Missing from Home and Care
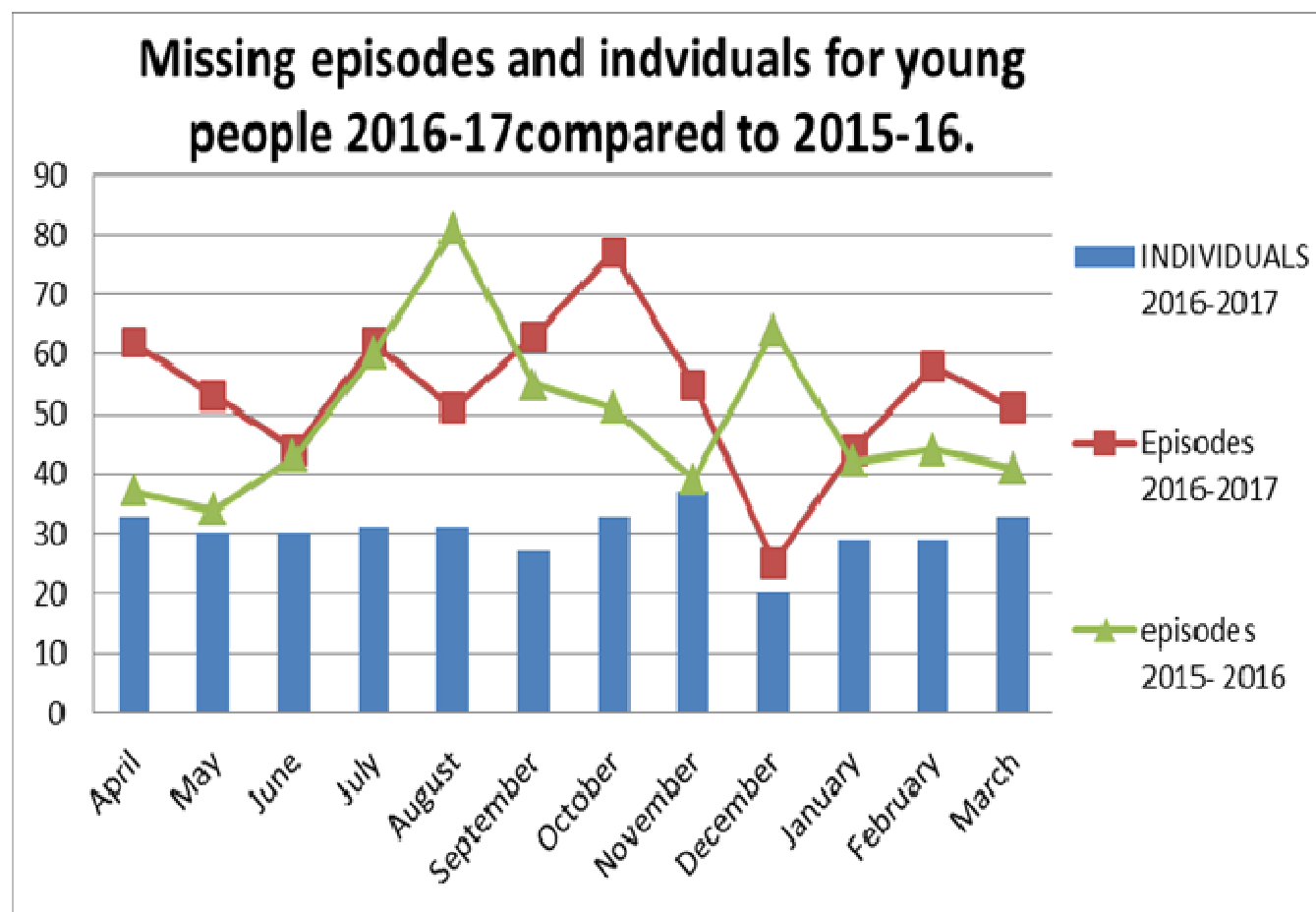
Annual report May 2017.

Missing Episodes and Individuals.

Missing episodes and indviduals for young people 2016-17compared to 2015-16.

Missing Episodes.

