

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)



INCREASING OUR IMPACT IN SCOTLAND

2019/22

**missing
people**

A lifeline when someone disappears

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)

MISSING IN SCOTLAND

EVERY YEAR, POLICE SCOTLAND DEAL WITH MORE THAN 20,000 MISSING PERSON REPORTS – AT LEAST 55 EACH DAY

Young people running from neglect or abuse or being lured away by people who intend to exploit them. Adults in mental health crisis who feel they have no choice but to disappear. Older people living with dementia who can't find their way home.

Almost all of these people are at risk of harm before they disappear. While missing, they become at even greater risk because they are hidden from help and more likely to become a victim of crime or otherwise come to harm.

The national charity Missing People works around the clock to find, support and safeguard missing children and adults across Scotland and to help their families left behind.

missing people

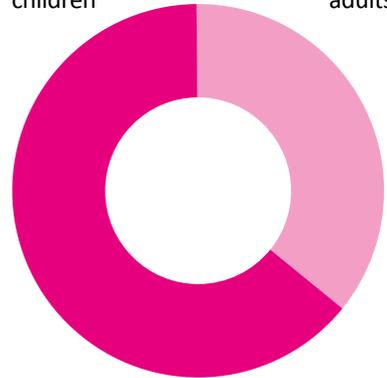
Registered charity in England and Wales (1020410) and in Scotland (SC047610)



57%

of people were reported missing more than once

64% children **36%** adults



MISSING

is strongly linked to:

Mental health

Care Experience

Dementia

Homelessness

Sexual and criminal exploitation

Relationship breakdown

23,000

police missing person investigations in 2017-18

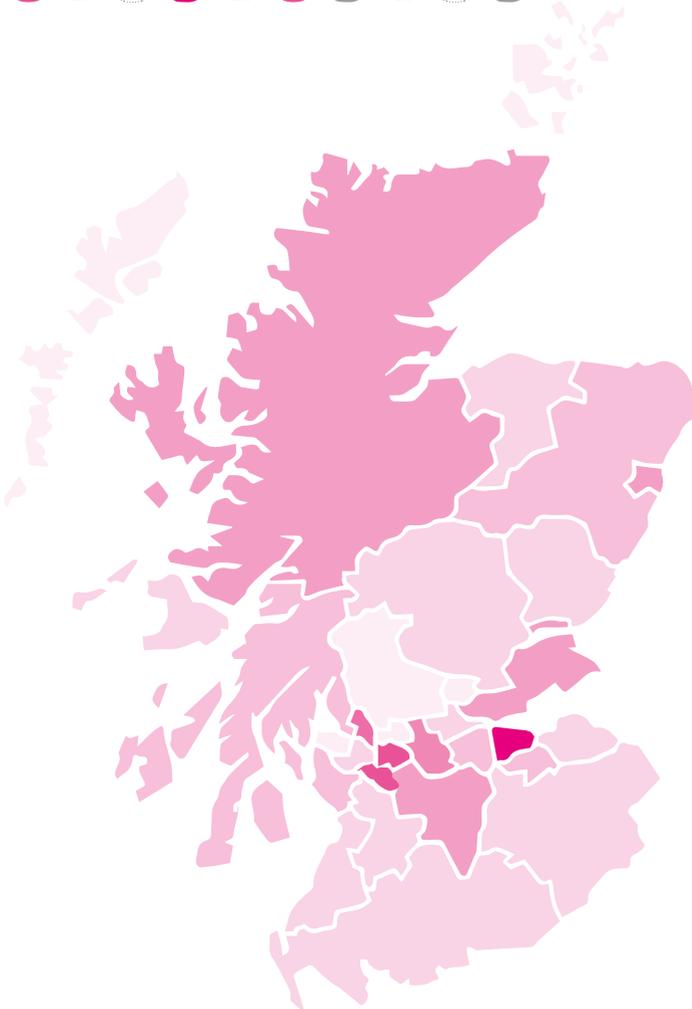
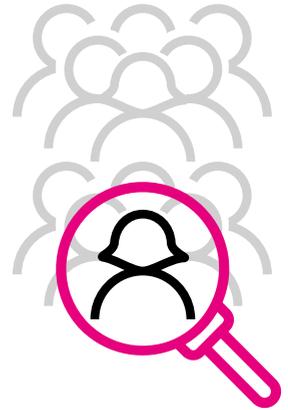
Up to
8 in
10

missing adults
have mental
health issues

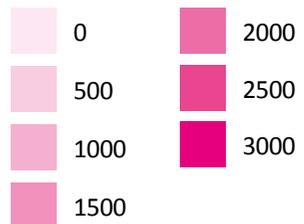


1 in
12

people are
hurt or harmed
while missing



**Number of missing
person investigations**



HOW MISSING PEOPLE WORKS IN SCOTLAND

MISSING PEOPLE IS THE ONLY UK CHARITY DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO ARE MISSING AND THE FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND.

We have more than 25 years' experience of being a lifeline when someone disappears.

We support **children who are missing, or at risk of disappearing**, through our 24/7 Runaway Helpline by phone and text on 116000; and via 121 chat at www.runawayhelpline.org.uk - providing a confidential space for them to talk through their options, find safety and access specialist help.

