

# thebureau

your quarterly newsletter from the  
Missing Persons Bureau

## In this issue

- Conference success!
  - International Missing Children's Day report
  - Code of Practice - all you need to know
  - Quarterly return - are you ready?
  - All about National Indicator 71
  - Top 10 search tips for missing
  - Learning the lessons - what went wrong?
- ...and much more!

July 2009

04

## Who's bringing this newsletter to you?

The Missing Persons Bureau is part of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). It works with the police and related organisations to improve the services provided to missing person's investigations and to increase the effectiveness of the police response. The Bureau acts as the centre for the exchange of information connected with the search for missing persons nationally and internationally.



## From the editor

Welcome to the fourth issue of our quarterly newsletter, which is packed full of information and news we trust is proving of use to you.

In this issue you'll find an update on some of our recent events, including the first national joint missing persons conference held in April, and International Missing Children's Day on 25 May. In addition to running our own International Missing Children's Day event, some members of our team were pleased to be able to attend the three events held in Leicestershire by Forever Searching; some information and photos from their events can be viewed on their website at:

**[www.foreversearching.com](http://www.foreversearching.com)** We would like to thank everyone who wore a badge, wristband or ribbon on the day. Solidarity in supporting these initiatives is paramount.

You can also read about some recent success stories and, new to this edition, is a 'best practice' section, which contains some top search tips to consider when searching for a missing person, together with a case study from the 'learning the lessons' committee. If you are involved in any exciting new projects or work related to the missing persons area which you would like to share as best practice with other police forces please contact me so I can include details of your work in future issues.

This issue also includes some information about the Code of Practice and NI71, because feedback from the conference indicated many of you would like more



information on these areas. In general, your feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive and I would like to thank everyone who attended or presented; you helped make it the success it was!

If you have any questions about any of the articles in this issue, or suggestions for future content, please email **[missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk)** As ever, I especially welcome any information or intelligence you may be able to provide relating to the missing persons featured.

*Miranda Rouse*

**Miranda Rouse, Editor**  
thebureau

## Success! Missing child found – thanks to the Missing Persons Bureau and the Police Gazette

As part of International Missing Children's Day we co-ordinated with our colleagues at the Police Gazette (another NPIA product) to produce a special edition containing information about missing children. A missing child has already been located as a direct result of the distribution of the special edition and the proactive response from the UK Border Agency and Greater Manchester Police.

The child featured was Thao Do, who was located at an address in Essex following information provided by the UK Border Agency which we passed to Greater Manchester Police. Thao had been missing for over 2 years, and it is a great relief to her family in Manchester to have her back.

Do keep your eye on the Gazette because missing cases will continue to be featured within it, alongside other operational content. The Gazette, including the special edition, can be viewed by police employees at: [www.policegazette.pnn.police.uk](http://www.policegazette.pnn.police.uk)



## Identified – because of our work

We don't just find people within the Missing Persons Bureau, we also help to identify individuals whose identity is unknown. This recent success story illustrates the power of our database, which not only holds details of missing and unidentified people, but also contains a 'come-to-notice' database. It contains details of people who repeatedly come to the attention of authorities, who are unable or unwilling to identify themselves.

In March, we received a request from West Midlands police for assistance in identifying a woman admitted to hospital in Reading following an apparent epileptic fit. The woman stated she was born in Birmingham, and gave a name which appeared to be false. Due to the distance, the force had very little descriptive information and no photograph, so they requested assistance from us.

We cross-matched the available information with all the missing persons cases which you have notified us of, as well as those on our come-to-notice database. The search identified an individual whose known behaviour matched the details given, as did her general description. However, because she had not been notified as missing to us, a search of the Police National Computer (PNC) was conducted, which identified she had been reported missing to Devon and Cornwall police three weeks earlier.

This information was passed to West Midlands, who contacted Devon and Cornwall, who in turn obtained permission to pass her details to the hospital. The hospital successfully identified the unknown woman as the missing person we had suggested.

