

UK Missing Persons Bureau Update – January 2012

Missing Children and Adults Conference 2012

Our popular annual conference returns for 2012, held in association with Missing People, CEOP and the COMPACT User Group. The annual Missing Children and Adults Conference is essential for practitioners and policy-makers who work on the issue of missing people, and includes delegates from law enforcement, social services and the voluntary sector.

The conference will be held on 17 and 18 April at NPIA Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry. This year it will focus on themes outlined in the Missing Children and Adults Strategy recently published by the Home Office, including the *prevention* of people going missing, the *protection* of those who do go missing and the *provision* of services for the families of missing people.

If you would like some more information on attending the conference, please email missingpersons bureau@npia.pnn.police.uk

What do children go through when a family member goes missing?

We have been contacted by Jennie Norris, a final year Clinical Psychologist in training at the University of Hertfordshire. Jennie is running a doctoral research project into the experiences of, and emotional impact upon, children and adolescents when a family member goes missing. She is in the process of recruiting children between the ages of seven and sixteen to take part in

the research to discuss how a family member going missing has affected them emotionally, practically and in their relationships. It is hoped that the study will shed light on how best to support young people in this situation, as currently there is little practical or emotional support available.

Jennie is working in conjunction with the charity Missing People and approached us to seek assistance in her search for potential recruits. If any readers would be willing to assist her research or know of someone who might, please contact Jennie directly at jennie.norris@hotmail.co.uk. Although not commissioned by ourselves, Jennie has kindly offered to share her findings with us.

Operational Round-up

- We were contacted by a member of the public who was looking for his missing daughter. She'd gone travelling overseas seven years ago and was depressed. We advised him to report her missing to his local force and gave him details of agencies that could assist his search. We also liaised with Interpol, who were able to request assistance from the authorities in the country where the daughter was last known to have been. She was located, safe and well and living in the capital city. She agreed to contact her family and we advised her father that she had

been located. He was delighted and told us that it was the best news he could have received at Christmas

- A Force Alert we circulated for a missing girl on behalf of Kent police was acknowledged to have assisted the locating of the girl after officers who had seen the alert recognised her from the photograph
- Support to one of our partners was provided when we were contacted by Missing People. The charity had received a request from a member of the public looking to find out how to declare their spouse, who was lost at sea, deceased. They wondered if a Coroner's Inquest would be appropriate to obtain a death certificate. We contacted the relevant Coroner and identified the procedures in place and were able to pass this information back to the charity and the family member
- Interpol had sent a case to us whereby a man from overseas had come to work in the UK five years ago and had not contacted his family since then. His mother had reported him missing to her local police, who liaised with Interpol to request enquiries in the UK. We made checks and identified an individual with the same name and a possible address for him. We advised Interpol of this address and suggested they liaised with the police in that area to request an officer visit to see if it was the same male. Interpol followed our advice and local officers attending the address spoke to a resident who advised that the individual in question was indeed the man that was being looked for and that he had actually left to return to his home country just a few weeks ago. Checks are being made with the man's family to ascertain whether he has now returned home.



Calling all runners and cyclists

Miles for Missing People 2012

On 17 March in the beautiful Regents Park, London, the charity Missing People is holding the 3rd annual Miles for Missing People 10K run. Missing People would love to see representatives from as many police forces as possible, with support and encouragement from those not so keen on running. This will be a wonderful day for all the family, with the 10k, a 2 mile fun run and free children's race, along with entertainment from the Rock Choir. There is no minimum sponsorship. For further details, please visit www.missingpeople.org.uk/miles.

2012 Cycle Challenge

Missing people has organised a bespoke cycle challenge, with just eight places available. The challenge is to cycle from Edinburgh to Richmond in five days, taking in some of the most challenging climbs in the UK. Organised in association with Ride to Raise and British Cycling, there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £2000. For more information, contact Chrissy.birtwhistle@missingpeople.org.uk.

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