Planning
50 Ways to Take a Break

- Go to a coffee break
- Create your own coffee break
- Put a furry creature on a lease
- Go for a run
- Eat a meal
- Notice your body
- Take a bath
- Go for a walk
- Color with crayons
- Do some gentle stretches
- Write a quick poem
- Read a poem
- Read a book
- Drive a car
- Drive a motorcycle
- Go to a farmers market
- Do some gentle exercises
- Read a newspaper
- Go to the park
- Go to a body of water
- Go to a lake
- Go to a waterfall
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## Coping Skills

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Safety Plans – Who Can help You?
Points for discussion

• Do you know if safety discussions are occurring?
• Do you know if information is fed back to professional networks?
• Do you know if information is acted upon?
• Are you content that the values of practitioners do not get in the way of a child’s opportunity to speak out.

If you’ve answered no to any of the above, what has to happen?
Further reading and guidance

Guidance:
London Councils:
http://www.londoncp.co.uk/chapters/B_contents.html
Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board:
http://lincolnshirescb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/pr_joint_miss.html
DfE: Statutory Guidance for young people who go missing.
Safety Plans:
http://www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Young%20People%20practic%20briefing%20for%20IDVAs%20FINAL.pdf
https://www.google.co.uk/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8&q=safety%20planning%20young%20people