

# What To Do When a Child Goes Missing

A Vital Role For  
Our Croydon Community

## A Guide For Parents, Carers and Community Organisations

**MENT4** 

### POSSIBLE REASONS

- Many children go missing and are found safely without danger or harm
- Some fall out with parents
- Some have pressure from friends and gangs
- Some are groomed for exploitation and People Trafficking
- Some are recruited for drug running, aka 'County Lines'

### POSSIBLE SIGNS OF CONCERN

- Missing overnight or for more than 24 hours
- Secrecy
- Distancing from friends and family
- Bruising and harm
- Cash and smart clothes and phones

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

- Get a message to them when they are missing
- Ask them about it or ask others who they trust
- Call Police and other professional agencies

### WHO TO CALL

If you suspect something, contact:

- **Metropolitan Police 101** (non-emergency) and quote 'Makesafe' or **999** (emergency)
- **MASH** (Croydon's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) 020 8726 6400
- **Any professional already involved** e.g. social worker and school



Ment4 have produced this flier to help the community protect young people, but remain independent of the police, and anything disclosed to them will not be automatically passed on.  
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