- Difference in numbers missing in August in last two years. Did not see spike in numbers that (last year) we attributed to school holidays.

- Contrast Between December 2015 and 2016, which saw lowest number of missing episodes for any month across 2016-17.

- This coincided with lowest number of missing individuals per month across 2016-17.

Missing Episodes.

- 2016-17 saw dips in missing episodes over summer before upward trend from August to October. This contrasted with downward trend over these months in 2015-16.

- relatively stable number of individuals missing each month (and quarter).

- less seasonal trend in missing episodes-patterns and trends related to specific circumstances in individual cases.

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Missing Episodes.

- Over 2016-17, 68% of young people who went missing - did so on one occasion.

- 17.5% of individuals who went missing have been more persistently missing young people.

- In quarter 2, two young people accounted for 53 missing episodes and 2 others (placed at Braidley House) accounted for 16 missing episodes.

Missing Episodes.

- In quarter 3, three young people accounted for 56 missing episodes (2 were the young people who accounted for 53 episodes in quarter 2.

- Quarter 4 – more diffuse pattern of persistently missing episodes- more young people persistently missing but with lower episode numbers than some individuals in quarters 2 and 3.

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Missing Episodes.

- Move from seasonal pattern of missing episodes to one that relates to individual cases - aided by more detailed data capture over past 12 months.

- Persistently missing young people are well known to services have overlapping vulnerability factors -including CSE, criminality, family break-down and substance misuse.

Missing Episodes.

- Young people in care remain more likely to be persistently missing - this is unlikely to change, due to the needs and vulnerabilities of this group.

- Have seen evidence of reduced vulnerabilities and missing episodes for several(former) persistently missing young people over the year.

- Placements of young people (away from Derby) can also impact on missing numbers.

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Missing Episodes.

- All young people who go missing from care and go missing 3 time or more in a month are reviewed at Missing Person's Monitoring Group (MPMG).

Missing Locations.

- Over 2016-17:

- Reduction by 20 individuals missing from home

- But increase by 26 episodes - shows slight increase in persistence for young people missing from home this year compared to last.

- Increase by 5 young people missing from DCC care this year but decrease (by 57) in episodes.

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Missing Locations.

- Has been an increase in missing individuals by 18 and episodes by 30 from Foster Care.

- Increases in missing individuals and episodes from independent homes this year by 11 and 90 respectively.

- Challenges in engaging some of the independent homes in the missing agenda.

- Gables received missing prevention work and have attended MPMG's -has also been prevention work at Oakwood House.
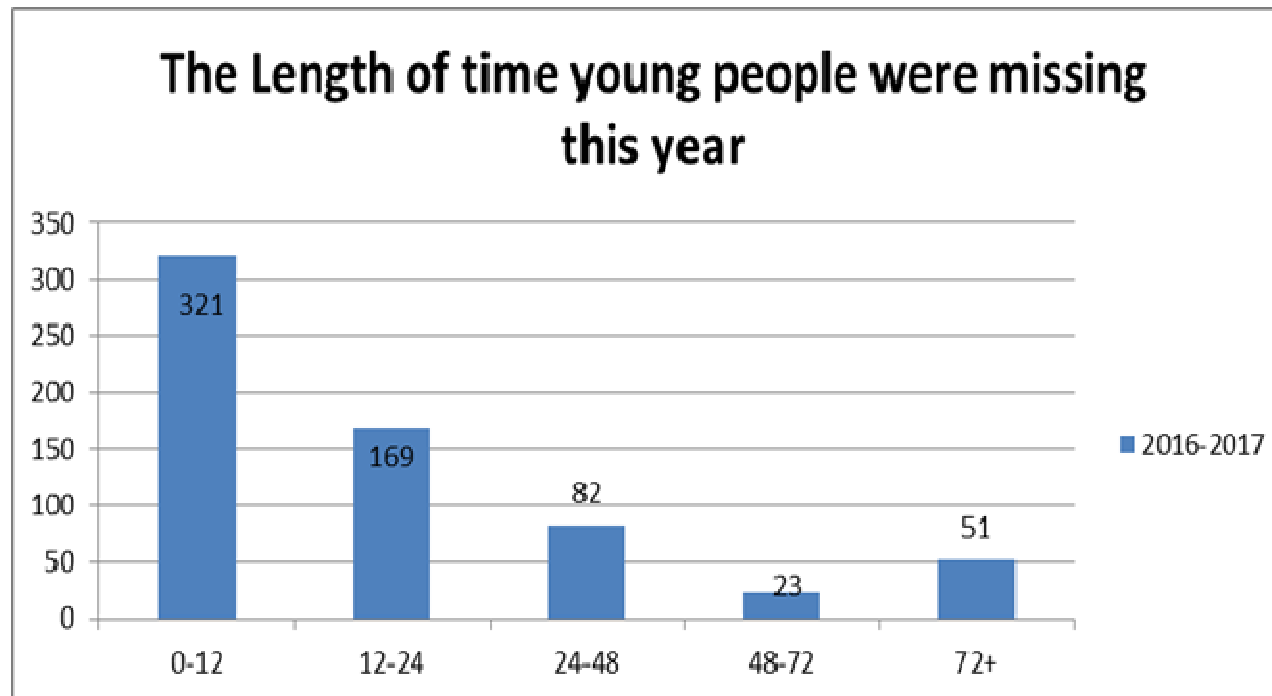
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Missing Locations.

