



**Child Absconding Policy 2023**

# **Child Absconding Policy**

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## 1. Introduction

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people, and vulnerable adults accessing intervention through the KORU Project CIC is a core duty of all Koru Project CIC Representatives.

This requires effective, collaboration between agencies and professionals. When a child goes missing or absconds from a KORU Project CIC intervention session, they will be considered at risk. Safeguarding children, therefore, includes protecting them from this risk. All Koru Project CIC Representatives are responsible for protecting children by following the procedures outlined in this policy. To that end, the principles of the Child Absconding Policy are as detailed below.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all Representatives of The KORU Project CIC. This includes freelance therapists, mentors, employees, volunteers, trainees, and students.

## 3. Definitions Used in this Policy

The terms below are used throughout this document with the following definitions:

**Child:** *The 'Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care' issued by the Department for Education in January 2014, define a child to be anyone who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. 'Children', therefore, means 'children and young people' throughout this policy.*

**Child in Care:** *A child who is looked after by a local authority by reason of a care order, being accommodated under section 20 of the Children Act 1989.*

**Absconds:** *A person who intentionally or impulsively leaves The Koru Project CIC intervention without a safe and agreed exit. As such, this person is categorised as a vulnerable person.*

**Responsible Local Authority:** *The local authority that is responsible for a looked after child's care and care planning.*

**Missing Child:** *A child reported as missing to the police by professionals, their family, or carers.*

From April 2013 police forces have redefined 'missing' and 'absent' in relation to children/ young people and adults reported as missing to the police. These are:

**Missing:** *Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established and where the circumstances are out of character, or the context suggests the person may be the subject of crime or at risk of harm to themselves or another'; and*

**Absent:** *'A person is not at a place where they are expected or required to be'.*

### 4. Policy Aims

To safeguard and promote the welfare of children who abscond from intervention facilitated by The KORU Project CIC.

To clarify for employees their duties and responsibilities in relation to children absconding from The KORU Project CIC sessions.

To outline the procedures to be followed when young people go missing.

To clarify expectations for employees on caring for young people upon their return to the intervention provided by The KORU Project CIC.

To emphasise the need to employ effective preventive measures and to learn from experience when these fail and young people abscond from intervention facilitated by The KORU Project CIC.

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

#### 5.1. KORU Representatives

KORU Representatives have a Duty of Care to safeguard the children and young people accessing support from the KORU Project CIC, this includes when a child/ young person absconds from intervention. KORU Representatives must adhere to the following list while supporting children and young people:

- Upon receiving the referral for the child, KORU Representatives must contact the referrer and, if appropriate, parents/ care givers to complete a risk assessment for the child, see appendix 2.
- KORU Representatives must complete a risk assessment of the venue where intervention will take place prior to the initial session, see appendix 5.
- If using their own vehicles to transport children to/from intervention, KORU Representatives must complete the transport risk assessment, see appendix 4.
- KORU Representatives are responsible for ensuring they have completed and maintain up to date Safe Holding Training, Level 3 Safeguarding, and Child Sexual Exploitation Training.
- KORU Representatives must ensure they are familiar with who to contact if a child absconds from intervention, see appendix 1.
- If age appropriate, KORU Representatives should create a therapeutic alliance/ contract with the young person, discussing boundaries of the therapy, including expectations regarding leaving the intervention.
- KORU Representatives must complete the 'My Whereabouts' form if the child they are working with has absconded from intervention previously or if they are assessed to be at significant risk of absconding from intervention. See appendix 3.
- KORU Representatives must record any incidents of a child absconding, or attempting to abscond, on Record My and alert the KORU DSL or DDSL.
- KORU Representatives are expected to facilitate/ attend professional network meetings to review and discuss the care plan for the child.
- KORU Representatives must adhere to the Child Absconding Procedure outlined in chapter 6 of this policy.
- KORU Representatives must attend regular clinical supervision as outlined in the employee contract.

### 5.2. KORU DSL & DDSL

The KORU Project CIC's Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are responsible for overseeing and supporting KORU Representatives in safeguarding children, including safeguarding children in relation to them absconding from intervention.

KORU DSL and DDSL will:

- Support KORU Representatives with reviewing care plans and risk assessments when a child has or is at high risk of absconding from intervention.
- Advise KORU Representatives on safeguarding procedure to implement if a child absconds from intervention.
- Support KORU Representatives by attending/ liaising with professionals if needed.
- Liaise with the local police and Children's Social Care if a child is at high risk of absconding from intervention.
- Facilitate debriefs with KORU Representatives following any use of physical contact with a child.

