

THIS RESPONSE IS BEING SENT TO:

The Senior Coroner, Dr Julian Morris, for the Coroner Area of London Inner South in response to a '**REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH REGULATION 28**' following an inquest into the death of **Natasha Hill** that concluded on **Friday 1 May, 2026**.

1.	RESPONDENT In line with our duty under Regulation 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, The Secretary of State for Education provides this response within 56 days (plus any extension granted) of the date of the Report to Prevent Future Deaths.
2.	17 July 2026
3.	CONFIRMATION OF CORONER'S MATTERS OF CONCERN The MATTERS OF CONCERN identified in the report are as follows: - Anyone requiring/ needing/suffering - Safeguarding - Domestic violence - Controlling/ coercive behaviour And incurring the consequential risks, as a teenager approaching 18 should be formally reviewed by an adult safeguarding team and the independent reviewing officer. - Thought should be given to creating a young person's team covering the transition from under 18 (MACE) to adult safeguarding teams e.g. For the period 18-22. - Thought should be given to a young person's protection by way of creation of an extension to the CAWN for the young person, against the adult creating that safeguarding risk e.g. young person's abuse warning notice. - The creation of one single national policy for policing and child sexual exploitation following the groundwork laid down by Operation Hydrant and local Forces. - Re safeguarding offender management, the use of VOO's and the creation of POETs/ DAPST and RMUs: Consideration should be given to the creation of one set of criteria with one name whose role it is to cover and create a central guidance. - To consider the wider dissemination of existing local protocols nationally, for example the London Exploitation Protocol. - The provision of guidance in respect of missing persons/ runaways and the return to home interviews to assist the actions of the police and local councils.

3.	DETAILS OF ACTIONS TAKEN, CURRENT ACTIONS, AND PLANNED ACTIONS: Matter of Concern 1: • This government is supporting vulnerable children and their families, including those where domestic abuse is a factor, by intervening at the earliest opportunity through the Families First Partnership programme. Through this programme, which is supported by £2.4bn over the next three years, community based multi-disciplinary Family Help and multi-agency child protection teams are being introduced to help, support and protect children and their families. • For young people approaching adulthood who are experiencing, or are at risk of, harm, including domestic abuse and/or controlling or coercive behaviour, their ongoing needs and risks should be formally reviewed before they reach 18, in line with statutory safeguarding guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children and the principles of transitional safeguarding. • This review should include both children's and adult services, the child, parents/carers, and family network as appropriate, and the Independent Reviewing Officer for children who are looked after. • This will support a coordinated transition to adult services, ensure that identified risks are appropriately managed, and young people are able to move safely into adulthood. Actions taken: • The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) published an independent Bridging the Gap briefing setting out the importance of transitional safeguarding within adult social work in 2021. This briefing focuses on safeguarding young people journeying from adolescence into adulthood, particularly on sexual and criminal exploitation, to help prevent instances of sexual exploitation in adulthood. Current Actions: • The National Adult Safeguarding Board will be conducting an urgent review of adult safeguarding powers and duties. The first part of that work will be to consult on updating the safeguarding chapter of Care and support statutory guidance (CASSG). As part of this update, we will consider what guidance can be provided to strengthen safeguarding in the context of the transition of young people to adult services. In that process we will take the learning from this PFD report and consider the recommendation that when a teenager with care and support needs approaches 18 they should be reviewed formally by an adult safeguarding team and the independent reviewing officer. • In March 2026, DHSC launched an 11-month project, with the Department for Education (DfE), Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and Skills for Care (SfC) to develop practical materials to improve transitions into adult social care. The project will deliver a set of best practice principles for good transitions, together with bespoke training materials for social workers and social care leaders to help ensure they have the knowledge and tools
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	to provide high-quality support to young people as they transition into adulthood. Evidence to support best practice in relation to transitional safeguarding will be considered as part of this project, as well as the actions that we can take to make tangible improvements in this area.
	DETAILS OF ACTIONS TAKEN, CURRENT ACTIONS, AND PLANNED ACTIONS: Matter of Concern 2: • The Families First Partnership (FFP) programme guide details expectations of local areas and safeguarding partners. This includes the expectation that local areas have an operational integrated front door, where contacts and referrals can be triaged to the right level of service; ensure front door alignment with multi-agency child protection teams (MACPTs) and wider local arrangements; and consider and set out the MACPT's role in supporting transitions out of child protection. This can include interactions with Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and transitions into adult safeguarding teams. • As government continues to make significant reforms to children's social care, including through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, we are consulting on updating the statutory framework for help, support and protection for children and their families. This will inform revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 (Working Together), the Children's Social Care National Framework 2026 (the National Framework) statutory guidance, and policy that will underpin the development of the MACPT regulations. • The consultation launched on 22 June and will run until 4 September. We propose substantive changes to Working Together, including on: accountability of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO); MACPTs; the delivery of Family Help and earlier, more joined-up support for families; family networks and family group decision making; a strengthened response to extra-familial harm; child protection for looked-after children; and responding to potential for extreme violence. • MACPTs oversee the development, review, and closure of Child Protection Plans and transitions out of child protection for children at risk of or suffering significant harm. We are also further clarifying how these processes apply to looked after children. <u>Care leavers</u> • The Department is currently undertaking a review of care leaver deaths, as announced in Spring 2026, which is expected to consider safeguarding-related issues and identify any relevant themes or lessons. We will use the findings from this work to inform future policy development and operational practice, including consideration of whether additional safeguarding arrangements or dedicated structures for adults should be introduced. • More broadly, we are already strengthening support for care leavers through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act (2026), including a new duty on local authorities to provide Staying Close support up to age 25.