- Overall, has been increase by 7 in missing individuals and 57 episodes in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16. Some of this - due to individual cases, some due to missing data collection processes becoming more robust and reliable.

Missing Time Spans 2016-17.

Missing Time Spans.

- Information is collected from Police systems.

- Most young people went missing for up to 12 hours.

- Number of missing episodes reduces in direct contrast with the increased time periods.

- 72 hours plus category – saw reduction from quarter 1 to quarters 2 and 3, before a slight increase again in quarter 4.

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Missing Time Spans.

- In quarter 3, no young people who went missing for 3 days or more were from DCC homes.

- Where young people have been missing for 3 days or more, 14/23 missing strategy meetings took place in timescales.

- Where meeting did not take place, (apart from one occasion), meetings were planned but young people were located before strategy meeting took place.

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Case Status of Missing Children 2016-17.

Case status	Individuals Missing of this status in quarter 1	Individuals Missing of this status in quarter 2	Individuals Missing of this status in quarter 3	Individuals Missing of this status in quarter 4
Not open to Children's Services	26	26	34	19
Early Help	10	7	9	8
Child in Need	10	13	11	15
Child Protection Plan	1	2	2	5
Child in Care	27	22	19	26 DCC home – 8 Independent home – 12 Foster care - 6
CSE	5	12	7	8

Case Status of Missing Children.

- little change in the number of Early Help cases that have been missing per quarter across the course of the past twelve months.

- Child in Need cases increased by four in quarter 4 to highest number of CIN cases missing per quarter across past twelve - numbers relatively stable across the year.

