



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

20TH MARCH 2019

NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE (NYAS) UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Board with an update of progress made by the NYAS for Quarter 3.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Board:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the Quarter 3 report attached at Appendix 1.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is important for Members to note the progress, themes and issues highlighted by the NYAS in order to work in partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes are reached for those in our care system.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the Board's Terms of reference, the NYAS are invited to attend meetings to enable both the NYAS and Children Services to discuss issues that affect service delivery in the community on a strategic level and to work in partnership to provide improved and better outcomes.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There is no consultation required for this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

9.1 The work of the Corporate Parenting Board links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan priority – 'Rhondda Cynon Taf's Children will receive a great start in life...'

9.2 The work of the NYAS links to the Future Generations Well-Being Goal of a more equal Wales, by ensuring that children and young people are supported when decisions are being made about them. This ensures that young people have access to a range of information in order to fulfil their potential.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The NYAS are invited to attend each meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board, to provide a broader understanding and contribution into the services available to young people and vulnerable adults.

National Approach to Statutory Advocacy

Local Authority Report - RCT - 2018 - 2019

Collated Quarterly Report

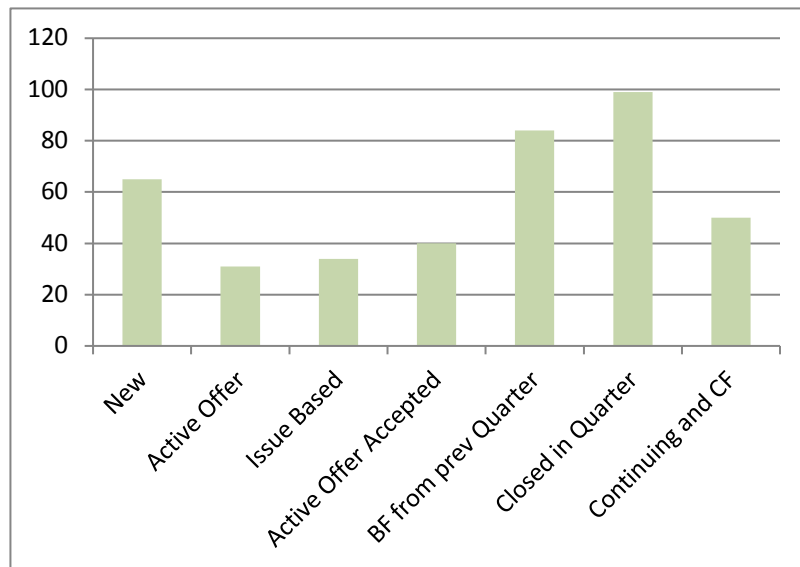
Quarter 3: 1st October 18 - 31st December 2018