If you have an unidentified person or individual unable or unwilling to identify themselves, contact us because we can search our come-to-notice database and may be able to identify them for you.

## Features - International Missing Children's Day 25 May

We staged a special event to mark International Missing Children's Day to raise awareness of children still missing in the UK and to send a message of solidarity to parents of missing children.

The event was held at the National Theatre on the South Bank, where balloons were displayed with the faces of missing children from the UK and other participating member countries from the Global Missing Children's Network. NPIA Chief Executive, Peter Neyroud spoke at the event, which was also attended by Helen Southworth MP, police forces involved in the investigations and the families of UK missing children. Also in attendance were representatives from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection agency (CEOP) and charities who work with missing children and the media.



Sharon Lee, Kate McCann, Esther Rantzen, Peter Neyroud, Gerry McCann, Nigel Greenhalgh (uncle of Damien Nettles) and Natasha Lee

Families and police forces involved in the investigations of the five missing children chosen from the UK attended to encourage others to not only remember missing children but also encourage anyone with information that may help find a missing child to contact the police.

The five children were:

- Ben Needham
- Damien Nettles
- Katrice Lee
- Madeleine McCann
- Paige Emily Chivers

A particularly poignant moment was when a poem was read by Natasha Lee, written by her mother, on behalf of Katrice. Natasha has kindly allowed us to include the poem here, which is dedicated to missing children and their families worldwide.

Please remember my story. Please remember by face, for I am the child who vanished without trace.

Gone from my family who live in despair. Gone from my loved ones — do you know where?

The months and the years won't diminish their pain. They live with the hope that they will meet me again.

I have been taken by someone, do you know who? Please help me I am missing. I am relying on you.



Image supplied by *Missing People*

Katrice disappeared from a Naafi shopping complex in Schloss Neuhaus, Paderborn in Germany on 28 November 1981. She was just two years old, Katrice would now be 29.

If you think you may have seen Katrice or can assist with the investigation in any way please contact us on 01256 602979.

More details, including audio clips from the event, are available to download at our website:

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/13399.htm>

## ‘Missing’ conference a resounding success

The joint national missing persons conference, ‘Transforming the Missing Landscape’, was hosted by the NPIA Missing Persons Bureau and the charity, Missing People on 29-30 April at NPIA Ryton.

Attendees from police forces, children’s services and charities, all of whom deal with missing people, were provided with presentations and workshops aimed to further enhance their knowledge around the phenomenon of missing people. The conference also provided ideal networking opportunities for delegates.

Speakers included the police minister, Vernon Coaker, DAC Richard Bryan (ACPO lead on missing people) and those from organisations such as the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). Attendees found the presentation on the ‘Living in Limbo’ research from Missing People’s Lucy Holmes particularly useful. This recently conducted research explores the experiences of families of missing people and outlines recommendations for future practice in this area. Attendees expressed how they intend to act upon Lucy’s findings operationally. See separate article on page 9 about the research.

Another very popular presentation was delivered by Yvonne Rhoden MBE from the Metropolitan Police. She gave an insight into honour-based violence and its impact on ‘missing’ and highlighted a clear relationship between the two.

Guest speaker, Sir Bob Geldof, discussed advances in technology and how they can be utilised more effectively in tackling the problem of missing people. It was clearly evident how passionate Sir Bob is about the subject of protecting children through the use of technology. His speech was described by delegates as motivational and inspiring.

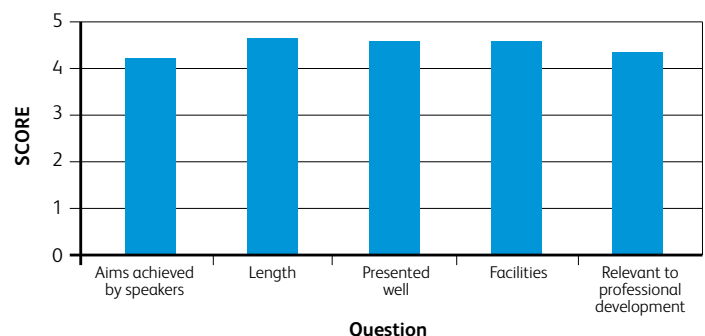
Gerry McCann, the father of missing child Madeleine McCann, gave a moving after-dinner speech. He highlighted the humanity that’s essential when police and other services deal with the families of missing people.