- Increase by 7 Children in Care missing over quarter 4, -preceded by 2 quarters of reductions. Still most likely group to go
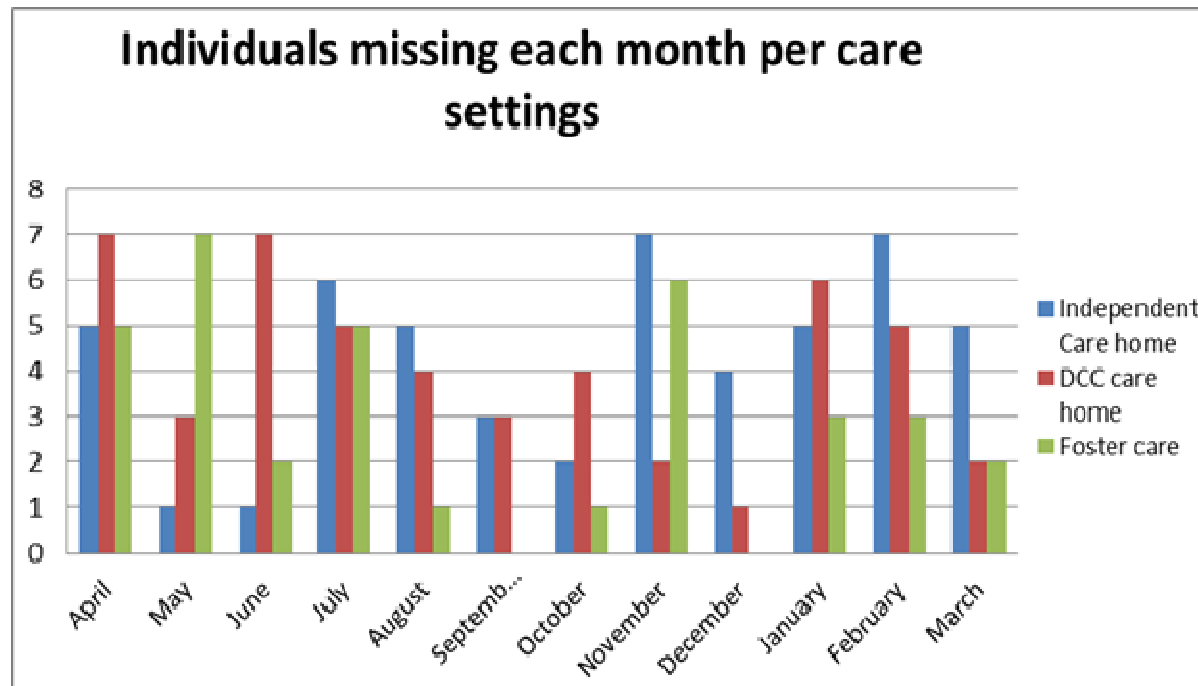
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Case Status of Missing Children.

- Individuals not open to Children's Services when they went missing decreased between quarters 3 and 4 – were stable across first 2 quarters of the year.

- Young people missing and subject to a Child Protection Plan were low across first 3 quarters of year before spike in quarter 4.

- Young people subject to CSE strategy and missing fluctuated, with deeper increase between quarters 1 and 2.

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Individuals Missing from Care Setting.

Individuals Missing from Care Setting.

- Inconsistent picture from independent homes but (generally) higher number of individuals missing from November 16 until April 17 (exempting December).

- In DCC homes - initially higher number of missing individuals at start of year, incremental and consistent downward trajectory from June 16 - January 17. Rise in numbers over quarter 4, more pronounced in January and February 2017.

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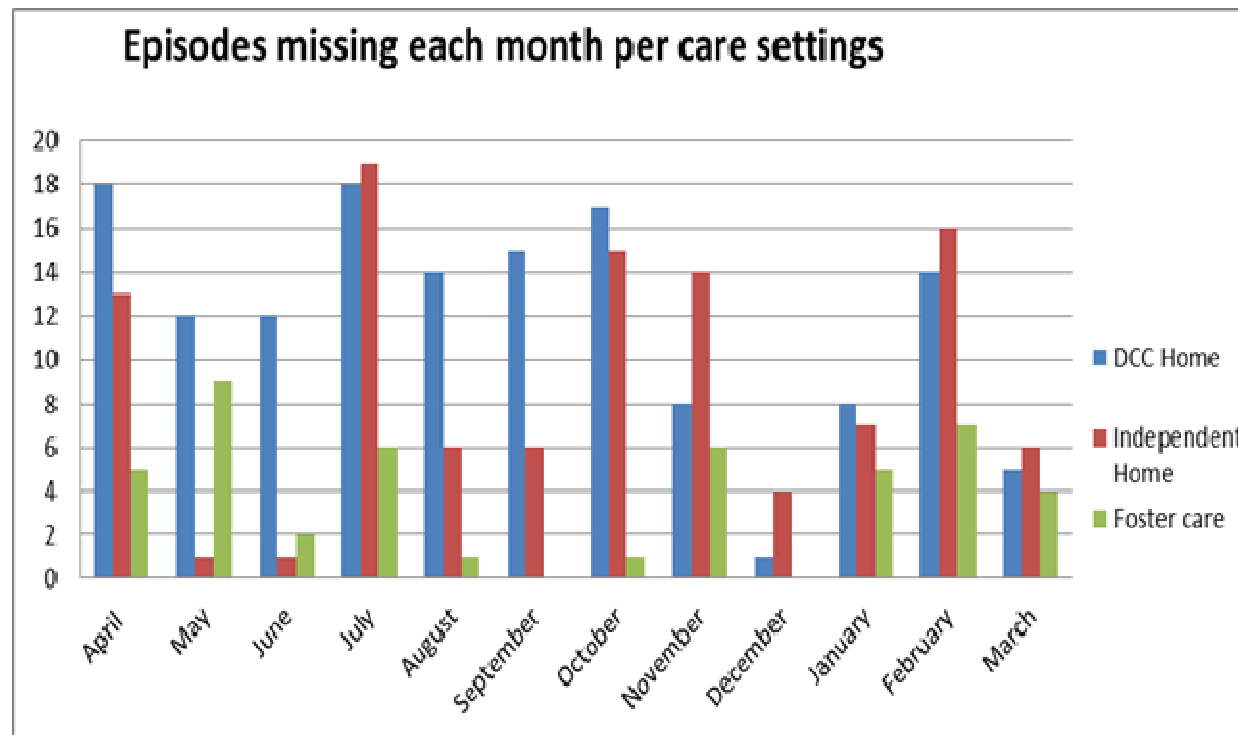
Individuals Missing from Care.

