



# Presentation for Children's & Culture Scrutiny Committee

## Children Missing from Home



## **Responding to children who go missing**

- Identify and respond to risks related to the individual missing episodes
- Work to reduce further risks and episodes of missing
- Ensure a multi-agency approach is implemented to respond to children with high risk missing incidents
- Develop a strategic approach by implementing a missing strategy and action plan and tracking the effectiveness of the strategy



## Developments

- Improved partnership working with commissioned service, Stay Safe services and the Police
- Developed reporting processes to ensure that we can respond to individual children but also start to understand themes and trends
- Audits undertaken to improve consistency of return interviews and use of information to inform response and plans
- CSE sub-group of Bolton Safeguarding Children Board extended to include Missing
- Contribute to the Greater Manchester Missing Group to develop networks and consistency with other areas
- Practitioner conference planned for March 2017



## Findings and Results

- The majority of children go missing only once and return the same day that they were reported missing
- The majority of children who go missing are aged over 13 years
- The main reasons that children go missing relate to
  - Peer pressure
  - Family relationships
  - Contact with family and friends
- In 2016-17, the numbers of children who have been reported missing has reduced quarter by quarter



## Ongoing Challenges

- Increase the number of children who receive a return interview within 72 hours of returning
- Continue to develop reporting to improve our understanding of and response to children who go missing
- Continue to improve our use of the information children provide at return interviews to reduce risks and prevent further missing
- Continue to develop a strategic approach to missing
  - develop strategy and implement action plan