## 6. Procedure

### 6.1. Indicators that a Child may Abscond from Intervention

The KORU Project CIC recognises that when a child or young person attempts to abscond from intervention, or transport to/from intervention, they are vulnerable to harm through intentional harm and harm through misadventure. A child can abscond for several reasons, the following list of indicators is not exhaustive or definitive, but it does highlight common signs which can assist professionals in identifying children who may be at risk of absconding from intervention.

- Children and young people experiencing suicidal ideation.
- Children and young people who present with impulsive behaviours.
- Children and young people who do not wish to engage with intervention.
- Children and young people who are experiencing thoughts to engage with self-harming behaviours.
- Children and young people who have intent to harm others.

- Children who do not have capacity to understand risks around road safety and how to safeguard themselves in the community.
- Children experiencing difficulties at home

### 6.2. Preventative Measures

At the point of referral, it is the duty of the KORU Representative to contact the referrer, allocated social worker, parents/guardians (unless no consent has been provided to contact parents), and young person to assess known risks and create a risk assessment (including a transport risk assessment, located in appendix 4) which will be reviewed and updated throughout The KORU Project CIC intervention, see appendix 2.

If the referred child is believed to be at risk of absconding from intervention, KORU Representatives should liaise with relevant agencies to mitigate this risk. This will include the consideration of 2:1 working, clear assisted pick-ups and drop-offs and the completion of the attached 'My Whereabouts' form, see appendix 3.

Each venue has a chosen perimeter which identifies the premises, if the child tries to leave the premises, they are trying to abscond. It is the responsibility of KORU Representatives to be aware of where the premises ends and when to action safeguarding steps. KORU Representatives must complete the venue risk assessment, located in appendix 5, prior to intervention.

All children accessing support from The KORU Project CIC should have a clear understanding of the expectations upon them, if age appropriate, through the creation of the therapy contract; to this end, they should be counselled and informed of the risks and actions that will follow should the child abscond from the intervention.

Children's parents/ care givers and relevant external agencies should be informed of this Child Absconding Policy and supported to offer a consistent approach to the care of children, including being proactive about strategies to prevent children from running away; and to understand the procedures that all KORU Representatives must follow if a child absconds during intervention.

The competence and support needs of KORU Representatives in responding to issues concerning a child absconding from The KORU Project CIC intervention should be considered as part of their clinical and peer supervision.



### 6.3. Absconding Procedure for Children Under 16

If a child indicates, either verbally or physically, that they may abscond from the premises, KORU Representatives must attempt to verbally de-escalate this risk and implement regulating techniques to support the child to stay on the premises. If verbal de-escalating attempts are unsuccessful, the KORU Representative should attempt to block their path/ route with their bodies (if assessed safe to do so) or with safe obstacles.

If a child absconds from KORU intervention the KORU Representative should follow the child and encourage them to return to the intervention site or assist them in returning to a known place of safety.

if the child does not wish to return as advised, the KORU Representative should support the child in contacting and waiting for an appropriate parent/care giver /school staff member to collect the child and take them to a place of safety.

If the KORU Representative assess that the child is at risk of coming to harm through absconding from the intervention, they must implement safe holding physical intervention to prevent the child from leaving the premises or coming to harm. KORU Representatives should contact the local police for assistance if they feel unable to secure and safeguard the child without additional aid.

If the child absconds from intervention and the KORU Representative does not know their location, the KORU Representative must contact the local police and report them as a vulnerable missing person. They should follow the script below:

*We are calling from the KORU Project CIC and are looking after a vulnerable child named.....They have absconded from the premises and are at high risk of harm to themselves (or others).” The child is wearing....and has (note identifying features of the child).*

KORU Representatives must adhere to the venue’s missing persons’ policy and contact the child’s parents/care giver to alert them of the safeguarding concern. At this time, the KORU Representative must also alert Children’s’ Social Care if the child is a Child in Care or has an allocated Social Worker. If contact cannot be made with the allocated Social Worker, the safeguarding concern must be shared with the Duty Social Worker.

KORU Representatives must upload the safeguarding concern on Record My and alert the KORU DSL or DDSL if a child attempts or absconds from intervention. If physical intervention is used to safeguard the child, KORU Representatives must record this on Record My and complete the body map section identifying where the child was held and what hold was used by the KORU Representative. KORU Representatives must alert the KORU DSL or DDSL if they use safe holding or any form of physical intervention for a debrief and to review the care plan for the child.