Headline Report

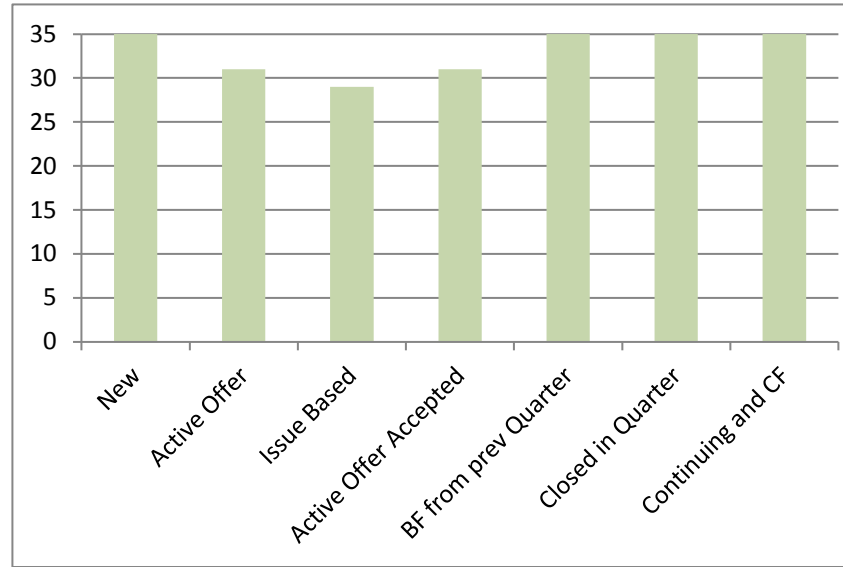
Referrals

60 new referrals were received in the period which included 31 Active Offer of Advocacy referrals and 29 Issue based referrals. Active Offer-Of the 31 active offer of advocacy referrals 12 face to face meetings took place of which of the 3 young people requested further advocacy issue based advocacy support. Despite many attempts NYAS sent Letters to 4 cyp we were unable to contact- no response received. These 16 referrals are now closed. 15 of the referrals/visits carried forward to January. The majority of cyp referred for an Active Offer were aged 6-11. Issue based referrals 29 young people with 34 issues received advocacy support. The majority of these young people were aged 12-16.6 cyp requested support with regard to issues around Placement two of these young people requested NYAS advocacy support following recent active offer visits. 5 cyp requested Advocacy support with regard to Contact with family members. Four of these young people had active offer -nyas introductory visits between july-september and returned to request Advocacy support as family contact NYAS have supported young people placed out of county in Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, Bradford, Caerphilly, Lowestoft, Pontyclun, Swansea and Yorkshire. 10 of these Issue based referrals are now closed. NYAS helped 2 young people placed out of county to re-engage with their social workers and positively move forward.