NPIA Chief Executive, Peter Neyroud and Missing People Chief Executive Paul Tuohy both gave very positive reviews of the conference in their closing speeches. Peter Neyroud stressed the need for attendees to use and act upon the knowledge and understanding they had gained during the conference, to enable practice in the field of missing persons to be improved.

Feedback from the conference workshops highlighted that you want to know more about the Code of Practice, National Indicator 71 and the changes to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) as they relate to ‘missing’, so we have included articles on these three developments in this issue.

**April 2009 - Transforming the Missing Landscape Conference Feedback**



Overall, we had some fantastic feedback from the conference with consistently high scores given by delegates on the feedback forms. The chart above says it all. If you’d like a copy of the full analysis report, call Lindsey Morris on 01256 602872 or email [lindsey.morris@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lindsey.morris@npia.pnn.police.uk)

## Code of Practice – all you need to know

Feedback from the conference in April suggested you wanted to know more about the code of practice, so here it is!

The code of practice for the Police Service on collecting and sharing data on missing persons with public authorities came into effect on 1 April 2009. Due to forces using differing IT systems for the recording of missing persons, the dates by which a force must begin to comply with the Code have been set to take these differences into account:

- Forces using COMPACT by 1 April 2009
- Forces using other compatible systems (e.g. Niche) by 1 September 2009
- Remainder of forces by 1 April 2010

Forces not complying immediately with the code should seek guidance in the Management Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons 2005 report, unless they are able to provide an interim solution. All forces should, however, provide quarterly returns to the Bureau.

The main impact of the code of practice is that it is now a statutory requirement for case details for all missing persons outstanding 72 hours after they have been reported to the police to be sent to us. These cases must reach us within 84 hours of the initial report being taken. Some police forces have indicated that up to 95 % of missing persons return within 48 hours. An additional 24 hours is allowed for the cancellation of such records. The 12 hour window for sending reports has been set to allow sufficient time for forces to transmit the necessary data. The 84 hour limit will allow for data transfers over bank holidays and weekends.

It's hoped all forces will comply using an automatic electronic system to minimise the impact on staff inputting. Details on how to do this, and the required case details, were distributed to all forces within the recent updated guidance issued by ourselves.

Humberside, Cambridgeshire and Derbyshire are already successfully sending their cases to us via automatic electronic systems, and West Mercia is due to do so from early August.

If you haven't sorted your electronic data transfer out yet and require further information, contact Louise Vesely in the Bureau to discuss on 01256 602843.

### Quarterly return – are you ready?

The code of practice also requires forces to submit data returns to us every quarter. This collection of data will inform the analysis of the national picture of missing in the UK.

### Timetable

The timetable for quarterly returns data submission is:

Quarter	Deadline
1 April 2009 – 30 June 2009	21 July 2009
1 July 2009 – 30 September 2009	21 October 2009
1 October 2009 – 31 December 2009	21 January 2010
1 January 2010 – 31 March 2010	21 April 2010

...and so on for subsequent quarters

The quarterly return is due for all forces, even those who won't be complying with the other parts of the code until 1 April 2010.

Detailed guidance on completing the quarterly return can be obtained from us and has already been circulated to all force Single Points of Contact (SPoCs).

Email your quarterly return to us or request further information:

**missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk**

## National Indicator 71: Missing from home and care – criteria to support self-assessment

You also wanted to know more about another recent development known as National Indicator 71 (NI71). National Indicators are used to measure progress on national priorities agreed by Government, and are delivered by local councils acting alone or in partnership. NI71 is part of the national indicator set for 2009/10 and has been added by the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) after extensive consultation with, among others, local authorities and the police. Its aim is to improve information sharing on, local awareness of, and the provision of services for, young people who run away or go missing.

