Cancellation Forms

SIPR/Missing People Seminar
Scottish Police College
6th June 2011

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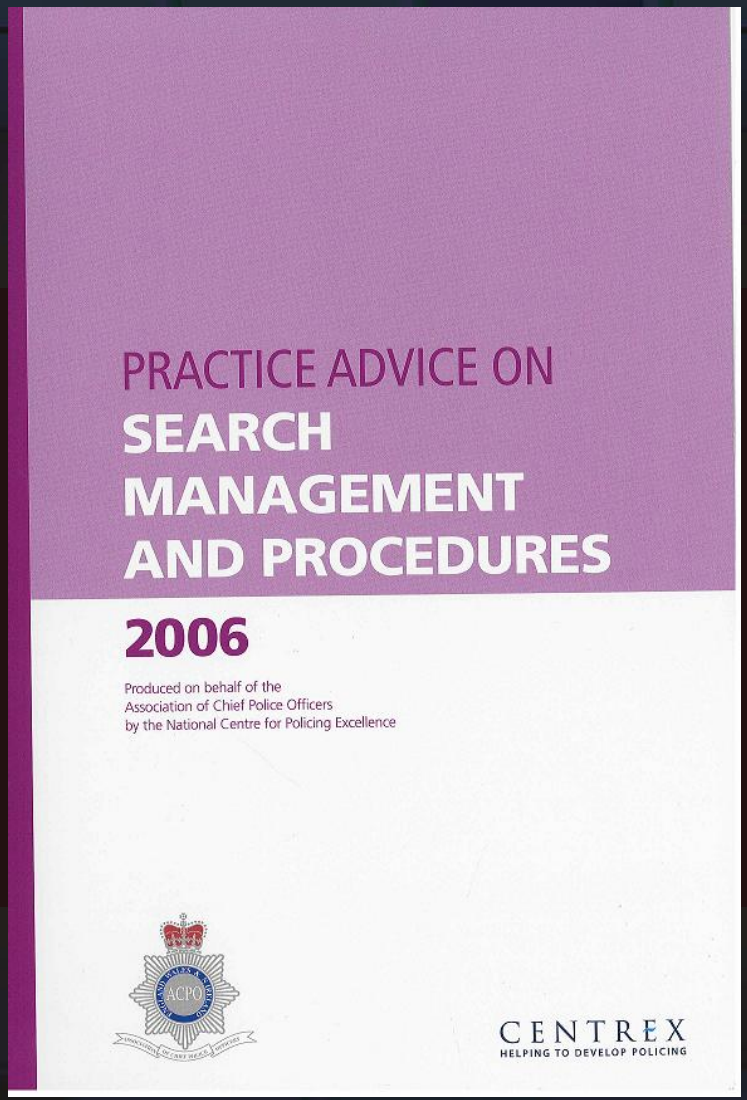
GRAMPIAN POLICE