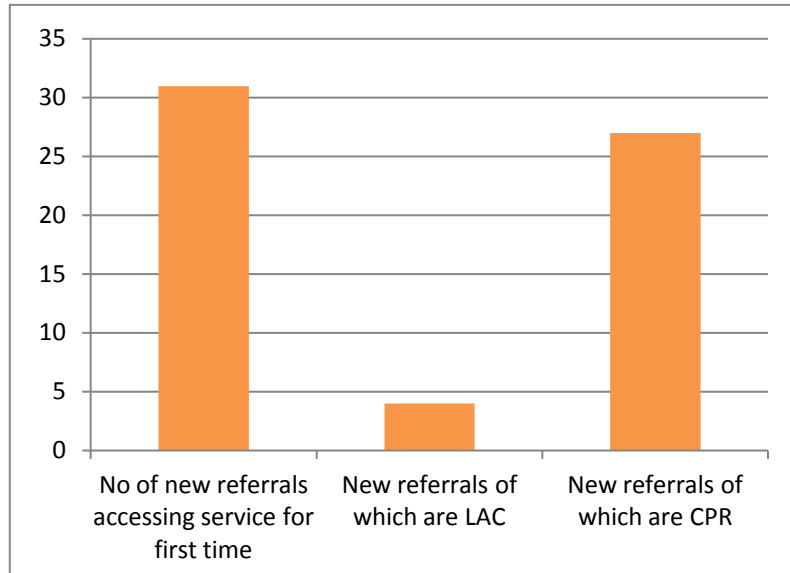
1. Advocacy Cases - Issues



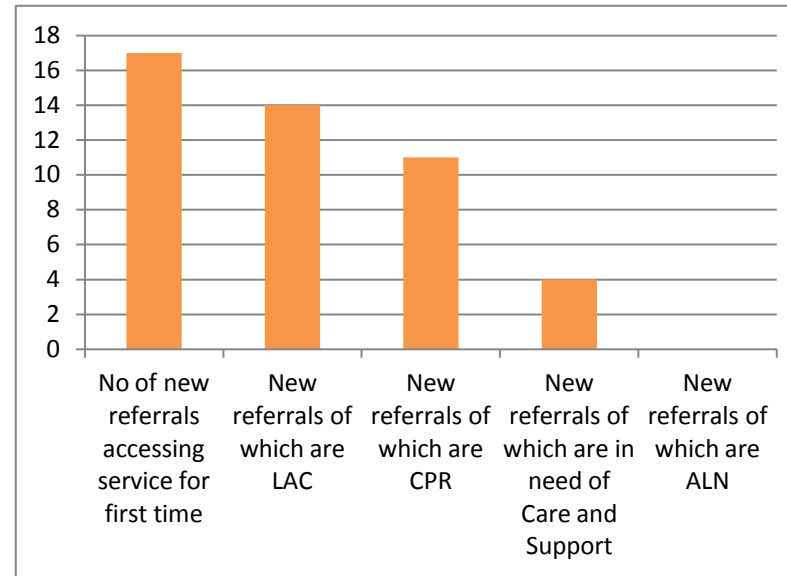
Advocacy Cases - Young People



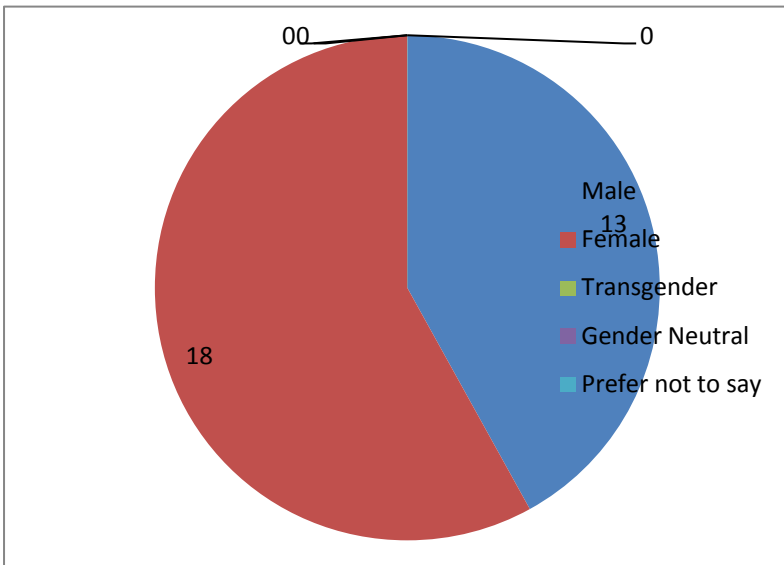