	Insights from the review will help inform how we continue to develop and improve support for care leavers' safety, wellbeing and access to services.
	DETAILS OF ACTIONS TAKEN, CURRENT ACTIONS, AND PLANNED ACTIONS: Matter of Concern 6: • Keeping children safe, both inside and outside the home, is a key pillar in this government's mission to break down barriers to opportunity. This is reflected in the Children's Social Care National Framework. • Our Families First Partnership Programme, backed by over £2.4 billion funding, and Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 are rolling out the biggest reforms in a generation to family help and multi-agency child protection. • Children who are experiencing, or likely to experience, significant harm outside the home should receive a child protection response, as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026. • Working Together 2026 is also clear that known transition points for a child should be planned for in advance, including where children are likely to transition between child and adult services. • There is further work to update Working Together to ensure consistent identification of and responses to significant harm under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (inside and outside the home, and online); and for MACPTs to oversee the development, review, and closure of Child Protection Plans and transitions out of child protection for children at risk of or suffering significant harm. This includes further clarification of how these processes are applied for looked after children.

DETAILS OF ACTIONS TAKEN, CURRENT ACTIONS, AND PLANNED ACTIONS:**Matter of Concern 7:**

- DfE's [Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care' \(2014\)](#) outlines local authorities' responsibilities to all missing children, including their duty to report all incidences of children going missing from care to the DfE in annual data collections.
- The statutory guidance requires local authorities to share that information locally in a multi-agency forum to prevent all children from going missing.
- We expect statutory safeguarding partners to work together to reduce the chances of children going missing, to respond effectively when they do and understand why.
- When a child is found, they must be offered an independent return interview (Return Home Interview - RHI) and local authorities, police and voluntary services should also work together to build a comprehensive picture of why the child went missing and to understand what support they may need in the future to prevent them from going missing again.
- As government continues to make significant reforms to children's social care, including through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, we are consulting on updating the statutory framework for help, support and protection for children and their families. This will inform revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 (Working Together), the Children's Social Care National Framework 2026 (the National Framework) statutory guidance, and policy that will underpin the development of the Multi-Agency Child Protection Team regulations (MACPT regulations).
- The consultation launched on 22 June and will run until 4 September. We propose substantive changes to Working Together, including on: accountability of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and the role of the LADO; multi-agency child protection teams (MACPTs); the delivery of Family Help and earlier more joined up support for families; family networks and family group decision making; a strengthened response to extra-familial harm; child protection for looked-after children; and, responding to potential for extreme violence.
- MACPTs oversee the development, review, and closure of Child Protection Plans and transitions out of child protection for children at risk of or suffering significant harm.
- The Department for Education, working with colleagues across government, will be updating the content of the guidance for children who go missing from home or care. We will be working closely with a wide range of operational partners and sector stakeholders as part of this process, including on the format for this guidance, to ensure a robust multi-agency response to missing children.

4.	DETAILS OF FURTHER ACTION PROPOSED See responses above.
	Signed:   Secretary of State for Education