

YOUTH SERVICES

Plymouth Missing Young Persons Team



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

It is important to understand the reasons why children and young people might go missing from home. It may be a response to an argument or other incident at home or to more serious problems either at home, at school or in the community. On the other hand, a child or young person may be running to, rather than from, something. Whatever the reason, children and young people can place themselves at significant risk.

IF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IS MISSING THEN THIS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE

The Plymouth Missing Young Person's team provides an individualised response to young people who go missing. **We aim to work primarily with children and young people aged between 10-17 yrs.**

If a child or young person is already open to Children's Social care the Missing Young Person's Team will contact the allocated social worker in the first instance in order to determine whether additional services are required.

Plymouth Missing Young Persons Team will work with children's social care and other teams where children are already known and receiving services but it is primarily intended as an early intervention team responding to needs identified by missing person report.

The Plymouth Missing Young Person's Team aims to make contact with the child/young person and/or parents within a maximum of 48 hrs and undertake a return interview and risk assessment. Based upon the outcome of this meeting we can then offer a brief focussed intervention and or appropriate signposting in order to:

- **Increase the child's awareness of the dangers of running away and the issues young missing persons face**
- **Build up a trusting relationship with him or her leading to opportunities to identify the issues that made them run away from home or care**
- **To help the child to seek safer solutions to deal with their issues other than running away**
- **Enable him or her to feel safe to ask questions if they don't understand something or want to find answers to their questions.**

Contact details

Email address: misper.youth@plymouth.gov.uk

Secure Email address: misper.youth@plymouth.gcsx.gov.uk

Dedicated telephone number: 01752 308840