- Picture in foster care is more inconsistent, with much depending on which particular young people are in placement at that point in time.

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Episodes Missing from Care.

Episodes Missing from Care.

- DCC homes - general downward trend over 16-17. Quarter 2 saw rise related to 1 individual having 31 missing episodes, which subsequently abated. Have seen lower missing episodes over past 2 quarters, despite rise in missing individuals in quarter 4.

- Missing episodes from independent homes increased in July - slowed in late summer before increasing in autumn. Episodes slowed over winter months (apart from February 2017)

Episodes Missing from Care.

- Missing episodes fluctuated from foster care, higher numbers of episodes in first and last quarters of 16-17 and relative stability over quarters 2 and 3. Quarter 1's increase appears related to higher number of individuals missing in that quarter.

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Missing Individuals and Episodes from Individual Care Homes.

- In 15-16, Moorfields and Gables were 2 residential homes with highest missing individuals.

- Moorfields, Queensferry Gardens, Cricklewood and Rowan House were homes with greatest volume of missing episodes.

- In last 12 months, Willows and Coronation Avenue are DCC homes with highest numbers of missing episodes.

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Missing Individuals and Episodes from Individual Care Homes.

- Coronation Avenue had higher number of missing individuals than Willows, which had one young person who had a high number of missing episodes, specifically in quarter 2 (31).

- Coronation Avenue had a significant increase in episodes in quarter 4, 11 of which were attributable to 1 young person.

- relatively stability across other DCC homes.

- Missing prevention work took place at Bute Walk and Cricklewood in quarter 4.

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Missing Individuals and Episodes from Individual Care Homes.

- Independent homes - reduction in episodes from Rowan House but increases from Braidley House and Gables.

- 2 young people at Braidley House had high number of missing episodes in quarter 2, one went on to have a high number again in quarter 3 before moving out of Derby in December 16.

- Increases in missing episodes at the Gables were more prevalent in quarter 4.

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Why Young People Go Missing.

Criminal activity	0	1	3
Wanting to return to family	1	8	9
Behaviour problems	2	2	12
Wanting to be with friends	0	4	37
Wanting independence	2	16	69
Drugs	2	1	1
Miscommunication	2	4	13
CSE	6	10	7
Housing problems	6	1	3

Why Young People Go Missing.

- Most prevalent factor given - wanting independence.

- This category also captures issues where young people are pushing boundaries.

- Wanting to be with friends was another area that regularly featured.

