



RUNNING AWAY?

**RETURNING HOME AFTER BEING
MISSING FROM CARE**



CITY OF
YORK
COUNCIL

WHY?

Young people run away for a number of different reasons including...

- Arguments at home
- Being unhappy with where you are living
- Relationship or family problems
- Bullying
- Abuse
- Problems at school
- Something upsetting has happened and you don't know who to talk to
- To spend time with someone you don't live with e.g Friends

RUNNING AWAY CAN BE DANGEROUS!

You could find yourself cold, hungry and in danger from other people. Some of the problems you may face are:

- Nowhere safe to stay
- No food or water
- Getting sick
- Having no money
- Being at risk from dangerous or abusive people
- Getting involved in crime
- Feeling depressed

WE CAN HELP!

Every young person who goes missing from care is given the opportunity to have an independent return interview.

This is because sometimes it can be helpful to speak to someone totally separate from your situation about any worries you may have and what has caused you to run away.

We have been trained in working with young people who have felt the need to run away. We are independent from the social work teams and from your foster carer or residential placement. We may not know what it feels like for you but we do talk to other young people who have been in a similar situation to you.

If you are a young person who has been missing from care many people will be worried. We will offer to visit you and will...

- Listen to you
- Find out if we can help or support you
- Speak to someone on your behalf if you want us to
- Help you to get support from elsewhere

If you would like more support than a one off visit we can put you in touch with an advocate to help make sure people are listening to you and taking your views seriously. An advocate is there to support you and can help you get something stopped, started or changed.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are feeling unhappy or are being hurt by someone, running away will not always make things better. If you can talk to someone about how you feel such as a parent or carer, social worker or teacher, they can help you find a way to solve your problems without running away. You may think that no one knows what you are going through but the people who care about you may already know that there is something wrong. They may just not know what it is, so talking to them may not actually be that hard.

You can also call or text Speak Up, the Children's Rights and Advocacy Service on 07769725174, if you would like the support of an advocate.

USEFUL CONTACTS

If you are in danger, dial 999 for the police.

Childline 0800 1111 – calls are free and confidential 24 hours a day.

Missing People Runaway Helpline- call or text 116000 -
www.missingpeople.org.uk

If you would like more information about the Independent Return Interview contact Alison Cammiss on 01904 554565
or email Volunteer@york.gov.uk.