2. Eligibility Criteria: Active Offer



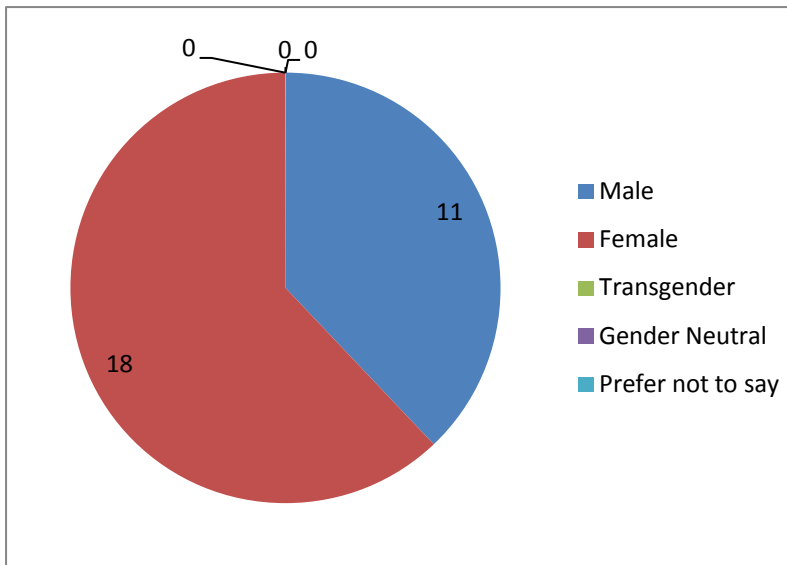
Eligibility criteria: Issue Based



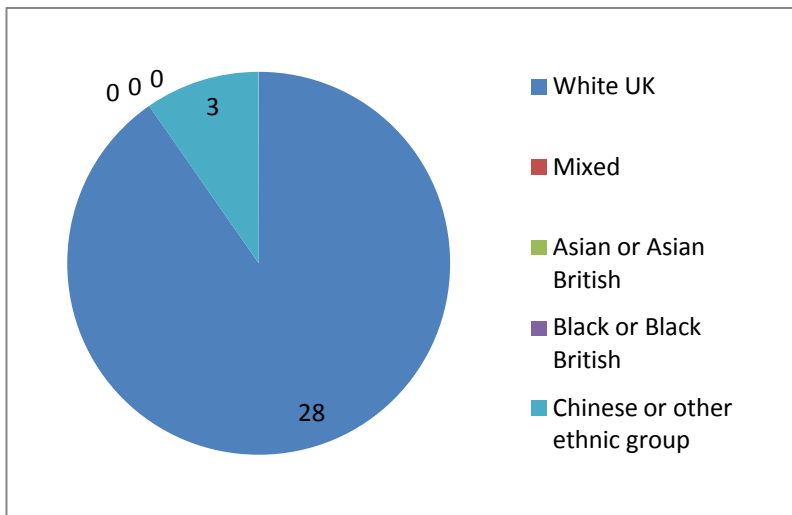
3a. Demographics: Gender - Active Offer