- Other factors we thought would appear (substance misuse and behaviour issues)not rated as highly. May reflect issues raised by young people missing less persistently.
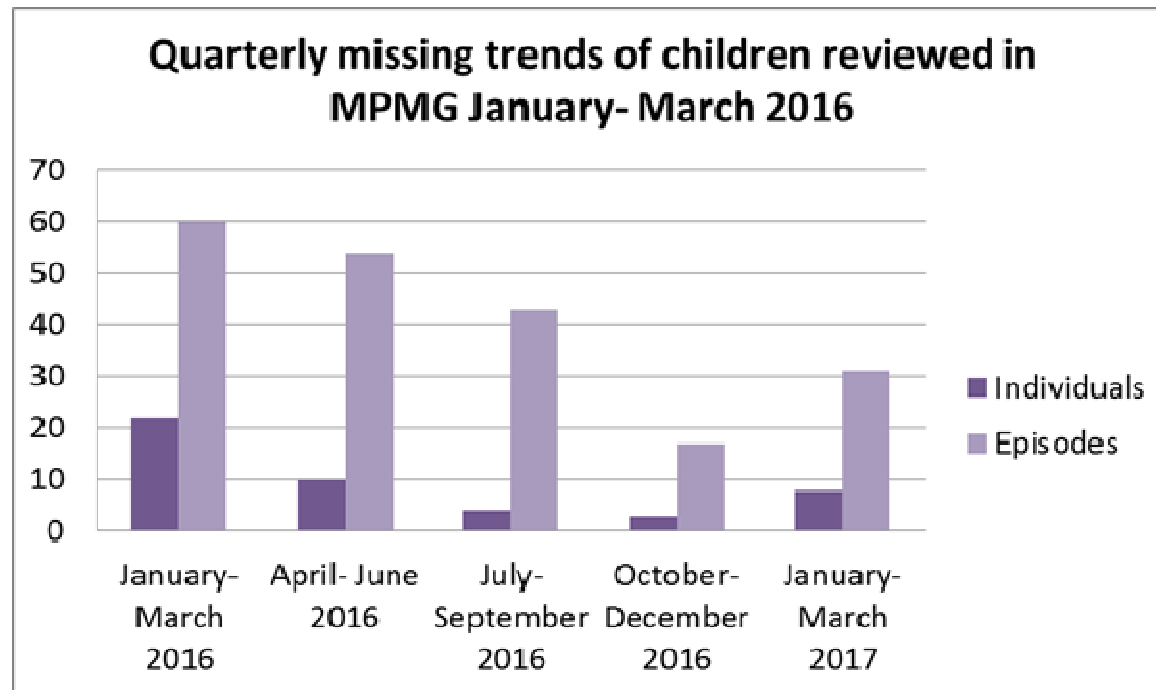
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Derby young people placed out of area (OOA).

- 39 episodes of young people going missing when placed OOA.

- of 38 Return Interviews required - 33 completed within 72 hours.

- 5 times Return Interviews not completed in timescale -due to young person being missing again.

- Relates to 14 individuals

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Impact of Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG) 2016-17.

Quarterly missing trends of children reviewed in MPMG January- March 2016

Impact of Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG).

- We collected information on amount of times 2 groups of young people (reviewed at MPMG between 1.1.16 and 31.3.16) went missing

- Helps to inform whether we are doing a good job in reducing missing episodes.

- 22 young people were reviewed at MPMG between January and April 2016.

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Impact of Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG).

- Decreases in missing episodes from quarter 1 to quarter 4 of 2016-17 from 60 to 54, to 43 and then 18 episodes.

- In quarter 4, this increased (from the prior quarter) to 31 episodes.

- Number of missing episodes is lower than quarter 4 2015-16 and quarters one and two of 2016-17.

