

Missing Children

Most prolific 15 summary

November 2016



Introduction ▼

The Missing Children Operational Group has looked at the 15 most prolific missing young people on two occasions, December 2015 and November 2016. The characteristics of the young people and the risks, pull and push factors relating to the missing episodes were considered.

This document summarises these discussions, examines the reasons for those in the first cohort not appearing in the second and notes similarities and differences between the two cohorts.

Current situation of the previous cohort ▼

Five of the December 2015 cohort were other Local Authority (OLA) Looked After Children (LAC).

- three have moved out of Staffordshire
- two young people are still in Staffordshire, but missing episodes are greatly reduced

Ten of the December 2015 cohort were Staffordshire young people. Six were LAC.

Of the six LAC

- two have turned 18
- one young person has been placed outside Staffordshire
- one young person's missing episodes have reduced following another young person moving from the placement
- one young person's missing episodes have reduced and they have returned home
- one young person's missing episodes have reduced and a return home is planned

Of the four living at home

- one has been accommodated and is now placed out of Staffordshire
- one has turned 18
- two have reduced their missing episodes and the cases are being stepped down through the tiers of services

Characteristics ▼

The majority of the characteristics of both cohorts of young people are very similar.

The November 2016 cohort shows higher levels of special educational needs, higher levels of exclusions in the current year and higher levels of recent offending than the December 2015 cohort.

The tables over leaf show the breakdown for each of the characteristics and risk factors identified.

Characteristic	Dec 15	Nov 16
Subject of a child protection plan	5	2
Looked after	12	12
Staffordshire LAC	7	8
OLA LAC	5	4
Previous secure accommodation on welfare grounds	-	1

Risks and pull factors	Dec 15	Nov 16
CSE concerns	11	10
Alcohol misuse	6	9
Substance misuse	4	10
Missing with other young people	7	8
Missing to be with specific adults	9	5

Offending	Dec 15	Nov 16	
Current Youth Offending order	5	8	
type of offence	Violent offences	3	4
	Theft	2	-
	Possession of weapons	-	4
	Arson	-	1
Seriousness of offence	Level 2	-	1
	Level 3	2	5
	Level 4	3	-
	Level 5	-	2
outcome	Youth Caution	1	-
	Referral Order	2	4
	Youth Rehabilitation Order	-	3
	Detention and Training Order	1	-

Characteristic	Dec 15	Nov 16
Attachment difficulties	1	-
Autistic spectrum	1	-
SEN	6	12
SEN stage S ¹	3	1
SEN stage K ²	3	11
Mental ill health	4	3
Detained under Mental Health Act	-	3
Self harm	4	2

Education attendance	Dec 15	Nov 16
Total fixed term exclusions	6	11
Fixed term exclusions in current calendar year	4	7
Permanent exclusions	3	5
Permanent exclusions in current calendar year	1	2
PRU attendance	7	10
Current PRU attendance	6	9

¹ Statement of special educational needs

² Special educations needs support, either with or without a specialist assessment of type of need or with a specific SEN type (historically school action or school action plus)