NI71 requires local authorities in England to share information with the police and other relevant organisations in relation to missing children and young runaways. The indicator asks local areas to assess whether appropriate systems, procedures and protocols are in place to identify the levels of running away in their area, and whether the response to instances of running is appropriate to the needs of young people who run away.

A young runaway is a young person (up to the age of 18) who has run away from home or care, or who feels that they have had to leave. The term 'runaway' is mostly self-defined by the missing person, so that, in the majority of cases, it will be unknown if the person is a runaway upon receipt of a missing person report. Whether a missing young person is a runaway may only be determined during a Return Home interview. This information should be included in the cancellation notice to the Bureau.

NI71 is intended to assess whether:

- local information about running is gathered
- local needs analysis, based on information gathered about levels or causes of running, are in place
- local procedures to meet the needs of runaways are agreed
- protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals from the police or other agencies are in place

- local procedures are in place to support effective prevention and early intervention work

Police forces must refer all reports of missing children and young persons to the local authority children's services within 48 hours of the missing person report being taken.

In the case of young people missing from home, the local authority to be notified is the one in which the young person usually resides.

However, in the case of young people missing from care, the local authority to be notified is the one in which the young person is placed. The notification must also be shared with the placing authority, and whether the notification to the placing authority is done by the police or the host authority should be clearly set out in the host authorities, Runaway and Missing from Home and Care Protocols.

Whichever of these scenarios applies, relevant information about the instance of running should be shared with the local authority in which the child is found (where this is neither the placing nor host authority) as part of the regular transfer of this type of information. Relevant information might include the place where the young person is found, as there might be something in this local authority area to which children are running (i.e. friends or family from their previous home or a network of inappropriate adults).

NI71 does not dictate which data should be shared, but it's advantageous to share as much data as possible, enabling better analysis and use of the data. NI71 also has a requirement for high level data to be exchanged at quarterly intervals.

This collection and sharing of data will in turn help to drive Children's Services forward, safeguard children and make progress towards the Every Child Matters agenda.

You can access more information on National Indicator 71 here: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/TP00048/>

## Best practice Top 10 search tips for missing

These top ten search tips have been developed for police and agreed by three NPIA departments:

- Missing Persons Bureau
- Crime Operational Support
- Police National Search Centre

Always be sure to follow force policy relating to search and consult your force search advisors or the COS team for search advice and guidance, if required.

1. Before commencing any search, where possible, closely scrutinise the information you have available to you from all known sources, including: the person reporting, family, friends, colleagues and witnesses. Keep an open mind but think about why the person may have gone missing and evaluate the likely scenarios that may assist you in narrowing down the places the missing person may be in now. From this you can prioritise the identified search areas. Trained volunteer search teams can be useful but their activities must be co-ordinated by the police
2. One area that must always be considered a priority is the search of the home address and/or the place missing from (if different), including gardens, yards, vehicles etc
3. There should be a thorough search not only for the missing person but also for any evidence or intelligence which will progress the investigation (e.g. suicide note or letter, recent content on laptop computer, etc.) and establish if clothes, bank cards, cash, car keys, address book etc have been taken
4. In more serious cases, and in any case if it is a High Risk Missing Person and/or a Critical Incident, immediately ensure the advice of a Police Search Advisor (PoISA) and/or Crime and Missing Person Search Manager is sought
5. Do not be tempted to go off and search areas further afield without good reason which may be to the detriment of immediate areas
6. Consider carefully any reported sightings. These should be evaluated and validated to avoid following false leads and working in incorrect search areas
7. Document search activity accurately so that in the event of further searches being needed, a proper assessment of what has been searched so far is available. This record must include who searched the different areas, when and in what conditions (darkness, torrential rain etc.)
8. Be clear about the level of confidence you have as to the effectiveness of a search - if areas are not searched for any reason, report and document this so that a supervisor will know
9. Remember that, when searching for a person who's mobile, they may enter (re-enter or pass through) the search area after the search is complete - in such cases the validity of the search is time limited and the only way to guarantee it is by the use of cordons
10. Do not forget to look up as well as on the ground, if the person has committed suicide they may be high up



