

Missing Children – Data Briefing – 14th November 2017

This briefing note sets out the key data for missing children in Croydon. There are five key areas which are looked at month by month –

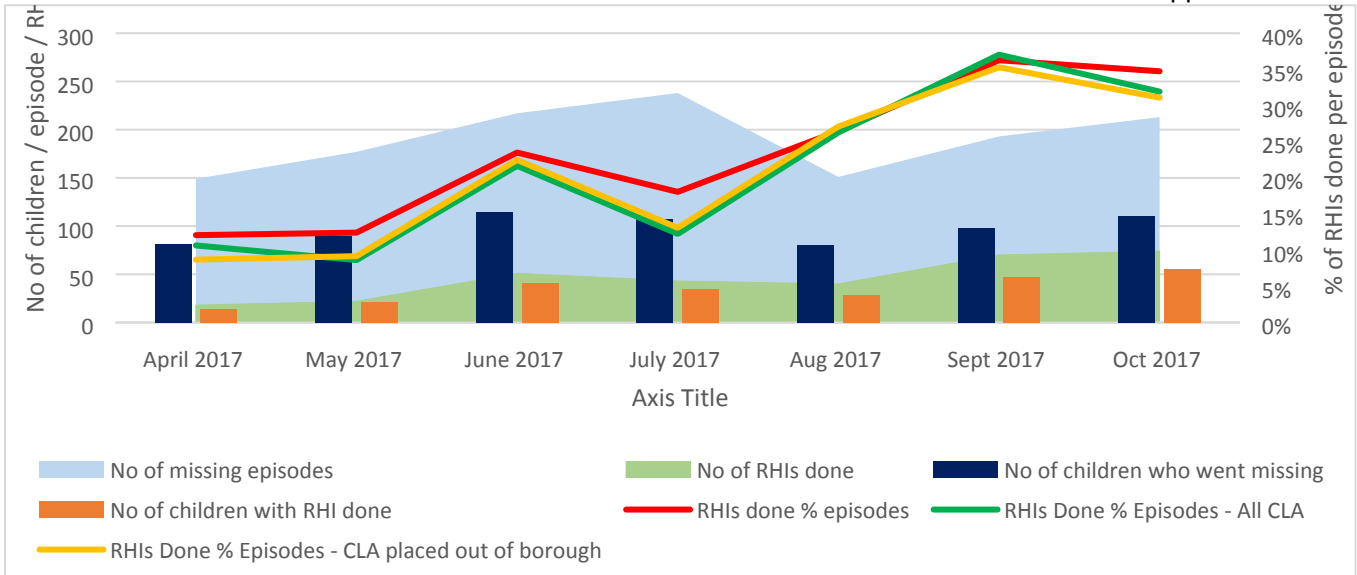
- **No of children who went missing** – this is the number of children who went missing from home or care during the month; if a child goes missing more than once in a month, they will only be counted once
- **No of children with RHI done** – this is the number of children who had a return home interview (RHI) done during the month; there may be children with more than one RHI in a month
- **No of missing episodes** – this is the total number of all missing episodes which happened during the month – a single child may have multiple episodes and each would be counted
- **No of RHIs done** – this is the total number of return home interviews which are done in a month; a child may have more than one RHI per month and each would be counted
- **% of episodes with RHI** – this is the % of episodes which have an RHI, the higher the better for this figure

This new reporting methodology and improvement in our recording practice to capture all missing episodes, means information previously provided differs slightly (including information included in the 903 return to DfE) from the new dataset.

Important note – the figures below do not include OLAs (children who are looked after by another Local Authority), as it is not the responsibility of Croydon to carry out the RHI

The table and graph below show the data for April 2017 to September 2017 -

	April 17	May 17	June 17	July 17	Aug 17	Sept 17	Oct 17
No of children who went missing	81	90	115	107	80	98	110
No of children with RHI done	14	21	41	35	29	47	56
No of missing episodes	149	177	217	238	151	193	213
No of RHIs done	18	22	51	43	40	70	74
RHIs done % episodes	12.08%	12.43%	23.50%	18.07%	26.49%	36.27%	34.74%
RHIs Done % Episodes - All LAC	10.66%	8.63%	21.67%	12.25%	26.28%	37.04%	31.93%
RHIs Done % Episodes - LAC placed out of borough	8.70%	9.17%	22.48%	13.10%	27.10%	35.29%	31.09%



Whilst the trend for the number of children who went missing and the number of missing episodes remains relatively flat for the period, the trend for the number and percentage of RHIs being done are on a generally upwards trajectory, reflecting the focus and attention that this area has been given. The plan is that LAC who are placed out of borough will have arrangements made when they are being placed with local providers so that any return interviews can be 'spot' purchased. All return information will then be forwarded to the allocated social worker.

An update report on the impact of the newly implemented missing team will be provided to Children's Scrutiny Panel in March 2018.