



Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young

Missing Children

Protocol

August 2026



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INTRODUCTION

Cheshire East Council, alongside Cheshire Police, has a statutory responsibility to safeguard and protect children and young people who go missing from home or local authority care. Effective multi-agency collaboration is fundamental to ensuring a timely and coordinated response to episodes of missingness and to reducing the risk of harm and exploitation.

The purpose of this protocol is to support practitioners across partner agencies to deliver robust, child-centred responses to children who go missing. The Cheshire East Safeguarding Children's Partnership (CESCP) expects all agencies working with children and young people who are missing from home or care to implement the protocol consistently and ensure that relevant staff understand their roles and responsibilities within it.

Cheshire East Council also operates in accordance with the [Pan Cheshire Joint Protocol: Children and Young People Who Run Away or Go Missing from Home or Care](#). This protocol provides the framework for collaborative working across the Pan Cheshire area, ensuring that children who go missing from care receive an appropriate safeguarding response, that risks are effectively assessed and managed, and that information is shared promptly and proportionately between local authorities and partner agencies to support the child's safety and wellbeing.

SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

This protocol applies to all children and young people under the age of 18 who reside in, are placed within, or are visiting the Cheshire East area and who are reported missing from home, care or any other setting within the Cheshire East local authority boundary.

Any Local Authority placing a child or young person within Cheshire East is expected to comply with this protocol and work collaboratively with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police and relevant partner agencies to safeguard children who go missing.

Where a Cheshire East Cared For child is placed outside the local authority area and is reported missing, Cheshire East Council retains corporate parenting responsibility and will work in accordance with the missing from home and care procedures of the host local authority. Equally, when another local authority places a child within Cheshire East, partner agencies will work together in line with local and regional protocols to coordinate safeguarding responses and information sharing.

Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Police adopt the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice definition of a missing person:

Missing: *Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and who will be considered missing until located and their wellbeing, or otherwise, has been confirmed.*

A child or young person should be recorded and reported as missing where their whereabouts are unknown and cannot be established through reasonable enquiries. If the location of a child is known, or can be readily established, they should not ordinarily be reported as missing. However, where there are safeguarding concerns, risks of significant harm, exploitation, violence, criminality, coercion or other welfare concerns associated with that location, support may be requested from Cheshire Police to assist in safeguarding and returning the child safely.

Professionals, parents, carers and residential providers requesting police assistance should be able to clearly articulate the identified risks to safeguard the child, and the specific support being sought from police.

"What is the family worried about?"

"What does the child say is happening?"

"What is helping?"

"What needs to happen to increase safety?"

Where a child's location is known and there is no identified safeguarding concern, or the level of risk is assessed as low, responsibility for facilitating the child's return remains with parents, carers or the responsible social care team where the child is in care. A proportionate plan should be agreed to ensure the child's safe return and ongoing welfare.

In all cases, the primary consideration must be the child's safety, wellbeing and protection from harm, with particular attention given to vulnerabilities arising from exploitation, missing episodes, contextual risks and adverse childhood experiences.

INITIAL RESPONSE WHEN A CHILD IS MISSING FROM HOME

If a child is identified as not being at a location that they are expected to be at and is believed to be at immediate risk of harm this should be reported without delay to the Police by telephoning 999. If the child is not believed to be at risk of immediate harm the reporting individual (parent/ care provider / foster carer/ social worker etc) should take proactive steps to trace the child's whereabouts prior to contacting the police. Steps should include:

Initial Actions Checklist – Supporting Parents and Carers

Professionals should work alongside parents and carers to support completion of the following actions:

Bedroom, accommodation, outbuildings, and vehicles have been searched	☐
Friends and relatives have been contacted to establish if the child is with them	☐
Known locations the child frequents (e.g. friend's home, social gatherings) have been visited, where safe and appropriate	☐
The child's mobile phone has been called and/or messages sent asking them to make contact	☐
The child's school and/or peers have been contacted to gather relevant information about their whereabouts	☐
Checks have been made to identify whether any belongings or items are missing from the home	☐
Any emerging risks or concerns have been identified and shared with relevant agencies	☐

When the child is a Cared For, the details of the incident should be recorded in full according to the appropriate Children's Services protocols and dealt with as part of the existing care plan. If on location of any child it is believed they have suffered or may be likely to suffer significant harm, safeguarding procedures must be followed. [Safeguarding Referrals Procedure](#)

Reporting a child who has run away or is missing from home

Where enquiries do not establish the whereabouts of the child the reporting individual should report the incident to the Police. For children who are living in or visiting Cheshire East and were last seen in Cheshire East, including children placed by another Local Authority within Cheshire East, this should be reported to Cheshire East Police by calling 101 or online Report a missing person [Cheshire Police.co.uk](https://www.cheshirepolice.co.uk) unless there is deemed a serious concern or risk of immediate harm which would require a 999 response.