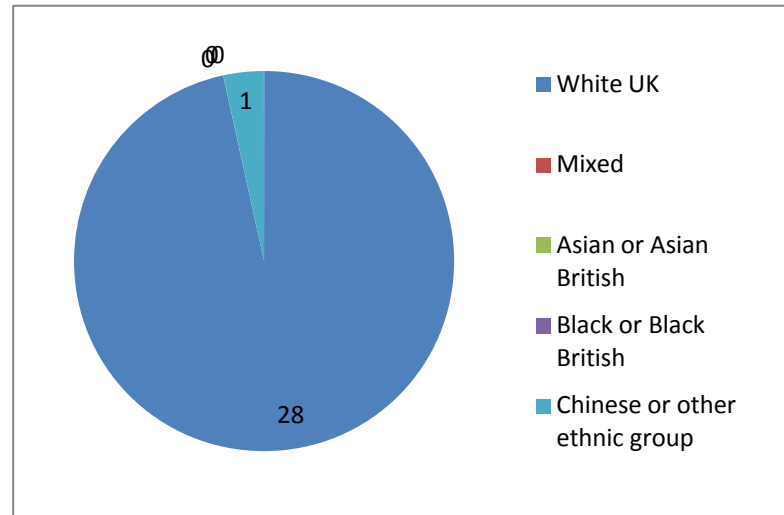
Demographics: Gender - Issue Based



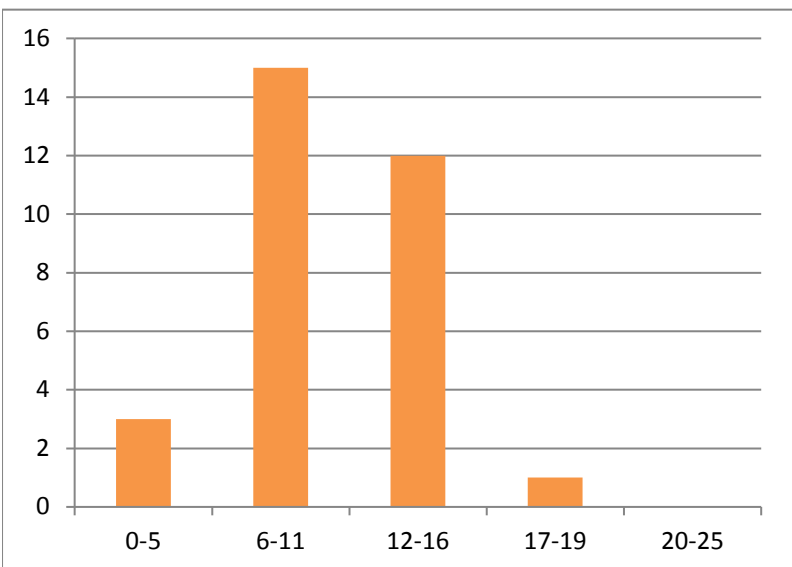
3b. Demographics: Ethnicity - Active Offer



