

## **ENFIELD RUNAWAYS SERVICE**



### Annual Performance Monitoring Report 2015/16

This annual report will be presented to strategic partners from the following groups:

- Enfield Safeguarding Children Board Quality Assurance sub-committee
- Missing Children Risk Management Group
- Enfield Community Mapping of Vulnerable Young People

### **Running Away:**

Every year, around 100,000 children under 16 run away from home or care in UK\*. Children who run away are more likely to be exposed to a wide range of dangers - from gang violence, offending and substance abuse to grooming, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Running away is a sign that something is going wrong in the child's life. Whatever the reasons for running away, they need to be explored with the child and addressed before the situation becomes more serious.

### **Tackling the issue:**

Statutory guidance\*\* has outlined a clear need to provide dedicated services to children and young people who:

- have been missing for over 24 hours
- have been missing on two or more occasions
- have engaged (or are believed to have engaged) in criminal activities during their absence
- have been hurt or harmed whilst they have been missing (or this is believed to have been the case)
- have known mental health issues
- are at known risk of sexual exploitation, and/or
- have contact with people posing risk to children.

\* Still Running 3: Early findings from our third national survey of young runaways 2011 - Full report (Childrens Society – 2011)

\*\*Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care (DfE – January 2014)

### **Our provision:**

St Christopher's Young Runaways Service has been operating in Enfield since February 2009, following from the experience of the London Refuge for Runaway Children.

Our main aim is to reduce the number of first time and repeat incidents of young people running away from home and care.

We provide independent, high quality face-to-face support for vulnerable children up to the age of 17, who have been reported missing or have been running away from home, care or education, and to their families/carers. We do this by:

- Identifying and dealing with any harm the child may have suffered whilst absent, including harm that might not have already been disclosed to the police as part of the 'Safe and Well' checks (or debriefs)
- Understanding and trying to address the reasons why the child or young person ran away
- Helping to prevent further episodes of running away

### **Return home interviews:**

We aim to contact the child and their family or carers within 48 hours from receiving a referral and conduct an 'Independent Return Interview' within 72 hours of the child/young person being found or returning home.

Our dedicated team conducts these interviews in an impartial and non-judgemental way, as part of our socio-pedagogical approach. This helps us to gain the trust of the child and their family/carers and help them to engage with the service at the earliest stage.

### **Follow up work:**

Following from our Independent Return Interview we may also offer follow-up one-to-ones or family support in order to meet the specific needs of the child and their family.

These packages of support are aimed at:

- Reducing the number of times a young person will run away again
- Supporting the child to build their own confidence
- Helping to improve relationships
- Increasing the young person's attendance at school
- Identifying children at risk of sexual exploitation, gang affiliations and other exploitative relationships

**Resources:**

Our team is now composed of one full-time Senior Family Support Worker, a very dedicated and experienced individual who has been providing support to the most vulnerable children in the borough from the outset of the Young Runaways Service. Due to our limited capacity for follow up work, we work closely with other professionals in order to signpost children and their families to appropriate specialist services.