If the child is normally resident in [Cheshire East but has gone missing whilst in another county, this should be reported to the Police force the child has gone missing in](#), so that initial enquiries can be made in the immediate area. The case may, later, be transferred to Cheshire East. It is national Police guidance that any force receiving a missing person report should record an incident and, if the person is missing in their area, conduct the initial enquiries.

Reporting persons should not be asked to call Cheshire East Police because the child is normally resident in Cheshire East, if this does occur Cheshire East Force Control should escalate this to a supervisor.

The nature and extent of the police response to a report of a missing child will be based on an assessment of the information available, the reasons why the child may be missing, and the possibility of the person being at risk of harm. It is important that the reporting person is in possession of the history and risk factors surrounding the child such as:

- Clear reasons for concern about the child's absence;
- Actions already taken to try to locate the child;
- Consideration of whether the behaviour is out of character;
- Any previous missing episodes, including what occurred during those incidents;
- Any known medical needs or vulnerabilities;
- Assessment of the child's potential vulnerability to crime or exploitation;
- Consideration of whether the child is at risk of harm or injury;
- Any known or suspected risks relating to child exploitation (including sexual or criminal);
- Information about any risk of self-harm or suicidal thoughts;
- Consideration of whether the child may pose a risk to others;
- Exploration of the possibility that the child may have travelled or is planning to travel abroad;
- Any additional relevant information that may support locating or safeguarding the child.

When a child is reported missing, the professional making the report should provide the Police incident reference number, together with a summary of the circumstances, to any relevant professionals or agencies who may hold information that could support enquiries and assist in locating and safeguarding the child.

Where the child is a Cared For child the reporting professional must ensure that the following parties are informed as soon as practicable after the child is identified as missing:

- The Local Authority responsible for the child's placement.
- Any individual(s) with parental responsibility for the child, where appropriate and in line with delegated responsibilities.

Children's Services retain corporate parenting responsibility for Cared For child throughout any period in which they are missing. This responsibility remains with Children's Services and does not pass to the Police once a missing person report has been made. Carers and the child's Social Worker should continue to play an active role in safeguarding and supporting the child, maintaining regular contact with the Police, contributing to ongoing enquiries, and sharing any information that may assist in locating the child, understanding emerging risks, and promoting their safety and wellbeing while they remain missing.

Children who have not been reported missing:

Some children who go missing may not be reported to the police and may instead come to the attention of other agencies. In these situations, professionals should work alongside families to support their understanding of the risks associated with a child going missing and the importance of notifying the police.

There may also be children who have experienced trafficking who have not previously been known to the police or the local authority. All agencies have a shared responsibility to take appropriate action in such circumstances, including informing the police and Children's Services.

Response from Cheshire Police

The priorities for Cheshire Police when responding to a report of a missing child are to:

- Establish whether the circumstances meet the College of Policing definition of a missing person.
- Ensure that every missing child report is subject to a risk assessment so that vulnerability and potential risk are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- Conduct timely and proportionate enquiries to locate the child and safeguard their welfare.

- Work collaboratively with partner agencies to reduce harm, strengthen safeguarding arrangements, and minimise the likelihood of future missing episodes.
- Provide appropriate support to the child's family, carers, significant others, and the wider community affected by the child's absence.

All reports of missing children are reviewed within the Force Control Room by a Police Inspector. Where the circumstances meet the definition of a missing person, a Compact record will be created and an initial risk assessment completed.

Risk Assessment:

The Force Control Room Inspector will undertake an initial risk assessment to determine whether the child should be categorised as medium or high risk, in line with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice guidance. Children reported missing will not be assessed as low risk.

The outcome of the risk assessment will inform the police response, including the urgency, level of investigative activity, and resources deployed. It is important to recognise that the police and Children's Services assess risk through different frameworks.

While Children's Services may consider a child to be at ongoing risk due to their individual circumstances or vulnerabilities, police risk assessments are primarily based on the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and the immediate risks associated with the missing episode.

