



one Derby one council

Report to Derby Safeguarding Children's Board.

Missing Children 2016-17.

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1. Introduction.

The People's Directorate in Derby City is committed to ensuring missing children remains a priority area of practice due to the risks associated both to the department and to young people involved in this risky behaviour.

Derby has a small team of Runaways staff located within Early Help services who work under the guidance and leadership of 3 Multi-Agency Team Managers and a Head of Service (Early Help), who has strategic lead for missing children (this strategic lead changed hands in May 2016).

The arrangements are complemented by a range of other professionals including Derbyshire Constabulary (with the Vulnerability Unit having a close working relationship with the Local Authority), the Youth Offending Service, Safe and Sound, Space@Connexions, Children in Care Team, Child Protection Managers and locality Social Care Teams.

There is an apprentice dedicated to providing data on missing children, which ensures the strategic lead for missing is able to provide the Safeguarding Board (via the CSE and Vulnerable Young People's sub group) data on missing episodes, individuals, return interviews and other areas of data associated with children who go missing in Derby City on a quarterly and annual basis.

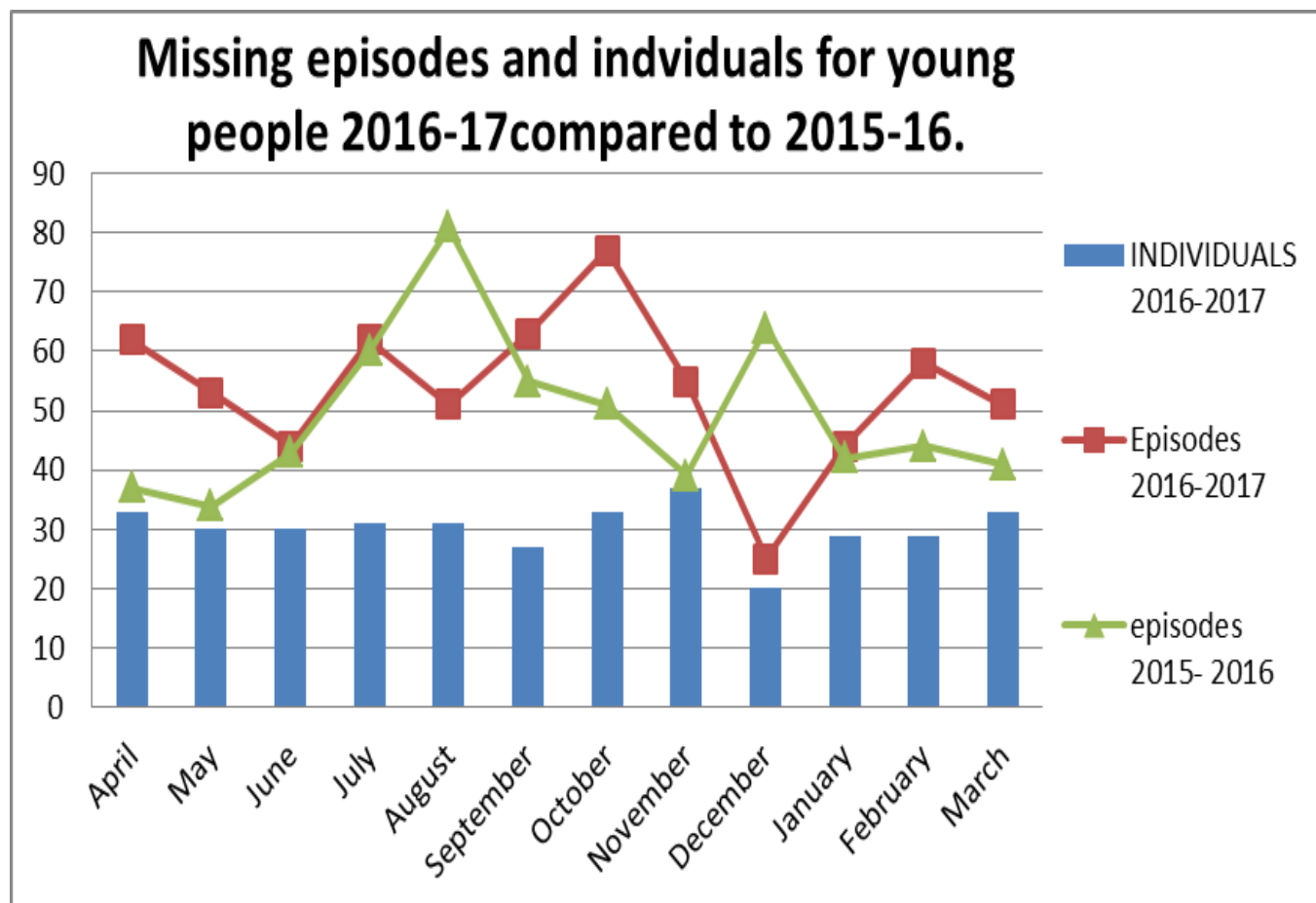
This report provides an overview of missing data, including patterns and themes in Derby over the past 12 months and summarises some of the detailed data and information in each of the quarterly reports that have been submitted to the CSE and Vulnerable Young People's sub group throughout the past 12 months.

2. Executive Summary.

- There has been a significant amount of work completed in relation to missing children in the past 12 months and this is captured in the reviewed missing improvement plan located in appendix 1.
- There has been an increase of 7 missing individuals and 57 missing episodes in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16.
- Individuals missing from home has reduced by 20 but episodes increased by 26 compared to 2015-16.
- There was an increase by 5 in young people going missing from DCC care homes this year and a decrease (by 57) in missing episodes.

- In relation to missing from foster care this year, there has been an increase in missing individuals by 18 and episodes by 30.
- There have been increases in missing individuals and episodes from independent homes in the city this year by 11 and 90 respectively.
- There has not been the seasonal pattern of missing episodes seen in the 2015-16 annual report, instead patterns of missing episodes in 2016-17 appear more closely related to specific young people's circumstances and care placements.
- Most missing episodes were one off/non persistent (68%).
- Most persistently missing young people have multiple vulnerability factors and are well known to services.
- Willows and Coronation Avenue are the DCC homes with the highest missing episodes over 2016-17.
- The Gables and Braidley House are the independent homes with highest missing episodes over 2016-17.
- Children in Care and Child In Need are the case statuses that accounted for the highest numbers of missing episodes of 2016-17.
- The majority of young people, who went missing over 2016-17, went for a shorter period of time (up to 12 hours).
- There is good evidence that missing strategy meetings are being held/arranged in circumstances where young people go missing for 3 days or more.
- When young people go missing for the first time, this tends to be from their family home.
- There has been an improvement from 2015-16 by 32.69% for Return Interviews completed within timescales.
- 84.5% of Return Interviews for Derby young people were completed within the statutory timescale in 2016-17.
- There are some improvements with regard to the quality of Return Interviews but further focus is needed on improving these.
- There is evidence of a positive medium term impact of the multi-agency work taking place to keep young people safe and bring about a reduction in missing episodes.

3. Missing Individuals and Episodes.



The graphs above demonstrates patterns and numbers of missing individuals and episodes in Derby on a monthly basis over the past year and compares the number of episodes per month over the course of the past two years. We have not made a comparison of individuals missing per month, due to differences in the way data has been collected for the annual report in the past two years. This year, we have collected numbers of all individuals missing each month, whereas last year, we collected numbers of newly missing individuals each month, which does not provide us with the ability to make a like for a like for like comparison. However, the numbers of individuals missing over the course of the past two years is captured in the next section of this report.

There are a number of differences between the data pertaining to missing episodes this year compared to last. There is a significant difference in the numbers missing for the month of August in the last two years. This year, we did not see the spike in numbers that (last year), we attributed to the school holiday period and the impact of

longer, lighter nights and the increased freedom experienced by young people across the city at that time of the year.

We also saw a sharp contrast in the month of December between the two years. Whereas December 2015 saw a spike in numbers of missing episodes, December 2016 saw the lowest number of missing episodes for any month across 2016-17. This did however coincide with the lowest number of missing individuals per month across 2016-17.

In 2016-17, there was a downward trend of missing episodes across quarter 1, which is not in keeping with the gradually upward trend observed in 2015-16. This year, we experienced dips in missing episode numbers over the summer period before an upward trend from August to October, which saw the highest point of missing episodes in a one month period over 2016-17. Again, this contrasted with the downward trend over these months in 2015-16.

Quarter 4 saw a generally upward trend in missing episodes, whereas in the preceding year, the numbers were lower and had a much flatter trajectory.

What we can (and have) observed throughout the year (via quarterly reports to the CSE and Vulnerable Young People's sub group), is a relatively stable number of individuals missing each month (and quarter). This year, there was less of a seasonal trend in missing episodes and the explanation for patterns and trends in missing were related to the specific circumstances in individual cases, the dynamics/make up of young people in residential homes across the city and the associations/relationships between groups of vulnerable young people.

Whilst the focus of a deep tranche of resources for missing is on those young people with higher numbers of episodes, over 2016-17, 68% of young people who have gone missing have done so on only one occasion.

Over the course of 2016-17, 17.5% of individuals who have gone missing have been more persistently missing young people, i.e. those who go missing 3 or more times in a quarter (not a statutory measure but one we have adopted in quarterly reports to the CSE and Vulnerable Young People's sub group). This group, as has been seen in quarterly reports, tends to account for some of the spikes in missing episodes at various points in the year.

To demonstrate the statement above, in quarter 2, two young people accounted for 53 missing episodes and 2 other young people (placed at Bradley House) accounted for 16 missing episodes. There was also an incident at the Gables (due to conflict caused by an individual which affected the behaviour of other young people placed there), resulting in several young people going missing.

In quarter 3, three young people accounted for 56 missing episodes (2 were the young people who accounted for the 53 episodes in quarter 2, although 1 of these young people had a sizeable decrease in their missing episodes that quarter). The third young person (who had complex vulnerability needs) had been placed in Derby by another Local Authority (LA) and was persistently missing up until they were placed outside of Derby in December 2016.

Quarter 4 saw a more diffuse pattern of persistently missing episodes than the 2 preceding quarters, with a larger number of young people being more persistently missing but with lower episode numbers than some of the individuals in quarters 2 and 3. 15 young people (who made up 21.5% of the entire missing cohort that quarter) went missing 3 times or more in quarter 4.

The move from a seasonal pattern of missing episodes to one that relates to individual cases has been aided by the gradually more detailed data we have captured over the past 12 months. Alongside quantitative data on patterns and themes related to missing, practitioners from residential services, Multi-Agency Teams and Social Care now provide contextual information on cases that helps us capture a richer form of analysis, which is then presented to the CSE and Vulnerable Young People's sub group.