### 6.4. Absconding Procedure for Children Over 16

At the beginning of Koru Intervention, a therapeutic alliance will be agreed between the Koru Representative and the young person. Included in this will be agreed steps to take if the child absconds from the intervention site.

If a child over the age of 16 absconds from the KORU Project CIC Intervention, the KORU Representative should adhere to the agreed therapy contract created by both the KORU Representative and young person. (see Appendix 3) However, if the young person is thought to be vulnerable and at risk of coming to harm through absconding from intervention, the KORU Representative should follow the steps below.

If a young person indicates, either verbally or physically, that they may abscond from the premises, KORU Representatives must attempt to verbally de-escalate this risk and implement regulating techniques to support the young person to stay on the premises.

If a young person absconds from KORU intervention the KORU Representative should follow the young person and encourage them to return to the intervention site or assist them in returning to a known place of safety. If the young person does not wish to return as advised, the KORU Representative should support them in contacting and waiting for an appropriate parent/ care giver/ school staff member to collect the young person and take them to a place of safety.

If a young person absconds from the intervention site and the KORU representative is unable to follow the child, they must attempt to contact the young person via telephone or text (if the child has access to their own mobile phone). If contact is successful, they must advise the child to return to the KORU intervention site or an agreed safe location within a 10-minute time frame. Contact should be maintained during this period.

If contact with the young person is unsuccessful, the KORU Representative must adhere to the venue's missing persons' policy and contact the child's parents/care giver to alert them of the safeguarding concern. If the young person is thought to be a vulnerable missing child and /or at risk in the community, the KORU Representative must immediately alert the local police when they no longer know the location of the young person and report them as a missing child using the script below:

*'We are calling from the KORU Project CIC and are looking after a vulnerable child named.....They have absconded from the premises and are at high risk of harm to themselves (or others). The child is wearing....and has (note identifying features of the child).'*

Alternatively, If the KORU representative assesses that the young person is at risk of coming to harm through absconding from the intervention, they must first attempt to verbally de-escalate the situation. If verbal de-escalating attempts are unsuccessful, the KORU representative should attempt to block their path/ route with their bodies (if assessed safe to do so) or with safe obstacles.

If KORU representatives assess that the young person is at significant risk of coming to harm by absconding from the intervention (e.g. running in front of traffic) KORU representatives must implement safe physical intervention to prevent the child from coming to harm. KORU representatives should contact the local police for assistance if they feel unable to secure and safeguard the young person without additional aid.

Once the police have been contacted, the KORU Representative must also alert Children's Social Care if the child is a child in care or has an allocated social worker. If contact is unsuccessful with the allocated social worker, the safeguarding concern must be shared with the duty social worker.

KORU representatives must upload the safeguarding concern on Record My and alert the KORU DSL or DDSL if a child attempts or absconds from intervention.

If physical intervention is used to safeguard the child, KORU Representatives must record this on Record My and complete the body map section identifying where the child was held and what hold was used by the KORU Representative.

KORU Representatives must alert the KORU DSL or DDSL for a debrief and to review the care plan for the child if they use safe holding or any form of physical intervention.

### **6.5. Multi agency Working**

It is imperative that all Koru Project CIC Representatives maintain clear and effective communication with all relevant external agencies. The professional network should be made aware when a child absconds from intervention either at the time of absconding or as soon as possible afterwards. KORU Representatives may facilitate or attend a professional network meeting to review the risk management plan in place.

If a vulnerable child is not known to children's social care and has absconded from intervention, the KORU Representative should consider referring the child to Social Services and this must be discussed with the parents/ care givers and the professional network.

### **6.6. Protocol for when a Child Returns to the KORU Intervention**

When a child returns/resumes KORU Intervention, the KORU Representative should complete the 'My Whereabouts' form, as soon as appropriate, to explore existing triggers and preventative strategies with the young person to promote their well being.

The KORU Representative should consider if a multidisciplinary meeting, with the young person, parents/care givers and professional network, would be beneficial to explore further support for the young person and their family, and to mitigate risk if child absconds again.

### **6.7. Persistent Absconding**

In the event of persisting absconding from the KORU Project CIC intervention, the KORU Representative must complete the 'My Whereabouts' form and have a clear risk management plan in place, agreed with the professional network and KORU DSL, to take steps to reduce this risk.