Keeping our communities safe

Today's presentation

1. Background
2. Cancellation form
3. Data so far...
4. Next steps


PRACTICE ADVICE ON
SEARCH
MANAGEMENT
AND PROCEDURES
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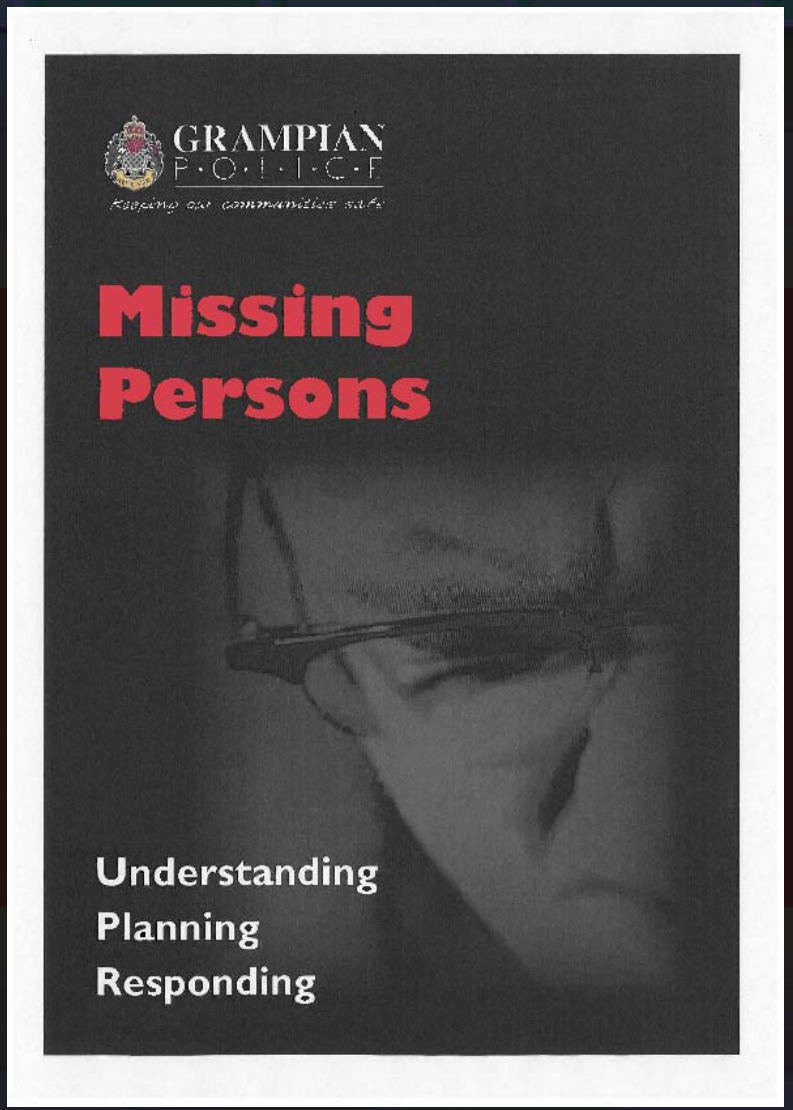
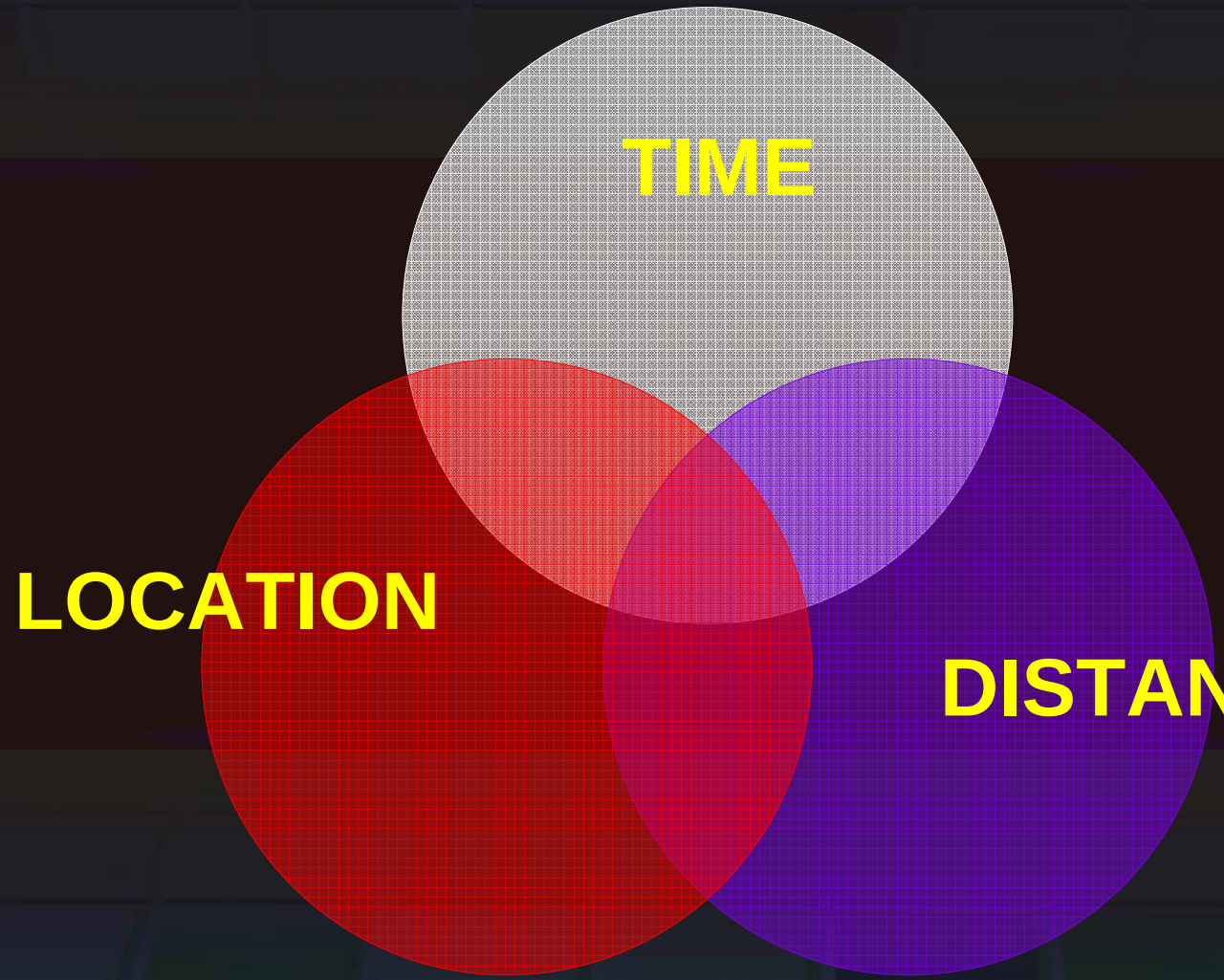

