

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024-April 2024

---



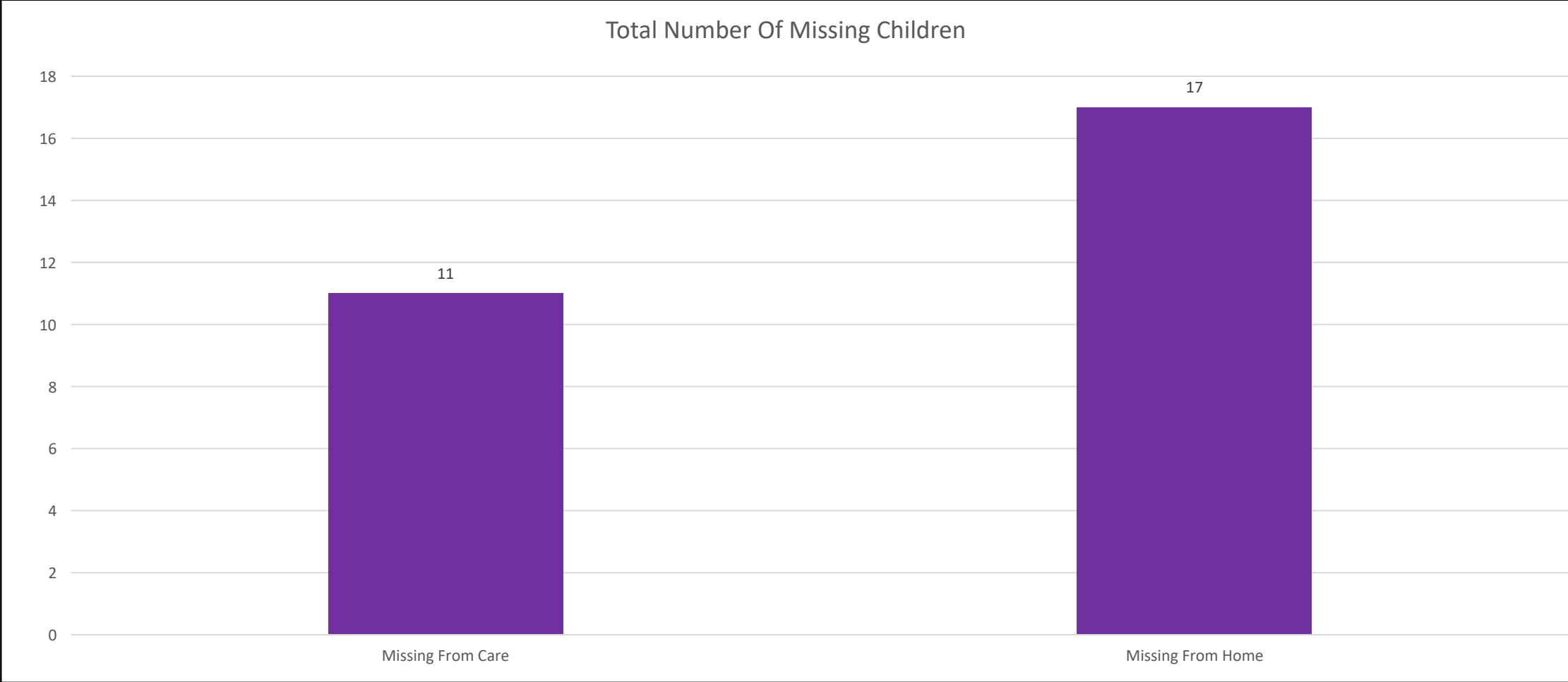
# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024-April 2024

