



PACT WELCOMES HISTORIC STEP FORWARD IN CHILD PROTECTION

As a charity which campaigns for more effective action, nationally and internationally, on behalf of missing and abducted children, PACT (*Parents and Abducted Children Together*) has today warmly welcomed the announcement that police responsibility in the UK for missing and abducted children will pass to CEOP (*Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre*).

PACT's Chairman and Chief Executive, Lady (Catherine) Meyer said:

“ This is a truly an historic step forward from which countless children will benefit. It is also a gratifying culmination to years of campaigning by PACT. For more than a decade we have been arguing for a national centre in the UK, which will bring together expertise and resources from police, government and NGOs to protect children. For too long the UK's efforts on behalf of missing and abducted children have been fragmented and ineffective.

With this decision to move responsibility for missing children to CEOP the building blocks of a truly national centre have been put in place. Under Jim Gamble's dynamic leadership, in only a few years CEOP has already significant achievements to its credit in tackling the exploitation of children.

This initiative also meets another of PACT's long-standing concerns – that children, with their unique needs and vulnerabilities, must be treated separately from adults.

I look forward enormously to working closely with Jim Gamble and his dedicated team on an initiative which will transform for the better the lives of thousands of vulnerable children.”

Notes to Editors:

PACT (UK registered Charity No. 1081904)

PACT is an international, non-profit organisation, registered in the UK and the USA. It was founded in 2000 by Lady Meyer, wife of the then British Ambassador to the United States.

Over the years PACT has expanded its initial mission from fighting parental child abduction across frontiers to working on behalf of children who go missing for whatever reason. In this role, PACT works closely with the police, the government and other non-profit organisations. PACT, a driving force behind the Child Rescue Alert and the Missingkids website*, also funds the production and distribution of posters of missing children, taken from the website.

Since 2005, PACT has published three major reports into the phenomenon of missing children to try to establish, in the absence of reliable national data, how many children go missing each year in the UK and what happens to them afterwards. PACT's first report, "Every Five Minutes, 2005" revealed that up to 150,000 children go missing annually.

For more information visit www.pact-online.org

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