The Crime Operational Support team here at the NPIA is able to provide specialist support to investigations and searches. For advice please contact 0845 000 5463. More information on the work of COS may be obtained at: [www.npia.police.uk/cos](http://www.npia.police.uk/cos)



# Learning the lessons

As part of our focus on best practice we recognise that learning from the past can help make improvements in the future. The Learning the Lessons Committee is a multi-agency committee established to do just that, by disseminating and promoting learning across the police service.

The members of the committee comprise:

- [Association of Chief Police Officers \(ACPO\)](#)
- [Association of Police Authorities \(APA\)](#)
- [Home Office](#)
- [Independent Police Complaints Commission \(IPCC\)](#)
- [HM Inspectorate of Constabulary \(HMIC\)](#)
- [National Policing Improvement Agency \(NPIA\)](#)

The Committee produces a bulletin, with lessons from investigations, that is circulated to police forces and other bodies with constabulary powers three times a year. The Committee decides which cases are of use to the police service because they provide learning opportunities for other police forces facing similar situations and may help them improve their own policies and practices.

**We've included a summary of one of these cases. Can you improve your policies and processes to ensure a similar situation never arises?**

## Searching for a vulnerable man

Police were called after an elderly man was discovered missing from hospital. The call handler coded this as 'concern for safety' and graded it priority 2; if 'missing person' had been selected, a drop down box would have prompted questions to assess risk. An officer went to the hospital to get more information and searched the grounds, without success. He did not complete a Missing Person Report form, so the limited nature of his search was not documented.

Several members of the public called police to report seeing an elderly man close to the motorway. Contrary to National Recording Standards, the second call was

recorded on the same log as the first call. No link was made between these calls and the missing person report. Moreover, the handler of the first call did not establish the exact location of the reported sighting and the handler of the second call did not recall the location given. These calls were later downgraded in priority but no reason was recorded for doing so. COMPACT was used to help manage the report of the missing person, but the risk was wrongly assessed as medium. The case was not brought to the attention of the Critical Incident Manager either, and on one handover between sergeants, no information about the man was passed on.

Two days after the initial report, an Inspector reviewing the incident log recognised the risks associated with the man and realised that insufficient action had been taken. He raised the risk assessment to high (though he did not record this change on COMPACT) and set the appropriate actions in motion. Despite this, the man was not found. Six months later a member of the public reported finding human remains. They were the remains of the missing man.

The key lessons from this case are:

- to allow for coding calls as 'missing person' as well as 'concern for safety' and have drop down risk assessment questions on both
- a need for refresher training for call handlers, stressing the importance of:
  - questioning
  - listening
  - documenting information
- to ensure an understanding of Missing Person policy and the need for completion of a Missing Person Report form
- communicate information about missing persons during handovers
- create separate logs for separate calls, linking them if appropriate

Source: Learning the Lessons Bulletin 6 February 2009. This and other bulletins can be accessed at: [www.learningthelessons.org.uk/bulletins](http://www.learningthelessons.org.uk/bulletins)

## What's new?

### 'Living in Limbo' research, published by Missing People

Living in Limbo: The experiences of, and impacts on, the families of missing people.

Recommendations for the NPIA and police.



The charity, Missing People, has published a research study entitled 'Living in Limbo', which explores the experiences of, and impacts on, the families of missing people. While in recent years, recognition has grown of the impact that going missing can have on those left behind, this research has attempted to properly explore this issue to bring the full consequences to light.