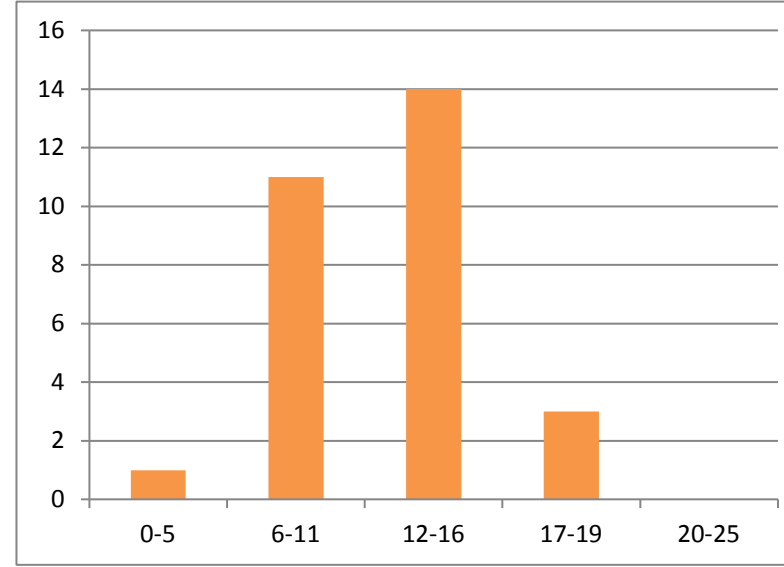
Demographics: Ethnicity - Issue Based



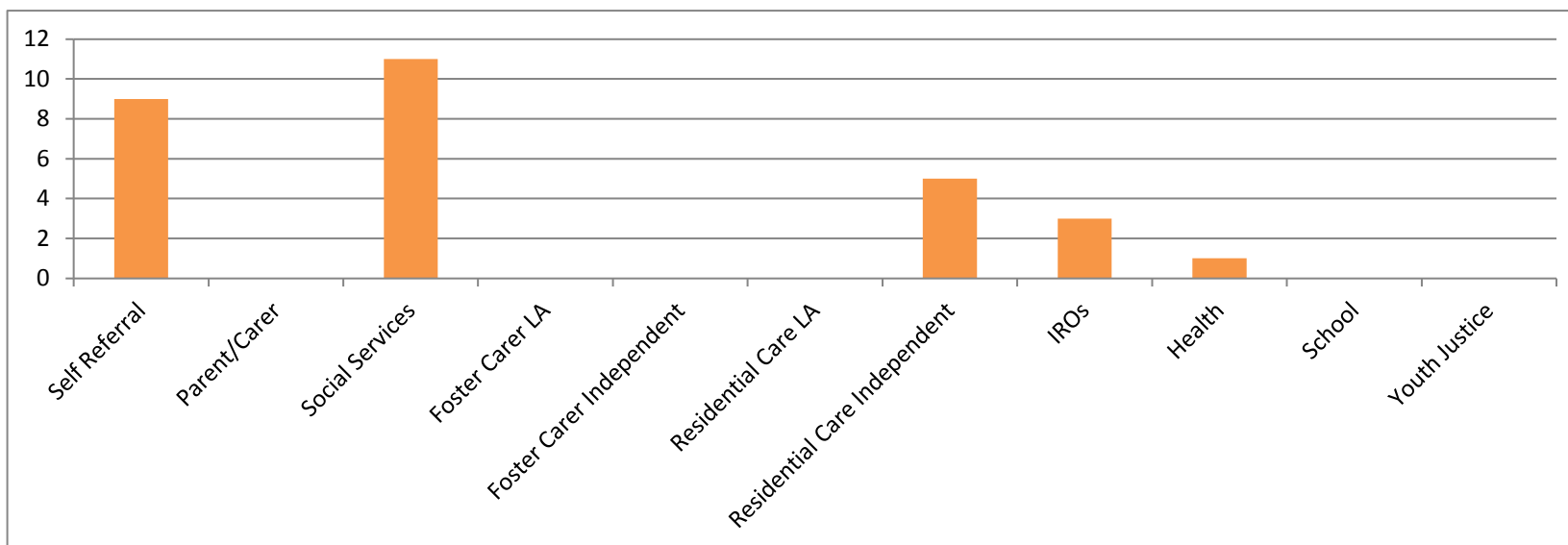
3c. Demographics: Age - Active Offer



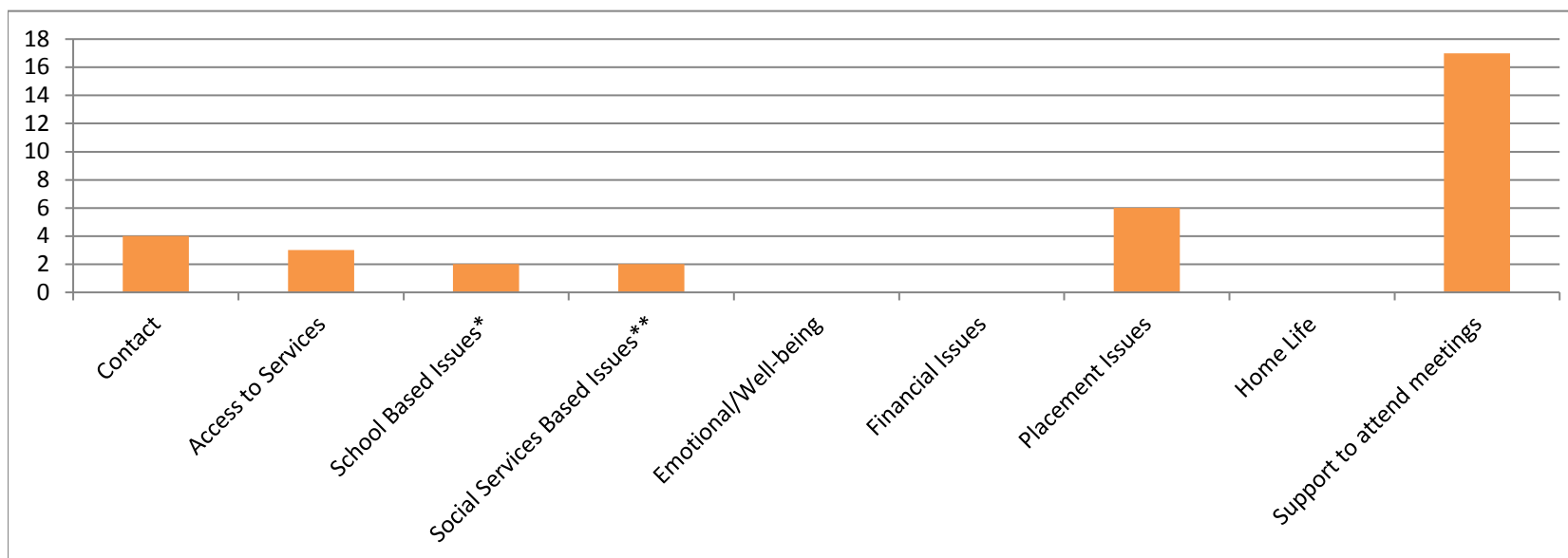
