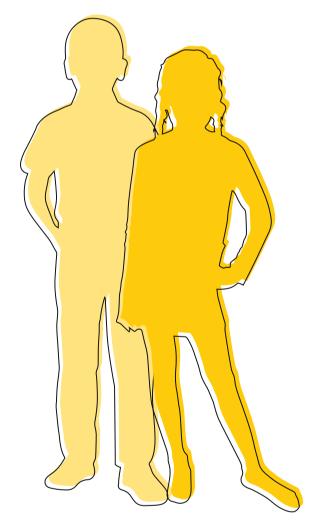


Children may run away from home because they are unhappy or because they are **being coerced and exploited.**

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