

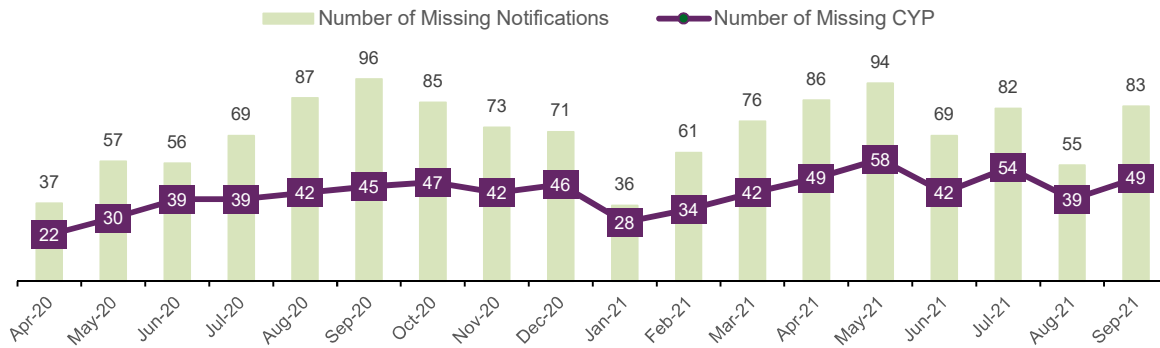
Overview of Missing Children performance and data November 2021 *(Data September 2021)*

Report produced by the Performance Improvement and Quality Team

Overview

Missing Children & Young People

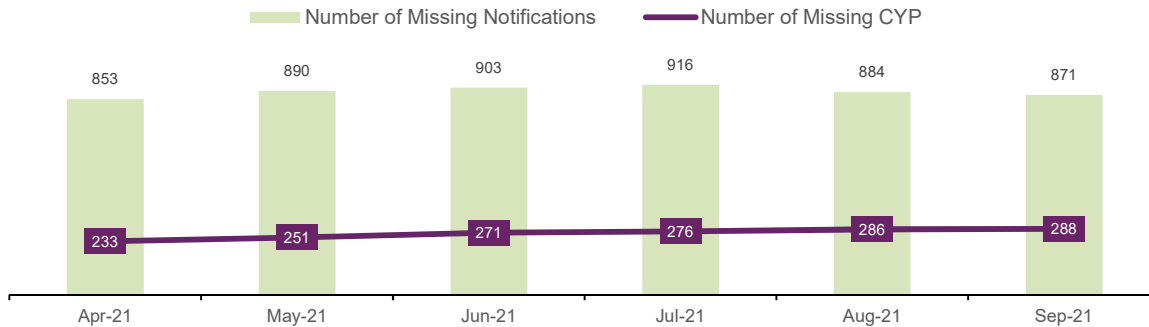
Missing Children & Missing Episodes - month on month