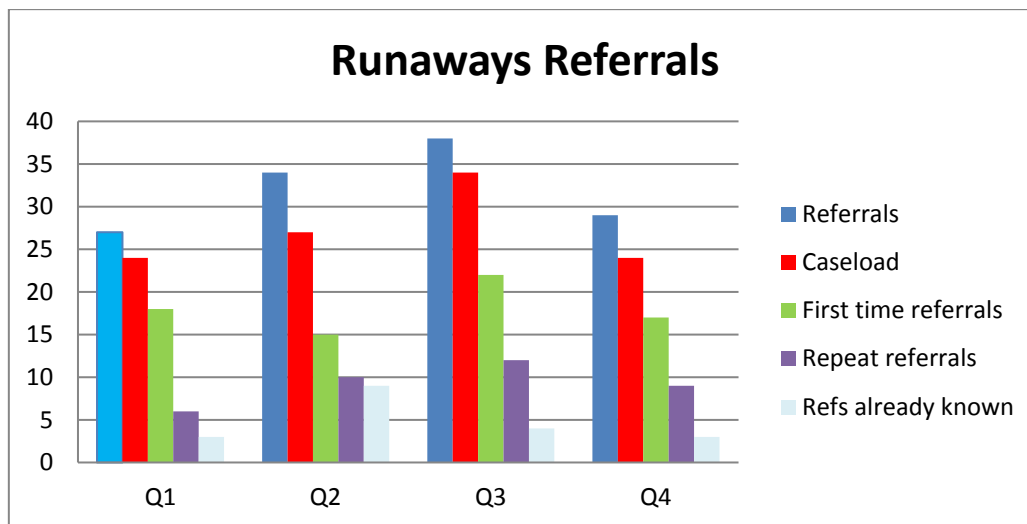
**Annual report:**

The following report is for the Financial Year 2015/16 and it covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The data used for this report sums up the data from previous quarterly reports.

**1. CASELOAD & REFERRALS**

**1.1 – Quarterly breakdown & totals for caseload (actual headcount), referrals, re-referrals & previously known cases:**

Quarter	Headcount	Referrals	First Time	Re-referrals	Prev. known
Q1	24	27	18	6	3
Q2	27	34	15	10	9
Q3	34	38	22	12	4
Q4	24	29	17	9	3
<b>Year Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>



**Comments:**

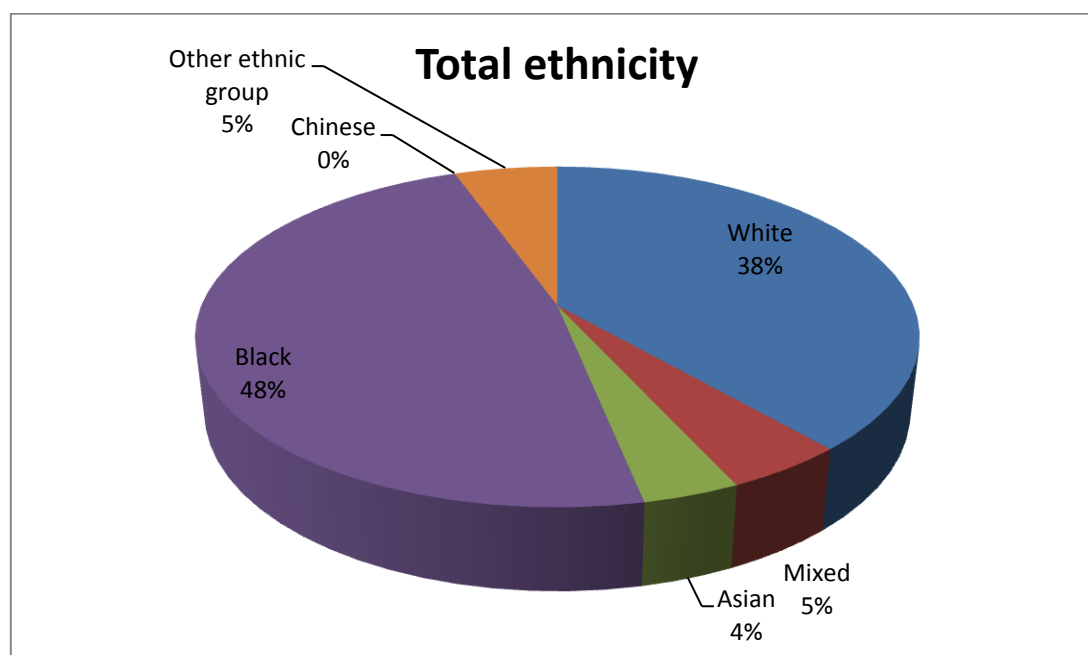
The table above shows the number of missing episodes that have been notified to St Christopher's over the last financial year. The level of referrals remains fairly consistent during this period of time and there are not significant differences from quarter to quarter.

72 children accessed the service for the first time in 2015/16, which is 56% of the total referrals made to Young Runaways during the year.

The remaining 44% of referrals was for repeat Mispers or children who had previously been known as Mispers.