In the main, those cases that display persistent missing patterns of behaviour are well known to services and have several overlapping vulnerability factors, which have included Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), criminality, family break-down and substance misuse. Young people in care remain a group who are more likely to be persistently missing and this is likely to be a pattern that is unlikely to change, due to the needs and vulnerabilities of the group of young people that enter care.

We have however, seen evidence of reduced vulnerabilities and missing episodes for a number of (former) persistently missing young people over the year and section 11 of this report looks at the impact of work to help bring about these reductions.

Across the year, all young people who go missing from care are reviewed at the multi-agency Missing Person's Monitoring Group (MPMG), which involves information and intelligence sharing with agencies such as the Police, Youth Offending Service (YOS), Runaway staff and managers, Safe and Sound, Space@Connexions and Health. Young people who go missing 3 times or more in a month are also reviewed at this group. Lead Professionals present their cases to the group and additional actions to help manage vulnerability and bring about reductions in missing are agreed and added to young people's lead plan (which could be a CSE strategy plan, Child in Need plan etc.).

Across the year these plans have encompassed intervention from Safe and Sound (medium and high risk CSE cases), work and advice/hands on preventative work

from residential staff to young people in care, work delivered by YOS, Social Workers/MAT workers, including delivery of Runaways prevention work. The Police also adopt a pro-active approach in targeting those who may be harbouring young people via door to door enquiries, use of Harbourers Warnings, bulletins to Safer Neighbourhood Teams (in locations young people have been missing) and ensuring that information on the top 10 missing individuals each month is shared with senior managers (and then teams) in Children's Services.

The numbers in the graph above include young people who have been placed in Derby by other Local Authorities.

4. Missing Locations.

The data held in the table below provides an outline of the locations young people went missing from in Derby City over 2015-16 and 2016-17. For individuals who went missing from home, this year we have included in this category young people who live with extended family members (hence why the other setting column in the table below states N/A for 2016-17).

There has been a reduction by 20 in individuals missing from this setting (27 if we include those missing from other settings in 2015-16) but an increase by 26 episodes (which would be 4 if we included missing episodes from other setting in 2015-16), which shows a slight increase in persistence for young people going missing from home this year compared to last.

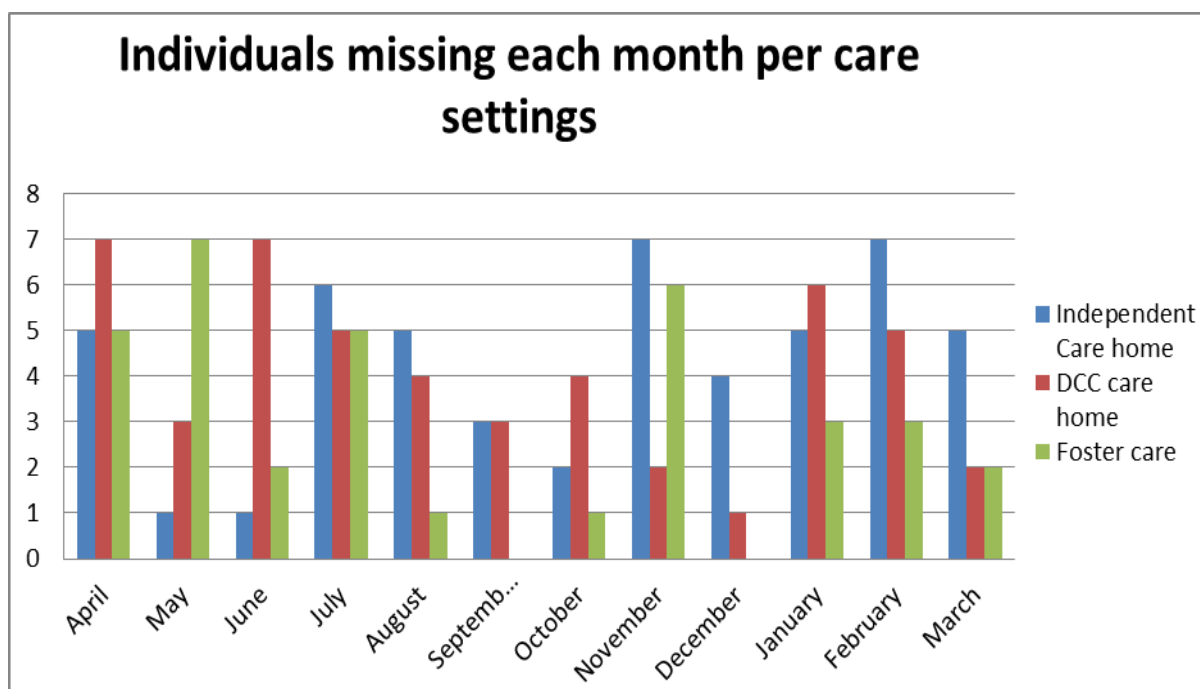
Despite an increase by 5 young people going missing from DCC care homes this year, there has been a decrease (by 57) in episodes of missing. This is due to work that has been on-going within homes this year by residential staff to prevent missing episodes taking place, such as: taking young people to activities, following young people and bringing them back to the home when staff are aware that a missing episode might take place, ensuring young people have a phone with them when they go out and offering to pick young people up from activities. It is also clear that residential services are well aware of and compliant with the missing protocol and are represented on all of the key groups that oversee missing arrangements in the city, such as the MPMG and the Missing Task group. There have been, as mentioned in the prior section of this report, significant reductions in missing episodes for a number of individual young people in care across the year.

	2015- 2016	2016-2017
Individuals missing from Home	159	139
Episodes of missing from Home	323	349
Individuals missing from DCC Home	12	17
Episodes of missing from DCC Home	199	142
Individuals missing from Foster Home	7	25
Episodes of missing from Foster Home	17	47
Individuals missing from Independent Homes	11	22
Episodes of missing from Independent Homes	28	108
Individuals missing from Other Settings (placed with extended family)	7	N/A
Episodes of missing from Other Settings	22	N/A
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	196	203
TOTAL EPISODES	589	646

In relation to missing from foster care this year, there has been an increase in missing individuals by 18 and episodes by 30. We have seen some challenging and complex young people placed in foster care this year, which contributed towards these increases.

There have been increases in missing individuals and episodes from independent homes in the city this year by 11 and 90 respectively. We had persistent missing behaviour from Bradley House in 2016 and the Gables has also seen a group of young people (particularly in quarter 4) display increased missing episodes. We have found challenges in engaging some of the independent homes in the missing agenda. However, the Gables have received missing prevention work and have also attended the last 2 MPMG's and there has also been prevention work at Oakwood House in October 2016. The Corporate Parenting lead (assisted by a MAT Manager) is acting as a point of contact between the Local Authority and independent homes in the city on a range of vulnerability issues, including missing young people and we hope this approach generates greater buy in from the homes over the next 12 months.

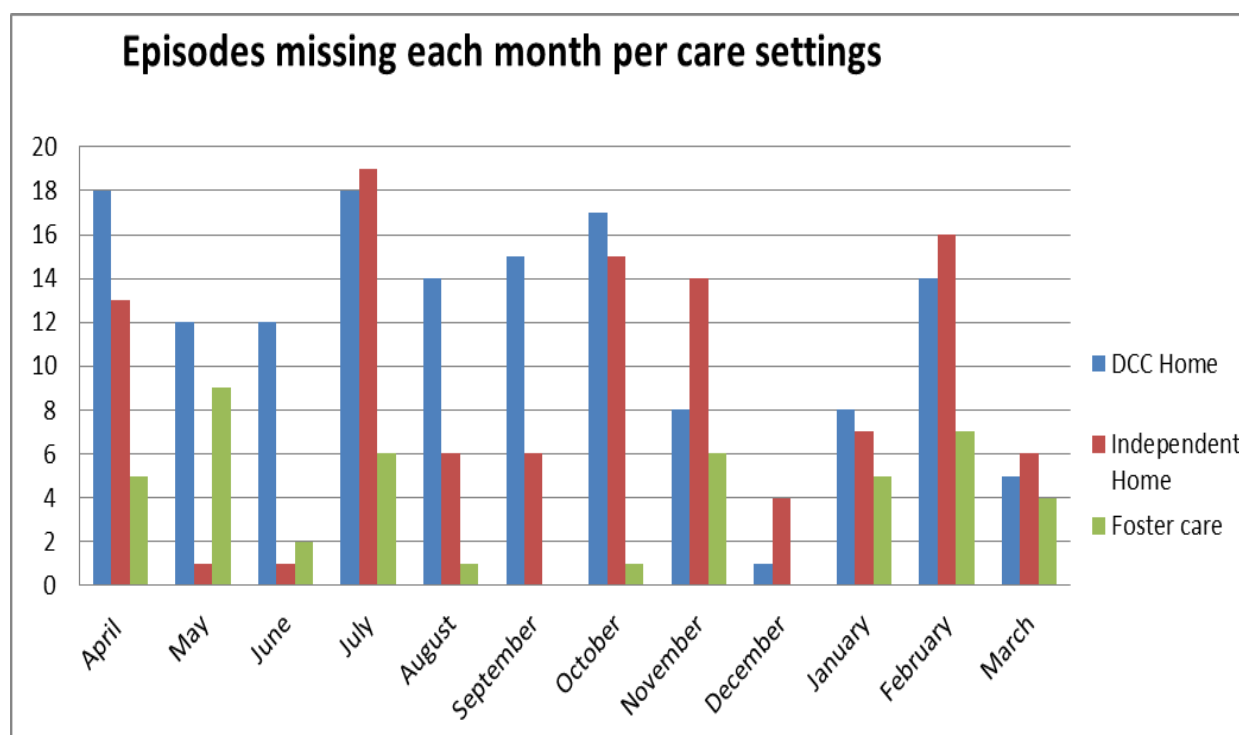
Overall, there has been an increase by 7 in missing individuals and 57 episodes in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16. Whilst some of this is due to the individual cases that have gone missing this last year, missing data collection processes have become more robust and reliable.



We have captured the numbers of individual young people going missing from the 3 forms of care each month over 2016-17. What we can observe, is that there is an inconsistent picture from independent homes but with a (generally) higher number of individuals missing from November 2016 up until the end of the year (exempting December). This perhaps reflects the more frequently changing dynamics within these homes of young people being placed (particularly from other LA's) and then moved on again in a relatively short period of time.

The picture in DCC homes is more consistent over the period of 12 months and perhaps reflects the relative stability of placements for young people in DCC homes. There was an initially higher number of missing individuals at the start of the year, which then showed an incremental and consistent downward trajectory from June 2016 until January 2017. We then see a rise in numbers again over quarter 4, which is more pronounced in January and February 2017.