---

## Introduction

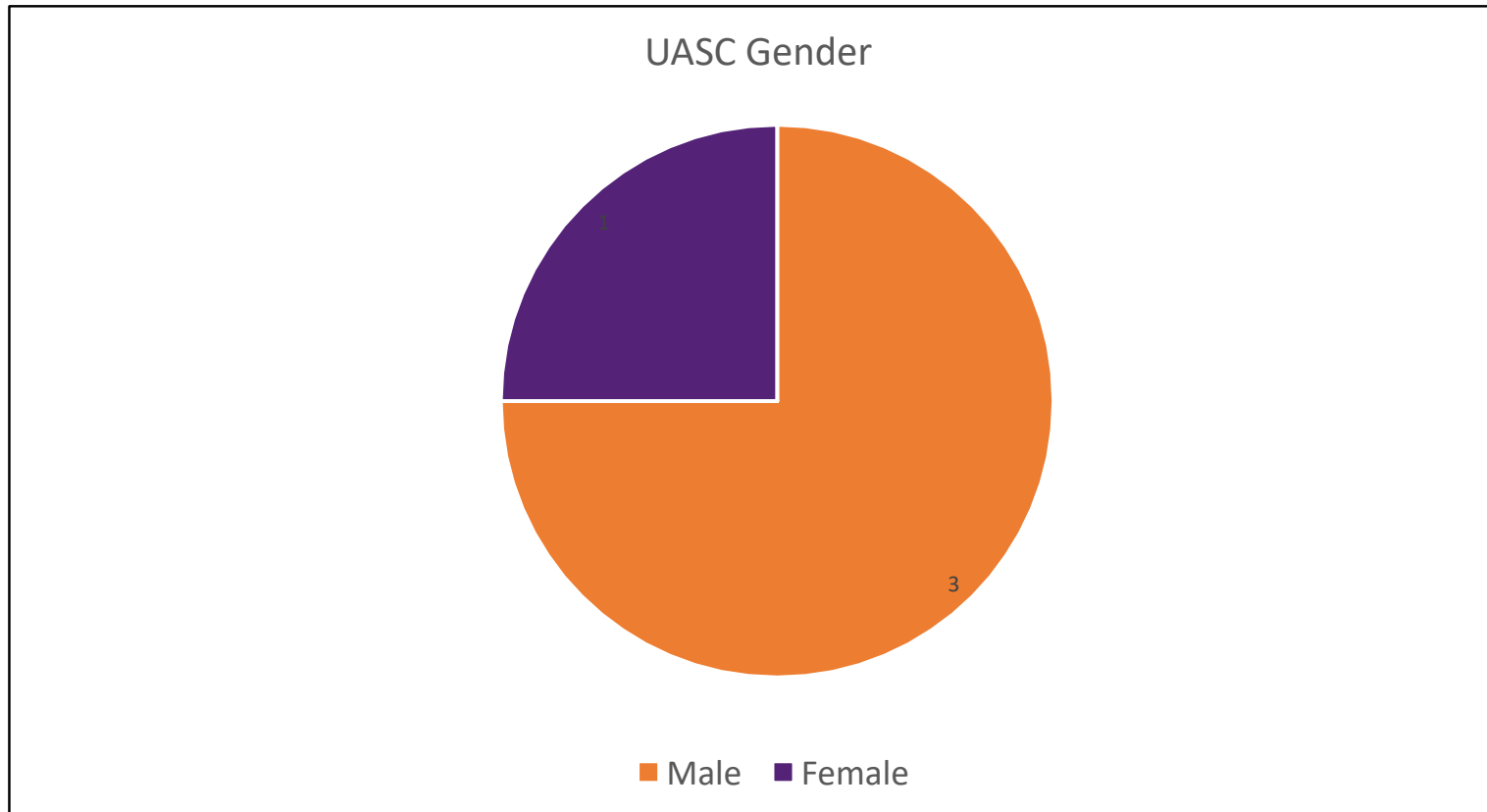
- This presentation captures missing children activity for the quarterly period of Jan 2024-May 2024 following for the previous report ending December 2024.
- There data in the presentation for comparison which covers the same time period as above.
- The data has been obtained from the Children's Services Electronic Database (Mosaic), the weekly Missing Children meeting with police, the monthly MACE meeting, and Return Home Interviews.