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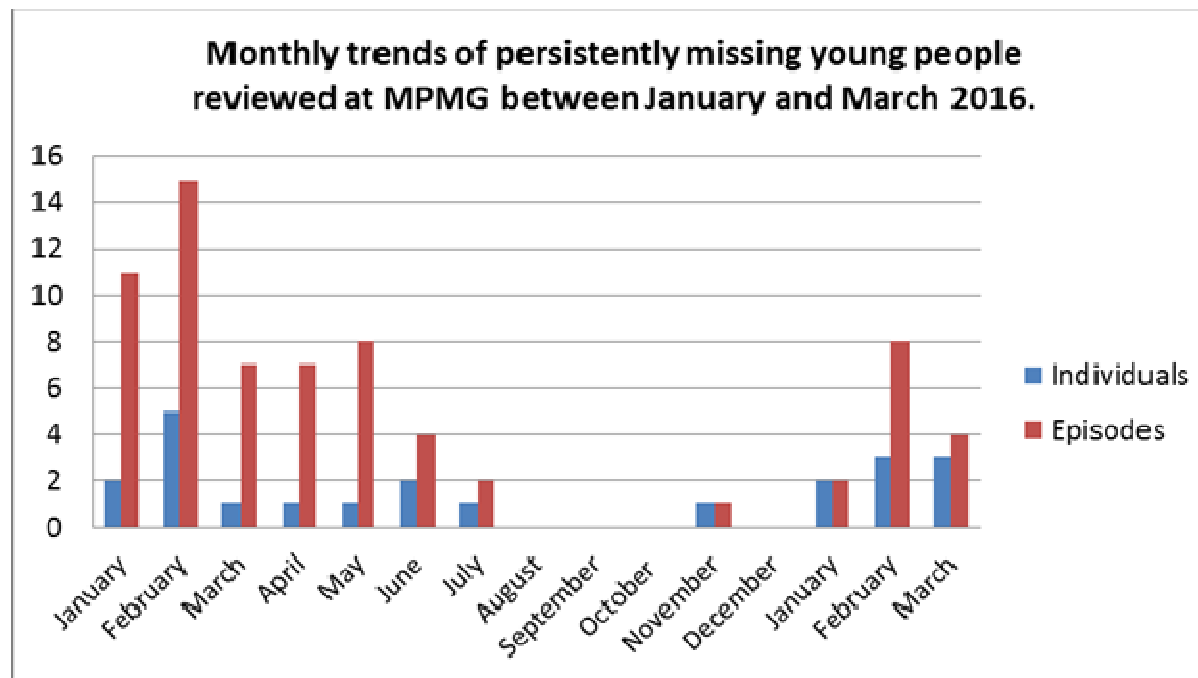# Impact of Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG).

- Every quarter since we began to track this cohort has seen lower number of episodes compared to the quarter we began this tracking exercise (quarter 4 of 2015-16).
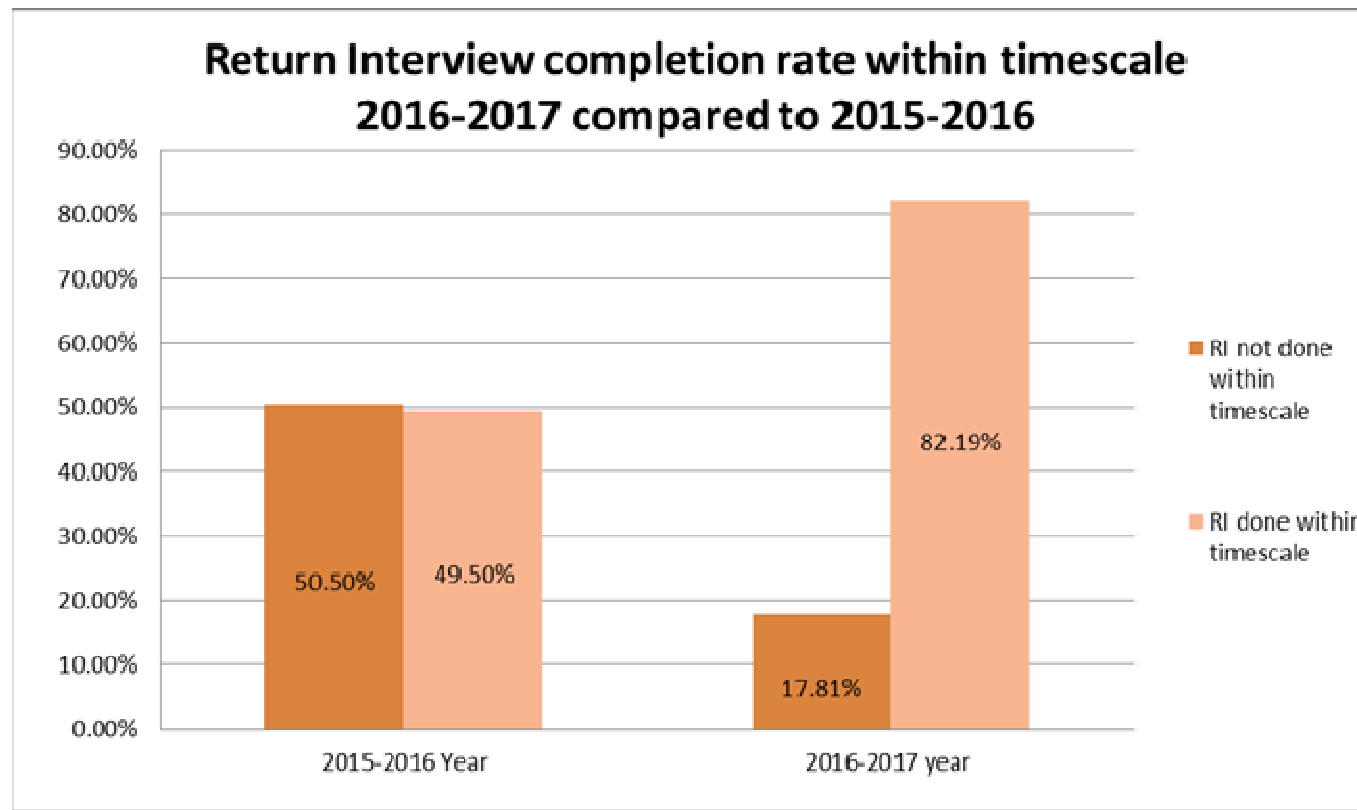
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Impact on Persistently Missing Children 2016-17.