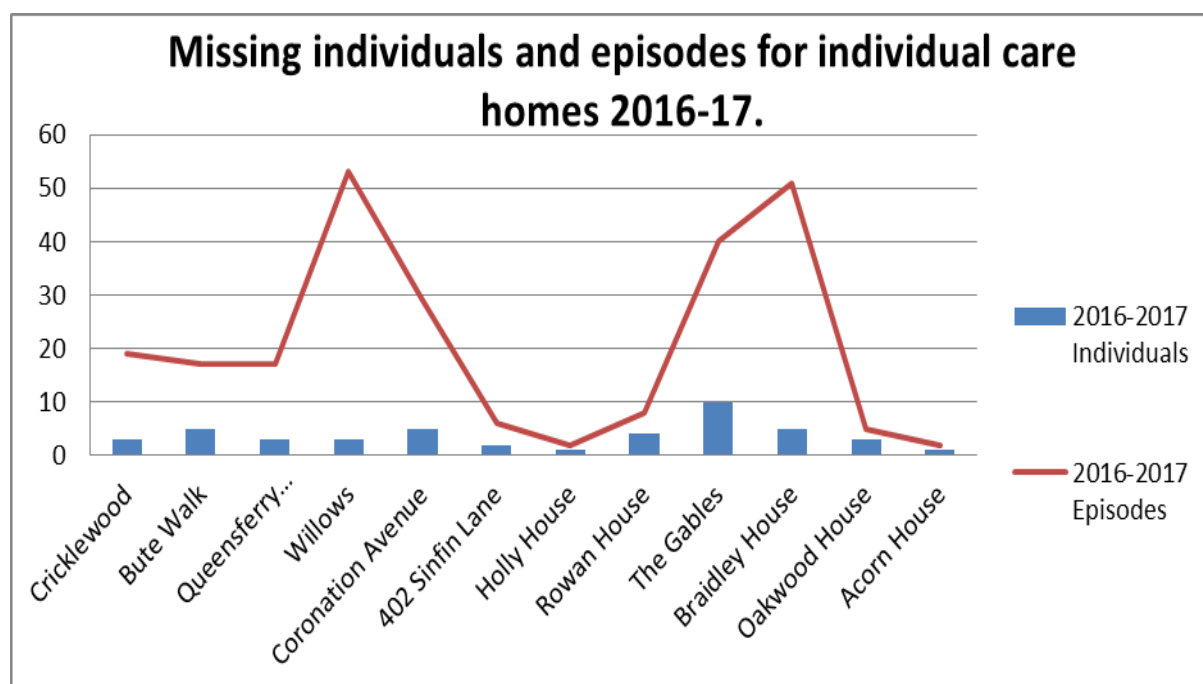
As with independent homes, the picture in foster care is more inconsistent, with much depending on which particular young people are in placement at that point in time.



Missing episodes across the year have varied but in relation to DCC homes, we have seen a general downward trend over the year. In quarter 2, we saw a rise but this was related to 1 individual having 31 missing episodes from a DCC home in that quarter, which subsequently abated. We have then seen lower missing episodes over the past 2 quarters, despite a rise in missing individuals in quarter 4 from DCC homes.

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

Numbers of missing episodes has fluctuated from foster care, with higher numbers of episodes in the first and last quarters of 2016-17 and relative stability over quarters 2 and 3. Quarter 1's increase appears related to the higher number of individuals missing in that quarter.



In 2015-16, Moorfields and the Gables were the 2 residential homes that had the highest numbers of missing individuals, whilst Moorfields (again), along with Queensferry Gardens, Cricklewood and Rowan House were the homes with the greatest volume of missing episodes.

Queensferry Gardens closed for refurbishment work in March 2016 and young people were placed in other homes around the city.

Since that point in time, Moorfields has been converted into 2 smaller separate units (the Willows and Sinfin Lane) and as can be seen in the graph above, in the last 12 months, Willows and Coronation Avenue are the 2 DCC homes with the highest numbers of missing episodes. Coronation Avenue re-opened in quarter 1, following refurbishment work and has had a higher number of missing individuals than Willows, which had one young person placed there, who had a high number of missing episodes, specifically in quarter 2 (31). This inflated missing episodes for that home and over the past 2 quarters, missing episodes have significantly decreased there. Coronation Avenue had a significant increase in episodes in quarter 4, 11 of which were attributable to 1 young person.

There has been a relatively stable number of missing episodes across other DCC homes, with missing episodes usually showing changes based on changes in young people in that placement/s. Missing prevention work has taken place at Bute Walk and Cricklewood in quarter 4, delivered by the MAT Runaways practitioner in that locality.

In relation to independent homes, there has been a reduction in missing episodes from Rowan House but increases from Braidley House and the Gables. There were 2 young people in placement at Braidley House who had a high number of missing episodes in quarter 2, one of whom went on to have a high number again in quarter 3 before moving out of Derby in December 2016.

Increases in missing episodes at the Gables have been more prevalent in the past quarter, where a group of 4 young people have begun to associate and subsequently been missing on several occasions together. One of these young people has now moved out of placement and it is hoped that this will help lessen missing episodes from that placement.

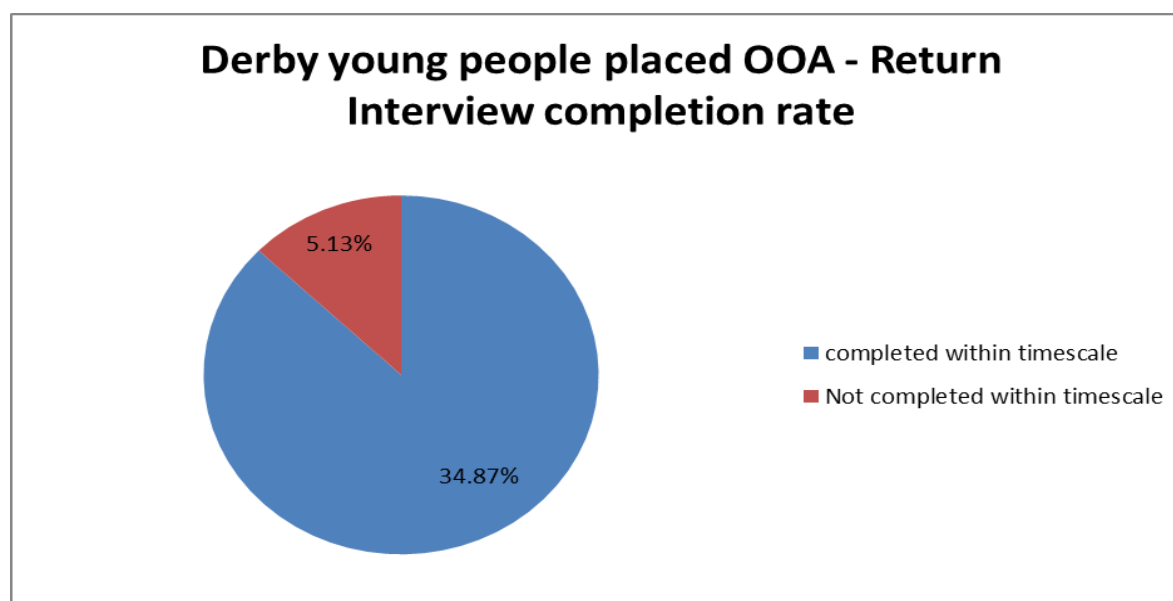
Prevention work has been delivered to Oakwood House and the Gables in 2016-17 and our desire is to ensure other independent homes receive this in 2017-18.

5. Derby young people placed out of area (OOA).

We have been collecting data relating to young people who have been placed by DCC in placements outside of the city over the past 12 months. There were 39 episodes of young people going missing when placed OOA. On one of these occasions, the episode was for 15 minutes and so a Return Interview was not needed or completed. This would normally be categorised as absent in Derbyshire (therefore not requiring a Return Interview unless specifically asked for by the young person) but the local constabulary's practice was to record this as missing.

Therefore, of the 38 Return Interviews that were required, 33 were completed within 72 hours. The 5 times Return Interviews were not completed in timescale, was due to the young person being missing again.

The pie chart on the next page visually represents this performance, which relates to 14 different individuals, all with a Child in care case status.



6. Case Status of Missing Children and Young People in 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
CSE	5	12	7	8

The table above provides us with an overview of the case status of individuals who went missing in 2016-17 across quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4. The number of individuals in

the far right column totals 73, although only 70 individuals actually went missing in that quarter. However, 3 of those young people had a change of case status between their initial missing episodes and subsequent missing episode/s.

What can be seen from this is that there has been very 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 have increased by four in quarter 4 to the highest number of CIN cases that have been missing per quarter across the past twelve months, although the numbers have been relatively stable across the year.

There was an increase by seven of Children in Care going missing over quarter 4, which had been preceded by 2 quarters of reductions. The 27 missing individuals from care seen in quarter 1 was the highest over the year.

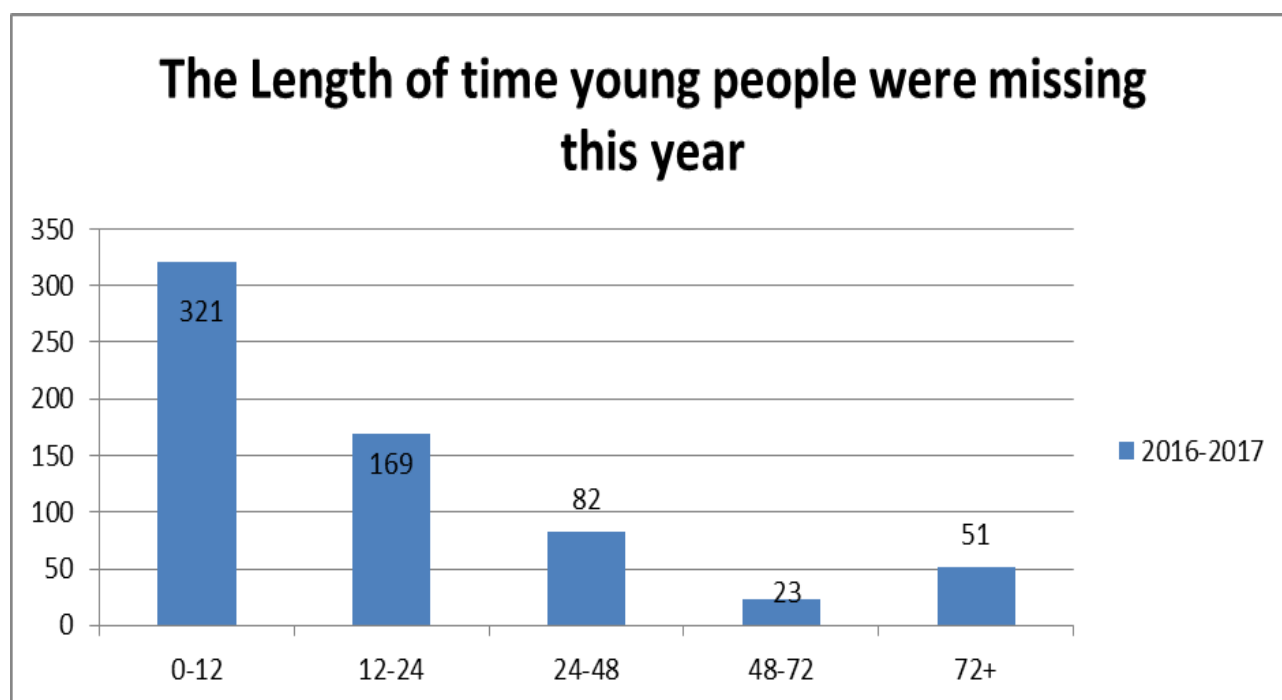
The number of individuals who were not open to Children's Services when they went missing decreased by fifteen between quarters 3 and 4 but had been stable across the first 2 quarters of the year.

