

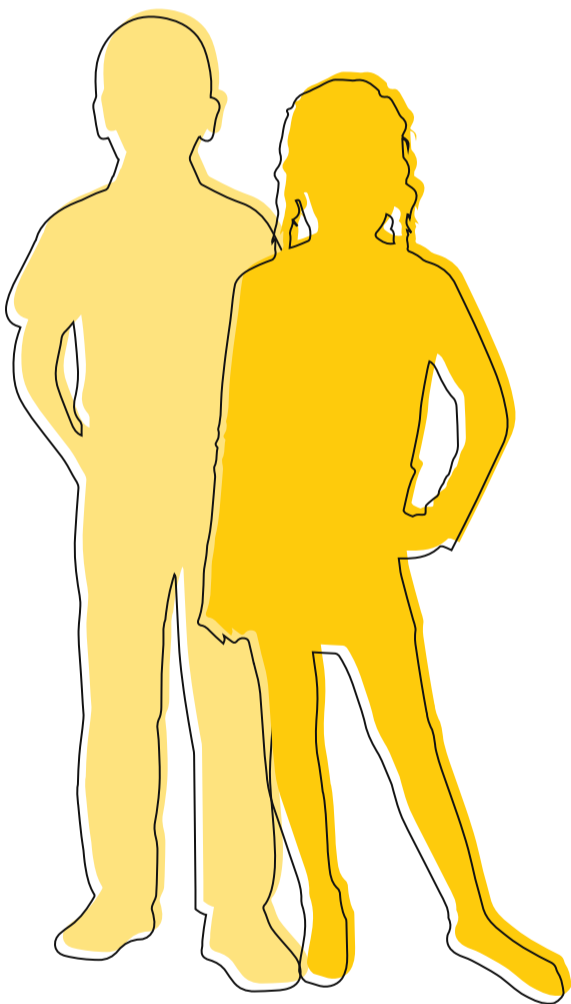
Children may run away from home because they are unhappy or because they are **being coerced and exploited.**

Sometimes children in care choose to **run back to familiar people and places.**

Children who run away will often be **attracted to bigger towns and cities.**

**Towns and cities offer excitement, anonymity** and good transport links to other parts of the country.

## COULD YOU SPOT A MISSING CHILD? ARE THEY:



- too young to be travelling alone?
- or travelling with someone who doesn't appear to be a friend or family member?
- trying to catch a lift into the town from a rural area?
- in a school uniform from a school which isn't local?
- in a uniform but out and about during school hours?
- wearing clothes that are inappropriate for the weather?
- looking lost?
- short of money?
- asking for directions?
- carrying a significant number of belongings with them?
- giving a story that seems implausible and involves needing to get to a place some distance away?
- clearly frightened and anxious?

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- don't attempt to rescue them or restrain them
- be sympathetic and ask them if they're ok
- contact the Social Care duty team if they disclose that they have run away
- contact the Police on 101 to report any concerns, even if the child says they're fine
- ring 999 if you believe the child is in immediate danger.