## 1.2 – Ethnicity breakdown (based on actual headcounts)

Ethnicity by caseload			
White British	19	Mixed Other	1
White Irish	1	Black Somali	6
White Eastern European	6	Black African	11
IC1	4	Black Caribbean	12
Turkish	5	Black Afro/Caribbean	1
Turkish Cypriot	2	Black British	8
Turkish Kurdish	1	IC3	14
White Albanian	1	Afghan	1
White British/Italian	1	Asian Indian	1
White Not Specified	1	Asian British	1
Moroccan	1	IC4	1
Mixed White/Black African	1	IC6	1
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	1	South American/Colombian	1
Mixed White Greek Cyp./Black Car.	2	Not specified at time of referral	4
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>109</b>



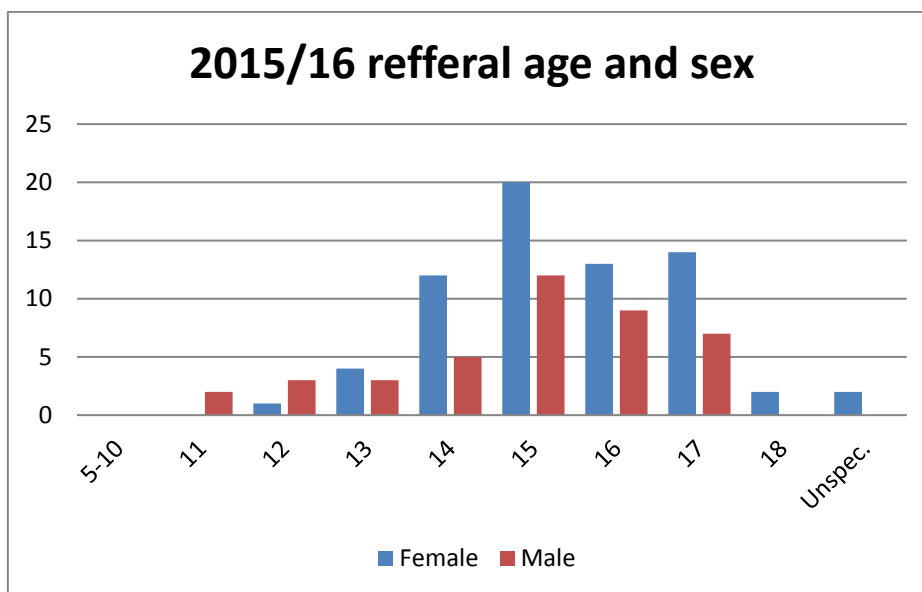
### Comments:

The above tables are showing a breakdown of the actual headcount for the whole year. Children from Black/Black British ethnic background represent the majority of our cases (48%), whilst those from a White British background are a minority (17%). This may not be completely representative of the current demographics in the borough of Enfield; however it is representative of the ethnic composition among the population that currently lives in the Edmonton area and in the eastern corridor of the borough. These areas are where children run away the most and are also hotspots for CSE, criminal activities and gang violence.

### 1.3 – Age and gender breakdown (based on headcounts)

	Female	Male
5 - 10	-	-
11	-	2
12	1	3
13	4	3
14	12	5
15	20	12
16	13	9
17	14	7
18	2	-
Not specified at time of ref.	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>

	Female	Male
Not specified at time of ref.	2	-
5 - 10	-	-
11 - 15	37	25
16+	29	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>41</b>



#### Comments:

Historically referrals for female Mispers have been the majority and this annual breakdown confirms the same trend.

The above table shows that referrals for young females are in higher numbers in almost each age bracket. Only referrals for 11 and 12 year olds have a majority of male cases.