Children and young people who went missing this year and who were subject to a Child Protection Plan were very low across the first 3 quarters of the year before a slight spike in quarter 4.

Young people subject to CSE strategy who have been missing over the past year has fluctuated with a deeper increase between quarters 1 and 2. All of these young people have a primary case status such as CIN, Early Help etc.

What the table above does is clarify that Children in Care is the area where resources need to continue to be focused over the course of the next 12 months.

7. Length of time young people go missing.

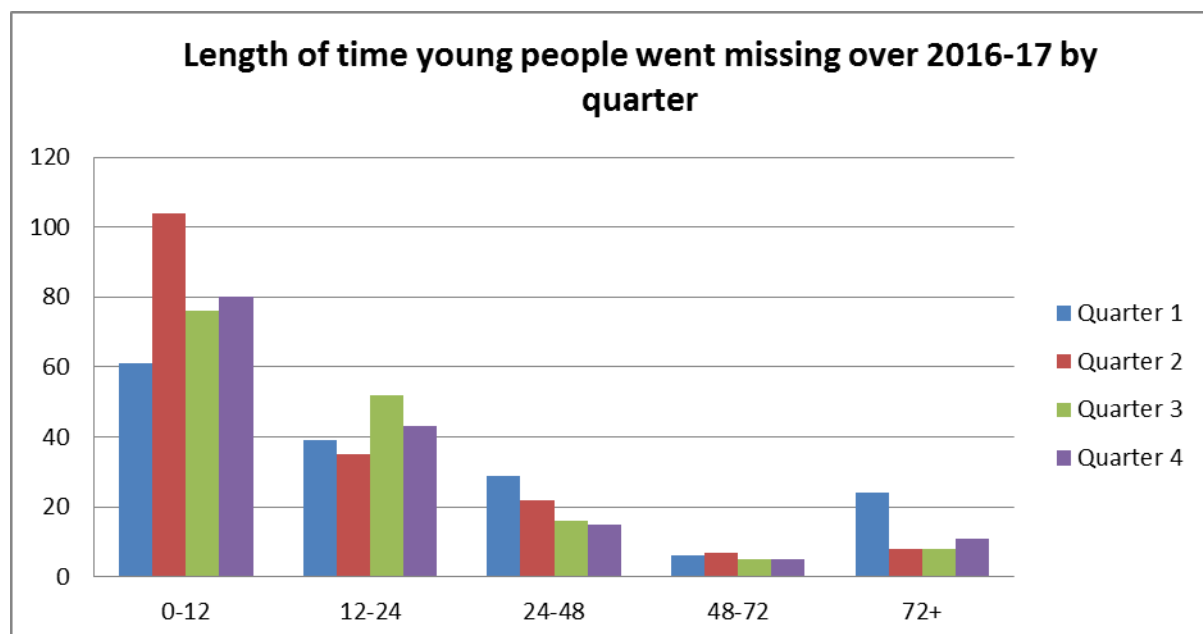


Over the course of 2016-17, we have collected the length of time that young people have gone missing for, in line with the action contained in the improvement plan. We have seen a consistent picture in quarterly reports where the majority of young people going missing, did so for the 0-12 hour time period, which is the shortest time category. What has also been consistent, is that the number of missing episodes reduces in direct contrast with the increased time periods. The only time category this is not consistent with, is the 72 hours plus category.

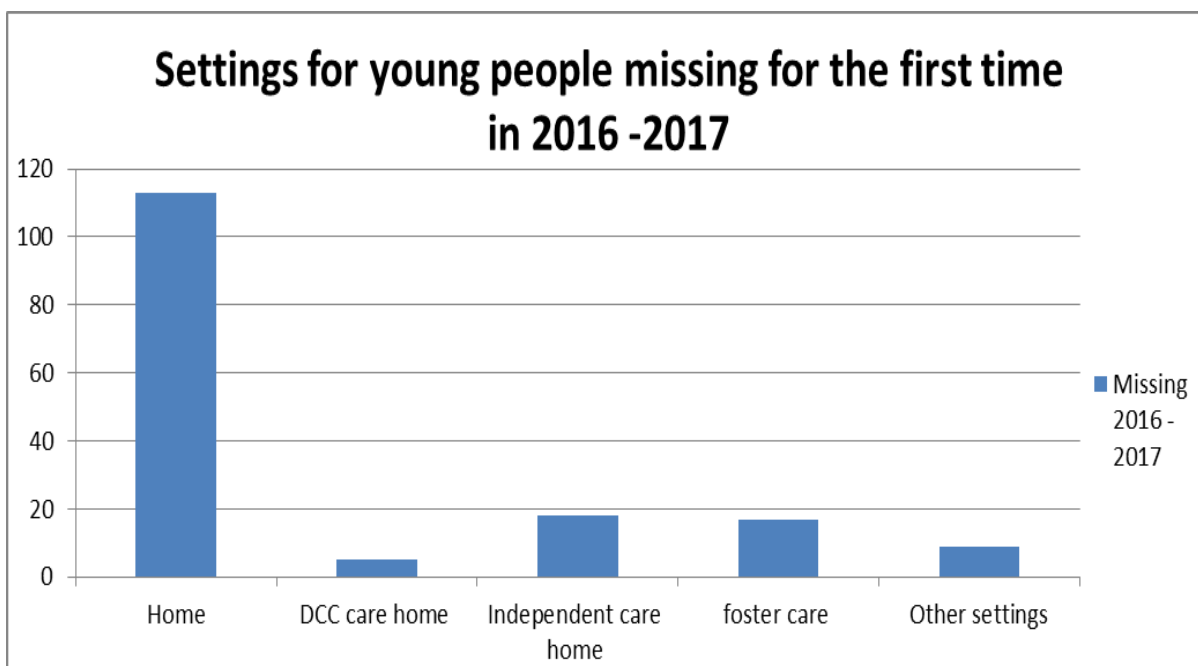
In relation to the 72 hours plus category, we did see a reduction from quarter 1 to quarters 2 and 3, before a slight increase again in quarter 4, as can be seen in the graph on the page below. Encouragingly, in quarter 3, none of the young people who went missing for 3 days or more were from DCC homes. Although this did change in quarter 4, when there were 4 incidencies of young people going missing from DCC care homes for this time period. Since quarter 2 this year, we have looked at whether missing strategy meetings have taken place (in line with the Missing and Runaway from home protocol) for those episodes where a young person has been missing for 3 days or more. What we have seen is that 14/23 have taken place in timescales. Although this may seem disappointing at face value, on the occasions where the meeting did not take place, (apart from one occasion), meetings were planned but young people were located before the strategy meeting took place.

There were 4 episodes of missing for over 3 days (in quarter 4), which related to young people placed by other LA's in Derby and for which we do not keep records on whether these strategy meetings took place within timescales.

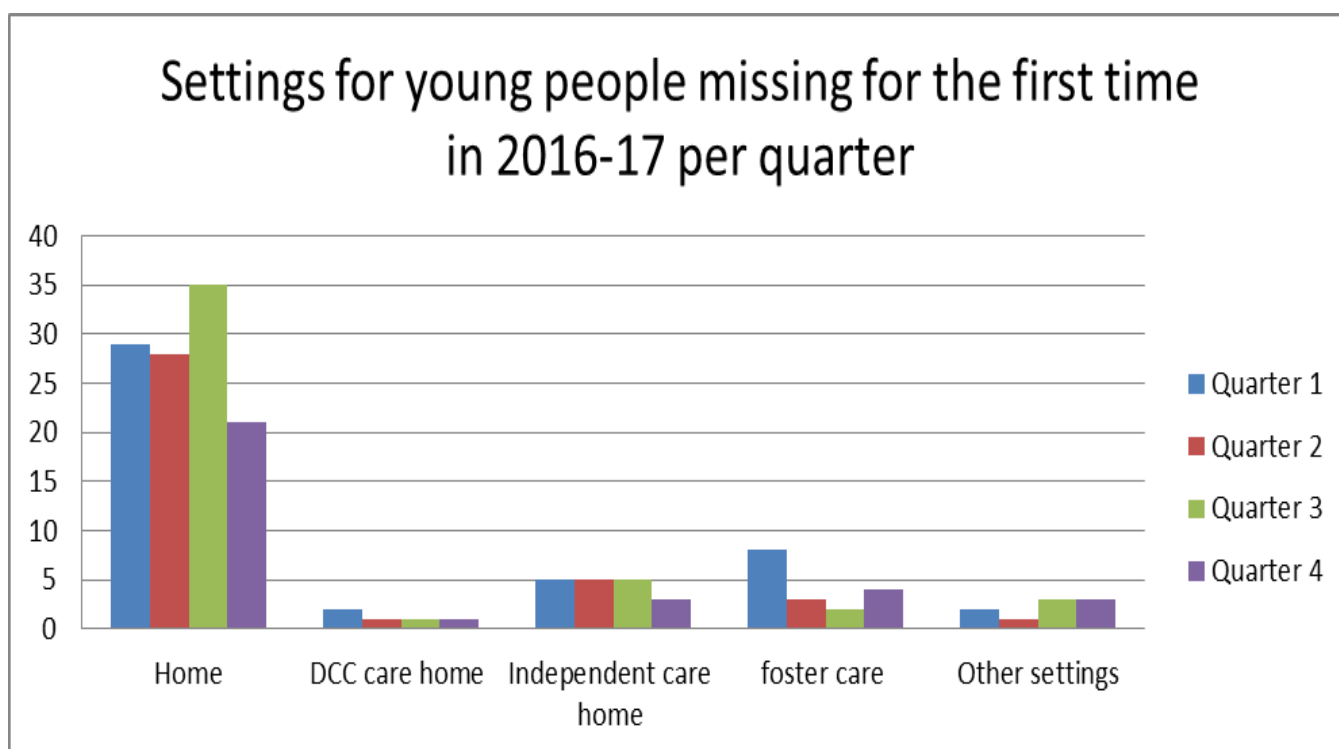
On the other occasion, the young person was located by Police and sent to custody before the strategy meeting could take place.