KORU DSL should contact the local police department and provide a description of the child using the information from the 'My Whereabouts' form if the child is assessed to be at high risk of absconding from intervention.

## **7. Related Legislation and Guidance**

This policy adheres to the following legislation:

Working Together to Safeguard Children and related statutory guidance (2013); the Missing Children and Adults Strategy (2011); Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation (2009); the Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan (2011); and the Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations volumes on care planning and review.

### 8. Monitoring and Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis or following a major incident relating to a child absconding.

Review date: August 2024

### 9. Further Reading and Guidance

Statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care, January 2014 – [click here](#)

NSPCC - Helping Children who have been abused – [click here](#)

Gov.uk - Missing Children and Adults strategy (2011) – [click here](#)

Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked Guidance (2011) – [click here](#)

Ofsted Missing Children Report – February 2013 – [click here](#)

NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) – [click here](#)

### Appendix 1.

**safeguarding emails to [safeguarding@korucic.com](mailto:safeguarding@korucic.com)**

#### **Useful contacts**

Dorset Children's Advice & Duty Service Helpline (CHAD): 01305 228558

BCP Children's First Response Hub: 8.30 - 17.30 Mon-Fri: 01202 735046

BCP Children's First Response Hub: Out of Hours: 01202 738256

Dorchester Locality - 01305 224220 - [dorchesterlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dorchesterlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

East Locality - 01202 868224- [eastlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:eastlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

North Locality - 01258 474036- [northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:northlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Purbeck Locality - 01929 557000 - [purbecklocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:purbecklocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

West Locality - 01308 425241 - [westlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:westlocality@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Email: [SafeguardingAndStandardsAdvisors@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:SafeguardingAndStandardsAdvisors@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

#### **Dorset Safeguarding Children Board**

Dorset Phone:01305 221196

Website: <https://pdscp.co.uk/>

Dorset Email:[pan-dorsetscp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:pan-dorsetscp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

BCP Email:

<https://pdscp.co.uk/contact/pandorsetsafeguardingchildrenpartnership@bcpcouncil.gov.uk>

BCP Phone: 01202 458873

**Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board**

Phone: 01305 221016

Website: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/dorset-safeguarding-adults-board/dorset-safeguarding-adults-board>

Email: [DSAB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:DSAB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**Wiltshire Contacts (DOFA Details)**

Email: [dofaservice@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:dofaservice@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 456 0108 (select option 3 then option 4#)

**If a child is at risk of immediate harm, KORU Representatives must not delay and should ring 999.**

**Appendix 2.**

**KORU Risk Assessment**

**Risk Assessment Aid**

**When assessing risk associated with child absconding from a KORU session, read case referral notes and consider how the following factors will influence planning of sessions to mitigate risk and help to create an effective response if the child does abscond.**

**Specifying difficulties that affect a child and their behaviour will allow for a more focused and safe intervention.**

## **1 Presenting Problem**

Diagnosis such as Autism/ADHD

Reason for referrals.

Previous history of absconding.

## **2. Predisposing factors:**

Environmental stressors; such as trauma, domestic abuse, experience of foster care or care system. Early developmental factors such as foetal alcohol syndrome and attachment disruption.

## **3. Precipitating factors:**

Recent experience that may cause child distress such as bereavement, homelessness, separation from siblings, bullying, abuse, or exclusion from school.

Triggers during sessions that may cause flight response, such as sensory overwhelm, end of sessions and transport home, or change of routine, location or staff.

**4. Perpetuating factors:** Factors that cause current behaviour to continue. These can include repeating behavioural patterns arising from trauma, including avoidance or safety behaviour, hyper vigilance and impulsivity.

De-escalation techniques specific to child's needs may help divert usual flight response and become more effective over time as relationship between therapist/mentor and child is established.

**5. Protective/positive factors:** This involves identifying strengths or supports that may mitigate the likelihood that a child will abscond.

For example, development of trust between therapist/ mentor and child, through creation of empathetic rapport.

Creating environment that supports the sensory needs of child. (eg. Quiet, low lighting etc).

Particular activities that are enjoyed and/or initiated by child to foster a a sense of safety within a supportive and relaxed environment with trusted adults.