GRAMPIAN
P·O·L·I·C·E
Keeping our communities safe
Missing
Persons
Understanding
Planning
Responding

3 Key Factors



Children aged 5 to 8 years

TABLE 1:
Time taken to locate missing children

Cumulative percentage of cases	Time lapse between report and location (n=90)
20%	0 hrs 45 mins
40%	1 hrs 30 mins
50%	2 hrs 00 mins
70%	3 hrs 00 mins
80%	4 hrs 00 mins
90%	5 hrs 30 mins
99%	30 hrs 00 mins

TABLE 2:
Distance between places missing & found

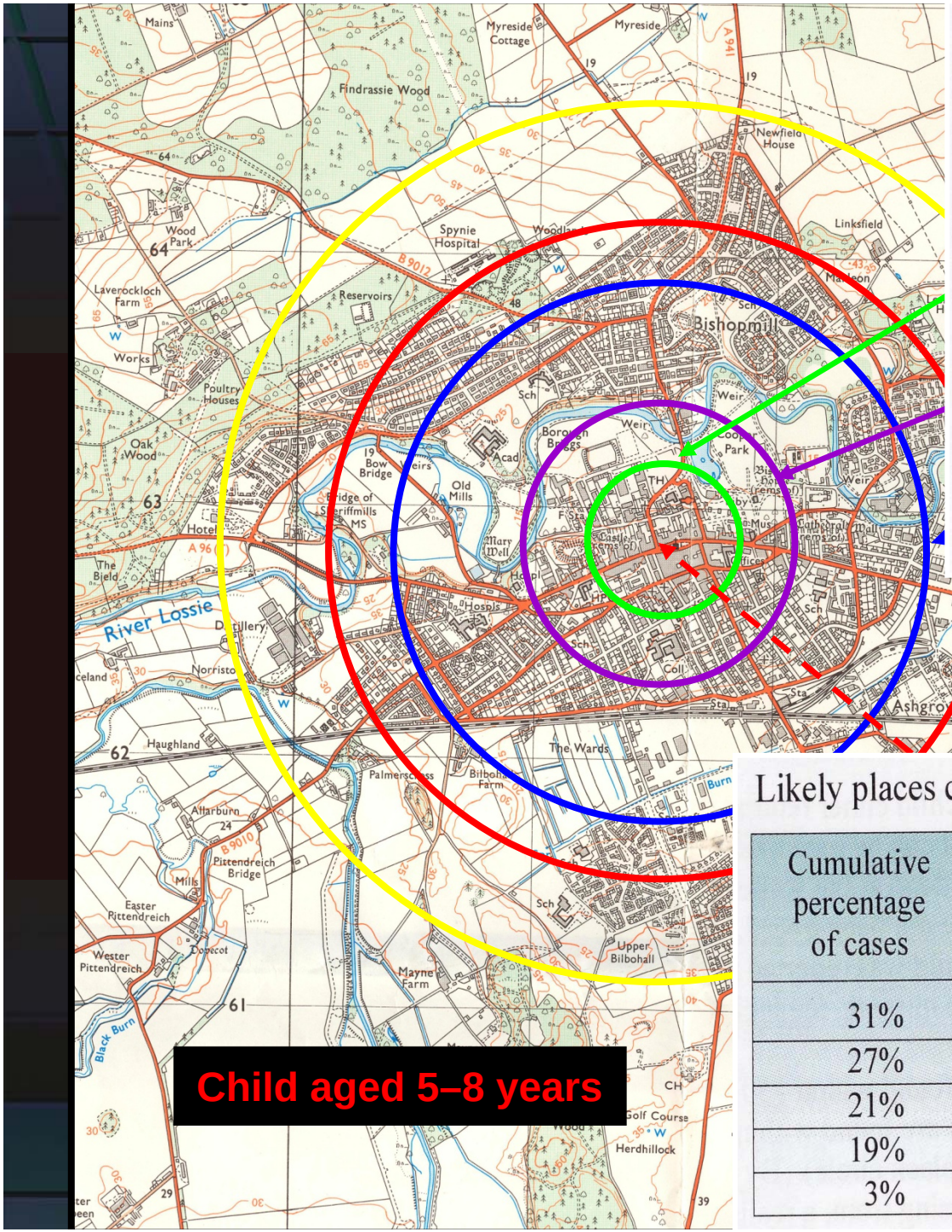
Cumulative percentage of cases	Distance between locations missing and found (n=90)
30%	350 metres
50%	550 metres
70%	1.1 kilometres
80%	1.3 kilometres
90%	1.8 kilometres
99%	6.8 kilometres

TABLE 3:
Likely places children are found

Cumulative percentage of cases	Likely places found (n=90)
31%	Traced walking in public street/park
27%	Returned to their place of residence
21%	Went to relative's address
19%	Went to friend's address
3%	Traced at shops or community/leisure centre

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Children of this age are now at school, they are learning about new areas and begin to travel further afield
- They make new friends, check with school for class list - parents are unlikely to know who they are associating with
- All of the children traced beyond the black circle were either 'parental abductions' or the result of misunderstandings between either parents or relatives as to who the child should be with
- Females of this age have a greater tendency to be traced at friend's home, males tend to be found hanging about the streets
- Within this sample, 79% were female and 21% male
- 69% went missing on foot, 11% on their bicycles
- 65% went missing from home, 20% from school
- 46% were found by police and 40% by relatives (includes those who return home)



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Operational feedback.....

".....I would like to thank you for your work on the missing person statistics.....which are excellent."

Thames Valley Police – Sergeant Anthony Smith

“.... an excellent piece of research, that is presented in a readable format and easily transferred to the operational environment. On behalf of operational officers around the country, thank you.”

West Midlands Police – Inspector Mark Shaw

Niggling questions...

- Where do they go, do they know where they are going, does this influence how long are they away?
- Why do people go missing? Why are some traced and others return of their own accord?
- What happens to them while they are missing? Are they vulnerable?

Cancellation Form ‘Interviews’

- Structured questionnaire
- Completed by police officer with located missing person - final point before case closure
- To build up knowledge regarding missing experience & behaviour from located mp

Form OPS 5/7 (Oct '07)

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MISSING PERSON - CANCELLATION/STATEMENT FORM

The following questions must be completed in full with the returned missing person before the cancellation procedure is complete.

Before commencing the interview, please read the following paragraph to the missing person explaining to them why they have been classified as a missing person:

> "Whether you consider yourself to have gone missing or not, you have been reported to us as a missing person and we would like to ask you a few questions in relation to this."