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024- April 2024

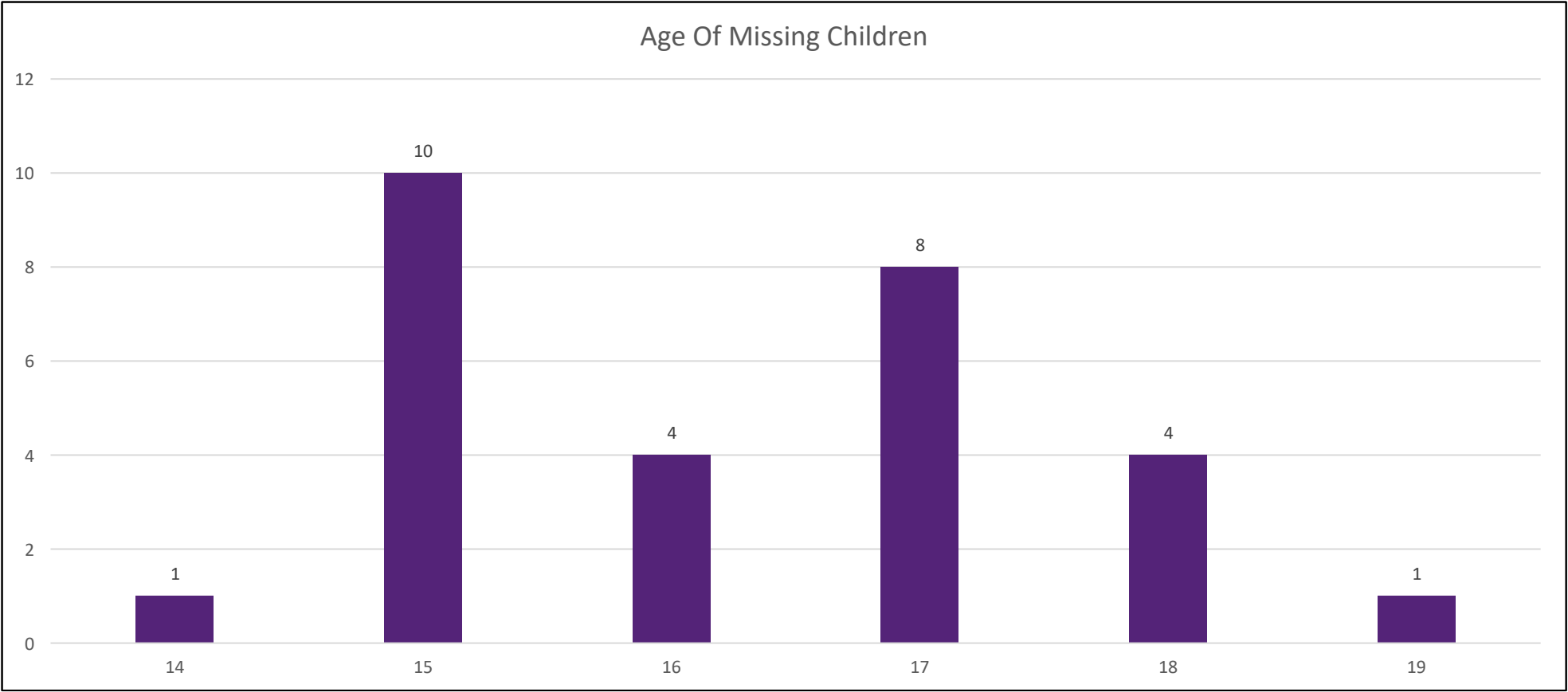


# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 May 2024

---



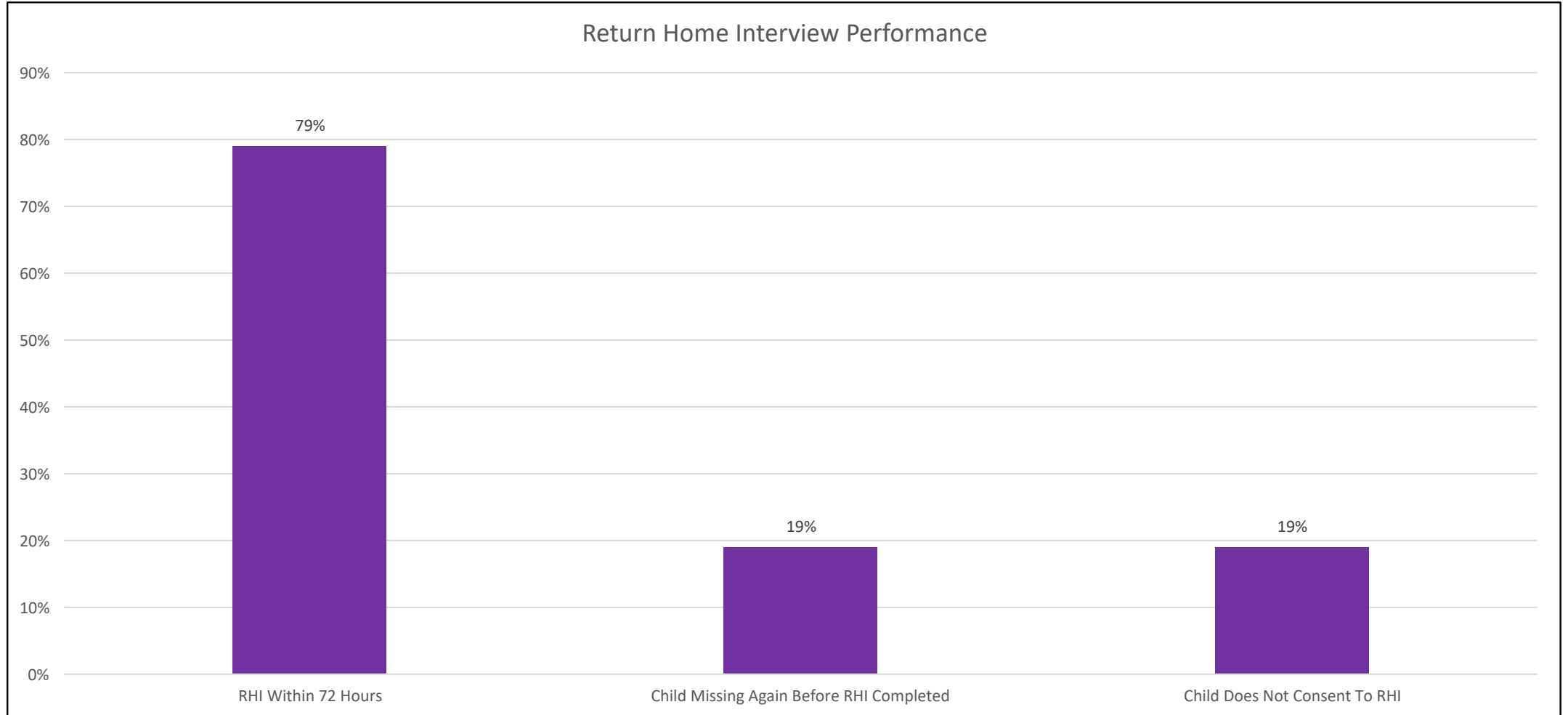
# Harrow Missing Children 2024



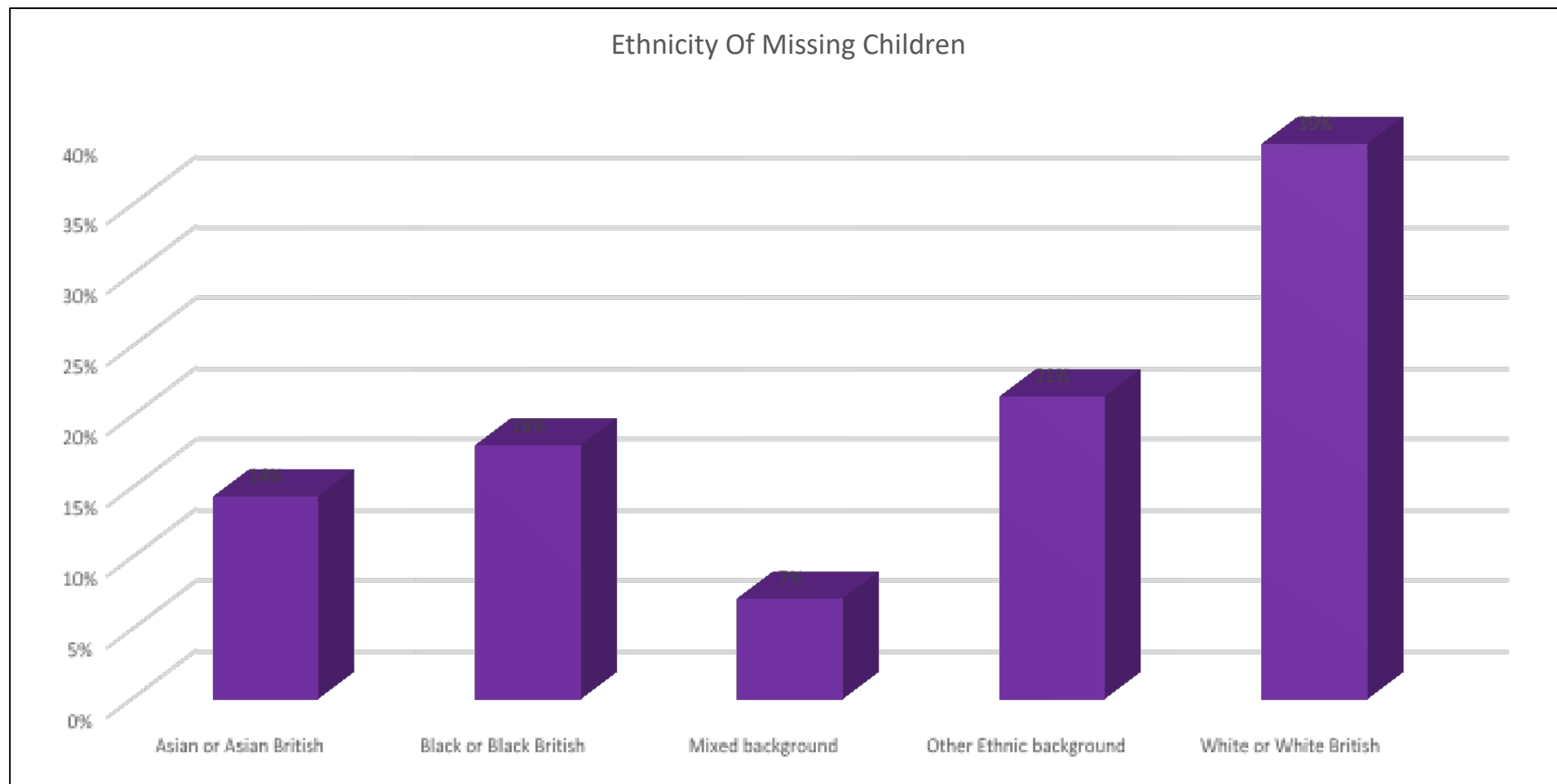
# Harrow Missing Children Jan-April 2023 and Jan-April 2024

Children with repeat missing episodes: January to April 2023				Children with repeat missing episodes: January to April 2024			
Gender	Age at 30th April 2023	Case Status	Ethnicity	Gender	Age at 30th April 2024	Case Status	Ethnicity
Female	15	CLA	Black or Black British	Male	15	CLA	Mixed background
Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British	Female	16	CLA	Black or Black British
Female	16	CLA	White or White British	Male	17	CLA	Other Ethnic Background
Male	16	CLA	Black or Black British	Female	15	CLA	Mixed background
Male	16	CLA	Black or Black British				
Female	16	CLA	White or White British				
Female	17	CLA	Asian or Asian British				
Male	16	CLA	White or White British				
Male	16	CLA	Other Ethnic Background				