## **The KORU Project CIC**

### **Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan**

**Risk to self:**

*Consider self-harming behaviours, risk-taking behaviours (e.g absconding from home/ intervention)*

**Actions KORU Representatives can implement to reduce and mitigate this risk:**

**Risk to others:**

*Consider historic or current violent behaviours, threats, verbal/ emotional/ physical/ sexual/ financial abuse, or bullying.*

**Actions KORU Representatives can implement to reduce and mitigate this risk:**

**Risk from others:**

*Consider any diagnosis', additional needs, if open to Children's' Social Care, known vulnerabilities e.g exposure to County Lines.*

**Actions KORU Representatives can implement to reduce and mitigate this risk:**

**Risk to physical health:**

*Consider substance misuse, food, and fluid intake, general hygiene.*

**Actions KORU Representatives can implement to reduce and mitigate this risk:**

**Risk to long-term development:**

*Consider engagement with education, school attendance, opportunity to thrive, hopes/worries for the future.*

**Actions KORU Representatives can implement to reduce and mitigate this risk:**

*Please note that this risk assessment is to be completed at point of referral. Further risk assessments may need to be completed, specific to the venue, activities, allergies, or additional identified risks. Risk assessment templated can be found by KORU Representatives on SharePoint.*

Appendix 3.

**My Whereabouts Form**

<p>Sometimes I leave my home, school and Koru sessions when I want to be alone or with friends. I understand that the people supporting me want me to be safe. This plan aims to maintain my independence while mitigating risks that I could be exposed to.</p>	
How likely am I to leave a Koru session	
Places I usually like to go to	
Reasons why I may leave a session	
<b>Risks in the community</b>	
<p><i>Any risks associated with diagnosis, vulnerabilities, social skills, known risks e.g County Lines</i></p>	
<b>If I leave my Koru session</b>	
Initial steps	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Examples</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Follow me to where I feel safe...</i>  <i>Contact me via phone/text (preference) to check on my wellbeing.</i>  <i>Ask my whereabouts and when/if I wish to return</i>  <i>Agree a preferred time to return</i>  <i>Am I safe?</i>  <i>Do I need any support?</i>  <i>Am I at any of my known/favoured places?</i>  <i>(If aged 16 or older) Do you consent to Koru employees contacting your parents if we are worried? – Note that if your whereabouts are unknown (i.e not in school) your parents/ guardians will be contacted.</i></p>
Am I likely to return to the session?	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Will I return to my class at school?</i>  <i>Will I go home?</i>  <i>Do I need a couple of minutes before returning to the Koru session?</i></p>
What to do if I haven't returned when I said I would?	

How long do we leave it before contacting the police?	
If I am unsafe, cannot be located and people are concerned about me, we will follow the Koru Child Absconding Policy and take the steps below.	
<b>What is an emergency for me?</b>	
<i>Triggers that may cause me to leave a Koru session may be.... Things I think you should know....</i>	
<b>In the event of an emergency</b>	
1	Contact to be made with local police and you will be reported as a vulnerable missing person
2	We will contact you via text/ phone call and inform you that we are concerned for your wellbeing and have alerted the police to help locate you.
3	We will contact your parents/ guardians to help locate and support you.
<b>How to approach me (calming strategies and approaches)</b>	
<i>Examples What do I need to help keep me safe? Are there any key phrases you should use or avoid using? Who are the best people to contact me?</i>	

Young Person		Date	
Koru Employee		Date	

<b>My information (to be shared with police if child is reported as a missing person)</b>	
Name	
Gender	
Identifies as	
Pronouns	
Mobile number	
Date of birth	
Ethnicity	
Height	
Build	
Eye colour	
Hair colour	
Distinguishing factors	
Relevant Medical information	

## Appendix 4.

### KORU Transport Risk Assessment

Dear Parent/ Carer/ Young Person,

Thank you for completing the KORU Project Transport Risk Assessment. This will allow us to put the required safeguarding measures in place to support and safeguard you/ your child while transporting them to and from the KORU Project CIC intervention venue. *Please refer to KORU Transport Policy when using your own vehicle to transport children to/from KORU intervention.*

**My/ my child's normal behaviour in a vehicle:**

**Identified triggers for me/ my child:**

**When I/ my child is distressed in a vehicle, I /he /she /they may...**

**You can support me/ my child in a vehicle by:**

*This may include using child safety locks.*

Appendix 5.

KORU Venue Risk Assessment

Address of Venue:

Booking details: Name and contact details:

Contextual Safeguarding: Consider who else may have access to the venue.