8. Location of missing for the first time.



As can be seen in the graph above, the majority of young people who went missing for the first time in 2016-17 were those who went missing from home. There were very small numbers missing (for the first time) from DCC care homes across the year. There were more who went missing for the first time (to our knowledge) from independent homes, although we are of the view that a number of these young people may have been missing from previous care placements before coming to Derby. We are aiming to improve information sharing from other LA's for young people placed in Derby as part of our action plan for 2017-18.



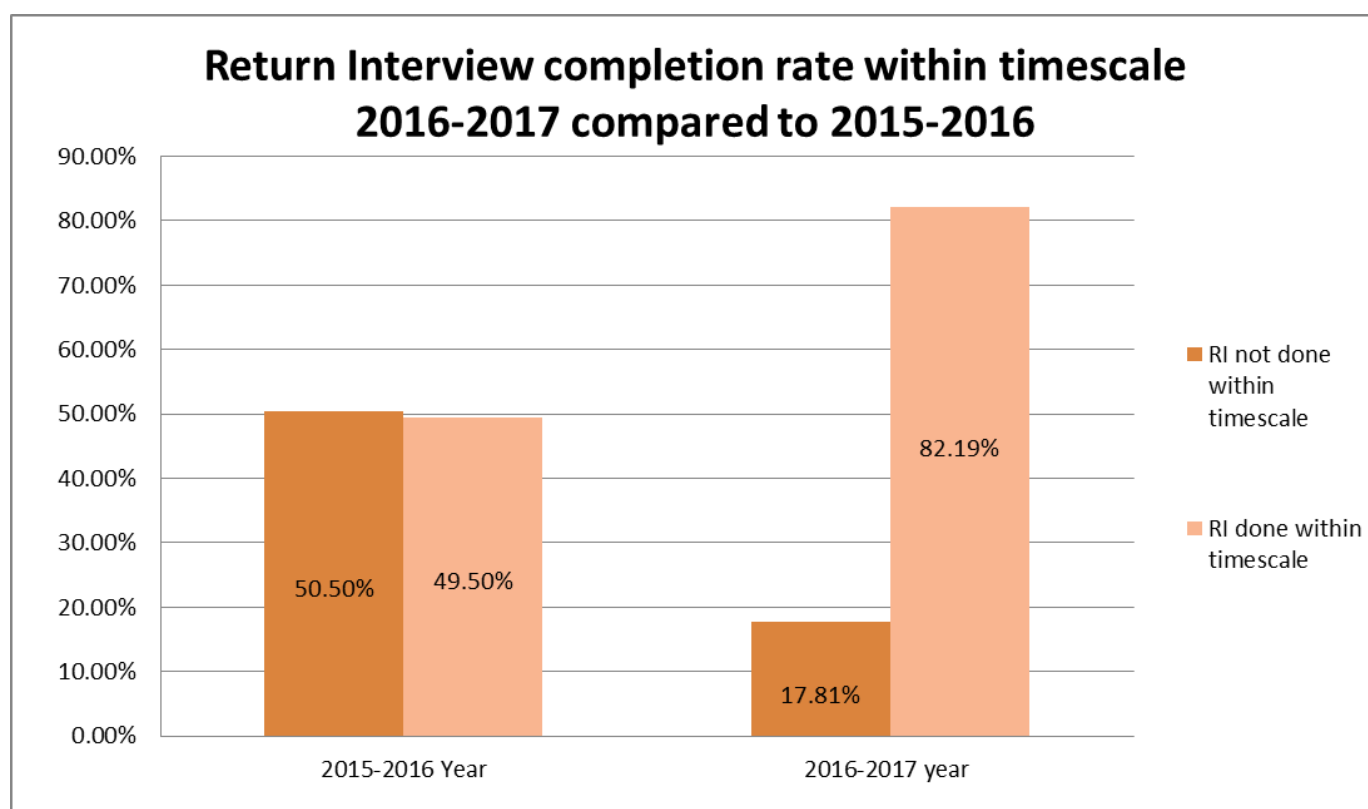
The graph above details the quarterly pattern for missing for the first time per location. The stability for DCC (and independent homes) can be seen in this graph, whilst the fluctuations in foster care appear to be related to the number of individuals who went missing in quarters 1 and 4. Other settings relates to young people living with other family members, such as Grandparents, aunts/uncle's etc.

9. Professional Judgement why young people go missing.

	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
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

The table above provides feedback from young people (collected from Return Interviews) on the reasons they went missing/ran away from home. This has been collected over the past 3 quarters and the most prevalent factor given, was wanting independence. This can seem a little mis-leading, as this category also captures issues where young people are pushing boundaries. Wanting to be with friends was another area that regularly featured. It is perhaps surprising that other factors that we might have thought would appear more frequently in this analysis (such as substance misuse and behaviour issues), are not rated as highly as issues such as wanting independence. However, this may reflect issues raised by young people who went missing less persistently/went missing as a one off incident, as this group formed the majority number of young people who went missing in the city across the year. This is an area of work that requires further development over the next 12 months if we are to gain an improved insight into the behaviour that underpins missing episodes.

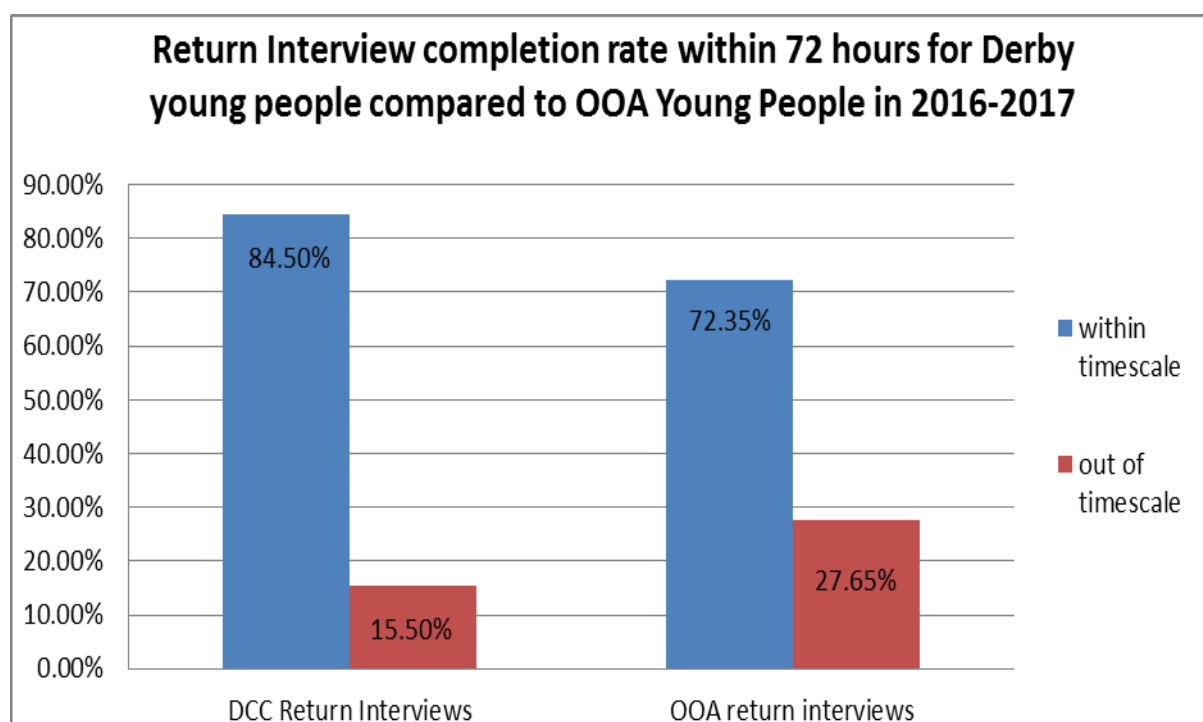
10. Return Interviews 2016-17.



Return Interviews must be carried out by an independent person within 72 hours of a child returning to their home or care setting, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Responsibility for these depends on the circumstances of the missing incident, i.e. with previously unknown cases; they are carried out by a worker from a Multi-Agency Team (MAT). It remains the responsibility of the relevant Lead Professional to ensure completion of the Return Interview for all other missing children, within 72 hours. All Return Interviews should be retained on the child's file and passed to the Police Missing Persons Liaison Officer and locality Runaways Worker.

It is the responsibility of the relevant Social Worker to undertake the Return Interview for children missing from care. If a young person is a looked after child from a different LA but placed in Derby, the LA who placed that child will be notified and they should make arrangements for the Return Interview to be completed but they can make arrangements for a worker from the MAT in Derby to complete the interview should they not be able to.

The graph above highlights the per-centage of Return Interviews that were completed within 72 hours across 2016-17. What this displays is that there has been an improvement from 2015-16 by 32.69% for all Return Interviews completed within timescales.



The 2016-17 missing improvement plan contained an outcome to improve compliance with Return Interviews to 90%. Whilst this has not been achieved over

the course of the year for all Return Interviews, in quarter 4, completion for Derby young people (residing in Derby) was 93% (which had been preceded by performance of: 80%, 76% and 71% in quarters 1-3). Furthermore, the graph above highlights that over the course of 2016-17, completion rate for Return Interviews for Derby young people was 84.5% (just 5.5% shy of the target in the improvement plan), which compares favourably with the 72.35% completion rate for young people placed in Derby by other LA's. It should also be noted, that the figure for young people placed in Derby by other LA's would not be at this level, were it not for the help provided by Derby practitioners for other LA's, when that LA has either not been able to get to Derby in a timely way to complete the interview; or when we have made contact with that LA and there has been no response and we have wanted to ensure that the young person has had an independent Return Interview within statutory timescales.

A weekly process is in place to ensure any outstanding Return Interviews are chased up by the strategic lead for missing children in Derby. This has been significantly aided by the "hands on" approach to chasing up Return Interviews that has been adopted by the Missing Apprentice since his move into this role.