Investigation:

Local policing teams will be tasked with carrying out initial investigative enquiries. These enquiries may include;

- searching locations linked to the child's disappearance,
- obtaining comprehensive information from the reporting person, and, where appropriate and proportionate,
- searching the child's personal living space for information that may assist in
 - understanding their circumstances,
 - identifying potential locations, or
 - evidencing intentions that could support efforts to locate and safeguard them.

Throughout the investigation, the police will work with relevant agencies and professionals to gather information, assess emerging risks, and support the safe return of the child.

Notifying others

All incidents of children reported as missing to Cheshire East Police will be reported to Cheshire East County council. All Police reports regarding a missing child are automatically sent by email to the **Cheshire East Together for Families Integrated Front Door**, and the Missing inbox (if child is within Children's Social Care) within the Contextual Safeguarding Service. The Integrated Front Door (IFD) will notify the relevant Children Services individual/ teams and relevant authority if the child has been placed from outside Cheshire East. Every Local Authority has different notification pathways based on local arrangements.

Circumstances	Response
A child living within Cheshire East and is <u>not</u> a Cared For child to Cheshire East or another Local Authority.	Where the child is open to Family Help. Alert sent to the allocated professional, Locality Team Manager and business support. Where the child is not open to Family Help the case will be triaged and allocated as appropriate. Where there are concerns about Child Exploitation the Contextual Safeguarding Team will be notified by the IFD.
A child living within Cheshire East and is a Cared For child to Cheshire East.	Alert sent to the Children Services Lead Professional, Team Manager and business support. Where a child is cared for a strategy meeting should be triggered. Where there are concerns about Child Exploitation the Contextual Safeguarding Team will be notified by the IFD.
A child living in another Local Authority area and is a Cared For child to Cheshire East	Alerts are sent to allocated team and should be shared with the Cheshire East Missing inbox. A notification should be sent to the Local authority where the child is resident. Where there are concerns about Child Exploitation the Contextual Safeguarding Team will be notified by the IFD.
A child living within Cheshire East and is a Cared For to another Local Authority.	Email to placing local authority children services point of contact. Alert uploaded to child's file. Where there are concerns about Child Exploitation the Contextual Safeguarding Team will be notified by the IFD.
For a child living in another Local Authority area and is not a Child in Care.	Email to relevant local authority children services point of contact. Where there are concerns about Child Exploitation the Contextual Safeguarding Team will be notified by the IFD.

Continuity between Daytime and Out of Hours Services:

Where a child remains missing at the end of the day, the responsible Team Manager, or nominated manager, **must confirm with Cheshire Police that the child remains missing** and obtain any relevant updates regarding police enquiries, known locations, intelligence, and risk. This information must be shared with the allocated worker and any other relevant professionals involved in the child's plan.

- The allocated worker, or duty worker, must ensure that parents and carers are aware of current arrangements and understand the requirement to notify Cheshire Police and the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) if the child is located or returns.
- Before the end of the working day, a Significant Event Form must be completed on LCS and submitted to the EDT Duty Tray, detailing the missing episode, current risks, actions taken, and any agreed out-of-hours arrangements.
- EDT will maintain oversight of the missing episode outside normal working hours and record any significant developments, taking appropriate action where circumstances change, risk escalates, or the child is located.

At the start of the next working day, responsibility for the case will transfer back to the relevant daytime team. EDT must ensure that all out-of-hours activity and updates are communicated through the appropriate recording and handover processes to support a coordinated safeguarding response and continuity of planning. It is best practice for this to be done in person.

Media Appeals:

Following completion of a risk assessment, Cheshire Police may determine that a media appeal is necessary to support efforts to locate a missing child and promote their safe return. Consideration should be given to the use of appropriate media channels to maximise opportunities to locate the child while balancing safeguarding and privacy considerations.

For all missing children, parents, carers, and Children's Services must be notified before any media appeal is issued. Their consent is not required for Cheshire Police to proceed with a media release.

Where the child is a Child in Care, including those subject to an Interim Care Order under section 38 of the Children Act 1989 or a Care Order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, Cheshire Police must consult with Children's Services and, where appropriate, parents or carers before any media appeal is published.

Continued Missing

When a Cared For child is missing, Cheshire East Police and Children's Services will work together in efforts to locate the child. If the Cared For child has been missing for **more than 24 hours** the Cared For Head of Service must be made aware by the relevant Cared For Service manager.