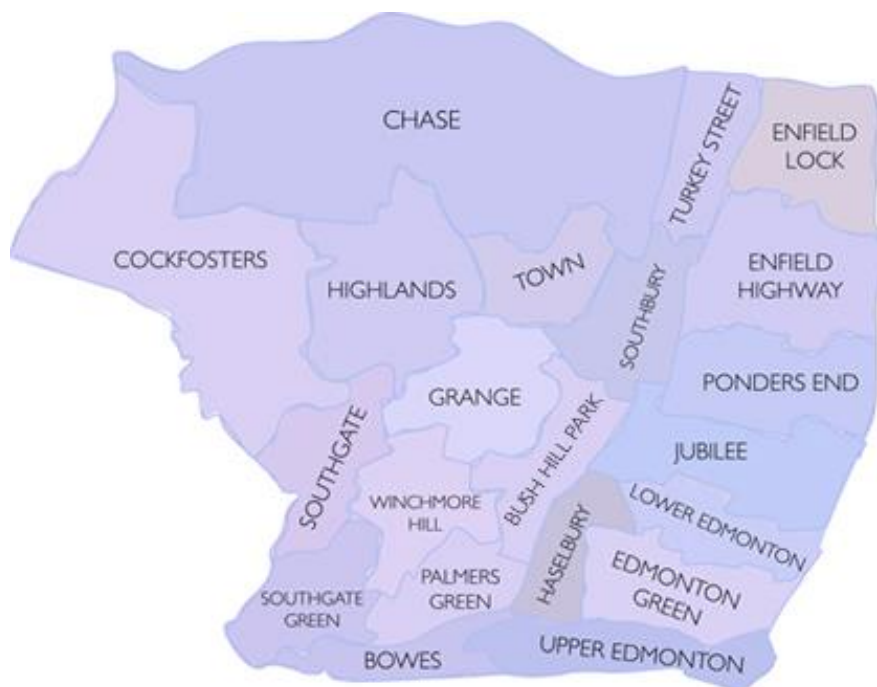
A reason for such consistent trend may be found in the direct link between missing and CSE, and also in an increased awareness among carers and professionals around the warning signs that are linked to risk of CSE.

The age group of 14-15 year olds has historically provided more cases, mainly children living in the community who would be referred via Early Help through the SPOE.

In the last year, however, we have observed an increase in number of referrals for young people aged 16-17, which would also translate into an increased number of referrals for Children Looked After and Leaving Care.

#### 1.4 – Mapping (based on headcounts)

Ward	Postcode	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Enfield Highway	EN3	6	2	5	2	15
Enfield Lock	EN3				3	3
Ponders End	EN3				1	1
Turkey Street	EN3				1	1
Edmonton Green	N18/N9	2	5	2	1	10
Haselbury	N9				1	1
Jubilee	N9/EN1	4	8	7	2	21
Lower Edmonton						
Upper Edmonton	N18				1	1
Bowes	N22					
Bush Hill Park						
Cockfosters						
Highlands						
Palmers Green	N13	1		3		4
Southgate	N14	1		2		3
Southgate Green	N11	1		1		2
Winchmore Hill						
Chase	EN2		1			1
Grange	N21	1	1	1		3
Town						
Southbury	EN1	3	4	6		13
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>Enfield</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>79</b>
Out of Borough		3	6	7	12	28
Not specified (at time of referral)		2				2
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>109</b>



In borough/out borough			
In borough	79	Out of borough over 60 miles radius	-
Out of borough within 20 miles radius	24	Not specified at time of referral	2
Out of borough over 20 miles radius	4	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>

**Comments:**

The postcodes entered in the above table are referring to children's places of residence. These would usually correspond to the place where the child/young person is also running from. There are specific areas with higher incidence of children running away, namely Enfield Highway, Edmonton Green, Jubilee and Southbury. The higher proportion of children running away is concentrated around the Edmonton area (30%) and the eastern corridor of the borough (25%). Due to the increasing number of referrals for children from LAC and Leaving Care, we have also recorded a higher number of young runaways who are residing out of the borough (25%).

**1.5– CYP legal status & type of accommodation/placement (based on headcounts):**

CYP Legal Status		Type of accommodation/placement	
Children living with family	69	Parental home	67
LAC (unspecified)	12	16+ Semi-Independent	20
Section 20	12	Foster Placement	11
Leaving Care	7	Children's Home/Residential	5
LAC Full Care Order	4	Other family member's house	3
LAC S31 / Interim or Full Care Order	4	Kinship Placement	1
Remanded in LA Care	1	Not specified	1
		Temporary Accommodation	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>

**1.6– Reason for Referral (based on No. of referrals)**

Missing Status		Most Common Reason for Missing/Running	
Missing from home	61	Failed to return at agreed time	26
Missing from care	45	Not specified	16
Missing from home and school	4	Argument with parent/carer	15
Absconding from temp. accommodation	3	Unauthorised absence from care	12
Absconding from parental home	3	Unauthorised absence from home	11
Risk of running/attempt to run away	2	Failed to return to care placement	10
Missing from home (not reported)	2	Offending	7
Historic Misper	2	Refusing to return to parental home	5
Absconding from care placement	2	Staying out with friends	5
Missing from care & home	1	Failed to return after school	4
Missing from school	1	Staying out with unknown/older males	3
Unauthorised absence from home	1	Returning to family/friends	3
Not Misper	1	Homeless/Unsuitable accommodation	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Comments:**

The majority of children who have been referred to the service are running away from their parental home (63%). The second group with higher incidence of missing is composed of young people who are placed in semi-independent accommodations (22%).