There are often reasons why Return Interviews are not completed within the 72 hour timescale, across the year we looked into this and the main issue relates to persistently missing young people going missing again when a practitioner goes to their place of residence to complete a Return Interview. Workers will try to have a face to face interview (with young people) on a minimum of 2 occasions (in line with DCC guidance on completing Return Interviews) and if there has not been an opportunity to do this, they will use information from parents/carers and partner agencies to complete the Return Interview form, before sharing this with the Police. Other reasons for non-completion of Return Interviews within timescales includes: weekends and Bank holidays impinging on workers time to complete these.

Preliminary feedback from OFSTED included that all young people in Derby are offered a Return Interview and these are often held in a timely manner and with a clear opportunity for young people to provide their view.

11. Quality of Return Interviews.

The Quality of Return Interviews has been audited twice this year, in September and December 2016. What the audit found, was that:

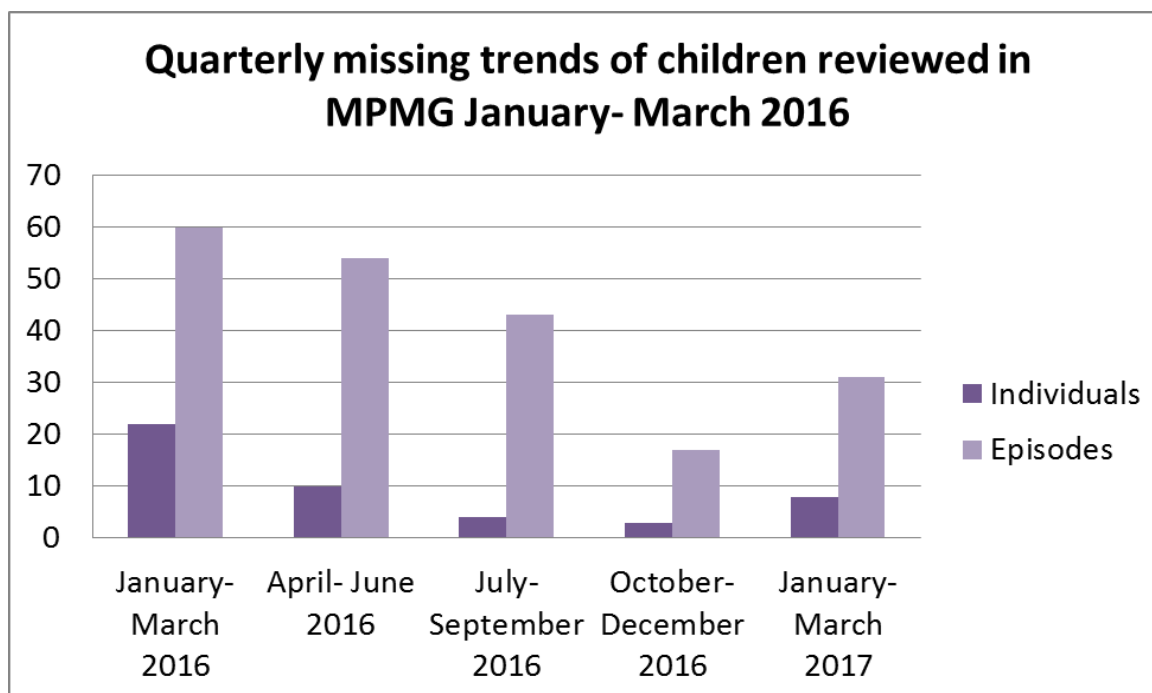
- There was a need to review the format of the Return Interview form, as there was a tendency for workers to use this as a tick sheet, rather than provide a detailed analysis of where the young person went, who with and why.

- There was a lack of a forensic approach taken by practitioners to understand young people's pattern/s of missing behaviour, i.e. are there specific triggers for certain individuals, are young people going to the same locations, is the length of time they go missing increasing?

We have developed a guidance sheet, which was launched to practitioners in January 2017 and we are currently in negotiations with the county LA and Police with a view to changing the Return Interview format, so the actual form is more akin to the Operation Liberty/Skriver form used in passing CSE information/intelligence to the Police by agencies. We want to launch this in conjunction with all Missing (from care initially) episodes being recorded on the Liquid Logic system, so that Managers have to authorise Return Interviews as being of a good quality standard. This is a longer term piece of work, which will form part of the 2017-18 improvement plan.

OFSTED made some preliminary comments on Return Interviews as part of their inspection of Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children in Care and Care Leavers (The Single Inspection Framework), which took place between 6.3.17 and 30.3.17, noting that Return Interviews are completed in a timely manner and young people are provided with an opportunity to have their voice heard within these but that the quality of Return Interviews was variable, which is something we have known as a LA for a period of time and which we continue to address.

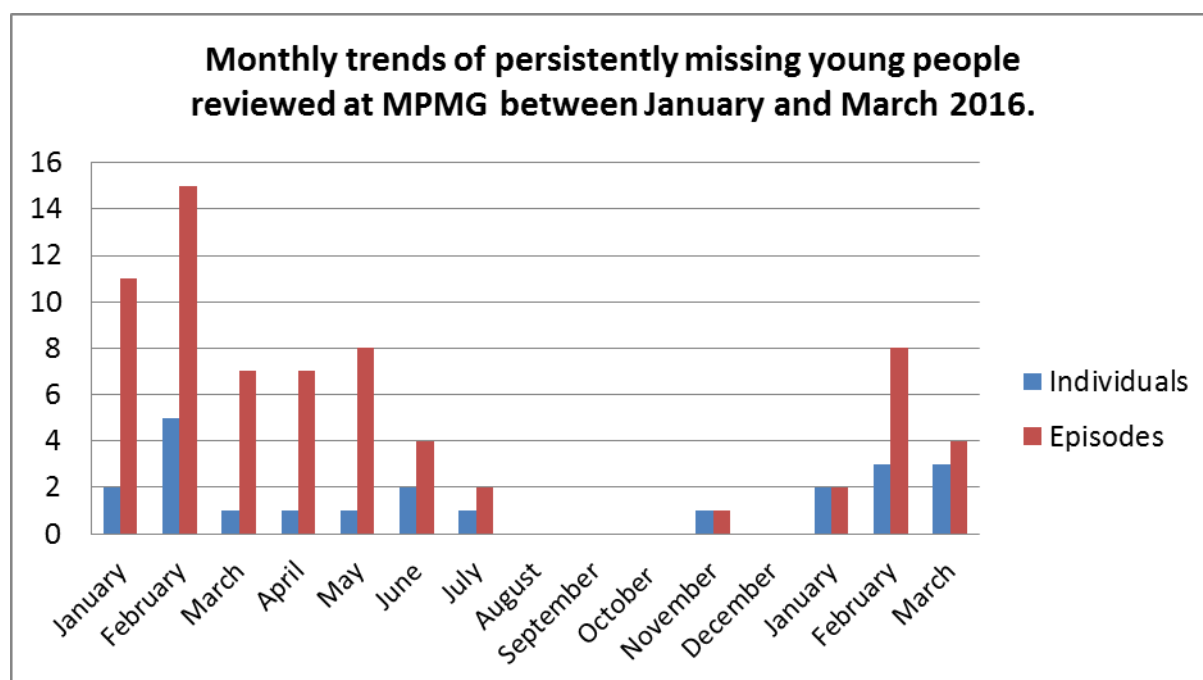
12. Impact of Missing Persons Monitoring Group on Missing Episodes in 2016-17.



To understand the impact of the Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG), we have tracked the number of missing episodes of 2 groups of young people who were discussed and reviewed at the group in quarter 4 of 2015-16. This provided us with a static group of young people to track and allow us to see their progress in relation to numbers of missing episodes over a period of time.

22 young people were discussed at the Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG) between 1.1.16 and 31.3.16. These are a combination of young people who have been persistently missing (missing on 3 or more occasions in one month) and young people who go missing from all forms of care.

The above graph shows that there were decreases in missing episodes from quarter 1 to quarter 4 of 2016-17 from 60 to 54, to 43 and then 18 episodes. However, over quarter 4, this increased to 31 episodes. This truncated the progress that was being made with this group. Although the number of missing episodes is lower than for quarter 4 of 2015-16 and quarters one and two of 2016-17. Furthermore, despite an increase in quarter 4 compared to quarter 3, there is still almost half as many missing episodes compared to quarter 4 of 2015-16. Therefore, overall, this should be viewed as a positive impact and we aim to interview some of the young people who have made the most progress in the next 12 months, in order to take any learning from this into future work.



The above graph provides an outline of the trajectory of missing episodes for the group of persistently missing individuals who were reviewed at the MPMG between 1.1.16 and 31.3.16 in order to track their progress in proceeding quarters.

The graph displays decreases in episodes over quarter 1 with a specifically sharp decrease in missing episodes in June 2016, a continuing decrease in missing episodes over quarter 2, with no missing episodes from the group of persistently missing young people in either August or September and continued evidence of significantly reduced missing episodes for this group of young people over quarter 3, with just 1 missing episode in November 2016. However, over quarter 4, there was an increase in the missing episodes for this group up to 14 episodes.

Seven of the above episodes related to one young person, who is placed at Bute Walk and who has a history of persistent missing episodes and has other issues such as substance misuse and involvement in offending behaviour. The other seven episodes were split between two young people, one of whom is now placed outside of Derby and the other young person is managed under a CSE strategy at CIN level. This displays the difficulty in managing risk in the context of missing episodes (along with other risks), as things can change in a young person's life that then manifest in behaviours that place them at risk of harm.

We will track another group of young people who have been reviewed by the MPMG between January and March 2017 to continue to develop the medium term picture of

the impact of the MPMG on both persistently missing young people and young people missing from care over the period of one year.

Conclusion.

This report captures the picture of practice in relation to missing children as things stand in Derby city at the end of 2016-17. What we see is a varied picture but what is clear, is that there are more robust and detailed data collection and analysis processes in place than when this report was written 12 months ago. This has helped inform a better quality of report that is scrutinised by the CSE/VYP sub group of the safeguarding board every quarter and has helped us to better understand missing patterns across the city.

The improvement plan for 2016-17 has helped to maintain a high profile in relation to missing and keep practice and policy (in relation to missing) focused. Despite the increase by 7 in missing individuals and 57 episodes in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16, the data is of good integrity and all key stakeholders in missing practice are aware of the individual young people who are persistently missing and can therefore prioritise resources to help manage these risks.

