

## **Missing Audit Part 1 – summary**

### **Why was this audit done?**

Children and young people who are missing from home or care is a priority for London Borough of Tower Hamlets in the links to exploitation

### **What did we do?**

Part 1 of the missing audit focused on 40 young people (20 from home and 20 from care) who had been regular missing young people between January 2019 and December 2019

The aim of this audit was to see review the standard of Return Home Interviews (RHI's) and to ensure that partners from children's social care, health, police, education and other services work effectively together to prevent children from going missing from either home or care and act accordance with guidance when they do go missing.

### **What is working well**

Metropolitan Police Safe and Well checks are happening.

Independent Return Interviews are taking place with children and young people.

Strategy meetings are held in line with the missing protocol

Strategy meetings evidence that the risk and concerns are identified

Strategy meetings evidence clear plans aiming to reduce missing episodes and most addressed how to minimise risks related to exploitation

Most of the cases evidenced effective and efficient multi-agency working

Many of the children/young people missing from home engaged in the Independent Return Home Interviews

### **Areas for improvement**

The quality of return home interviews needs to be improved. Return home interviews for children missing from home were of better quality than children missing from care

Quality of engagement and direct work with young people addressing the concerns around the missing episodes and the risks related to this needs improving

Missing episode not being routinely discussed / explored with or by IRO for children who are Looked after

Not all agencies had the same understanding in relation to categories of missing and their associated risk

More needs to be explored in the RHI as to why the child is going missing

Voice of the child needs to be more evident on the file in relation to the missing episodes

### **Recommendations**