

Young People who go missing from Home or Care

Child Exploitation

Edge of care

16/17 Homelessness

Vulnerable Adolescents

Missing from Home or care

- 1166 episodes of young people in Gateshead going missing which related to 323 individual young people. Previous year – 1567 which related to 352 young people
- Less young people going missing from previous reporting year
- 669 episodes of children in our care going missing which related to 82 individual young people. Previous year – 961 which related to 87 young people
- Less Children in Our Care are going missing, and the number of missing episodes has significantly reduced.
- Numbers of children in our care participating in return home interviews is increasing

Service Developments achieved 2023-24

- Reviewed and strengthened our approach to children who go missing over the last 12 months.
- Launched our Trusting Hands Trauma Informed Team , who work with care teams for children in our care to help them understanding the lived experience of young people. The Team provide formulations to all young people living in residential children's homes in Gateshead which has had an impact on our response to YP's going missing from care and as a result reduced numbers of children going missing and also the frequency of their missing episodes.
- Worked with our Supported Living Providers to implement systems for 16-17yr olds, when young people don't return by curfew but there are no safeguarding to report young person as missing from placement to the Emergency Duty Team rather than report to Police as a missing child.
- We have strengthened our oversight of strategy meetings for young people who have 3 x missing episodes times in 30 days to ensure there are clear actions to reduce future missing episodes and increase safety.
- We have had a small number of young people in our care who have reached their 18th birthday who were going missing from care on a regular basis.

Service Developments for 2024/2025

- Development of the service to ensure all members of the adolescent service working evening and weekends can respond and complete return home interview to increase timeliness of response.
- Redesign the missing from home or care workflow in Mosaic to ensure effectiveness and accuracy of reporting and response.
- Gateshead Children Social care is arranging and hosting a regional development event for return home managers and practitioners in September 2024 to develop good practice and consistency across the Northeast.
- Continue to complete quality audits to ensure good service delivery and continuity within children's plans.

Child Exploitation

- 46 young people identified as high risk or victims of exploitation in the previous 12 months this is a decrease on the 64 previous 12 months.
- Northumbria Police have seen a decrease across the 6 local authorities
- Similar numbers in criminal exploitation – decrease in sexual exploitation
- noticeable change in the gender split when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. There were 18 females at risk or victims of child exploitation (40%) and 28 males (60%) in the last 12 months
- Slight increase in young people from BAME communities
- Young woman's worker has successfully worked with 12 girls , 10 with successful outcomes

Service Developments achieved 2023-24

- Reviewed criteria of the specialist Contextual Safeguarding Team to include all forms of child exploitation
- Strengthened offer to Young woman and girls via dedicated post - temp funded via VAWG (violence against woman & Girls)
- Reviewed MSET arrangements and partnership response across the 6 local authorities in the Northumbria Police footprint.
- Co-facilitated a regional Contextual safeguarding conference to present and share best practice across the region.

Service Developments for 2024/2025

- Development of a new Vulnerable adolescent Service
- Introduction of an Enhanced Case Management Model
- MSET Review – Launch of PREM in Oct 24 - all-age process to include transitional arrangements into adulthood

Young People on the Edge of care

- 72 x young people were identified as needing intensive support as at risk of coming into care due to relationship breakdown
- 61 x young people (85%) remained in the care of their parents or family/friends
- 11 x young people (15%) entered care
 - 52% - child exploitation
 - 51% - regular missing from home
 - 66% - out of education/reduced timetable
 - 7% - adoption family breakdown

Service Developments achieved 2023-24

- Reviewed criteria of the edge of care team
- Lowered age criteria to 11 yrs plus
- Integrated Working – Substance misuse Worker
- Trusting Hands Gateshead
- Introduced a phased response
 - Crisis
 - Rapid response
 - Engagement and Identification (inc FGC)
 - Interventions program (up to 24 weeks)
 - Review

Service Developments for 2024/2025

- Development of a new Vulnerable adolescent Service
- Introduction of an Enhanced Case Management Model for young people on the edge of care
- Introduction of outcome measurement Tool
- Learning Labs - review and refresh the edge of care pathway and recording in MOSAIC - improved monitoring of outcomes and impact

16/17 yr old on the Edge of or present as homeless

- 21 x young people were identified as needing intensive support as at risk of becoming homeless due to relationship difficulties with their families
- 7 of these young people presented to either Childrens Services as homeless
- 11 x young people following intensive support remained in the care of their parents or family/friends
- 10 x young people were accommodated
- 4 x young people entered care

Service Developments achieved 2023-24

- 16/17 homeless prevention now integrated into the Vulnerable adolescents Service
- Prevention worker now dual recording on Childrens and Housing system
- Developed a tracker, quality assurance framework
- Learning from audits to improve response and practice

Service Developments for 2024/2025

- Working with YP with lived experience of homelessness to develop a leaflet , so YP's understand their rights and how we can support them
- Reviewing Mosaic so we can capture YP's journeys so we can understand impact and provide quality reports
- Annual review of the Joint Protocol – 16/17 Homelessness
- Joint re-audit with Strategic Manager from Housing to ensure learning from audits is being implemented and improving practice.