1. **You were reported missing from** «Name/DescriptionOfPlaceMissingFrom». **When did you leave there?**

Date: «Date»	Time: «Time»

2. **Why did you go away?** (Please tick main reason(s) based on missing person's response)

Problems with family relationships	«X»	
Problems with school/college	«X»	
Problems with work	«X»	
Losing your job	«X»	
Financial problems	«X»	
Illness	«X»	
Drug or alcohol problems	«X»	
Threatened by someone	«X»	

Other problems (please give details)	«Details»

3. **Were you under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time you went?**

Alcohol	«X»
Illegal drugs	«X»
Medical drugs	«X»
Doesn't remember	«X»
Refused to answer	«X»

4. **When you left did you know where you intended going?**

Yes	«X»
No	«X»
Can't remember	«X»

5. **Did you go anywhere that you had not been to before, or that was largely unfamiliar to you?**

Yes	«X»
No	«X»

No	«X»

6. **Why did you go to the place(s) that you did - what specifically was it that drew you there?** (Please summarise missing person's response using their words as far as possible)

«Response»

7. **How did you get around? What method(s) of transport did you use?** (Full list should be read to missing person and all that apply ticked)

Foot	«X»	
Own car	«X»	
Train	«X»	
Bus	«X»	
Taxi	«X»	
Bicycle	«X»	
Motorbike	«X»	
Boat	«X»	
Plane	«X»	
Hitched a lift	«X»	
Other (please obtain details)	«Details»	

8. **Did you seek any sort of shelter while you were away?**

Yes	«X»
No (Go to Q10)	«X»

10. **Were you always alone or were you accompanied at any point?**

Alone all of the time (Go to Q12)	«X»	
Sometimes alone and sometimes accompanied	«X»	
Accompanied all of the time	«X»	

11. **If you were accompanied, what was the relationship of the accompanying person(s) to you?** (Full list should be read to missing person and all that apply ticked)

Parent	«X»	
Husband/wife/partner	«X»	
Boyfriend/girlfriend	«X»	
Son/daughter	«X»	
Stranger (never met before this missing occasion)	«X»	
Friend	«X»	
Other (please specify)	«Details»	

12. **What did you do while you were away? What was your main activity?** (Please summarise missing person's response using their words as far as possible)

«Response»

22. **Did you sustain any injuries while you were away?**

Yes	«X»
No (Go to Q24)	«X»

23. **If yes, what was the nature of the injuries?** (Please summarise missing person's response using their words as far as possible)

«Response»

24. **While you were away did you ever consider taking your own life?**

Yes	«X»
No (Go to Q28)	«X»

25. **Did you talk to anyone about this either before you left or whilst you were away?**

No	«X»
Yes	«Details»

26. **Did you actually try to take your own life?**

Yes	«X»

NOW GO TO QUESTION 36.

IF MISSING PERSON WAS TRACED BY POLICE OR OTHER AGENCY CONTINUE BELOW.

33. **If you had not been traced, would you have returned of your own accord eventually?**

Yes	«X»
No (Go to Q35)	«X»
Not sure (Go to Q35)	«X»

34. **If yes, how long do you think it would have been before you returned?** (Please summarise missing person's response using their words as far as possible)

«Response»

35. **Is there anything which would have made you return of your own accord?** (Please summarise missing person's response using their words as far as possible)

«Response»

45. **Do you have any physical problems or a disability?**

Blind or partially sighted	«X»
Hearing difficulties	«X»
Speech difficulties	«X»
None	«X»
Physical disability	«Details»
Other (please give details)	«Details»

46. **Do you have any mental health problems?**

Depression	«X»
Psychosis/Schizophrenia	«X»
Cognitive Impairment/Confusion	«X»
Hypermania/Mania	«X»
Learning Disability	«X»
Child Behaviour problems (eg Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)	«X»
Addiction Problems	«X»
None	«X»
Other (please give details)	«Details»

47. **Are you currently prescribed any medication?**

Yes	«X»
No (Go to Q49)	«X»

Form OPS 5/7 (Oct '07)

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Problems with family relationships	«X»	
Problems with school/college	«X»	
Problems with work	«X»	
Losing your job	«X»	
Financial problems	«X»	
Illness	«X»	
Drug or alcohol problems	«X»	
Threatened by someone	«X»	

SIPR Small Research Grant

- Analyse 12 months of CF / key case info
- Directly support the aims of the SIPR Evidence & Investigation Network

The Scottish Institute for **Policing Research**

6 months data entered....