Monthly trends of persistently missing young people reviewed at MPMG between January and March 2016.

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Impact on Persistently Missing Children.

- Decreases in episodes over quarter 1 - sharp decrease in June 2016.

- Continuing decreases over quarter 2 - no missing episodes in either August or September.

- Continued evidence of reduced missing episodes over quarter 3 - just 1 missing episode in November 2016.

- In quarter 4, increase in missing episodes for this group up to 14 episodes.

Return Interviews 2016-17.

Return Interview completion rate within timescale 2016-2017 compared to 2015-2016

- RI not done within timescale
- RI done within timescale

2015-2016 Year: 50.50% / 49.50%
2016-2017 year: 17.81% / 82.19%

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Return Interviews 2016-17.

- Has been improvement from 15-16 by 32.69% for all Return Interviews completed within timescales.

- In quarter 4, completion for Derby young people (residing in Derby) was 93% -had been preceded by performance of: 80%. 76% and 71% in quarters 1-3).

- Over 16-17, completion rate for Return Interviews for Derby young people was 84.5% (5% shy of improvement plan target).

Return Interviews 2016-17.

- compares favourably with 72.35% completion rate for young people placed in Derby by other LA's.

- This figure would be lower – if Derby practitioners did not complete RI's for other LA's.

- Main reason RI's are not completed within 72 hours – young person has gone missing again.

- Prevalent with persistently missing young people.

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Return Interview Quality.

- Quality of Return Interviews audited twice in 2016.

- Need to review format of Return Interview form - a tendency for workers to use this as a tick sheet, rather than provide analysis of where young people went, who with and why.

- Lack of a forensic approach taken to understand young people's pattern/s of missing behaviour.

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Return Interview Quality.

- To aid improvements, we have: developed guidance sheet - launched to practitioners in January 2017.

- Negotiating with county LA and Police re changing Return Interview format, so form is more akin to CSE Operation Liberty form used to pass intelligence to Police by agencies.

- Will launch in conjunction with all Missing episodes being recorded on Liquid Logic system.

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OFSTED Feedback.

- All young people in Derby are offered a Return Interview.

- Return Interviews are completed in a timely manner and young people are provided with an opportunity to have their voice heard.

- Quality of Return Interviews was variable.

- Processes and plans around the management of children missing from home and care are effective.

Progress Against Improvement Plan.

- Vast majority of 2016-17 plan has been delivered and a proposed plan for 2017-18 has been devised – has been to:

- CSE/VYP group – feedback – focus on voice of child and learning from this and need to improve quality of RI's.

- Needs agreement from this group and needs to also go to Corporate parenting and DMT for ratification.

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