



**EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL COLLABORATION
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Q1. What is the Policy or Procedure title, what is its purpose or objective and who will be affected by it?

PD361 Missing Persons Recording and Investigation

This document provides direction and guidance to police officers and staff in the recording and investigation of missing person reports. It identifies key tasks to be undertaken by control room and operational officers, including risk assessments, ongoing supervision and review of the enquiry. The role of other agencies in supporting missing persons enquiries is also covered.

The document contains several minor changes to internal procedures from version 2.0 and is consistent with the current 2005 ACPO Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons. This guidance is due for full revision and re-issue in early 2010, at which time the Force procedure will also be revised accordingly.

Q2. Is there any evidence that this Policy or Procedure could affect some people differently on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, religion or belief, or sexual identity? Provide details of who and how they could be affected and data or information to support this (e.g. demographics, crime statistics, staff information).

Missing persons reports are received from across all communities within Nottinghamshire and whilst the investigative processes outlined in this document should be consistently applied, consideration needs to be given to the pre-disposing issues that may lead to someone going missing (e.g. mental health needs, cultural issues). The procedure refers to the various partners and voluntary agencies that can assist both members of the public and investigating officers when dealing with a missing report.

Q3. If the Policy or Procedure could affect some people differently can this be justified on the grounds of eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity or promoting good relations between persons of different groups? (Please provide an explanation).

A significant number of missing reports to Nottinghamshire Police are made in relation to young and vulnerable individuals living in care settings (68% of all missing reports in 2008). Many of these individuals go missing repeatedly and work has been undertaken locally to better meet the needs of these vulnerable groups by developing joint protocols that are referenced within the Procedure.

Q4. Who has been consulted on this Policy or Procedure and what were the findings of the consultation?

Divisional DCI's, Police Federation, Disability Awareness Network (DAWN) Womens Integrated Network, Notts BPA, OUT network,
A response was obtained from DAWN regarding mental health issues in missing persons enquiries.

CYRR were consulted and suggested that Roshni and Karma Nirvana and the Force Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit were consulted. No issues have been raised from any of these agencies / departments.

Q5. What amendments to the Policy or Procedure have been made as a result of the consultation or data analysis? Has this been fed-back to those consulted?

The comments regarding missing persons with mental health issues from DAWN have been referenced in the procedure and feedback to the consultee,

Q6. What arrangements have been made to monitor the effects of the Policy or Procedure on equality and diversity?

Information regarding the volume and profile of missing persons is shared with divisional DCI's on a monthly basis. This shows the age and gender of those reported missing most frequently and lists the locations (e.g. care homes, hospitals) from which repeated missing reports have been received in the period. Information regarding ethnic appearance and sexuality is also recorded for each nominal on COMPACT. Divisional performance in respect of frequently missing individuals is reviewed at the Public Protection Silvers Meetings, chaired by Supt Pearson, Head of Public Protection.

There are also quarterly multi-agency meetings held with the local partner agencies to review missing reports in line with the joint protocols that have been developed to respond to patients with mental health needs missing from hospitals and children missing from care.

The Force COMPACT superuser group (membership from all divisions, training and control room) also conducts quarterly audits of COMPACT. The purpose of this is to monitor compliance against force procedure, review risk assessment levels and profiles of missing persons and to assess quality of entries.

The Force Missing Persons Manager is an active member of the Regional Missing Persons Group and the national COMPACT User Group and work is currently underway to develop an agreed set of Missing Persons performance indicators that will encompass diversity and equality issues and allow the force to benchmark itself against others.

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