In particular, the research is beneficial in highlighting the range of emotions families experience and the persistence of emotions over time. The different ways in which families are affected financially and legally have been identified, as have the key influences on families' satisfaction with service providers, which is of particular relevance to the police and ourselves. The rich and informative findings taken from the research have allowed specific recommendations to be drawn, which will be important in improving the experiences of the families of missing people.

*"The family officer has been brilliant. We're still in touch with him. He's been absolutely fantastic. Great support from him. I cannot praise him enough. Between my family officer and Missing People I've really had what I'm looking for." (mother of a missing man).*

A few of the recommendations particularly important for ourselves and the police to be aware of, and aiming to achieve include:

- ACPO and the National Policing Improvement Agency

(NPIA) should encourage police forces to routinely inform the family members of missing people of the range of support services available to them

- Police forces should note the importance of the initial and continuing police response on the emotional impact on families, particularly with regard to families' concerns that everything possible is done to find the missing person
- The family members of a missing person should have a clearly identified single point of contact with the police force dealing with their case
- Investigating officers should consider families' need to know, as far as possible, what actions have been taken to find their missing family member

Report author, Lucy Holmes, said "it's vital for investigating officers to realise that families' satisfaction with police response is not solely reliant on the missing person being found safe and well. Other factors that improve satisfaction are families feeling they're being taken seriously, being kept up to date and informed, being able to contact officers when they have questions, and investigating officers behaving politely and appropriately. Improving confidence in the police investigation will have profound implications for families' well-being at a difficult time."

We acknowledge our responsibility in ensuring these recommendations are incorporated into the police's and our own service provision. Action and co-operation from police is also necessary to achieve these recommendations, with the overall intention of improving the experiences of the families of missing people.

If you would like to read 'Living in Limbo' or a research summary of the study, it can be downloaded at:

<http://www.missingpeople.org.uk/limbo>

### Genesis access

There is now a new and easy way to access our Genesis website. The shortcut to the Bureau website is [www.missingpersons.police.uk](http://www.missingpersons.police.uk) then click on

'Information for Police' and then on the Genesis hyperlink half-way down the page which will take you straight to our Genesis site.

## What's planned?



### Bid for EU funding for Child Rescue Alert

We're in the process of bidding for EU funding in the hope this funding may be used to develop a new improved child abduction alert scheme for the



United Kingdom. This new scheme would complement existing Child Rescue Alert schemes in each of the UK's police forces and be capable of being launched nationally and internationally across Europe, in conjunction with the proposed network of similar alert schemes in other EU member states.

Access to EU funds will enable a feasibility study into message broadcast via websites, mobile telephones and motorway messaging systems, as well as provide for a further multi-lateral exercise, EU conference and training.

### Missing guidance consultation – help shape it

The 2005 ACPO Guidance on the Management, Recording and Investigation of Missing Persons is currently being reviewed and updated, with a view to publishing an updated version towards the end of 2009. As part of this process, we would like to invite all interested parties to attend one of the Guidance Consultation Events in July. The aim of each event is to enable participants to contribute to the review and revision of the 2005 Guidance, through evaluation and discussion of its various components. Proposed new versions of the various sections of the guidance will be circulated to attendees in advance and the discussion will be around the relevance and accuracy of those documents.



Consultation events are to be held during week commencing 27 July 2009, running from 10:30 to 14:00 each day at the following locations:

Monday 27 July 2009	London
Tuesday 28 July 2009	York
Wednesday 29 July 2009	Aberdeen*
Thursday 30 July 2009	Worcester

Thanks to your response, these events are now full. You can still have your say - look out for the formal guidance consultation in September.

If you would like to attend one of these events, please reply to [codeconsultation@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:codeconsultation@npia.pnn.police.uk), stating your choice of venue.

\*this event is intended for Scottish forces and members of the ACPOS guidance working group will be attending

In development

# PACE Review - Government proposals in response to the Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

Feedback from the recent conference also indicated that you wanted to know more about the proposed changes to PACE. The Government is currently reviewing PACE with the aim of reducing bureaucracy, freeing up officer time, while increasing accountability and raising public confidence and awareness.