There has not been the seasonal pattern of missing episodes seen in the 2015-16 annual report. Patterns of missing episodes during the school summer holiday and Christmas periods have decreased significantly this year and over 2016-17, missing episodes appear more closely related to specific young people's circumstances and care placements.

Most missing episodes this year were one off/non persistent. It has also become apparent, that persistently missing young people often have multiple vulnerability factors, are well known to services and are accountable for a disproportionate number of missing episodes. Higher tariff resources and groups such as the MPMG and Social Workers/YOS are involved in a high number of these young people's lives, whilst lower tier resources such as the Runaways practitioners are delivering preventative (tier 2) interventions for those at lesser risk/with less persistent patterns of missing.

The picture for DCC residential homes is more positive, with missing episodes reduced significantly (although there was a slight increase in missing individuals). Willows and Coronation Avenue were the DCC homes with highest missing episodes over 2016-17. However, there have been reasons for this and staff and managers (in all DCC homes) have adopted the practice in the Missing and Runaway protocol and over the course of the year have taken part in all key partner groups, such as the

MPMG and Missing task group and residential managers took part in a best practice forum with LA Runaway staff and the Police in November 2016.

There are less individuals missing from home this year but their missing episodes have increased. The LA Runaways practitioners deliver preventative work with young people running away from home (unless there is the need for a Single Assessment/statutory intervention due to the risks associated with that young person) and we have started to track the impact of this (initial quarterly findings are located in the quarter 4 missing report).

There have been increases in missing from foster care this year. The Head of Service for Fostering and Adoption and the Deputy Head of Service for Children in Care (along with the Corporate Parenting lead) are all involved and engaged in the missing children agenda to ensure that specific areas of risk are identified and addressed.

More of a challenge is the increase in missing individuals and episodes from independent homes in the city this year by 11 and 90 respectively. The Gables and Bradley House were the independent homes with the highest missing episodes over 2016-17 and although we have delivered prevention work at the Gables, further work will need to be offered next year. Work will also be offered to Bradley House and other independent homes in 2017-18. Young people can often make attempts to travel back to see family/associates in their home area (usually dependent upon distance) and the transient nature of young people in these homes and the varied response from other LA's mean that this is an area we will need to address over the next 12 months.

We are now more aware of the numbers of young people who go missing for longer periods of time (3 days or more) and who these young people are. The majority of young people, who go missing, did so for a shorter period of time (up to 12 hours) in 2016-17 and there is good evidence that missing strategy meetings are being held/arranged in circumstances where young people go missing for 3 days or more, which displays good understanding and implementation of the Runaway and Missing from home protocol.

The data we have gathered this year shows that when young people go missing for the first time, this tends to be from their family home. Those missing from care tend to be young people where there have been factors such as going missing/CSE risks apparent before entry into care.

There has been an improvement from 2015-16 by 32.69% for all Return Interviews completed within timescales and 84.5% of Return Interviews for Derby young people have been completed within the statutory timescale in 2016-17. There are some improvements with regard to the quality of Return Interviews but further focus is needed on improving these. Continuing audit and work to make the format more conducive to quality information, along with a system for management authorisation will all be part of work for 2017-18's improvement plan.

There is evidence of a positive medium impact of the multi-agency work taking place to keep young people safe and bring about a reduction in missing episodes. This includes the data that we have collected on cases reviewed at the MPMG with regard to missing episodes 12 months after initial review at the group.

It is clear that we will never be able to stop young people going missing and running away from home and care in the city but with a well-co-ordinated multi-agency response, we have the opportunity to affect the number of times young people go missing and how safe they keep themselves when they do go missing. A continuing focus on missing children aided by on-going scrutiny and challenge and the impetus provided by an annual plan can help us to achieve this. The improvement plan for 2017-18 is contained in appendix 2.

Appendix 1. Reviewed Missing Improvement Plan 2016-17

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
Groups.				
Reduce missing episodes and risk of harm to young people when they are missing	<p>Agree process in Missing Persons Monitoring Group (MPMG) for feedback on progress against recommended actions by Lead Professionals.</p> <p>Review TOR for MPMG.</p>	<p>AK, MAT TM's</p> <p>MPMG.</p>	<p>1.7.16.</p> <p>July 2016.</p>	<p>Process agreed and implemented. Lead Professional will bring main plan for young person and actions will be added to this, rather than develop additional plan.</p> <p>Complete and sent to MPMG members.</p>
Performance/Data.				
Increase rate of Return Interviews completed within 72 hours to 90%	Apprentice to produce monthly performance list, which disaggregates city and Out Of Area performance. List to be sent to strategic lead for missing and Service Director for Early Help and Safeguarding to challenge underperformance.	Apprentice/AK/MD.	In place by 1.7.16.	<p>Quarter 1 - 80% of Return Interviews were completed within 72 hours. Quarter 2 – 76%. List of outstanding Return Interviews is sent weekly</p>

Ensure all young people missing for 3 days have a strategy meeting held	Apprentice to record on QA spreadsheet and collate every quarter and annually	Apprentice/AK	From 1.7.16	<p>to Service Directors and missing lead to chase. Quarter 3 – 71% Some slippage, mainly due to small number of persistently missing children who run away again before RI can be completed. This includes some YP placed by other LA's in Derby. Quarter 4 – 93% of Return Interviews for Derby YP were completed within timescales. This meets the outcome within this year's plan and whilst this will remain a continuing challenge, it will be monitored via quarterly reports to the CSE/YYP safeguarding board sub group. This no longer requires improvement activity as part of an action plan and can become a business as usual process.</p> <p>Now in place, quarter 1 – 8 strategy meetings due, 4 completed, 4 no longer needed, as YP was found before strategy meeting took place.</p>
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				<p>Quarter 3 – Same performance as for quarter 2 in that 8 strategy meetings should have been held, 4 took place and in the case of the other 4, 3 of these would have taken place at a weekend or bank holiday. The young people had been located before the meeting was then held (these strategy meetings had been planned) and in the other case, the meeting was planned but the YP was again located before the meeting.</p> <p>Quarter 4 – 6/7 strategy meetings took place in timescales, the 1 case that did not relate to a young person who went to custody. 4 other episodes relate to young people who are placed in Derby by other LA's and who have responsibility for arranging a strategy meeting and recording/storing data relating to this.</p>
Develop consistent system for recording missing episodes and strategy meetings	Develop guidance to ensure accurate recording of missing episodes and missing strategy meetings on LCS.	AK/DM.	September 2016.	Behind schedule, however, plan in place to launch from in 2017-18 for

accurately.	Ensure this is communicated via missing training and team meetings.	MAT TM's/WDT	October 2016.	CIC cases only initially. RI format will be updated and added to LCS, CIC staff will be trained. Guidance sheets developed. However, there may be a charge for this work that may prohibit implementation. Missing for CIC was added on LCS for 2016-17 DfE stat return was back dated by Missing Apprentice.
Improve understanding of missing episodes patterns.	Apprentice to collate time spans young people have been missing for, level of service young person is open to and numbers of young people missing for first time. Missing strategic lead to include this in reports to Task group and VYP.	Apprentice/AK.	1.7.16.	Complete and in place. This data now features in every quarterly report to DSCB via VYP/CSE operational group.
Understand Derby's missing data in context of other similar LA's.	Check missing data with other east midlands LA's/with comparator LA's.	AK/Police/Performance and Intelligence team.	October 2016.	Complete and presented to Missing Task group in February 2017 meeting by Ali Appleby from Performance and Intelligence Team. The data was not out of kilter with other comparator LA's. Derby is not an outlier in terms of missing numbers.

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Understand impact of preventative interventions on non-persistent missing children.	Every quarter, Runaway's Workers to track episodes of missing for all young where there has been a preventative intervention.	Runaways Workers/AK/Apprentice.	From 1.8.16.	This work is in place, it started on 1.10.16. Runaways Workers have collated names of all YP where they delivered a preventative intervention within quarter 3. Missing individuals and episodes have been tracked in the subsequent quarter and shows reductions in missing individuals and episodes. The continuing progress will be reported to the DSCB via quarterly reports to the CSE/VYP sub group.
Assess impact of preventative work on missing hotspots.	Every quarter, track numbers of missing episodes and individuals from locations where preventative work has been delivered.	Apprentice/AK.	From 1.8.16.	Prevention work has taken place at Oakwood House and Bemrose School, Landau Forte School, Gables, Bute Walk and Cricklewood. Tracking of missing episodes from these venues will be undertaken after 1.4.17. This will need to be included on the 2017-18 improvement

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				plan.
Missing from care.				
OOA LA's consistently alerted when RI not completed in timescales.	Design standard letter to send to other LA's when RI not completed in 72 hours. Save on shared drive and send letter to home LA when this occurs.	KO KO/AK	1.7.16. 1.7.16.	Complete. Letter now on shared drive.
Reduce incidences of YP going missing from care.	Assess what DCC and independent children's homes are doing to reduce missing episodes. Share best practice from across the city. Gather and share best practice from other LA's.	AK/MAT TM's/Unit Managers. R Jones. MAT Managers.	August 2016. October 2016. October 2016.	Complete, Best Practice forum took place on 23.11.16 with Police, LA staff and residential homes to share best practice from all 3 perspectives. This will inform prevention work delivered by Runaways staff. OFSTED reports from 4 LA's with good OFSTED outcomes have been read and focus was on compliance and quality of Return Interviews.
Return interviews to be carried out for all unauthorised absences to comply with children's home regulation and quality	Information from quality standards to be disseminated.	R Jones.	September 2016.	It is now confirmed that RI's are only mandatory for missing episodes.

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standards.				Residential homes must offer them to YP who have been absent and then are only mandatory where the YP stipulates that they want a RI. This has been disseminated to Missing task group and MPMG.
Improve information shared with the Police.	All DCC care homes and Independent homes to provide Police with profiles of YP used by Bute Walk.	MAT TM's/Unit Managers.	October 2016.	Residential homes now all have the same procedure for reporting children who go missing and have discussed best practice in regard to this process at the Best Practice forum on 23.11.16. This included best practice when reporting young people as missing to the Police.
Ensure City staff are informed when YP placed OOA go missing and are found.	<p>Set up e mail box set up to capture this.</p> <p>Ensure e mail box communicates with Derby SW's, TM's, DHOS'/HOS' and Runaway's Worker.</p> <p>Commissioning to identify all OOA placements and develop process how they notify Derby of all OOA missing children from Derby.</p>	<p>AK, IT team.</p> <p>AK.</p> <p>C Young/AK.</p>	<p>September 2016.</p> <p>September 2016.</p> <p>September 2016.</p>	E mail box has been set up. Once missing and found information comes in to this, the allocated SW in Derby is alerted. Process has been developed and has been sent to all external

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	Design process to sit behind this to INC – CIC SW's checking on missing incidents between each statutory visit, IRO's explicitly recording whether YP have gone missing and the impact on Care plan due to this	AK/CIC TM's, P Akhtar.	September 2016.	providers by commissioning. CIC Team Managers have also sent information on missing children placed out of area to ensure accuracy of data.
Processes.				
Ensure consistent assessment of risk in missing cases.	Develop risk analysis on RI forms that INC level of risk of going missing and risk of harm when YP goes missing.	AK, MAT TM's,	September 2016.	Outstanding. A working group has been agreed between residential services, the LA and a CIC SW to develop this. A first draft has been developed; however, further work needed on this and will need to be transferred to 2017-18 improvement plan.
Ensure staff has a user friendly guide to the Missing and Runaways protocol.	Review and update the operational framework.	AK, MAT TM's.	August 2016.	Complete, an operational framework is in place which provides process flows for staff to follow when YP go missing. This will be used in training next year.
Direct Work.				