Demographics: Age - Issue Based



4. Referral Source - Issue Based only



5. Nature of Primary Issue Presented

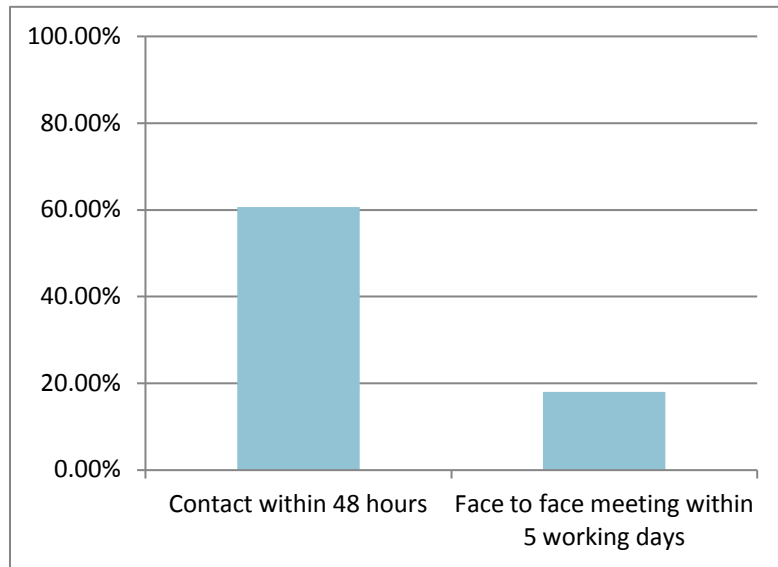


* School based issues including: SEN/ALN, exclusions, bullying, transport.

