

# **AMBITIOUS SCRUTINY REPORT** **INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES** **REACH Performance Data** **April 2014 to June 2014**



## **Introduction:**

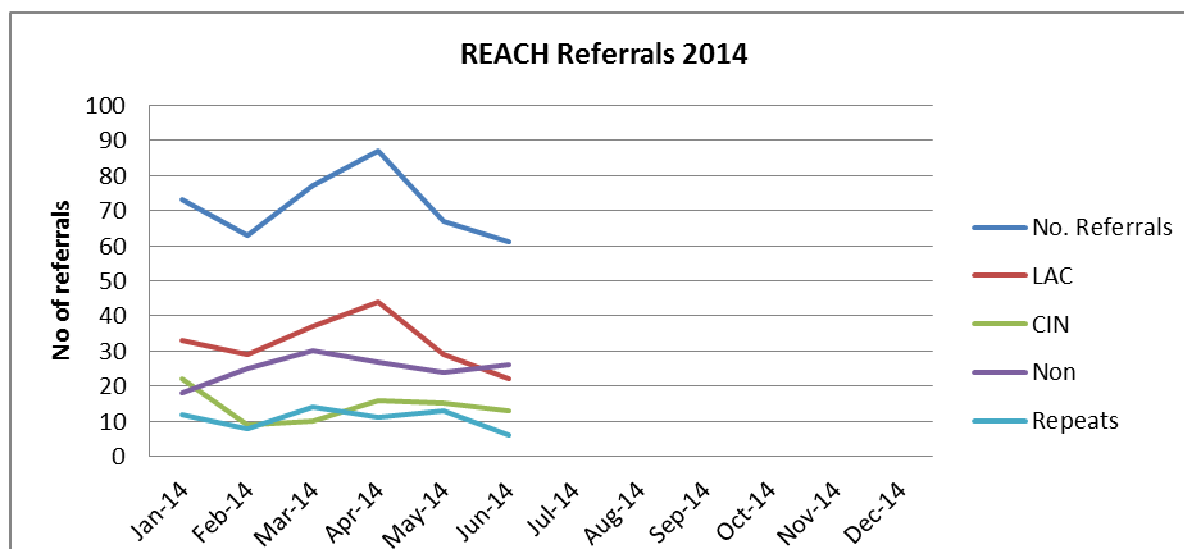
Following on from the last Ambitious Scrutiny Panel, there have been a number of developments both locally and nationally regarding young people who are reported as missing. In January 2014 the Government issued revised Statutory Guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care. It details that every child that goes missing from home or care will have an independent return interview, organised by their local authority.

Reducing Exploitation and Absence from Care and Home (REACH) was created in April 2013 to provide an individual response to young people who go missing. With the introduction of REACH, we were already well on the way to complying with this guidance.. The Team aims to make contact with the child/young person and/or parents within statutory guidance of 72hrs and undertake a return interview and risk assessment, with some brief focussed support following.

## **Data Analysis:**

REACH has received **215** referrals direct from Devon and Cornwall Police in Q2 (April- June) 2014. On interrogating the data **44% (94)** were defined as Looked After Children (LAC); **14% (31)** defined as Child in Need (CIN) and known to Children's Social Care and **42% (90)** who were defined as not known to CSC. There were 57% referrals from young women/girls and 43% from young men/boys. Around 50% of the referrals were for those young people aged 14-16years with a further 20% being under 14 years of age.

	2013	2014
No of Total Referrals Q1 (Jan- Mar)	-	213
No of LAC <b>Q1 (Jan-Mar)</b>	-	<b>99</b>
No of total referrals Q2 (Apr-Jun)	124	215
No of LAC <b>Q2 (Apr-Jun)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>94</b>
No of total referrals Q3 (Jul-Sep)	139	
No of LAC <b>Q3 (Jul-Sep)</b>	<b>38</b>	
No of total referrals (Oct-Dec)	229	
No of LAC <b>Q4 (Oct-Dec)</b>	<b>100</b>	



## RETURN INTERVIEW ANALYSIS QUARTER 2 (Q2)

NUMBER REPORTED MISSING EPISODES	EPISODES OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (KNOWN TO CSC)	NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN NEED (KNOWN TO CSC)	CHILDREN NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO CSC	RETURN INTERVIEWS WITH 72 HRS*	REFUSED SERVICE	CSE ** IDENTIFIED
215 Episodes	94 Episodes	31 Episodes	90 Episodes	161	52	18 Episodes
126 Young people	34 Young People	21 Young People	71 Young People			11 Young People
(30) repeat	(21) repeat	(5) repeat	(4) repeat			

### LAC RETURN INTERVIEWS WITHIN 72HRS:

REACH prioritise return interviews for looked after children. During Q2 for 2014 (April- June), there were 31 individual children who were looked after by Plymouth City Council who were reported missing and 3 from other local authorities. These young people accounted for the 94 episodes of young people reported missing and 21 were reported missing on more than one occasion, from this cohort.

### RETURN INTERVIEWS WITHIN 72 HRS

2014 is the first year where REACH has been provided with a requirement to monitor the number of return interviews completed within a 72 hour framework. This is in line with Government Guidance issued in January 2014. In April 2014 the team evidenced contact at 82% but this dipped to 69% in June, due to a reduction in staffing capacity with two of the five members of the team being ill. However, for the overall quarter the performance indicator was met in 75%

of instances. This also reflects the small number of individuals that were reported missing again, before contact could have been made.

### **CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) IDENTIFIED:**

The team following the completion of the return interviews also identify and further assess those young people that are potentially at risk of child sexual exploitation (CSE). During Q2, there were 18 identified concerns with 11 young people have the NWG CSE assessment tool completed to identify the level of risk. The outcome of those assessments has indicated that 6 young people are already LAC and 4 viewed as a child in need, and known to CSC service. The additional young person is being supported by a specialist service, in addition to having been referred to Children Social Care.

### **ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

Plymouth University has gained ethical approval for a longitudinal study on those young people who have not been previously known to Children's Social Care and who have been reported missing on more than one occasion. The cohort is currently being identified, from the data we have to date.

### **B'WISE PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS:**

Since the initial pilots of the B'Wise programme to a couple of schools within the city, there have been a number of requests to deliver the programme at the beginning of September. Eggbuckland Community College has raised concerns regarding the use of social media, that maybe having an adverse effect on a cohort of students. Therefore, it is planned that in the new academic year, the programme will be delivered by REACH to a identified year group.

### **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Service Manager of REACH is a member of the multi-agency group focusing on Missing & Child Sexual Exploitation in the City (a sub-group of Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board. The service was created following identified needs and concerns by the Safeguarding Children's Board. REACH is now part of continuum of support that includes CSC, NSPCC and Barnardos that deals with CSE and young people going missing.