

# THE VALUE OF RETURN HOME INTERVIEWS AND FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISSING

A Social Return on Investment Analysis



**RAILWAY**  
**children**  
Fighting for street children

# IT IS ESTIMATED THAT EVERY YEAR 100,000 CHILDREN UNDER 16 RUN AWAY IN THE UK.

A child or young person who runs away from home or care is at risk of abuse and exploitation.

Statutory guidance (2014) states that children who have been missing must be offered an independent Return Home Interview. Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that arrangements are in place. This is different from a police 'safe and well' check.

Return Home Interviews are a chance to understand what caused the child to go missing, to deal with any harm they have suffered and to identify what support they may need to stay safe in the future.

Railway Children commissioned a Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis of Return Home Interviews and follow-up support. Young people, parent/carers and other stakeholders were interviewed to assess the difference this work had made to them.

The analysis was carried out by Andy Bagley of Real-Improvement, based on the work of four service providers: Action for Children (Liverpool), Missing People (Wiltshire & Swindon), NSPCC (Croydon) and SAFE@LAST (South Yorkshire).



# KEY FINDINGS

**£1 = £5.27**

£1 invested in Return Home Interviews and follow-up support achieves a social value of between £3 and £7, with a best estimate of £5.27.

**RETURN HOME INTERVIEWS SHOULD BE PART OF AN INTEGRATED NETWORK OF SERVICES**

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Average % increase reported by young people.

<b>A SAFER AND HAPPIER PLACE TO LIVE</b>	<b>+50%</b>
<b>REDUCED RISK</b>	<b>+55%</b>
<b>IMPROVED FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS</b>	<b>+55%</b>
<b>BETTER EDUCATION PROSPECTS</b>	<b>+64%</b>
<b>GREATER CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM</b>	<b>+51%</b>
<b>A MORE POSITIVE VIEW OF THEIR FUTURE</b>	<b>+70%</b>



The nature and extent of this change varies between individuals. The SROI analysis presented here represents the value achieved in an 'average' or typical situation.

**"I'M NOT PUTTING MYSELF AT RISK BY RUNNING OUT"** (Young person)

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR PARENT/CARERS



Reduced stress



Better relationships with their son/daughter



Feeling stronger and more in control

**"WE ALWAYS USED TO ARGUE WHEN I GOT IN AND LIKE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE"** (Young person)

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

**ACHIEVING SHARED OBJECTIVES**

**COST SAVINGS WHEN MISSING EPISODES REDUCE**

**SAFEGUARDING**

**PROVIDING POLICE INTELLIGENCE**



Building a good relationship with a young person is more likely to achieve successful outcomes. Young people may see the police and social workers as figures of authority and be more willing to engage with someone independent.

**"I CAN SEND POLICE OFFICERS ALL DAY LONG TO DO INTERVIEWS, WITHOUT SUCCESS"**

(Senior police officer)

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Registered charity number 1058991



**missing  
people**



**NSPCC**

Download the full report at  
[www.railwaychildren.org.uk/research](http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/research)

For information on Social Return on  
Investment please visit  
[www.socialvalueuk.org](http://www.socialvalueuk.org)

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