[The South Lanarkshire Joint Missing Person Protocol](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/adultprotection/downloads/file/409/sl_missing_person_protocol)

provides guidance on the following:

1. Children Missing from an Education Establishment
2. Looked After and Accommodated Children
3. Patients Missing from an NHS Lanarkshire Establishment
4. Adults Missing from a Private Residence or Residential/Nursing Home.

This protocol applies to all staff within South Lanarkshire who are involved in any capacity with missing persons.

**South Lanarkshire Missing People Protocol**

In May 2017, the Scottish Government published the [National Missing](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-missing-persons-framework-scotland/) [Persons Framework for Scotland](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-missing-persons-framework-scotland/) that set out the following four objectives:

* To introduce **preventative** measures to reduce the number of episodes of people going missing.
* To **respond** consistently and appropriately to missing person episodes.
* To provide the best possible **support** to missing people and their families.
* To **protect** vulnerable people to reduce the risk of harm.



**Return Home Welfare Discussion**

A Return Home Welfare Discussion will be conducted within 72 hours by an individual of the missing persons choosing.

Further information on Missing People can be found at: [www.missingpeople.org.uk](http://www.missingpeople.org.uk)

[National Missing Persons Framework Toolkit for professionals in Scotland](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.missingpeople.org.uk%2Ffor-professionals%2Fcommission-us-professional-specialist-services%2Fwelcome-to-the-national-missing-persons-framework-toolkit-for-professionals-in-scotland&data=05%7C02%7CJulie.Stewart%40southlanarkshire.gov.uk%7C3db8c043a8514c0f4a7808dc3f53ac0a%7Cd38231f1615c4749b323dc7c7ad5eeba%7C0%7C0%7C638454876514928031%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Lc7ydlVVzv7Cs%2Fyqwfps6z1HUtmHpXOL1o49RXjI4go%3D&reserved=0)

**Seven
minute
briefing**





**Missing Person Definition**

All agencies in South Lanarkshire will adopt the national definition of a missing person recommended by the National Missing Person Framework.

A missing person is defined as anyone whose whereabouts are unknown **and**:

* Where the circumstances are out of character **or**
* The context suggests the person may be subject to crime **or,**
* The person is at risk of harm to themselves or others

A Single Point of Contact (SPOC) should immediately be agreed with the next of kin / family of the missing person and timescales for updates agreed.

In the majority of cases, Police will be the SPOC with support provided, where appropriate, from partner agencies.

When a missing person is traced an initial safe and well check should be completed by the **best placed agency.**





**Roles and Responsibilities**

Where a person goes missing each agency will have in place clear protocols on the actions to be taken by staff appropriate to the level of risk to the individual.

Once a missing person is reported to Police Scotland ownership of the investigation will rest with the Police and will be conducted in line with their Standard Operating Procedures.

**However, there remains a responsibility for other agencies to support and assist the investigation, to maximise the opportunity to trace the missing person at the earliest opportunity.**

**Duty to report**

While a missing person report can be raised by any person there is a responsibility on **agencies with a duty of care** for an individual, at the time of them going missing, to ensure that this protocol and supporting internal protocols are followed.

There is an obligation on the reporting agency to complete the risk assessment process with immediate effect (Appendixes A to D).