### 1.7 – Identified risks & vulnerabilities:

CSE (risk/victim)	37	Absconding out of London	4
Gang links	23	Chaotic family environment	3
Frequent Misper	23	Parents not reporting YP missing	2
Drug/Alcohol Use/Misuse	22	Sexually Harmful Behaviour	2
Offending/Criminal behaviour	21	SEN	2
Suspected drug dealing	11	Family relationships breakdown	2
Mental Health	10	Risk of homelessness	2
DV	8	Aggressive/threatening behaviour	2
Missing education/Truancing	8	Troubled family	1
Learning difficulties	8	Disability	1
School exclusions	6	Neglect	1
Victim of crime	6	Risk of physical harm from gangs	1
Prolonged absence from home/care	5	Risk of forced marriage abroad	1
Risk of radicalisation	4	Trafficked child/Unaccompanied minor	1
Parents unable to cope	4	ASB	1

#### Comments:

The above table shows the incidence of specific vulnerabilities that have been identified in individual children through our intervention. A single child may present one or more of these vulnerabilities, which are also the primary reason for a child to go missing. Vulnerabilities to which missing children appear to be mostly exposed are CSE, gang links, substance use/misuse and criminal activities. Being a frequent Misper is often a component of these vulnerabilities. Once identified through our Independent Return Interviews or follow up intervention, our staff would share this information with the relevant agencies (e.g. allocated Social Worker or agency leading a TAF) for an appropriate review of action or care plans.

### 1.8 – Referring agencies:

All referrals in Q4		Referrals from schools in Q4	
Police	38	Barnet and Southgate College	1
Adolescent & Leaving Care Team	27	Edmonton County School	1
LAC Team	14	St Ignatius College	1
Children Social Care – R&A Team	14	ESTC Eldon Unit	1
Reunification Adolescent Support	5	Police & Friern Barnet School	1
Child Protection & Family Support Team	5		-
School	5		-
YOU	3		-
Change & Challenge	3		-
Self-referrals	3		-
CSEP Team	2		-
YSS ETE/Police	2		-
Early Help	2		-
Police Gang Unit	1		-
Police & YOU	1		-
Barnet Family Services	1		-
EWS	1		-
YDSU	1		-
<b>No. of referrals through SPOE</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>No. of referrals through SPOE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL No. OF REFERRALS</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>Total No. of referrals from schools</b>	<b>5</b>

#### Comments:

Historically the Police have been the main source for referrals to our service. Missing children reports to the Police are processed through the SPOE and assigned to St Christopher's either for



a single agency response or as part of a multi-agency response to be coordinated through a Team Around the Family. In the last year referrals resulting from missing children reports to the Police where only 29% of the total.

On the other hand, we have recorded a considerably increased number of referrals from Children Social Care services, which combined together are totalling to 65. This figure equals to 50% of the total number of referrals and reflects our increased focus on Independent Return Interviews for children in care.

### 1.9 - Referral formats:

Runaways Referral Form	63	Police PAC + EHF	1
Police PACs	40	YR Referral Form + Police PAC	1
Email	10	Professionals meeting invitation	1
Early Help Forms (EHF)	7	Direct phone call to staff	1
SPOE Decision Sheet	2	-	-
Runaways free phone number	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>

### Comments:

Almost 50% of the referrals were made directly to the service through St Christopher's referral form, showing a considerable shift in the referral process.

### 1.10 – Service Requested (based on No. of referrals)

Single agency	31	Return interview only	57
Part of multi-agency	33	<i>Lead agency</i>	13

### Comments:

A good proportion of referrals were made for the purpose of a return interview only (44%). Again, this shows the above mentioned shift in our provision.