Cheshire Police policy is clear that all **High-Risk Missing Children will be subject to a multiagency coordination meeting after missing for 24 hours**. This meeting is chaired by a Chief Inspector and attended by a Response Officer, a MFH Officer, Social Services and a representative from the placement (care setting). The meeting will share information, assess the risk, and identify lines of enquiry to locate the child safely. Following the first meeting, **a co-ordination meeting is held every 24 hours until the child is located**.

This is highlighted in the refreshed Pan Cheshire Joint Protocol Children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care 2026 – 2028.

A Children's Services Assistant Director **Need to Know (N2K)** notification must be completed when a child has been missing for more than 72 hours. Where the child is open to Children's Services, responsibility for completing the N2K rests with the lead professional team. Where the child is not open to Children's Services, responsibility rests with the Missing and Exploitation (MAP) Team.

The completed N2K notification must also be shared with the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) to ensure oversight by the relevant senior manager on call. When issuing a 72-hour missing person notification, the MAP Team will include any relevant update received from Cheshire Police.

Information relevant to the missing person investigation, including information that may influence risk assessment, investigative activity, or assist in locating the child, must be shared with Cheshire Police via 101. Emergency information requiring an immediate police response must be reported via 999.

During office hours, Children's Services teams may contact **Eastern.MFH.PST@cheshire.police.uk** to request an update regarding a child who is currently missing.

Strategy Meetings

Where this is reasonable cause to suspect significant harm a strategy meeting should take place. Where there is immediate risk, this should be within 4 hours of notification, all other cases within 24 hours. Where a Child is Cared For, the notification should be triaged and a strategy meeting triggered.

A multi-agency strategy meeting must be convened for any child who remains missing for 48 hours or more. The timing of the meeting should reflect the child's individual circumstances and level of risk.

If the child remains missing following the initial strategy meeting, further review meetings should be held at least every 48 hours. These meetings should include appropriate management oversight and provide ongoing scrutiny of risk, actions, and contingency planning.

Where a child is open to Family Help as Targeted Early Help or Child in Need, the Family Help Lead Practitioner must escalate to the Locality Team Manager to request that a Strategy Meeting is convened.

Trigger Meetings may be held where a child experience repeated missing episodes over a period. These meetings are intended to support longer-term disruption and prevention planning and do not replace the requirement for a strategy meeting where there is evidence that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

A strategy meeting may be requested by any relevant safeguarding partner, including Cheshire Police, Children's Social Care, Health Services, or Education. Responsibility for convening and coordinating the meeting rests with Children's Social Care in accordance with local safeguarding procedures.

Where a child is not open to Cheshire East Children's Services but is a Cared For child with another Local Authority, Cheshire Police should request a strategy meeting (with the responsible authority) at any stage of the missing episode where the threshold for multi-agency safeguarding intervention is met.

The meeting must review actions undertaken by all agencies to locate and safeguard the child, assess current and emerging risks, agree further investigative and safeguarding actions, consider whether the current placement remains appropriate, identify any health, mental health, substance misuse or other vulnerabilities, and establish arrangements for ongoing information sharing between agencies.

When children are found

Where a Police Officer locates a missing child and has reasonable cause to believe that the child would otherwise be at risk of significant harm, the officer may exercise Police Protection powers under Section 46 of the Children Act 1989 and remove the child to a place of safety.

Where a missing child is located by an individual or agency other than the Police, the person locating the child must notify the child's parent, carer, or responsible authority without delay and share any relevant information regarding the child's whereabouts, presentation, or welfare. An immediate plan should be agreed to ensure the child's safety until they can be collected and supported appropriately. Cheshire Police must also be informed that the child has been located and advised of any concerns that the child may have experienced harm, exploitation, abuse, or been the victim of an offence during the missing episode.

Responsibility for collecting and returning a child following a missing episode rests with the parent, carer, or responsible local authority. Cheshire Police will not routinely provide transport and will only do so where this is necessary to safeguard the child or where exceptional operational circumstances exist. No agency should assume that police transport will be available.

Where the child is a Child in Care, responsibility for collecting and returning the child rests with the foster carer, residential provider, or responsible Local Authority, unless doing so would place the child or others at risk.