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 May 2024



# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 May 2024





# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024-April 2024

---

Risk Factor	Count
Risk of involvement in criminal activities whilst missing	19
Risk of sexual exploitation	12
Concerns around contact with family or friends	12
Risk of gang related activity	11
Risk of trafficking	10
Risk of drug misuse	8
Involved in Criminality	7
Risk of alcohol misuse	6
Child Criminal Exploitation	6
Victim of criminal activity	5
Mental health concerns	4
Being bullied	3
Young person poses a risk to others	2
Risk of forced marriage	1



# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 April 2024

## Summary and Conclusions

- There has been a slight increase overall in missing generally and this could be due to improvements made to the quality of recording of missing CLA by EDT and MASH despite the challenges (noted in slide 18)
- The most common age for young people to go missing was 15 years old which is a lower age than previous reports.
- Between this period and last year there appears to be less CLA repeat missing young people.

# Harrow Missing Children 2024

## Summary and Conclusions

- During the first quarter of 2024, the data suggests that the ethnicity of missing children was primarily White British with the most prevalent age of 15 years.
- Risk factors identified within Return Home Interviews have not changed from last year and include concerns with family / friends contact, drugs, criminality, alcohol misuse and child sexual exploitation. No change from previous years.
- As noted in previous reports, reasons given for children and young people going missing from home have remained mostly consistent, that is, staying with friends or relatives, desiring more freedom, being at risk of child sexual and criminal exploitation through county lines or gang affiliation, not being in employment or education.

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 May 2024

## Safeguarding Actions

- Missing children continue to be discussed weekly at the Missing Children's Meeting. In addition to this oversight, several children who go missing are also discussed at the MACE and SWARM panels.
- Strategy meetings are held within 72 hours of a child going missing and action planning may include police publicity, the use of CAWNs and Recovery Orders, and a referral to the NRM where there is evidence of exploitation and modern-day slavery
- Missing persons Police are provide with a PDF of the missing interview with a young person by the MVE worker to ensure a joined up approach and ultimately a better understanding of a young person for Police.
- Children in ASDT and CLA all gave uploaded photographs on file should these be needed



# Harrow Missing Children 2023

## Overview

Harrow uses a contextual Safeguarding approach to children at risk because of exploitation and extra-familial harm as well as Signs of Safety.

The My Safety Plan model which incorporates this approach was developed in 2022. The Adolescent Services Team continue to support children at risk because of extra-familial harm, including children who are Looked After and is currently under review.

As noted above and following the changes in and improvement planning across children's services, the transformation to ensure that services are more joined up, will include more robust joint working between Adolescent Services, Youth Justice Service and Early Intervention.

Further to statutory Social Work, the current Missing, Vulnerable and Exploited Children's Coordinators (MVEs) will utilise their relationship with a missing child and attempt contact with them in order to persuade them to return to a place of safety.

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 May 2024

## What is a Return Home Interview/Conversation (RHI)?

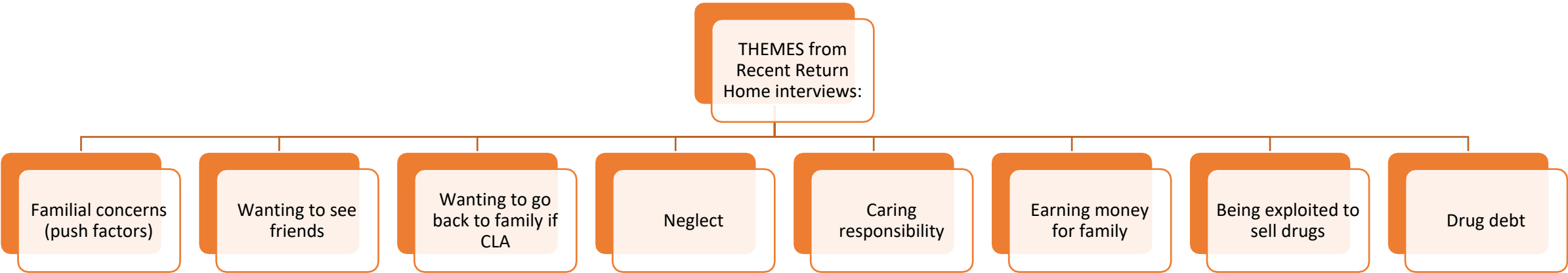
- A return home interview should be completed within the first 72 hours of a young persons return. However often young people refuse this or may have gone missing again before one has been completed.
- The RHI it is to capture the voice of the young persons and their thoughts and feelings.
- The RHI should enable the worker to understand the factors whether they be push or pull, that led to the young person going missing in each instance.
- Those factors could be issues inside the home family breakdown, familial abuse, a sense of duty to earn money for a parent or mental health needs for example.
- A strong pull towards the peers, whether that be the peer network or a specific relationship of value to that particular young person.
- Contextual elements to consider like CCE/CSE that would also contribute to missing episode, which is what we try to capture in the Return home interview.