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Develop suite of preventative and high risk intervention work.	Use data to identify missing hot spots, i.e. schools, care homes, residential addresses to ensure work is targeted based on risk.	AK, MAT TM's.	July 2016.	Complete, hot-spots in city were identified in the 2015-16 annual report and in subsequent quarterly reports. These are collated from Police information and intelligence and Return Interviews every quarter and are circulated to all missing management and front line staff and to DSCB in quarterly report format.
	Review current work packages	MAT TM's/Runaway's Workers	July 2016.	Complete, there are consistent packages of prevention work that Runaways Workers deliver.
	Meet with Police Vulnerability Team - discuss and agree preventative and high risk intervention work needed based on missing intelligence.	AK, MAT TM's, Police V Unit	August 2016.	Complete, this was developed at the Best Practice forum on 23.11.16.
	Have revised set of work packages for preventative and high risk work.	Runaways Workers/MAT TM's/Police V Unit	August 2016.	Complete, there are consistent packages of prevention work that Runaways Workers deliver.

	Ensure delivery of preventative work in early summer and pre-Christmas period as a minimum.	Runaways Workers.	December 2016/May-June 2017.	Prevention worked has been delivered at Queensferry Gardens, Gables, Cricklewood and Bute Walk. There has also been delivery at Bemrose and Landau Forte Schools. Other schools across the city have been offered this including the Pupil Referral Unit.
Return Interviews.				
Improve quality of RI's.	<p>Develop system of ensuring all RI's are quality assured by a Manager.</p> <p>Add section in RI form re: current EET arrangements and length of time missing.</p>	<p>AK, MAT TM's.</p> <p>AK, MAT TM's</p>	<p>July 2016.</p> <p>July 2016.</p>	<p>On hold until all missing episodes are being recorded on LCS.</p> <p>Time missing is being recorded; EET arrangements will be checked by missing apprentice on Synergy/Tribal and with Virtual Head teacher for CIC quarterly to identify trends. This will take place from quarter 1 of 2017-18 and need to be</p>

	<p>LA devise audit system that sits outside of MPMG and revise audit form. Ensure CSE matrix completion and parent/carer views form part of audit.</p> <p>Devise RI guidance sheet for staff.</p> <p>Findings from audit to be reported to MPMG and VYP quarterly.</p>	<p>AK/MAT TM's/WDT.</p> <p>MAT TM's</p> <p>AK</p>	<p>July 2016.</p> <p>August 2016</p> <p>On-going.</p>	<p>included in the improvement plan for 2017-18</p> <p>Complete, audit completed in September 2016 and another completed in December 2016, audit form revised. CSE work part of new audit form.</p> <p>Complete, signed off by Service Director and disseminated to Social Care and Early Help Managers and staff.</p> <p>In place, this has been completed in quarter 2 and 3.</p>
Training.				
Ensure workforce are trained in missing and Runaways	Assess where gaps in training are across Children's services.	AK/AM	<p>July 2016</p> <p>September</p>	<p>Complete. CIC Team, Exit care Team have had x 2 bespoke sessions in February and March 2017</p> <p>Complete, agreed with</p>

	<p>Engage Safe and Sound in discussion re increasing take up in training.</p> <p>Engage independent children's homes in discussion re increasing take up in training.</p>	<p>AK</p> <p>MAT Managers/WDT.</p>	<p>2016.</p> <p>By April 2017.</p>	<p>Workforce Development Team that Safe and Sound have arranged to take X 6 placed on Missing and Runaway training in June and October 2017.</p> <p>Training has been delivered to Oakwood House and Gables other homes have been asked if they would like this. This will continuously be offered by the LA and will form part of plan for 2017-18.</p>
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Appendix 2. Missing Improvement Plan 2017-18

Outcome	Action	Who	By When	Progress
Performance/Data.				
We know that missing episodes are reducing for high risk CSE cases.	Analyse volume of missing episodes for all young people who were subject to CSE strategy in April 2016 at that point in time and then again in April 2017.	Missing Apprentice/Kedleston Rd.	September 2017.	
There is a consistent figure who deals with Missing data and coordination of Return Interviews.	Scope viability of making Missing Apprentice role a permanent role to prevent yearly need to recruit and re-train someone for this role.	A Kaiser/H Lymbery.	December 2017.	
We know which schools are accountable for the highest missing episodes in the city.	Missing Apprentice to check IO and Tribal databases every month and add EET placement to QA sheets for all missing and absent young people. This to then be included in all quarterly reports to CSE/YVP sub group.	Missing Apprentice.	From 1.4.17.	
Develop consistent system for recording missing episodes and strategy meetings accurately.	Re-configure Liquid Logic missing pathway to reflect practice in Derby. Develop guidance to ensure accurate recording of missing episodes and missing strategy meetings on LCS. Ensure this is communicated via missing training and team meetings.	A Kaiser/K Marson/A Birch. K Marson/M Tansley. A Kaiser/K M/arson/A Metha.	December 2017. December 2016. December 2016.	
Assess impact of preventative work on	Track numbers of missing episodes and individuals from	Apprentice/MAT	From	

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missing hotspots.	Oakwood House and Bemrose School, Landau Forte School, the Gables, Bute Walk and Cricklewood where preventative work has been delivered in 2016-17.	Managers/Runaways Workers.	1.4.17.	
We understand level of compliance for Return Interviews for Derby young people placed outside of the city.	Collect numbers of missing episodes for Derby young people placed outside of the city every quarter and whether Return Interviews and missing strategy meetings were completed within timescales and add to quarterly reports to CSE/VYP sub group.	Missing Apprentice/A Kaiser/ G Dakin.	From 1.4.17.	
We have improved understanding of the reasons young people go missing from Return Interviews.	Assess and review the methods used to capture reasons for missing episodes to ensure they are more likely to capture the evidence we need to help us understand missing behaviour patterns.	MAT Managers/ Missing Apprentice.	September 2017.	This is in progress, MAT Managers have developed a spreadsheet to collate the professional judgement from RI's and this will be collated up quarterly and inform reports.
Missing from care.				
External Local Authorities share information in a timely way when placing young people in Derby, complete RI's within statutory timescales and where they do not/cannot do this, provide payment to Derby LA to complete this.	Devise an OOA Return Interview Charging Policy for Derby.	G Dakin/A Kaiser.	November 2017.	
Ensure all DCC Foster carers are aware of up to date missing policy and practice.	All DCC Foster Carers to be provided with the offer of missing training, copies of the missing operational framework and missing leaflet.	G Dakin/S Penrose/MAT Managers	From 1.4.17.	

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Processes.				
Ensure consistent assessment of risk in missing cases.	Develop risk analysis that includes level of risk of going missing and risk of harm when YP goes missing.	K Ormond/M Archer/M Summerbridge/ C Hill	October 2017.	
Ensure there is a Missing protocol that is user friendly and reflects changes to missing guidance suggested by the College of Policing.	Review the Missing and Runaway protocol. Review the operational framework following this change.	A Kaiser/ T Tassi (County LA) and Police. J Bahth.	September 2017.	
Direct Work.				
Ensure voice of the child influences future work and that we understand what works in reducing missing episodes.	Hold a focus group or 1-1 sessions with young people who had reduced missing episodes over 2016-17 (from MPMG cohort) to understand what worked for them. Use this to inform on-going work with missing young people. Runaways staff to then complete x 1 further focus group with young people to find out what has helped them reduce missing episodes and what the LA could change to prevent/reduce missing episodes for other young people.	MAT Managers/Allocated Social Workers/Runaway staff. MAT Managers/Allocated Social Workers/Runaway staff.	August 2017. November 2017.	
We understand the need for specific work with new communities in relation to missing.	Assess level of missing activity from new communities over 2016-17, discuss level and type of need with NCAT and deliver work if assessed as necessary.	J Bahth/P Dennis/ NCAT.	November 2017.	Jasvir Bahth has started this work and has made contact with the A1 club and has delivered some outreach work there. Next we need to make contact with Pop Gill to

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				ask him to meet him and MAT Managers to see how we can work more closely together.
Return Interviews.				
Improve quality of RI's.	Develop system of ensuring all RI's are quality assured by a Manager by re-configuring missing pathway on Liquid Logic so it contains a fit for purpose Return Interview form.	A Kaiser/K Marson/A Birch.	December 2017.	
We have a Return Interview format that helps staff capture more detailed information on missing episodes and Police feel will capture key intelligence for them.	Devise new Return Interview format with Police and County that can be added to Liquid Logic.	A Kaiser/K Ormond/T Tassi/Police.	October 2017.	
Ensure we understand on-going quality of Return Interviews.	Complete 2 multi-agency audits of the quality of Return Interviews over 2017-18.	Members of MPMG.	September 2017 and February 2018.	
Training.				
Ensure all independent homes in Derby are aware of and comply with the Missing and Runaways protocol.	Make it mandatory requirement for all independent children's homes to take up missing training either through DSCB session or delivered by MAT Managers and Runaways Workers.	P Akhtar/C Young/J Baht/M Sobey.	By April 2018.	
ALL IFA's are aware of and comply with the Missing and Runaways protocol.	Offer Missing and Runaway training to all IFA's.	C Young, MAT Managers/Runaways	From 1.4.17.	

		staff.		
Ensure increased awareness of missing processes in informal missing hotspots.	MAT Runaway staff and Managers deliver briefing sessions at informal hotspots such as A1 club in conjunction with the Police.	MAT Managers, Runaway staff, Police. Informal hotspots.	By April 2018.	

Nb – The formal feedback from OFSTED in relation to Derby's SIF outcome will be added to this action plan, once the full report is received on 24.5.17.