The government's proposals in response to the Review of PACE were subject to a 3 month public consultation at the end of 2008. The summary of responses will soon be published on the Home Office website.

### Key proposals relating to Missing Persons

- A single power under PACE for the issue of a warrant to search for evidence of any offences based on necessity to replace all such powers in other enactments
- Consider ways to raise police accountability and minimise the bureaucratic burdens on the police and courts in relation to search warrants
- Enable an endorsed redacted copy of an all premises or multiple premises search warrant to be given to the owner or occupier
- Combine police powers under section 18 and 32 of PACE to enter premises after arrest to search for evidence of an offence
- Ability of an Inspector to authorise entry and search of a suspect's premises where no arrest takes place but grounds for arrest exist
- Power for police to enter premises to search for missing persons or any information or material that could assist in locating the person in question

Have a look at <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/PACE-Review/> if you would like to know more about the changes to PACE and the results of the consultation.



## Operational case appeals

### Still missing – can you help find Andrew Dill?



Andrew Dill has been missing for over six years. He was last seen on 28 April 2003 after he was dropped off at Hednesford railway station in Staffordshire at 11pm to get a train to Birmingham New Street. Andrew, who was 38 at the time of his disappearance, hasn't been seen since. Andrew was in regular contact with his parents and his three children and concern for him grows as he has not contacted his family since, which is out of character.

Andrew is described as black, 5ft 9ins tall, of medium build, with short black hair and a goatee beard.

Anyone who can help West Midlands Police with their investigation is urged to contact Steelhouse Lane Police Station on 0121 626 8716.

### Fears for welfare – can you help locate John Noel?



John Noel left his home at Bishopston in Swansea at around 19:00 hours on 7 June 2008. He left a note stating he was going to see an old friend, who he hadn't seen since leaving school 60 years ago. No one has seen or heard from John in over a year.

John is 5ft 8ins tall, of medium build with short grey hair and glasses. He wears a hearing aid and has a surgical scar on his chest.

There are great concerns for John as he suffers from Alzheimer's and may become disorientated and confused.

If anyone can help South Wales Police with their investigation, please contact David Tucker at Cockett Police Station, Swansea on 01792 563046

### Vulnerable – can you help find Stafford Kingett?



Stafford Kingett left St Andrews hospital Northampton on the morning of Saturday 4 July. He was due to go back that evening but has not yet returned. It has now been several weeks since he was last seen by anyone and there are concerns for him as he has Asperger's Syndrome and has difficulty communicating with others. Stafford has family in Kent and has previously visited this area.

Stafford is 5ft 7, of slim build with blonde hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a black and gold jacket, green t-shirt and blue jeans.

Anyone with information that may assist the enquiry into Stafford's location or welfare please call Northamptonshire Police on 0300 0 111 222.

## Our partners – Railway Children

Having worked in India, the UK, East Africa, Russia and Latin America, Railway Children has been reaching out to street children around the world for more than a decade.

Railway Children supports children living alone and at risk on the streets, many of whom live on railway platforms, hence the name. Children end up living on the streets for many reasons. They are escaping violence or abuse; extreme poverty is forcing them to have been abandoned or orphaned.

The reality for a street child is one of grave danger. Pimps, drug dealers and recruiters for child labour know these children are vulnerable and see them as a valuable commodity to be used and abused.

In addition to providing the shelter, food, clothing, education and health care that are all essential to the child's well-being, Railway Children's ultimate goal is to intervene with a child at the earliest opportunity before an abuser.

The charity aims to stop a runaway child becoming a street child. It's about getting to street kids before the streets get to them.