** Social Services based issues including: relationship with worker, care plan, service provided.

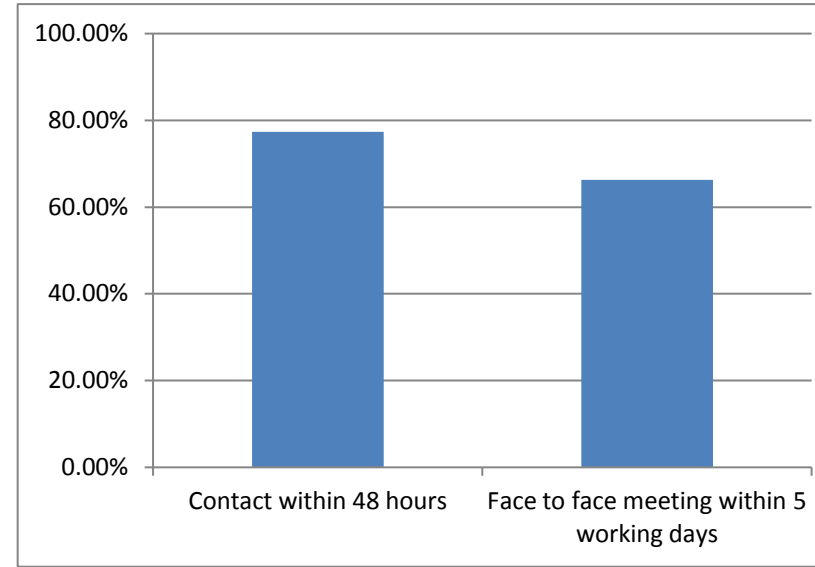
6. Service Performance - Active Offer

Inclusive of christmas holiday period



Service Performance - Issue Based

Inclusive of christmas holiday period



7. Personal Outcomes: linked to National Advocacy Standards

Standard	Descriptor	Numbers/Any other comments
2	<p>Number of cyp to whom confidentiality is explained</p> <p>Number of safeguarding referrals made to the local authority.</p> <p>Number of complaints received against the advocacy service.</p>	<p>Confidentiality was explained to 56 CYP. (4 CYP declined Active Offer in period).</p> <p>1 safeguarding referral made to RCT MASH unit- swiftly dealt with-same day.</p> <p>None</p>
3	<p>Number of cyp who request and receive a service in English, Welsh and any other language.</p> <p>Number of cyp with protected characteristics receiving support</p>	<p>ALL -A Kurdish Sorani Interpreter accompanied Advocate for 2 Iranian young people.</p> <p>2 Kurdish Iranian young people.</p> <p>2 Yp with Aspergers</p> <p>1 yp with ALN needs.</p>
4	<p>Number of cyp referred for legal advice, benefits advice and translation/interpretation support.</p> <p>Number of cyp providing feedback reporting that their wishes and feelings have been heard.</p>	<p>2 Kurdish Iranian cyp accepted the active offer of Advocacy -Kurdish Sorani Interpreter accompanied Advocate.</p> <p>13 cyp fed back their wishes and feelings were heard."Thank you for helping me get information and to get the answers I needed and other support", other cyp fed back "It is a good idea to talk to an Advocate.Advocates are good at their job."</p> <p>"Advocacy helped me be clear about what I wanted to say and gave me the confidence to speak in my Meeting."</p>
5	<p>Number of cyp participating in recruitment process.</p> <p>Details of service user engagement/participation activity (outside of NASA contract but which impact and influence (systemic change).</p>	<p>No CYP participated in recruitment process.</p> <p>During the Quarter NYAS Advocates promoted and shared information about the new Welsh Youth Parliament to service users and forthcoming elections. NYAS regularly promote joining the Local CLA Youth Forums and opportunities with our peer advocacy and peer mentoring service.</p>

8. Summary

So what does this tell us?

Only 31 active offer referrals were received out of 105 children and young people who were actually eligible (30%). Only 4 of these referrals were for looked after cyp. Issue based referrals have decreased from the previous quarter by 37% (Quarter 2 46/Quarter 3 29). Also referrals for young people receiving care and support services outside of the child protection system are low. 91 cases in total were closed during the Quarter. 40 Active Offer Visits accepted on all referrals for cyp carried forward and closed in quarter 3. The majority of young people who speak to NYAS are then accepting of an initial face to face meeting with an Advocate.

Identify trends- New Issue based referrals received this quarter 17 cyp referred requested Advocacy support or representation at Meetings including 9 LAC Reviews and 7 child protection meetings. 10 of the young people referred were generated outside of the active offer process. NYAS would like to work with the local authority to improve all cyp awareness and access to Advocacy so that their views are taken forward in and the cyp feel included in decision making processes.

Issue based referrals have declined recently and in comparison to the same period in the previous year. This has been identified and discussed with RCT within our last quarterly monitoring meeting and agreed actions regarding awareness raising and clarification of the continuing duty and responsibility to refer children and young people to the service, even if an active offer referral has been made. Arrangements were being reviewed. NYAS are continuing to support and have seen a rise in referrals of cyp placed in Residential Units and view this as positive progress that these cyp have an equal voice in the decision making process.

Awareness raising undertaken - NYAS Project Manager facilitated a NYAS Awareness raising session to the Miskin Team -20 staff attended.

Future recommendations/forward planning - Collaborative working has enabled NYAS to put in place a referral and monitoring process regarding the Active Offer of Advocacy. However further collaborative work is needed to explore why the number of active offer referrals NYAS received in comparison to the cyp who are actually eligible is so low and improve the effectiveness of the referral/monitoring process. NYAS want to continue to work with the LA Advocacy Group to develop an effective joint programme of work and set new dates for NYAS awareness raising and training including foster carers training/events and inductions/training for social workers newly working in RCT. NYAS are currently reviewing our referral forms to make the referral process easily accessible for all Practitioners and increase referrals to the Advocacy service. NYAS would like to work as discussed at our recent contract monitoring meeting to ensure that all cyp can access Advocacy support and improve Issue based referrals outside of the active offer process.