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024- April 2024

## Continued.....

- The return home interview does not follow a set list of specific questions, as young people quickly understand when you are just following a 'script' and in it can lead to a less than productive interaction. What is covered is a key range of questions, with the intention of ascertaining the following Victims Offenders Locations and Themes **VOLT**.
- The welfare@ Are they safe and well on returning from their missing period. Where they subject to any harm or discomfort. Explore if there was any harm suffered by the young person or others in their midst that we may need to look into further (**victims**), who was that young person with, were they 'pulled' outside of the home by a potential perpetrator?
- Grooming, County Lines, Gang Affiliation, boyfriend/girlfriend model in terms of CSE are areas to explore.
- Locations – where did they go? Where did they sleep. Are there any areas of concern we need to know about. Or areas where that child is unsafe.
- Themes – what are the ongoing themes that we can pick up from this missing episode. CCE, CSE, contextual concerns etc

# Harrow Missing Children Jan 2024 April 2024





# Harrow Missing Children

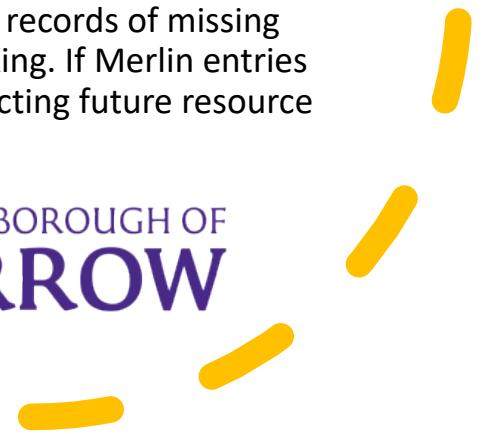
Jan 2024 April 2024

## Challenges:

- **Delayed Response**- Without timely and accurate information, police response to a missing person report can be delayed. This critical time lag can increase the risk to the missing person, especially if they are vulnerable.
- **Lack of Coordination** -The Merlin/Connect system facilitates coordination between different police forces and agencies. If information is not correctly logged or shared, it can hinder joint efforts and collaborative searches, reducing the overall effectiveness of the response.
- **Risk of Harm to the Missing Person** -Vulnerable individuals, such as children or those with mental health issues, are at higher risk when they go missing. If their information is not promptly available through Merlin, the risk of harm increases significantly.
- **Compromised Investigations** -Missing Merlin/connect data can contain crucial details that aid in investigations, such as last known whereabouts, descriptions, and potential leads. Missing this data can compromise the investigation, making it harder to track down the individual.
- **Data Inaccuracy** –Merlin’s/Connect help in maintaining accurate records of missing persons, which can be used for statistical analysis and policy-making. If Merlin entries are not made or are delayed, it can result in inaccurate data, affecting future resource planning and policy decisions.



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**HARROW**



# A Way forward:

---

- For the Connect system to be imbedded and working effectively to ensure missing notifications are received in a timely manner
- Consideration to change from RHI to RHC, return home conversation to make it more young person friendly
- Daily internal MVE meetings to check through all missing reports and high-risk young people
- Missing training and Contextual safeguarding to be rolled out to Childrens services, education, Police and partners by ASDT
- Sessions within schools around the risks for young people when going missing for young people themselves.
- **Redesign of ASDT with a new structure and way of working including additional/uplift of senior workers.**



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**HARROW**