Where practical difficulties prevent a parent or carer from collecting the child, the responsible Local Authority must be notified and arrangements made to ensure the child is returned to a safe place. If there are concerns that the child's usual place of residence may place them at risk, partner agencies must work together to identify alternative arrangements and ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place before the child returns.

Police Prevention Interview

Cheshire Police will carry out a Prevention Interviews on all children and young people who have been categorised as missing, as soon as practicable after they are found and should be completed within 24 hours of the person being located. The details will be recorded on VPA and passed on to the relevant Local Authority Children's Social Care.

When a child or young person has been located following an episode deemed 'Missing', statutory guidance requires that 'The police will undertake a prevention interview to establish whether there are any indications that the child has suffered harm, where and with whom they have been, and to give them an opportunity to disclose any offending by or against them'.

The objective of the prevention interview requires a Police Officer to physically see and speak to the missing child or young person as soon as possible after they are found. Where viable the Police Officer should speak to the young person independent of the parent or carer. The Police should also speak to the child or young person's parents or carers to satisfy themselves that the child or young person is safe. The key aims will be to:

- Determine the reasons why the child or young person went missing and if they have been subject to violence, exploitation, abuse or bullying;
- To establish if they have been the victim of or committed any crime whilst missing, including because of their possible exploitation or trafficking;
- To obtain information which may lead to their early location should they disappear again;
- To put in place any support and preventative measures to avoid such a recurrence; to inform the child or young person and their parents and carers, if appropriate, that the relevant Local Authority Children's Social Care has been notified of the missing episode; and that they will be contacted by an Officer of the Local Authority and offered an Independent Return Interview.

Return Home Interviews (RHIs):

When a child is located following a missing episode, they must be offered a Return Home Interview (RHI.) The interview should be completed within 72 hours of the child returning home or to their care setting and should be undertaken by an independent professional wherever possible.

All of Cheshire East's Return Home Interviews are currently offered and completed by the Missing And Prevention team. If there is no conflict and the right person is the allocated worker to complete the discussion – then this should take place. This will be agreed by manager of the allocated team and the MAP manager.

The purpose of the Return Home Interview is to understand the circumstances of the missing episode, identify any harm, abuse, exploitation, or trauma the child may have experienced before or during their absence, and provide the child with an opportunity to share their views, experiences, and feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

The Return Home Interview should seek to identify and address the factors that contributed to the child going missing, including any issues within the home, care setting, family relationships, or wider peer and community networks. It should also explore any influences, relationships, or locations that may have placed the child at risk during the missing episode.

The discussion should support the development or review of the child's safety plan, identify any additional support required for the child and their family or carers, and inform multi-agency planning aimed at reducing the risk of future missing episodes and improving the child's safety and wellbeing. Information obtained through the Return Home Interview should be shared appropriately with relevant professionals and used to inform ongoing assessment, intervention, and safeguarding activity.

The Missing and Exploitation (MAP) Team maintains oversight of information relating to a child's current and previous missing episodes. Prior to completing a Return Home Interview, MAP workers will review and analyse relevant information from Cheshire Police and Children's Services records to support meaningful discussion with the child and inform assessment of risk, harm, and vulnerability.

This information will be used to explore patterns, identify recurring themes, understand the child's experiences and any contextual intelligence that could link the young person, and inform safeguarding planning aimed at reducing the likelihood of future missing episodes. The information considered may include the police risk grading for the current missing episode, the total number of missing episodes, the date of the first and most recent missing incidents, the length of time since the previous missing episode, and the child's history of engagement with Return Home Interviews.

MAP workers will also consider whether the child has been missing on three or more occasions within a 90-day period, alongside previous offers and completion rates of Return Home Interviews, to identify emerging concerns, escalating risks, and the need for additional multi-agency intervention. This information will be used to support professional decision-making and ensure that responses are informed by the child's individual history and presenting circumstances.

Parents and carers should be spoke to as part of the RHI. This is especially important if a child refuses to discuss the missing incident with professionals as they may be able to provide relevant information and agree safety plans to reduce the likelihood of future missing episodes.

If a child is reported missing and is under 10 years old it is not appropriate to offer them an RHI, the details of the missing incident will be shared by the Integrated Front Door, and the MAP team to review and respond to accordingly.

If the child lives in Cheshire East and was placed by another Local Authority, the details of the missing incident will be shared by the Integrated Front Door, with the relevant Local Authority Children Services team who will be responsible for ensuring that the RHI is completed.