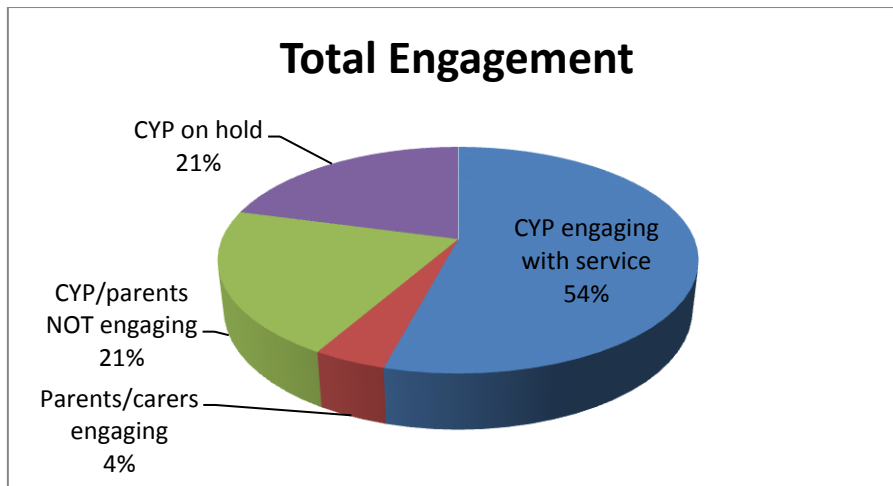
Going forward we will no longer be leading TAF meetings as part of the Early Help provision, as our capacity will be entirely invested in providing a prompt and swift intervention through Independent Return Interviews.

## 2. INTERVENTION

### 2.1 – Engagement of CYP

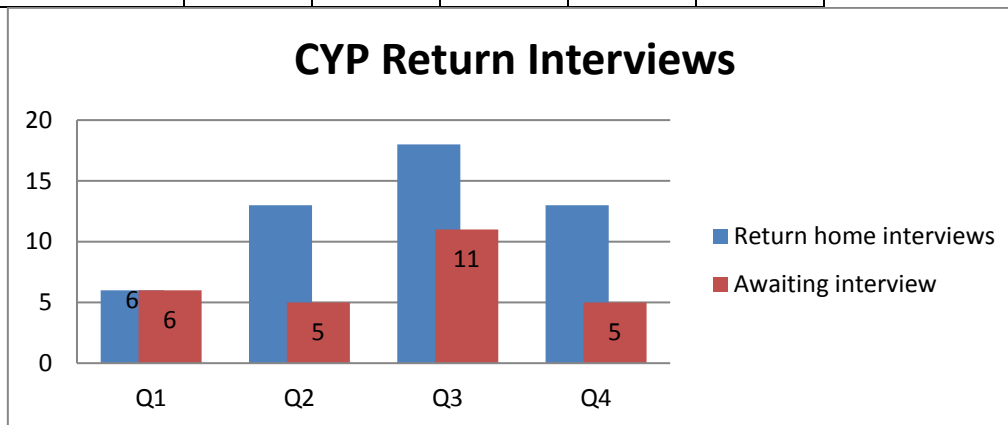
No. of CYP engaging with the service	55
No. of parents/carers engaging with the service (no CYP)	2
No. of CYP/families not engaging with the service	28
No. of CYP on hold at the end of the quarter either due to pattern of missing (frequency) or not returned	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>

Engagement – Quarterly Breakdown	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
CYP engaging with service	8	14	20	13	55
Parents/carers engaging		1		1	2
CYP/parents NOT engaging	10	8	5	5	28
CYP on hold either due to pattern of missing (frequency) or not returned	6	4	9	5	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>109</b>



## 2.2 – Return interviews

Return Interviews	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Return home interviews	6	13	18	13	50
Awaiting interview	6	5	11	5	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>77</b>



### Comments:

Engagement rate has been fairly stable over the financial year, with a higher peak in Q3. Children/families refusing to engage or declining support from the service are representing a small proportion of the entire caseload (21%). When support is declined our team would promptly inform the relevant agencies, e.g. allocated Social Worker, TAF lead or SPOE Manager, so that decisions can be made in order to either sign post the clients to other services, escalate to Children Social Care or agree no further concerns.