- 663 cases in total – 274 CF (41% completion rate)
- 143 (45%) female cases / 131 (38%) male cases
- Age – spread proportionate with population

Adults...

- 18 yrs + = 148 cases – 65 CF (44% completion rate)
- 22 (49%) female cases / 43 (42%) male cases
- Age – spread across 18 – 72 years

Niggling questions...

- **Where** do they go, do they know where they are going, does this influence how long are they away?

Where?

- 54% knew where they intended going
- 83% went only to familiar places
- Almost 40% on foot

- 62% stayed in same town / area
- 26% went to another town/place in same area
- 12% Went to another county / region

Where?

Estimate furthest distance....

- **50% 8 miles**
- **75% 25 miles**

- **10% more than 100 miles**

Timescales – reported to located

Hours	% located
6	34
12	63
24	80
48	89
72	95
312	100

- 60% - 12hrs
- 80% - 24hrs

Timescales - left to located

Hours	% located
6	14
12	38
24	57
48	79
72	86
437	100

- 40% - 12 hours
- 60% - 24 hours
- 80% - 48 hours

- 43% were traced / 57% returned of own accord

- Figures much the same for timescales in relation to above two groups

Niggling questions...

- **Why** do people go missing & why do some return of their own accord?

Why?

- Problems with family relationships (19%)
- Problems with work / Losing job (6%)
- Recent bereavement (2%)
- Illness / addiction problems (6%)
- Financial problems (2%)
- Multiple factors (17%)
- Lost...
- Miscommunication...
- Little evidence of religious beliefs / faith

Why?

Why did you decide to come back?

“Gained courage”

“Intended to”

“In response to police message”

“I had been away long enough”

“Aware people would be concerned”

“No longer felt suicidal”

Why?

Is there anything which would have made you return sooner?

"If I had known I'd been reported missing"

"Less guilt / more confidence"

"If I'd realised how long I'd been away"

Why?

If you had not been traced, would you have returned of your own accord eventually?

Yes = 59% / No = 21% / Not sure = 21%

How long before you would have returned?

"Don't know..."

"Soon" "Couple of hours"

"Maybe I wouldn't ever"

Niggling questions...

- **What happens to them while they are missing?**

What?

- 31% were accompanied at some point
- 23% accompanied all the time
- 31% accompanied by friends
- 3% strangers

- Lot of ‘just walking / walking about’
- Drinking (drugs) features significantly (21%+)
- 17% say they avoided police contact

What?

Mental health.....

- **50% clinically diagnosed**
- **60% general diagnosis**

} **Underestimates...?**

- **More than a quarter depressed**
- **Psychosis / schizophrenia / learning difficulties / dementia / addiction problems...**

What?

Vulnerabilities...

- **3% reported someone encourages them to take part in criminal activity**
- **10% reported feeling vulnerable or in danger while away**
- **12% sustained injuries**
- **34% worried about coming back**

Are we dealing with a missing adult…

- 23% considered taking their own life
- But only 4% spoke about it
- 10% reported actually trying to take their life

…..or a potential suicide?

Niggling questions...

- Where do they go, do they know where they are going, does this influence how long are they away?
- Why do people go missing? Why are some traced and others return of their own accord?
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Good practice?

Feedback highlights operational benefits of cancellation:

- **Risk assessment**
- **Search Strategy**
- **Resource management**
- **Successful outcome**
- **Referral...**

Management benefits...

- Informs policy log
- Provides an evidence base
- More defensible actions / decisions

Next steps....

- Finish entering data over the coming months...more advanced analysis
- Report – out through SIPR early next year

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The Scottish Institute for **Policing Research**

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