The MAP team will support Cared For children with RHI's - who live out of area. Missing notifications need to be shared with the MAP team to facilitate the RHI.

Responding to escalating or on-going missing concerns

Any child who goes missing is vulnerable to harm. The level of risk may increase where a child remains missing for an extended period, experiences repeated missing episodes, or where there are concerns relating to exploitation, substance misuse, self-harm, mental health, criminality, or other safeguarding risks.

Where immediate safeguarding concerns are identified, practitioners must act in accordance with their agency's safeguarding procedures and ensure that relevant concerns are shared without delay. Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm, Children's Social Care must convene a Strategy Discussion with Police and Health partners to determine whether Section 47 enquiries are required and to agree a coordinated safeguarding response.

Where concerns indicate that a child may require additional services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development, Children's Social Care should consider completing an assessment under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Information obtained through Return Home Interviews must be considered as part of ongoing assessments, risk analysis, and decision-making. Where a child is subject to a Team Around the Family plan, Child in Need Plan, Child Protection Plan, or Care Plan, information relating to missing episodes must be incorporated into multi-agency planning and reviewed to ensure that risks are understood and appropriately addressed.

All agencies must work together to share information, including intelligence gathered through Return Home Interviews, to develop a clear understanding of when, where, and why a child goes missing, identify emerging patterns, triggers, and risks, and strengthen safeguarding arrangements to reduce the likelihood of future missing episodes.

The views of the child gained in the Return Home Interview should be included and taken into consideration in practitioner's assessments and decision making. When the child already subject to a Team around the Family, Our Family Assessment and Plan, concerns in relation to the child going missing must inform the multi-agency discussions and subsequent plans.

This should be achieved through ensuring the following:

- Through the sharing of information, including that gained from Return Home Interviews, all agencies aware of when, where and why the child goes missing and any patterns/ triggers/ concerns.
- Update any assessments as relevant.
- The child's plan addresses or is working to address, the reasons why the child is going missing (their push/ pull factors) with clear actions for the child/ support network/ professionals to reduce the risk of further missing episodes,
- All involved agencies are aware of any safety plans that are in place with the child and their family to reduce the risk of the child going missing again, reduce the risk to the child whilst missing and improve the speed in which they are found.
- Multi-Agency meetings are brought forward where necessary, to enable prompt responses regarding a child's missing episodes.
- Police are part of multi-agency discussions/ decision making.

Trigger meetings:

Repeatedly going missing should not be viewed as a normal pattern of behaviour and actions following earlier incidents should be reviewed and alternative strategies considered. When there is an increase in the frequency of missing episodes, there must be a coordinated response between families and professionals to explore additional support and guidance. There are key **Trigger** points where people come together to review this within a Trigger Meeting.

Professionals should not wait for trigger thresholds to expedite safeguarding concerns. Where a child is not receiving support and the level of need meets the criteria for a statutory response a Multi-Agency referral should be made.

Trigger 1 – 3 in 30

- Chaired by a Team Manager of allocated team or checks (if not open)
- Organised by Social Worker or Family Help Worker, or IFD if not open, by liaising with Cheshire Police MFH mailbox eastern.mfh.pst@cheshire.police.uk

Trigger 2 – 9 in 90

- Chaired by an IRO or Children's Services Service Manager.
- Organised by Social Worker or Family Help Worker, or CHEC's if not open, by liaising with Cheshire Police MFH mailbox eastern.mfh.pst@cheshire.police.uk

Escalation – More than 9 in 90

- Chaired by a Children's Services Service manager/ Head of Service or Police Chief Inspector to provide senior oversight to steer change.
- Organised by Social Worker by liaising with Cheshire Police MFH mailbox eastern.mfh.pst@cheshire.police.uk

The MAP team support identification when a child has hit a trigger point and will contact the allocated practitioner and team manager. The MAP worker identified to complete the RHI will also be aware of the trigger point.

When a child is placed outside of Cheshire East and/ or is going missing in other force areas, representatives from the other area Police forces should be invited. Details of Local Police can be found on [Out of Area Children in Care Notifications England | ADCS](#). The ACDS system can also be used to obtain details of the appropriate Local Authority.

If the child is not open to Children's Social Care, a Trigger meeting must be arranged within the ten working days timeframe. The Meeting should be chaired by a Integrated Front Door Team Manager OR Missing & Prevention (MAP) Team Manager.