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| Event History

Policy owned by Investigative Services**Child Rescue Alert****1. Policy Purpose and key drivers****Policy Summary**

Staffordshire Police complies with Authorised Professional Practice (APP) which contains information to assist policing, and has established a local policy on Child Rescue Alert to provide clear standards and guidelines.

The focus of Child Rescue Alert (CRA) is on the risk to the child rather than the mechanics of their disappearance. CRA is primarily about saving a child and to this end, rapid decision making is essential.

Experience from a number of situations indicates that a considerable amount of time is lost at this stage and means that opportunities are lost. It is imperative that if a CRA is a possibility, preparatory actions must start immediately. This means identifying resources in the investigating force and informing other forces that they may be asked to assist. Leaving this until final launch decisions have been made may mean that the alert goes out so late that it is of limited value.

Child Rescue Alert **must not** be used for any other purpose.

This policy outlines how Child Rescue Alert operates.

Aim

The aims of this policy are to explain:

- roles and responsibilities in relation to Child Rescue Alerts;
- what criteria must be met;
- how to initiate and launch an alert;
- what happens during one;
- how to cancel it, and
- what to do if an alert is received from another force

Scope

This policy applies to all police officers and police staff.

Compliance

Data Protection Act 1998

Human Rights Act 1998

Child Abduction Act 1984

Common law duty of all persons to protect and preserve life

Common law relating to kidnap

APP Intelligence management

APP Investigation

NPIA Child Rescue Alert activation protocol

Points of Contact

Staffordshire Police Headquarters Public Relations Team is the local point of contact to discuss any media issues relating to this procedure.

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Communications Office is the national point of contact.

Chapter 1 - Explanation

Introduction - Child Rescue Alert:

No	Aim
1	is a voluntary partnership arrangement between the police service and media organisations;
2	is a fast response scheme designed to save a child from harm and should be used in the first few hours of a suspected abduction;
3	is used to seek the urgent assistance of the public where there are reasonable grounds to believe a child has been abducted and is at risk of serious harm; and
4	involves broadcasters immediately interrupting programmes to issue an alert that includes sufficient information to enable the public to help look for and recover the child

Quick decision making and action

Child Rescue Alert is primarily about saving a child and, to this end, rapid decision making is essential.

Experience from a number of situations indicates that a considerable amount of time is lost in the early stages and means that opportunities are lost.

It is imperative that if a Child Rescue Alert is a possibility, preparatory actions start immediately. This means identifying resources in the Force and informing other forces that they may be asked to assist. Leaving this until final launch decisions have been made may mean that the alert goes out so that that it is of limited value.

Chapter 2 - Criteria

Criteria

All the below criteria have to be met before an alert can be issued, however, this should not delay you from starting to make preparations immediately:

No	Criteria
1	the child is apparently under 18 years old;
2	there is a perception that they are in imminent danger of serious harm or death; and
3	there is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist police in locating them, e.g. suspect or vehicle details.

Examples of criteria not met - Child Rescue Alert should not be implemented:

No	Example
1	for incidents where, e.g. a child has been abducted but is not believed to be at risk of serious harm, e.g. in a non violent parental custody dispute; or
2	if the circumstances indicate that this child is a child abduction or kidnap with demands or anticipated demands.

See associated Force procedures for further guidance.

Related Documents

Links to related documents:

[Child Rescue Alert Activation \(protocol\) \(National_Guidance\)](#)
[Child Rescue Alert - Criteria and Authorisation \(Procedure\)](#)
[Child Rescue Alert - Major Investigation Department \(Procedure\)](#)
[Child Rescue Alert - Media \(Procedure\)](#)
[Child Rescue Alert - OCD \(Procedure\)](#)

Gatekeeper - the Author suggested the following Procedure document(s) to link to.

Child Rescue Alert - Criteria and Authorisation; Child Rescue Alert - Major Investigation Department; Child Rescue Alert - Media; Child Rescue Alert - OCD

Relevant Dates and Review Period

Effective Date:	22/03/2017
Review Date:	17/04/2019
Review Frequency:	Annually

Policy Basis and Implications

2. Legal Basis:	Child Abduction Act 1984 Kidnap- Common Law
3. Management of Police Information (MoPI):	MoPI Policing Purpose: Protecting Life and Property MoPI Review, Retention and Disposal addressed as follows: Material generated as a result of the CRA procedures relating to MOPI groups 1 and 2 will be retained by the MID as per MOPI time limits. Other material generated relating to MOPI groups 3 and 4 will be retained for minimum of 6 years.
4. Associated Benefits:	The CRA, supported by the NPIA is a national policy and procedure which may instigate a national media and public awareness campaign and an orchestrated support network of information gathering from Police Services nationally to support the investigating Force.
5. Consultation:	UNISON Police Federation Force Executive People Services Contact Services Public Relations MID FSI
6. Financial Implications:	No additional funding implications.
7. Human Resources / Training:	CRA is operated through IT currently in place and as a result no new training packages are required.
8. Associated Policy:	Staffordshire Police Kidnap and Extortion Policy.

FOI, Human Rights and Equality Impact Assessment Indicators

FOIA:	Release to Public	
ECHR:	Compliant with proportionality test	Articles engaged: Article 2 Right To Life; Article 3 Prohibition of Torture; Article 5 Right to Liberty and Security; Article 6 Fair Trial; Article 7 No Punishment without Law; Article 8 Right to respect for Private and Family life
EIA:	Compliant	Compliant with Code of Ethics: Yes

Indexing

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