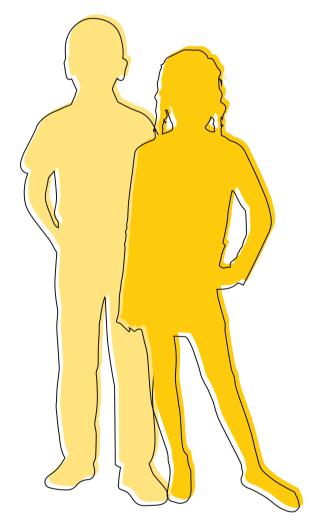


Children may run away from home because they are unhappy or because they are **being coerced and exploited.** 

Sometimes children in care choose to **run back to familiar people and places.**  Children who run away will often be attracted to bigger towns and cities. Towns and cities offer excitement, anonymity and good transport links to other parts of the country.

## COULD YOU SPOT A MISSING CHILD? ARE THEY:



- $\rightarrow$  too young to be travelling alone?
- → or travelling with someone who doesn't appear to be a friend or family member?
- $\rightarrow$  trying to catch a lift into the town from a rural area?
- $\rightarrow$  in a school uniform from a school which isn't local?
- $\rightarrow$  in a uniform but out and about during school hours?
- $\rightarrow$  wearing clothes that are inappropriate for the weather?
- $\rightarrow$  looking lost?
- $\rightarrow$  short of money?
- $\rightarrow$  asking for directions?
- $\rightarrow$  carrying a significant number of belongings with them?
- → giving a story that seems implausible and involves needing to get to a place some distance away?
- $\rightarrow$  clearly frightened and anxious?

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- $\rightarrow$  don't attempt to rescue them or restrain them
- $\rightarrow$  be sympathetic and ask them if they're ok
- $\rightarrow$  contact the Social Care duty team if they disclose that they have run away
- → contact the Police on 101 to report any concerns, even if the child says they're fine
  → ring 999 if you believe the child is in immediate danger.

## WWW.CATCH-22.ORG.UK/OFFERS/MISSING-AND-CSE