Railway Children works to change the lives of children living on the streets in three main ways:

1. Its work involves meeting the immediate needs of the child - working directly with the child at grass roots level
2. It creates change in the local context. It's crucial that the children who live or arrive on the streets are not seen by society as a commodity to sell or abuse – but as children in need of care and protection
3. It works tirelessly to influence key policy decision-makers in government to create safeguarding provisions within their policies and budgets for street children. This is extremely time consuming but vital to achieve long term, sustainable change

Specifically within the UK, Railway Children has recognised that there was a lack of front line services for children who run away and that the policy and guidance

to safeguard these vulnerable children was not in place. Railway Children works to ensure these young people's voices are heard at government level.



### Activities in the UK:

- funding towards nine projects, working directly with runaways
- funding to the projects that provide five of the eleven refuge beds
- chairs the English Coalition for Runaways (34 organisations concerned with runaways)
- membership of the national oversight group that oversees national task groups; developing new government guidance for runaways, local measurements and research into emergency accommodation
- acts as the secretariat for the All Parliamentary Group for Runaways
- carries out research with the most detached young people in the UK

### More information may be obtained from:

Railway Children, 1st Floor, 1 The Commons, Sandbach Cheshire, CW11 1EG United Kingdom

Tel: +44 1270 757596 Fax: +44 1270 763651

Email: [enquiries@railwaychildren.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@railwaychildren.org.uk)

[www.railwaychildren.org.uk](http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1058991

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## Missing People welcomes new chief executive



We're pleased to notify everyone within the missing arena that Missing People has announced Martin Houghton-Brown, currently Deputy Director of Business Development at The Children's Society, has been appointed as its new Chief Executive.

Martin is one of the country's leading authorities on the issue of runaway children, having produced the ground-breaking report 'Stepping Up' which led to HM Government's Young Runaways Action Plan and the foundation of the Cross-Government Working Group for young runaways.

Martin has made the following comment about his appointment: "Becoming chief executive at Missing People represents the most exciting opportunity for me yet. I have spent my working life in the voluntary sector seeking to bring about change and deliver services that can make life better for those who face real pain and difficulty."

Missing People provides support for missing children, vulnerable adults and families left in limbo. It offers families of the missing specialist advice and practical support as well as searching and publicity. Martin takes over from Paul Tuohy, Missing People's Chief Executive since 2005, and is expected to be in post during August.

More information on the work of Missing People can be accessed via its website [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)  
For all operational police enquiries please email [police@missingpeople.org.uk.cjism.net](mailto:police@missingpeople.org.uk.cjism.net)

## About us

We are part of the Crime Analysis Unit within the NPJA. We provide a free cross-matching service to police officers to assist with matching up details of missing persons cases with unidentified person or body cases across the UK. We maintain a database of:

- all persons missing in the UK for over 72\* hours, or sooner where the force feels the case warrants more urgent attention
- all foreign nationals reported missing in the UK
- all UK nationals reported missing abroad
- all unidentified bodies or persons found within the UK
- all unidentified bodies or persons believed to be UK nationals found aboard



We use this database to help match unidentified bodies/ persons to reports of missing persons.

Call us on 01256 602979 or email [missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk) and we'll send the necessary forms to you. Please submit comprehensive details of the case to us using the same email address or by fax to 01256 692571 to enable cross-matching searches to be carried out on your case.

\* for forces that have adopted the Code of Practice.

## About the NPIA

The NPIA is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored and funded by the Home Office, with its executive leadership drawn from the police service. Many of its employees are seconded police officers. As a policing organisation, the NPIA acts as a central resource to ACPO and police forces, working with authorities and the Home Office to help improve the way policing works. The NPIA aims to make a contribution to improving public safety by:

- driving improvement and leading-edge practice where it matters, fostering self-improvement and helping to shape the future of policing
- delivering and developing critical essential services and infrastructure to support policing day-in and day-out
- providing accessible, responsive and joined-up solutions, enabling the police services to put more time into front line police work

# MISSING

## Will you help find me?



**Yenphi Phan, age 13**

**0808 100 8777**

[www.missingkids.co.uk](http://www.missingkids.co.uk)



JUNE/JULY 2009

## Contact us

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Missing Kids Freephone: 0808 100 8777