

Return Home Interview Training

In the post 21 April 2022 Oversight Board meeting letter, the Acting Commissioner was asked:

“Your Business Plan report stated that the MPS is designing and delivering missing persons ‘Return Home Interview’ training to professionals and partners across London and would be delivered by webinars by March 2022. Please can you advise if this was delivered as planned and what assessment there has been of the impact of this training.”

The MPS has replied:

You asked about progress on the Return Home Interviews (RHI) – if this was delivered as planned and what assessment there has been of the impact of this training. We had originally planned to complete this work by 31 March 2022. Our plan was to co-deliver a pan-London presentation to identified professionals with a local authority. This was initially arranged via the team at London Councils; unfortunately, due to a changeover in staff at London Councils we are now having to adapt our approach to the delivery of the training.

The adapted training webinar will now be police-led and delivered locally to the RHI practitioners within each local authority. This means each BCU will coordinate their linked council partners and we will deliver 12 separate webinars. This will benefit logistics and align local expectations; the BCU Missing Unit (MPU) will also be included to encourage better information sharing. The presentation will focus on intelligence, exploitation and information sharing back to the MPU. We will ensure internal partners such as the Exploitation strand and Op Aegis are sighted.

Having now engaged with Missing Persons Units, the MPS MISPER Co-ordinator has engaged with the Local Authorities to obtain details of those practitioners responsible for carrying out RHIs. We will begin to arrange online training sessions for practitioners now and we expect all 12 webinars to be completed by 30th June.

We have already identified emerging good practice at Bexley Council, the Exploitation Practice Lead runs a monthly meeting, raised specifically to determine with partners how RHIs will be considered and acted upon to disrupt the exploitation of missing children.

17 May 2022