Primary Missing Reason - previous 12 months



Missing Children & Missing Episodes - rolling 12 months



Analysis and Management Comments

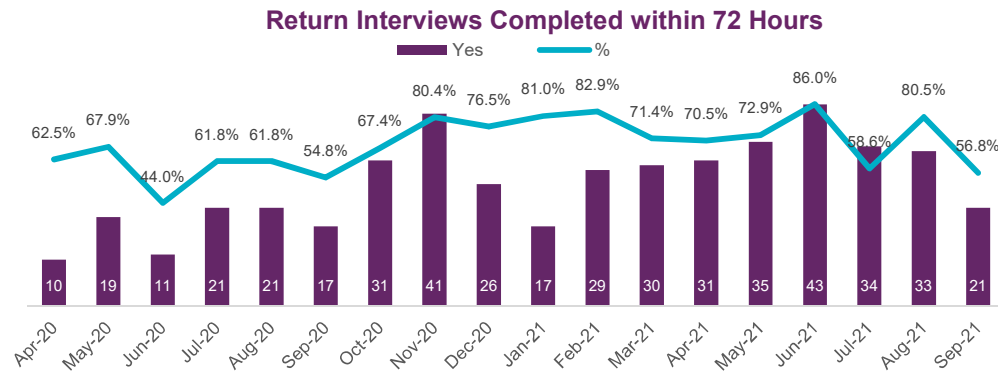
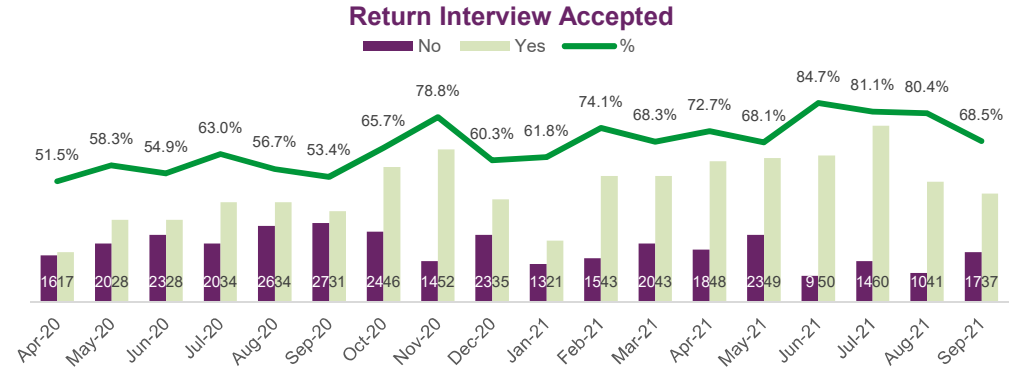
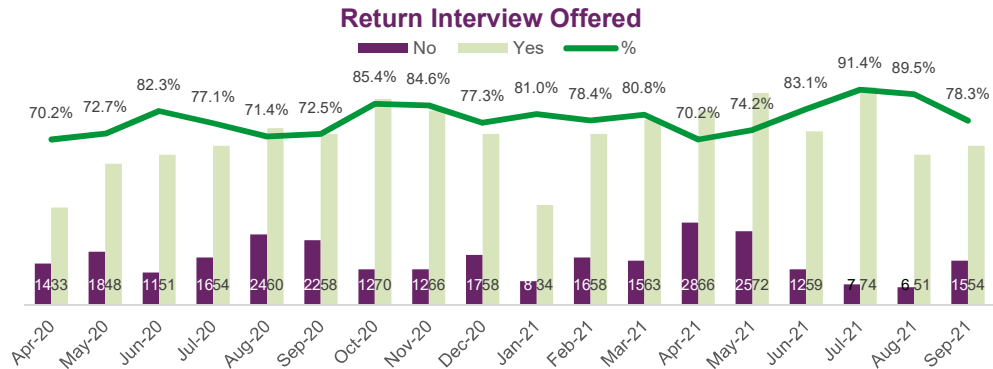
The number of children who are going missing has increased from 233 to 288 on a rolling 12 months basis - an increase of 20%. The average number of missing episodes per child or young person is three, however, in reality, some young people only go missing once, while others go missing multiple times. It should be noted that while the target for this indicator is for it to decrease, the 2020-21 out-turn included lockdown where fewer children went missing due to the unique circumstances of the pandemic. Therefore although we are reporting an increase in this measure, this is in the context of reductions in missing incidence in the previous year due to the pandemic and restrictions that were in place.

Each child that is reported as missing living in Walsall who the council has responsibility for is offered a return home interview to understand the context of the missing incidence. Every missing incidence is considered at a multi-agency Daily Exploitation Triage meeting and follow up action taken as appropriate. Exploitation triage continues to develop and includes partners from Children's Services, force CID/an exploitation officer, Street Teams and representative from education in order that a triangulated understanding of the exploitation risks are known and a holistic response to addressing complex needs is provided. This includes working with third sector voluntary organisations around service delivery. It is therefore positive that every missing incidence is reported into Children's Services so that we can ensure that there is an appropriate response based on the age, needs and safeguarding concerns in relation to the young person.

The All-Age Exploitation Strategy was approved at the Walsall Community Safety Partnership and the aims outlined in the strategy will continue to be embedded into practice.

Overview

Missing Children & Young People



Between April 2020 and 31st March 2021

77.9% of children were offered a return home interview

62.1% of children and young people accepted the offer of a return home interview

68.8% of return home interviews conducted were completed within 72 hours

Between 01st October 2020 and 30th September 2021

80.7% of children were offered a return home interview

72.4% of children and young people accepted the offer of a return home interview

73.2% of return home interviews conducted were completed within 72 hours

Analysis

The majority of children and young people are offered a return home interview after a missing episode and this percentage is increasing. The proportion who accept the return home interview changes month on month, but it is positive that there has been a significant increase in the proportion of children accepting a return home interview some Autumn 2020. Overall 72.4% of children and young people have accepted a return home interview in the 12 months to the end of September compared with just 62.1% in 2020-21. There are multiple reasons why a return home interview may not be accepted, however, the primary reason is simply that the child declined.

Where a return home interview is accepted and completed, they should ideally be completed within 72 hours of the child returning. Whilst we strive to ensure that all return home interviews take place within 72 hours there are a number of reasons why this does not happen, this includes, availability of child and parent and delays in notification. Performance in this area is also improving with 73.2% of return home interviews being complete on time compared with 68.8% in 2020-21.