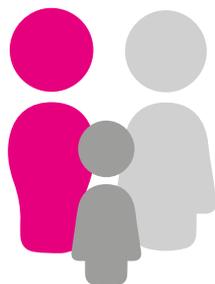
We provide a **24/7 free**, confidential helpline for missing adults, by text or phone on **116000**, helping them to stay safe and reconnect with their family or a safe place



We help **families missing a loved one across Scotland**, offering emotional and practical support and opportunities to support each other. Families can access all our support services by calling or texting our 24/7 free, confidential helpline number 116000



We find missing people and **help them stay safe** through our TextSafe®, publicity appeals and Child Rescue Alert services, working in partnership with Police Scotland



We ensure **policy and practice are in line** with the needs of missing people and their families, through work with the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, other statutory agencies, and voluntary sector agencies in Scotland.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN SCOTLAND

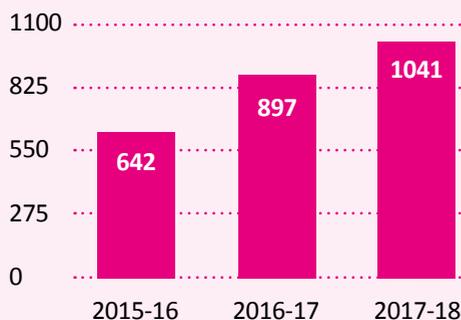
2016/18



WE REACHED OUT:

to 5,000 children and adults who may need our support to let them know how we can help them, including through our growing TextSafe® service. We are now sending supportive text messages to more than 1,000 missing children and adults each year, offering them our free, confidential helpline support when they need it most.

Number of TextSafe® messages sent in Scotland



WE HELPED:

480 missing children and 450 missing adults explore their options and stay safe through our 24/7 helplines.

WE SUPPORTED:

almost 100 families missing a loved one, through our helpline, family support worker service and annual Carol Services.

WE SIGNED UP:

more than 25,000 members of the public to receive Child Rescue Alerts that we issue on the request of the police when a child is missing and their life is in danger.

WE LAUNCHED:

more than 70 appeals to find missing adults and children which are publicised via our pro bono partners including The Daily Record, The Big Issue, outdoor advertisers including JCDecaux, Facebook, Twitter, and hundreds of individual businesses and services who are poster partners.

WE INFLUENCED:

the development of the first National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland, which reflects our campaigns for support for returned adults and children, for educating young people about the risks of running away and how to access help, and for a legal framework for families to use to manage a missing relative's affairs.

WE TRAINED:

more than 200 professionals in how to support people who have returned from being missing, working with Barnardo's Scotland, Shelter Scotland and the University of Glasgow.

WE ACHIEVED:

multi-year funding from the Scottish Government to raise awareness and use of our services for missing children up to 2020.

WE SECURED:

funding to work with Barnardo's Scotland to develop an education resource for young people about running away, how to stay safe and how to access support.

STORIES

“ I was introduced to the Missing People charity when my stepmother went missing in 2008. I received invaluable support from them in the form of counselling, publicity materials and access to the media to highlight our plight. Without their support I have no idea how I would have coped with the trauma of having a missing family member. I am truly grateful for all their support over the years since Mary disappeared. ”



Anne Foster



Lex Baillie

Chief inspector, Police Scotland.

“ I would like to underline the importance of the charity’s work to Police Scotland, providing services for vulnerable people that the police service cannot. ”

“ Missing People work closely with our family helping us get through each day living without Sandy. There is always someone at the other end of the phone if I need someone just to chat to or if I have any leads that I would like to talk through. Our family support worker often calls to ensure that I am keeping well and to offer her support. Missing People is also a great network for meeting other families living without a loved one as not everyone understands how difficult it is. ”

Donna Davidson,

sister of Sandy Davidson

STRATEGIC AIMS AND PRIORITIES



AIM 1:

By 2022, we will double the number of people we help each year to 20,000 across the UK, focused on those who need our help the most

We will ensure more people affected by a disappearance know how we can help through growing our presence in Scotland.

We will increase the number of families receiving emotional and practical support, including publicity appeals via Police Scotland referrals.

We will ensure we can continue to support people affected by a disappearance in Scotland through raising new funds.

AIM 2:

Everyone using our services continues to receive high quality support based on their needs

We will better meet the needs of people affected by missing by offering a wider range of services they have helped to develop.

We will share good practice approaches for supporting people affected by missing, by developing and delivering professional training.

We will improve the support for people affected by missing by developing understanding of the links between missing and key issues like mental health and exploitation.

AIM 3:

We will speak up for missing people and their loved ones

We will improve the support available for missing people and their families nationally and locally by growing our presence in Scotland.

We will enable families to manage a missing relative's affairs through campaigning for improvements to the Judicial Factors System.

We will appoint and support Community Ambassadors to tell their stories and highlight the needs of people affected by missing.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Missing People is an independent charity that relies on donations. To continue being a lifeline when someone disappears, we would value your support. To find out more about supporting the charity, visit www.missingpeople.org.uk or email supporters@missingpeople.org.uk

How your support helps us continue to deliver vital services

£150

Can pay for someone to keep the helpline open over night.

£500

helps to recruit and provide specialist training for a helpline volunteer to respond to crisis calls on the helpline.

£1,000

can help keep our 116000 helpline open for families for one day.

Missing People
284 Upper Richmond Road West
London
SW14 7JE
020 8392 4590



missingpeople.org.uk



info@missingpeople.org.uk



[/missingpeople.uk](https://www.facebook.com/missingpeople)



[@missingpeople](https://twitter.com/missingpeople)



[@missingpeople.uk](https://www.instagram.com/missingpeople.uk)



Registered office at the above address.
Throughout this report we have used
some stock imagery.

missing people

A lifeline when someone disappears

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)