		Matrix						
		5	4	3	2	1		
Likelihood	Very likely, occurs frequently	5						17-25 High
	Likely, has before will again	4						10-16 Medium
	Feasible, possible but not common	3						5-9 Low
	Slight, rarely occurs	2						1-4 Very Low
	Very unlikely, hasn't occurred before	1						
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
			Minor injury treated on site	Minor injury treated offsite	Serious Injury (7 day recovery)	Major injury	Potentially fatal	
		<b>Consequence</b>						

Room Building Outside space	Risks Identified	Description	Likelihood of occurrence	Consequence	Level of risk (LXC)	Existing measures Mitigation strategy/ Additional Action	Contingency plan
<i>Location</i>							

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FIRE:**

Fire alarms located:

Fire extinguishers located:

Fire meeting point:

First Aid kit and accident book located in:

## **Absconding Procedure for Children Under 16**

Child indicates through verbal / non-verbal language that they are going to abscond from intervention

KORU Representatives attempt to verbally deescalate and use regulating techniques to support the child to stay on premises (*remember when a child is dysregulated, they may not be able to respond or communicate fully*)

KORU Representatives to physically block their path/ route with staff's bodies or with safe obstacles

KORU Representatives to follow the child if they abscond from intervention and encourage them to return to venue/ contact parents/ care givers to collect the child and wait with the child

If the child is at risk of coming to harm KORU Representatives to implement physical safe holding to safeguard the child (*safe holding should always be with the least amount of physical contact needed to safeguard the child*)

KORU Representatives should contact the local police for assistance if they feel unable to secure and safeguard the child without additional aid

If the child absconds from intervention and the KORU Representative does not know their location, the KORU Representative must contact the local police and report them as a vulnerable missing person

*We are calling from the KORU Project CIC and are looking after a vulnerable child named.....They have absconded from the premises and are at high risk of harm to themselves (or others)." The child is wearing....and has (note identifying features of the child).*

KORU Representatives must adhere to the venue's missing persons' policy and contact the child's parents/care giver to alert them of the safeguarding concern. At this time, the KORU Representative must also alert Children's' Social Care if the child is a Child in Care or has an allocated Social Worker/ Duty Social Worker

KORU Representatives must upload the safeguarding concern on Record My (including body map) and alert the KORU DSL or DDSL.



### Absconding Procedure for Children Over 16

Child indicates through verbal / non-verbal language that they are going to abscond from intervention

KORU Representatives attempt to verbally deescalate and use regulating techniques to support the young person to stay on premises (*remember when a child is dysregulated, they may not be able to respond or communicate fully*)

KORU Representatives should follow the young person if they abscond from intervention and encourage them to return to venue/ contact parents/ care givers to collect the child and wait with the young person

If a young person absconds from the intervention site and the KORU Representative is unable to follow the child, they must attempt to contact the young person via phone or text (if the child has access to their own mobile phone). If contact is successful, they must advise the young person to return to the KORU intervention site or an agreed safe location within a 10-minute timeframe. Contact should be maintained during this period.

If contact with the young person is unsuccessful, the KORU Representative must adhere to the venue's missing persons' policy and contact the child's parents/care giver to alert them of the safeguarding concern. If the young person is thought to be a vulnerable missing child and /or at risk in the community, the KORU Representative must immediately alert the local police when they no longer know the location of the young person and report them as a missing child. They should follow the script below:

*We are calling from the KORU Project CIC and are looking after a vulnerable child named.....They have absconded from the premises and are at high risk of harm to themselves (or others).” The child is wearing....and has (note identifying features of the child).*

Alternatively, If the KORU Representative assesses that the young person is at risk of coming to harm through absconding from the intervention, they must first attempt to verbally deescalate the situation. If verbal deescalating attempts are unsuccessful, KORU Representatives to physically block their path/ route with staff's bodies or with safe obstacles

If the child is at risk of coming to harm KORU Representatives to implement physical safe holding to safeguard the child (*safe holding should always be with the least amount of physical contact needed to safeguard the child*)

KORU Representatives should contact the local police for assistance if they feel unable to secure and safeguard the child without additional aid

KORU Representatives must adhere to the venue's missing persons' policy and contact the child's parents/care giver to alert them of the safeguarding concern. At this time, the KORU Representative must also alert Children's' Social Care if the child is a Child in Care or has an allocated Social Worker/ Duty Social Worker

KORU Representatives must upload the safeguarding concern on Record My (including body map) and alert the KORU DSL or DDSL.