## 2.3 – Support provided to CYP/families who engaged with service

No. of CYP receiving one-off intervention	26
No. of CYP receiving additional support	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>

## 2.4 – Direct work and multi agency working:

No. of Independent Return Interviews	50
No. of One-to-ones with CYP	33
No. of Family Mediation Sessions	13
No. of TAF meetings	23
No. of Professionals' Meetings	12

## 2.5– CSE risk assessment via toolkit:

No. of CYP identified as at current risk of sexual exploitation	17
No. of CYP identified as victims of sexual exploitation	13
No. of CYP with historic CSE concerns	5
No. of CYP identified as potential perpetrators of CSE or Harmful Sexual Behaviour	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

### Comments:

There is a significant cross over between missing children and CSE. Our remit is to work in close partnership with other relevant agencies in order to reduce the missing incidence. However, we also assess the level of risk around CSE by identifying a range of elements, i.e. patterns of missing, risky behaviour, locations, associates, use of social media, methods of transportation, relationships, etc.

As well as supporting children directly, we also work closely with parents/carers of young people who are affected by CSE. We help parents/carers to gather vital information and put in place suitable strategies aimed at reducing the risk of CSE for their children.

We utilise the CSE Assessment Tool to record and share the identified CSE vulnerabilities of children with our partner agencies. Our work also contributes to update the information on existing CSE screenings from other agencies (e.g. CSEP Team, Safer London, Children Social Care Services, etc).

We take part in Strategy Meetings to discuss and agree actions aimed at protecting children at risk of CSE.

We actively attend MASE monthly meetings and TSEM quarterly meetings to enable an effective networking both at operational and strategic level.

## 3. QUALITY ASSURANCE

St Christopher's monitors the timeliness, frequency and quality of return interviews. Quality Assurance processes are in place to ensure that the return interviews are providing valuable information and are reflecting the following elements:

- the views of the child
- the views of the parent or carer
- an analysis of Push & Pull factors
- an agreed action plan
- Observations and recommendations to Children Social Care or lead agency

The Manager of the Runaways Service (Fabrizio Proietti) ensures that accurate information is provided and recorded at time of referral to St Christopher's. This information is saved and logged in the main register. A copy of the register containing the relevant caseload is provided to Enfield on a quarterly basis alongside the performance monitoring report. The Runaways Manager also ensures that records of return interviews are regularly updated by the Runaways Team and shared with the relevant agencies (e.g. allocated Social Workers). The content of return interviews is also audited by the Runaways Manager and cases are discussed in supervision with the member of the team who is in charge of the specific cases. Supervisions are also utilised to provide support and share ideas on intervention within specific cases.

This process is also monitored by Pam Robinson, St Christopher's Regional Manager who line manages Fabrizio Proietti. Any emerging issues on processes and/or cases are discussed and actions are agreed and reviewed during supervision.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Since the introduction of the SPOE in September 2012, St Christopher's Runaways Service has been mainly operating as an Early Help and preventative provision for children and young people who were going missing in the community. Over the years the close partnership with the SPOE has allowed St Christopher's to become an integral part of the Early Help provision and offer continued and intensive support to a number of vulnerable children and young people who live in the borough of Enfield.

Whilst retaining the same remit within the Early Help provision, over the last year we have been able to offer return interviews to an increasing number of children who were running away from care. The complexity of the cases that we are now dealing with has determined a shift in our provision, which has now been focusing more on swift and sharp responses.

Our proactive networking with key partners in Enfield has also allowed us to utilise our data for analysis and mapping exercises in order to evidence particular trends and needs in our cohort of children. The brief analysis contained in section 1.2 of this report is an example of this.

More recently we have provided our contribution to a cross borough project on CSE and Missing that has been lead by Linda Helliar. We have produced a new leaflet for children and their families/carers publicising our free phone number, which can be used to contact our service directly for self-referrals, advice and sign posting. 2,000 of this leaflet will be included Linda Helliar's information packs for the North Middlesex Hospital and other establishments between Enfield and Haringey.

A copy of the leaflet is attached to this report.

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**St Christopher's Fellowship**

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